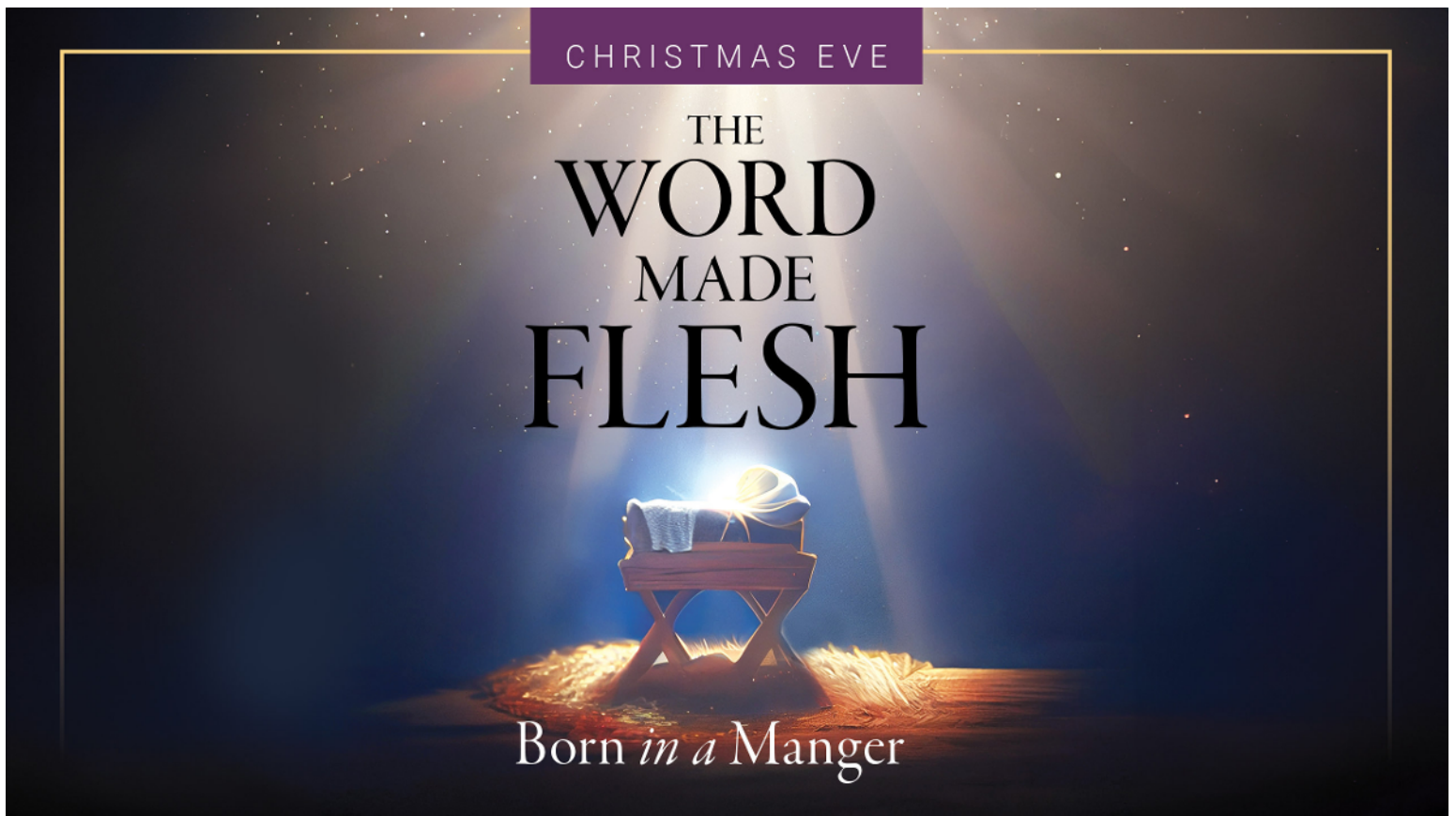




Newsletter Volume 50 Number 24

December 17, 2024

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion



The season of Advent this year seems to have flown, and somehow, the countdown to Christmas is already in the single digits! Our Advent worship theme this year, **The Word Made Flesh**, reminded us how Jesus shows up in simple, everyday ways. The Savior of the World, the extraordinary Son of God, used ordinary objects – bread, salt, rock, and light – to help us envision God’s kingdom in new ways. In the breaking of bread, the sprinkling of salt, the solidness of a rock, and the lighting of candles, we are reminded that Jesus is Emmanuel – God with us.

On Christmas Eve, we remember the night this extraordinary Savior entered our world as a baby. He was placed not even in an ordinary baby crib, but in a manger – a feeding trough! – filled with hay. The Savior of the World was born in a manger.

Come and see. Come and worship.

Join us Christmas Eve for a service of communion and candlelight beginning at 5 pm.

Senior Adult Ministry

Join us as we remember, as we hope, and as we prepare.

Senior Adult Ministry embraced the month of December with great anticipation, looking forward to the events that have become our Christmas traditions. The Riverside Middle School Chorus program this year had "Christmas Movie Songs" as its theme. Not only did the seniors enjoy the concert, they all thoroughly enjoyed the yummy lunch provided by our church as well. The "Sounds of the Seasons" concert at Pendleton High School was just delightful and did not disappoint. The (new this year) Percussion Ensemble played Mah-Na Mah-Na. The Pendleton Symphonic Band and Chorus led us as we sang many favorites during the "Christmas Pop Sing-a-Long" as the grand finale. The faculty, staff, and Teacher Cadet students welcomed and served a traditional holiday lunch.

