



Star Words – An Epiphany Gift

This past Sunday, we observed the Epiphany tradition of Star Words, or Star Gifts. As the response to worship on January 5, each person was invited to receive a Star Word. Star Words are not chosen but received, as a gift, so we selected words from a basket without looking at them. The intention of Star Words is to allow your word to guide you toward Christ, much like the Magi were guided by a star.

When [the wise men] had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

Matthew 2:9

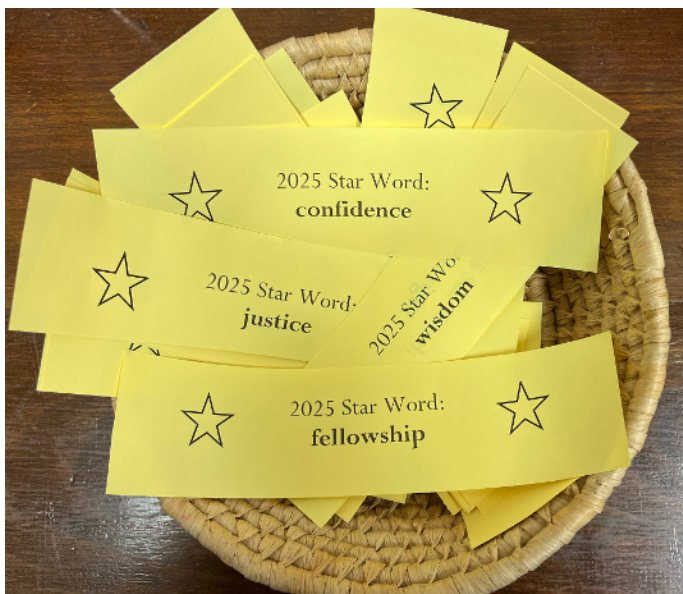
If you did not receive a Star Word on Sunday, the basket of words is available outside the church office. You are also welcome to call the office or email me (jennifer@fbcpendleton.org) and we can select a word on your behalf. You can also use an online Star Word generator, such as perchance.org/starwords2022. Once you have your Star Word, treasure and ponder it, as Mary did when she heard the words of the shepherds.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

Luke 2:19

The following ideas may help you reflect on your Star Word:

- Place your word somewhere you will see it regularly – tape it to your mirror, desk, or refrigerator, write it on your calendar, or use it as a bookmark in your Bible.
- Look up your word in the dictionary. Often reading the “official” definition can illuminate the word in a different way, even if you already know what it means.



- Check to see if your word is used in the Bible. On BibleGateway.com, you can enter a keyword and receive a list of verses where that word is used in Scripture.

- Journal about your word. Write your word in different colors and/or with different types of writing instruments. What images come to mind as you write your word? What might God be communicating to you through this word?

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

Matthew 2:10

As we allow our Star Words to lead us closer to Christ, may we too find great joy.

Pastor Jennifer Rygg, 1/7/2025

CARING FOR CREATION IN 2025

(Resource from Creation Justice Ministries)

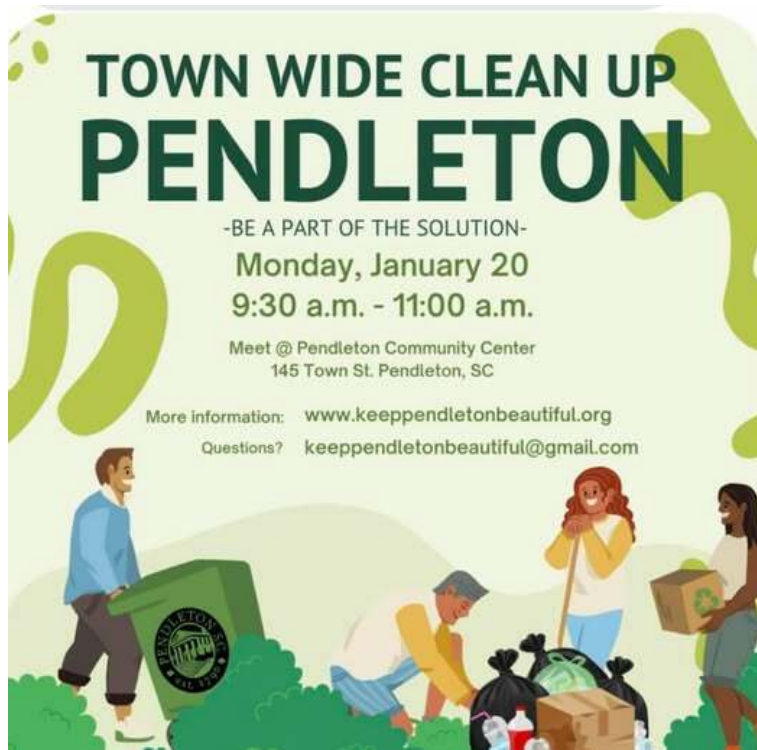
JANUARY

Make a Green New Year's Resolution

Start the year by choosing a "green" resolution that is meaningful to you. **How can you make more eco-conscious choices this year? How can you care for creation in 2025?**

Find and attend a local/online event celebrating Dr. King's birthday on January 20!

