



Meeting God in the Middle

I remember watching a tv show where the middle child in the family was complaining about her role. Her parents tried to encourage her by pointing out that sometimes the middle is the best part, such as the creme in an Oreo cookie. This did lift the spirits of the middle child a bit, but then, the older sibling felt left out, complaining about being the soggy part of the cookie!

Somehow, we have made even “the middle” an experience of extremes! The middle is either the center of attention or the overlooked; the best part or the undesired. So often, we tend to run to one extreme or the other. We put people in categories, such as introvert or extrovert, saver or spender, liberal or conservative, right-handed or left-handed.

As we look more closely, we often discover there is more complexity and nuance than we may have expected. Jesus’ stories and miracles often disrupted the assumed categories of his day. During the season of Lent, our Lenten worship theme will invite us to take a closer look at some of these supposed dichotomies:

intention & action | Jesus sets out for Jerusalem (Ash Wednesday, March 5)

stranger & neighbor | the good Samaritan (First Sunday of Lent, March 9)

faith & works | Mary & Martha (Second Sunday of Lent, March 16)

rest & growth | parable of the fig tree (Third Sunday of Lent, March 23)

lost & found | parable of the lost sheep (Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 30)

righteousness & mercy | Zacchaeus meets Jesus (Fifth Sunday of Lent, April 6)

shouting & silence | Jesus enters Jerusalem (Palm Sunday, April 13)

grief & hope | Resurrection (Easter Sunday, April 20)

Through this series from A Sanctified Art, we are invited to look beyond the expected categories and meet God in new ways. If you are trying to find your way through undefined space, feeling the pressure of a divided world, or seeking a spirituality that engages rather than avoids complexity, may God meet you “everywhere in between” this Lenten season.

Pastor Jennifer Rygg, 3/4/25

Devotional booklets, daily devotional cards, and a daily prayer guide for families with children are available on the table outside the church office. If you’d like to receive these resources by mail, please contact the church office.



CARING FOR CREATION IN 2025
(Resource from Creation Justice Ministries)

MARCH

Ash Wednesday

As we enter the season of Lent, how can your Lenten practices honor creation? You could challenge yourself to give up single-use plastics, eat less meat, drive less, etc.

Lenten Resource

Find a creation-theme Lenten resource at <http://www.creationjustice.org/lent.html>

MLK Jr. Documentary

MLK Jr. Historical Eclectic
Musical Documentary

3 shows at FBC Pendleton

Friday, March 28 @ 7 pm

Saturday, March 29 @ 2 pm

Saturday, March 29 @ 7 pm

There are still a few roles for actors/extras. If you are interested in helping tell this important story, please contact Dr. Romando James at 864-650-2891. Rehearsals take place on Friday evenings.

We will also need **volunteers** to help with a **hospitality room** for the performers and to serve as **ushers** the weekend of the event. More details on these opportunities will be coming soon.

Lenten Lunch

The Alliance of Pendleton Area Churches Lenten Lunches begin this week. The host church provides a soup and sandwich lunch and a Lenten devotional. Lenten Lunch is a great ecumenical opportunity to fellowship, share a meal, and pray together.

Alliance of Pendleton Area Churches Lenten Lunches

All are invited to gather on Wednesdays 12-1 pm
for a soup & sandwich lunch and a Lenten devotional.

March 5 - **Pendleton Methodist**

(217 S. Broad St.)

March 12 - **First Baptist Pendleton**

(351 S. Broad St.)

March 19 - **King's Chapel AME**

(135 Vance St.)

March 26 - **Mt. Zion Presbyterian**

(1501 Sandy Springs Rd, Sandy Springs)

April 2 - **Zion United Methodist**

(5708 Hwy 187, Anderson)

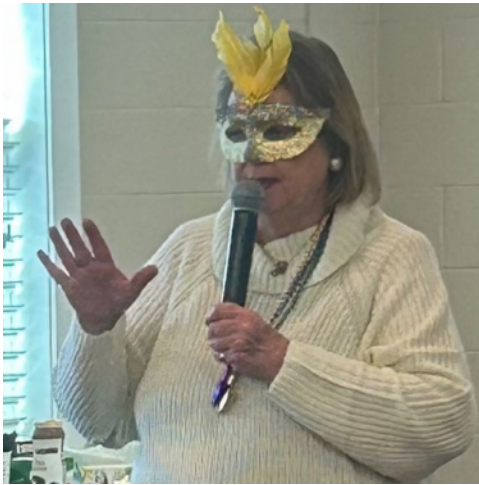
April 9 - **Christ the Redeemer Anglican**

(839 Greenville St.)



Senior Adult Ministry

The winter weather may have gotten Senior Adult Ministry off to a slow start this year but if last Thursday's meeting is any indication of where we are headed you can be assured we are on track for continued good times this spring.



Members were greeted by volunteers and were served the traditional Mardi Gras King Cake with the hidden baby Jesus for someone to find. This breakfast treat began a morning-long discussion about Mardi Gras. "I never had King Cake before." "We never celebrated Mardi Gras when I was a child." "Why did you hide a plastic baby?" "I have been to Mardi Gras when I lived in New Orleans." These were just a few of the comments.



The conversations continued during lunch with discussions of symbolism, history, paganism, masks, and Lent was mentioned which is the journey to Easter. Very interesting dialogue indeed for our seniors at our gathering.

Hands of applause and many kind comments followed Ted Thomas' program. Throughout Ted's military service including uncertainties and tragedies of combat which included the death of some people close to him, followed by a few decades in public behavioral healthcare, Ted focused a lot of energy and time during his life on the power of human endurance, healing, and resiliency through the face of everyday and extraordinary stresses and anxiety of work and home life. The one takeaway for the day was to do a bit of self-reflection around your personal belief system and more importantly, your duty to your own health and wellness along with others close to you. All attending were very encouraged by Ted's lecture.

After BINGO we enjoyed a delicious lunch.

Even though many in our membership were absent due to illness we were thrilled to have many visitors join us for the morning.

Senior Adult Ministry meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. **Jane Reynolds Huss** is the Lead Volunteer and can be reached at janereynoldshuss@gmail.com or mobile 864-979-2281.



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

1 Thessalonians 5:11





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MLK Jr. Documentary
Mar 28-29 · Sanctuary



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

The Newsletter
 Published semimonthly.
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