Our last activity this December will be our annual **Christmas Party and Ornament Exchange** this Thursday, December 19 beginning at 9:30. It has been a wonderful year and 2025 is looking to be awesome!

Merry Christmas from Senior Adult Ministry.

Jane Huss, Lead Volunteer

1 Thessalonians 5:11 *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*

Missional Gardening in Heflin, AL

Heritage Baptist, in Heflin, Alabama, is a small but mighty CBF congregation. In 2022, the church was a recipient of the CBF Mission Excellence Award in recognition of the congregation's bold and creative giving to the Offering for Global Missions and its efforts to minister to local needs.

One unique means of funding missions efforts is through providing lumber milling services. Local residents needing logs sawed into boards are able to benefit from the church's small sawmill in exchange for a donation to Heritage's missions fund.

To address local food insecurity, Les and Dani Jones, the husband and wife pastoral team at Heritage, direct a small food pantry. Some of the food offered through the pantry is grown and canned on church property.

To encourage ongoing food growing and sharing efforts at Heritage, Global Missions field personnel, Rick Burnette, helped to facilitate a bucket garden workshop on a Saturday morning in late April. Church members prepared 22 five-gallon buckets, each with numerous holes drilled into the bottom for adequate drainage, were filled with potting mix and planted with tomato and pepper seedlings. The seedlings were donated by Rev. Tamara Tillman Smathers, Minister of Education and Administration at FBC Rome, GA, which is located about an hour's drive from Heflin.

The portability of the container gardens proved beneficial just a few days after planting as a late spring cold snap required the tomato and pepper crop to be temporarily moved indoors overnight to escape frost.

Pastor Les reported that the tomatoes thrived to the point of outgrowing the containers. The mature plants were eventually transplanted into garden beds on the church property. Meanwhile, he's making plans to employ the containers for a late summer planting of more peppers.

–Rick Burnette, Immokalee, FL

FBCP supports the work of Rick Burnette through our Encourager Church partnership as well as by supporting the **Offering for Global Missions**. This article came from the Mission Leaders Network December Newsletter.



Collins Home Meat Offering

Thank you for your extravagant generosity toward the Collins Children's Home. The annual **Meat Offering** totalled **\$2,236** and our order has been placed with the butcher.

Guest Preacher Dec 29

On **Sunday, Dec 29**, Pastor Jennifer will be away and **Rev. Dr. Dan Vincent** will be guest preacher.

End of Year Accounting

If you have **ANY EXPENSES** that require reimbursement from the church, please have them in the church office by Monday, Dec 23. This will be the last check run for 2024. You can charge on the church credit card until Dec 31, but please turn in receipts as soon as possible. Becky Westmoreland will be in the church office on Tuesday, Dec 31 to complete the **LAST DEPOSIT for 2024**. Please ensure all contributions are in the office **by noon on Dec 31**. If you are mailing a check, giving online, or transferring stock, please keep in mind the processing time. Contact Becky Westmoreland at accounting@fbcpendleton.org if you have any questions. Thank you for your extravagant generosity.

Church Holiday Schedule

The Church Office will be closed **December 25-27 and Jan 1**. The office will be open **limited hours Dec 30-31 and Jan 2-3** due to staff vacation schedules. In case of a pastoral emergency, Pastor Jennifer Rygg may be reached at 864-760-7135. You may also contact your Deacon.

Our Sunday morning schedule will remain the same. There will be no Wednesday evening activities Dec 25 or Jan 1; our Wed evening schedule will resume Jan 8.

Thank You Note from NAMI

To all the wonderful people at First Baptist Church of Pendleton,

Thank you very much for your support of our organization, NAMI AOP. We are very blessed to be at this church.

Merry Christmas!

Dee Person, Treasurer

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, (Anderson-Oconee-Pickens chapter) meets at First Baptist Church of Pendleton on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:15 pm. They offer programs to help cope with mental illness, either for individuals or as family support. These testimonials come from nami.org:

"The most beneficial thing for me was that I am not alone. I found the NAMI Family Support Group at the time I really needed it!"

"The support group facilitators and attendees were respectful of other people's experiences and were non-judgmental when there were different ways of handling things."

"I felt I received constructive, practical and helpful information from group members."

If you or someone you know is struggling with a mental health or emotional crisis, there is hope. Please call the **Suicide and Crisis Lifeline** at **988**, providing 24/7, free and confidential support to people in suicidal or emotional distress. Speak with real people about real struggles.



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Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion
Dec 24 · 5 pm



Deacons for the 2024-2025 Church Year

Flock 01: A - Bl	Jim Davis	(864) 207-0656
Flock 02: Bo - Cha	Anna Leavitt	(864) 430-1814
Flock 03: Che - Fi	Barbara Blackmon	(864) 903-3739
Flock 04: Fo - H	Suzanne Morse	(864) 643-9909
Flock 05: J - Me	Rick Massey	(864) 940-3515
Flock 06: Mi - Ra	Jan McCracken	(864) 934-4574
Flock 07: Re - Ta	Shelby Quattlebaum	(864) 934-6086
Flock 08: Th - Z	Warren Willoughby	(864) 940-5471
Deacons & Spouses	Dave Alverson	(864) 617-2449

**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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