

## An Advent Reflection for the Weary

Oh Soul, are you weary and troubled?  
No light in the darkness you see?  
There's light for a look at the Savior,  
And life more abundant and free!\*

The hymn *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus* may not be officially classified as an Advent hymn, but the words of the first verse came to mind as I was reflecting on our Advent theme, *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?* In our hemisphere, Advent takes place during some of the darkest days of the year. We light candles, increasing the light each week as the celebration of the birth of Jesus draws nearer. When we feel weary and troubled, when we are struggling to see the light, may we remember that Jesus is the Light of the World.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in his wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of his glory and grace.\*



When we hear this chorus, perhaps we usually imagine looking into the face of the risen Christ. But couldn't we also image looking at the face of baby Jesus? This baby is the Light of the World! As we continue to light candles on dark days, this weary world rejoices in the long-awaited birth of this baby.

\*Hymn: *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus* by Helen Howarth Lemmel, 1922

Jennifer Rygg  
12/5/23

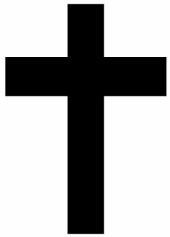
## Scenes from Christmas Decorating

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped decorate the church for the Christmas season. From the front door of the church to the rear door at the covered portico, the church looks festive and welcoming to all!



## Hands On Mission Latest Ramp Project

We built a ramp for a local resident a couple of years ago. Over that time, their health declined and they went from having to use a walker to having to use a wheelchair. When their landlord announced that the home they were renting had been sold, they were in a bind to both find a new home to rent and have it wheelchair accessible. The Hands On Mission team responded by reusing some components from their original ramp combined with new materials to build a ramp at their new residence. They were very grateful for the help. If you would like to help on the next Hands On Mission project, contact **Wayne Patterson** ([jwppt@clermson.edu](mailto:jwppt@clermson.edu)).



## Mission Partner Spotlight: Collins Children's Home

*This is the fifth article in this newsletter series highlighting the mission partners in our general budget.*

In 1977, FBC Pendleton members Joe and Anne Rackley began the journey to establish the Roxie Anna Collins Children's Home Ministry. The ministry was named for Joe's grandmother, a devout Christian and pastor's wife.



Collins Home Family Ministries exists to embody the love of Christ by providing compassion to families and children who are experiencing hardship. Collins Home provides shelter to children, strength to families, and stability to the community.

Source: Collins Children's Home website, About Us ([collinschildrenshome.org/about-us](http://collinschildrenshome.org/about-us))

FBC Pendleton has been part of Collins Home since its very beginning. For over thirty years, we have collected a special offering at Christmas to stock the freezers with meat for the coming months. We also make quarterly contributions from our mission budget to Collins Home Family Ministries.

If you would like to contribute to the **Collins Children's Home Meat Offering**, we will be collecting money through **Sunday, Dec 10**. You can use eGiving, or make your check payable to FBC Pendleton and include "Meat Offering" on the memo line, then place it in the offering or give your check to **Wayne Patterson**.

## Children's Christmas Party Night



Wednesday, Dec 13 will be **Christmas Party night** for kids during our regular class time! Plan to wear pajamas (Christmas if you have them!) and to meet downstairs in room 101 for snacks, crafts, music, and a small celebration of the Christmas season! Contact Kiley at [children@fbcpendleton.org](mailto:children@fbcpendleton.org) with any questions.

## Wreaths Across America Day · Saturday, Dec 16

A ceremony will be held at Old Stone Church (101 Stone Circle, Clemson) where over 200 men and women from many campaigns and wars are interred. This past summer, a grave penetrating radar survey was completed and approximately 329 unmarked graves were located.

The Wreaths Across America Ceremony will begin at noon and will follow the same format as the program at Arlington National Ceremony, including placing wreaths on the graves of veterans.

FBC Pendleton has sponsored a wreath for the ceremony at Old Stone Church, in memory and honor of all of the veterans of our church family. The ceremony is open to everyone and is a meaningful opportunity to remember our veterans at Christmas.



## Here We Go A'Caroling...



Please make plans to join us on **Sunday, Dec 17 at 4 pm** to go **Christmas caroling**, followed by fellowship and a light supper in the Fellowship Hall. All ages and levels of musical experience are welcome, and don't forget to wear your festive Christmas attire! (Youth, please be sure you have a release form on file with Chris. Children 12 and under should be accompanied by an adult; if a parent/guardian is not available, please make arrangements with church staff.)

## Clemson Community Care Needs

**Clemson Community Care (CCC)** will be distributing holiday food through Christmas. They are asking for **donations of turkeys!** Turkeys may be purchased at Publix or Ingles in Clemson and the store will hold them for CCC to pick up. Or, the turkeys may be dropped off at the food pantry Monday - Thursday mornings from 9:00 - noon. CCC will distribute many holiday turkeys so all donations will be greatly appreciated!

**Clemson Community Care Holiday Food Drive Wish List** includes 2 lb. bags of sugar, canned vegetables, canned beans, pork & beans, canned/instant potatoes, soup, canned meat/fish, shelf-stable milk, grits/oatmeal, pasta sauce (in plastic jars), dry pasta/spaghetti, canned tomatoes, tomato sauce, peanut butter, jelly, 2 lb. bags of flour/cornmeal, canned fruit, dried beans. Any in-date, non-perishable items are accepted and appreciated!





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**please donate a turkey to  
 Clemson Community Care**



**Deacons for the 2023-2024 Church Year**

Flock 01: A - Bra	Kim Burgess	(864) 940-6902
Flock 02: Bre - Cl	Bruce Blackmon	(864) 653-0228
Flock 03: Co - Fa	Randy Strickland	(864) 360-6071
Flock 04: Fi - Ho	Dave Alverson	(864) 617-2449
Flock 05: Hu - Mc	Rick Massey	(864) 940-3515
Flock 06: Me - Pe	Jan McCracken	(864) 934-4574
Flock 07: Po - Tab	Shelby Quattlebaum	(864) 934-6086
Flock 08: Tay - Z	Warren Willoughby	(864) 940-5471
Deacons & Spouses	Wayne Patterson	(864) 710-8239

**As we aspire to keep Jesus at the center of our lives,  
 we are Rooted in Faith, and Growing in Love.  
 We endeavor to be a welcoming and affirming  
 community of grace for all people, loving our  
 neighbors because God first loved us.**

**SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE**

**9:00 am** Coffee, Tea, & Conversation in the Fellowship Hall  
**9:30 am** Sunday School  
**10:45 am** Worship in the Sanctuary and on Facebook Live

We hope you can join us for in-person worship, but if you aren't able to attend in person, you can worship on Facebook through our live streaming system.  
 find worship posts on our website  
**fbcpendleton.org**

**PASTORAL EMERGENCY**  
**Rev. Jennifer McClung Rygg**  
**864-760-7135**

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