



Lessons in Community Clean Up

Monday morning was cold and clear, as forecasted! Thomas and I bundled for the Community Clean Up Day, but were running a few minutes late and missed the group photo. When we arrived at the Community Center, most of the volunteers had already dispersed. One of the organizers suggested we take the “kid-friendly” route near the Village Square, so we parked near downtown and starting making our way down Broad Street.

I started walking quickly; it was cold, and I didn’t see any pieces of trash in our path. But Thomas was slowly and carefully unearthing bits of Styrofoam and paper from the grass and leaves. When I commented about these pieces of trash being microscopic, he was quick to point out that even a small bit makes a difference. “That is kind of like what we are doing today,” he observed. “When you think about all the problems in the world, picking up trash in our community may not seem very important. But it makes a big difference in our town!”



Indeed, it does. In Sunday’s sermon, I shared an excerpt from a prayer entitled “for small steps when you feel overwhelmed”:

*Blessed are you who need reminding that,
yes, a lot of things aren’t fixable or even tackle-able right now,
but there’s something you might try instead.
Taking that tiny step that might make today a smidgen lighter.
Maybe not easier or necessarily better – but lighter.*

*Being extra generous to a stranger or hopping in bed a little earlier.
Asking a friend to grab coffee or listening to the birds
Instead of doom-scrolling Twitter.
Setting down our to-do lists and picking up a paintbrush
for no reason at all except joy.*

from *The Lives We Actually Have* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie

So friends, even when you feel overwhelmed, when you are running late, when the little bit doesn’t feel like much, may you take that tiny step with faith. May these tiny steps lead us to joy – the joy of serving one another and making the world a little brighter, kinder, and gentler – one tiny step at a time.

– Pastor Jennifer Rygg, 1/21/25

CARING FOR CREATION IN 2025

(Resource from Creation Justice Ministries)

JANUARY

Rest & Reflect: Winter is a time of rest and renewal for the earth and for God's creatures, including us. How does winter reflect the Sabbath? How can you invite the practice of Sabbath into your life this season?

Bible Study: Scripture is full of nature verses, references, and metaphors. How does Genesis relate to our responsibility to care for the earth? Which Psalms inspire reverence for nature?



FAITHFUL RESILIENCE



Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study has started a new study on how faith communities can respond to the current climate crisis. Using a resource from **Creation Justice Ministries**, we will

engage in Scripture study and discussion on issues related to caring for God's creation. Join us in Room 306 or on Zoom on Wednesday nights from 6:30 - 7:15 pm.

The Town of Pendleton sponsored a town-wide clean up day on Martin Luther King Day (January 20). Rev. Jennifer Rygg and Thomas Rygg missed the photo opp, but pictured are Nancy von Meyer (and her faithful companion, Duffy), Lesa Chandler, Skip Still, Richard Baldwin, Randy Strickland, Xan Coulter, Suzanne Morse, Ian Coulter, and Dave Alverson. Thanks for "being a part of the solution!"

Backpack Food Drive

Food insecurity is real. Many local school districts have programs to provide nutritious food to their students to take home to eat on the weekend. FBCP is starting an initiative to support the **Pendleton High School Backpack Food Drive**. Please bring your donations to the church and place them next to the Clemson Community Care collection barrel.

Suggestions for non-perishable foods include:

pasta sauce, pasta, peanut butter, jelly, cereal (small boxes work best to fit in backpacks), canned beans, pudding cups, canned meat (tuna, chicken), mac & cheese mixes or microwavable cups, Ramen noodles, rice mixes, oatmeal packets, juice boxes or pouches, soup, canned vegetables, microwave popcorn, salty snacks (individual), sweet snacks (individual).



Senior Adult Ministry

Senior Adult Ministry is experiencing a late start to 2025. Due to frigid temperatures our January meetings were canceled. Needless to say, we are looking forward to our February schedule of events. Our next meeting is **Thursday, February 13 at 9:30**. Our guest speaker will be **Richard Baldwin**, a member of FBCP.

Senior Adult Ministry meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month from 9:30 - noon. Please contact **Jane Huss** at mobile (864) 979-2281 or email janereynoldshuss@gmail.com if you have any questions.



Volunteers are needed to help set up and serve lunch (10:30 am to noon).

Bingo prizes (food/snacks, decor, accessories, etc.) are always welcome! Bingo prizes are collected in the blue container in the hallway across from the choir room.

Seniors attending our meetings bring one item for Clemson Community Care, one prize for the bingo table, and \$1.00.

All Seniors are invited to join us at our meetings and enjoy the food, fun, and fellowship.

– Jane Huss, Lead Volunteer

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

1 Thessalonians 5:11



Communion Sunday February 2nd



Please bring a donation for Clemson Community Care, such as nonperishable food or hygiene items.



Quarterly Church Conference & Lunch

Our next **Quarterly Church Conference and Luncheon** will be this **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.

Hurricane Recovery Help Still Needed

Spencer Willoughby is working with a group to collect items for veterans in North Carolina recovering from Hurricane Helene. To see a list of needed items, please check our church Facebook group or contact Spencer Willoughby at simplyspencer@gmail.com.



First Baptist Church of Pendleton
 351 South Broad Street
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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
864-760-7135

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