King once wrote, "we aren't going to have peace on Earth until we recognize the basic fact of the interrelated structure of all reality." **Consider the relationship between social and creation justice.**



Senior Adult Ministry

Senior Adult Ministry enjoyed a fun and festive Christmas party on Thursday morning, December 19, 2024, in the beautifully decorated Fellowship Hall. Greg Padgett's devotional told the story of the Christmas tree which was perfect for the day and blessed all in attendance.

Joe Reed, Chris Cottingham, and Richard Huss led our group in a Christmas carol sing along. Joe Reed's solo, *O Holy Night*, ornamented the morning.

The party would not have been complete without the annual Christmas ornament exchange. This year's exchange was set to music with the passing around of wrapped ornaments brought by each member. It was a most enjoyable game allowing everyone to take home a new Christmas ornament. A potluck lunch followed by our closing hymn topped off our morning together.

The Senior Adult Ministry at FBCP ended 2024 better than anyone expected or could have predicted. Thank you to our pastors, staff, and volunteers for all that you contribute by giving guidance and serving in this ministry. Thank you to the friends and members of FBCP for your extravagant generosity. Thank you to CBFSC for allowing us to be the recipient of grant monies which allowed us to reach the senior adult community of Pendleton through extravagant hospitality in 2024.



To God be the glory!

Jane Huss, Lead Volunteer

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11



Living with Joy in 2025

During the Christmas season, we sing *Joy to the World*; *the Lord is Come!* and *good tidings of comfort and joy*. We remember how the magi were overwhelmed with joy when they realized they had found the child for whom they had been searching.

Have you ever been overwhelmed with joy? Can you imagine this kind of joy? Is it possible to be so filled with joy that there is no room for fear, anger, or sadness? Perhaps not...after all, the wise men, though overwhelmed with joy, still perceived the danger of King Herod. They knew to go home another way. Hopefully, they took the overwhelming joy with them.

How can we take the joy of the Christmas season with us into the rest of the year? In *Ordinary Blessings for the Christmas Season*, Meta Herrick Carlson includes a Blessing for Reentry, which begins:

*It is clumsy coming back
to the ordinary rhythms of every day life*

Perhaps you have felt this clumsiness in these first days of the new year. I wonder if the Magi also struggled to return to their regular work after the overwhelming joy of their journey. Yet surely this overwhelming joy must seep into our everyday lives. Such overwhelming joy cannot be contained to only a special occasion. How can we live with joy on ordinary days? How can we live with joy on the most difficult days?

During the season of Epiphany, our sermon series will explore the theme **Living with Joy**. We will hear stories of the early ministry of Jesus along with Old Testament texts. Through these ancient texts and through our community of faith, may we be reminded that joy can be found in our everyday lives – overwhelming joy that sustains us through hardships and gives our lives deeper meaning.

Living With Joy / Epiphany Sermon Series

Date	Old Testament Reading	Gospel Reading	Sermon Title
Jan 12	Isaiah 43:1-7	Luke 3:15-22	An Identity of Joy
Jan 19	Nehemiah 8:1-10	Luke 4:14-21	Strengthened by Joy
Jan 26	Psalms 19:1-6	Luke 4:21-30	Joy Beyond Us
Feb 2	Psalms 36:5-10	John 2:1-11	A Joyful Feast
Feb 9	Isaiah 6:1-8	Luke 5:1-11	What Must We Leave Behind?
Feb 16	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Luke 6:17-26	Who Are the Blessed Ones?
Feb 23	Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40	Luke 6:27-38	Generous Love

I look forward to continuing to find joy together in this new year.

--Pastor Jennifer Rygg, 1/7/25

Quarterly Church Conference & Lunch

Our next **Quarterly Church Conference and Luncheon** will be on **Sunday, Jan 26** following worship. The church will provide chicken and beverages. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. **Committee Leaders** are asked to either submit reports to office@fbcpendleton.org by **Thursday, Jan 23** to be included in the conference packet or plan to make an oral report at the meeting.



First Baptist Church of Pendleton
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Quarterly Church Conference & Lunch
Sunday, Jan 26 after worship



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
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