

## Christmas Eve

During this season of Advent, we have been pondering the role of fear in the Christmas story and in our own lives. As we have read the stories from Scripture which anticipate the birth of Jesus, we have heard, again and again, the divine message not to be afraid.

“Don’t be afraid, Zechariah, your prayers have been heard.” (Luke 1:13)

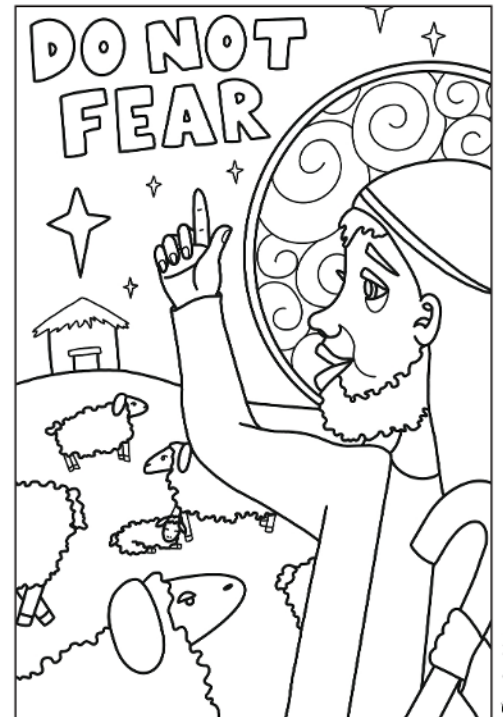
“Don’t be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you.” (Luke 1:30)

“Joseph son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 1:20)

These stories remind us of those long-ago preparations being made for an unexpected baby to be born. On the night of Jesus’ birth, the message not to be afraid was delivered once again, this time not to one specific person but to a group of shepherds keeping watch over their flocks.

“The angel said, ‘Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord.’” (Luke 2:20-11)

We will gather to celebrate this good news on Christmas Eve at 5 pm in our sanctuary. All are invited because this is good news for ALL people. We will share communion and light candles. We will hear the good news, and we will be reminded not to be afraid.



## Year-End Giving



Did you know you can make a lasting impact without giving cash? This giving season, you can donate stock, give from your IRA (if you’re 70.5+), or recommend a grant from your Donor-Advised Fund—while enjoying potential tax benefits. Support the mission of First Baptist Church of Pendleton in a smart, faithful way

before the year’s end. Contact **Becky Westmoreland** at [accounting@fbcpendleton.org](mailto:accounting@fbcpendleton.org) for more details.

If you have any expenses that require reimbursement from the church, please have them in the church office by Monday, Dec 22 for the last check run for 2025. 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 Wednesday, Dec 31 to complete the last deposit for 2025. 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. Please contact **Becky Westmoreland** at [accounting@fbcpendleton.org](mailto:accounting@fbcpendleton.org) if you have any questions.

## Offering for Global Missions

Remember the **Offering for Global Missions** in your Christmas giving! 100% of your gifts for this Offering will support the long-term presence of CBF field personnel serving in the United States and around the world. Give to this offering online through our church website or in the offering plate; designate your gift **CBF Global**.



## Riverside Singers



Rev. Chris Cottingham is the accompanist for the Riverside Middle School **Riverside Singers**, under the direction of Mrs. Kayla Williams. As part of the preparation for their winter concert, the students travel to each of the four elementary schools in the school district and present a concert.



Since they need lunch, and it's hard to add 130+ students, staff, and parent chaperons to a lunch line (and find a seat in the cafeteria!), FBCP continued what is now a multi-year tradition of serving lunch to the group and, in return, enjoying their own mini-concert. The students were here Dec 4 and enjoyed chicken tenders, fresh fruit, chips, and homemade cookies, and church members and Senior Adult Ministry members enjoyed a beautiful concert. We're already planning for next year!



## CARING FOR CREATION IN 2025

· from Creation Justice Ministries ·

### DECEMBER

#### Christmas Tree Shopping

If you're going Christmas tree shopping, choose a real tree over a plastic one! Tree farms help to sequester carbon and provide habitats for birds and other wildlife.

#### Write a Prayer for Creation

Write a prayer of gratitude, protection, or lament for creation. This could be a prayer about environmental injustice or climate change. It could be a gratitude prayer for a specific tree. It may help to write in an outdoor setting. Be creative.

# Senior Adult Ministry

With 11 volunteers, 13 members, and 10 guests, Senior Adult Ministry enjoyed a most delightful and festive Christmas party on Thursday, December 11, 2025 in the beautifully decorated Fellowship Hall with surprises and prizes for everyone!

After our devotional and ornament exchange game we were treated to what has become an annual program by three of the FBCP staff. Joe Reed, Chris Cottingham, and Richard Huss led the carol sing-a-long. Calling BINGO was a new experience for Richard Huss but as always he met the challenge and we had three rousing rounds of BINGO. Everyone loved it! Following BINGO the Senior Adults were treated to lunch served by Kim and Lynn from the Pompous Pig in Anderson. It was a most enjoyable morning of food, fun, and fellowship.

Senior Adult Ministry ended 2025 better than the previous year which just happened to be a phenomenal year. During the FBCP recent budget planning for 2026, one comment that surfaced many times was that Senior Adult Ministry is a vital and thriving ministry to our church and to our community of Pendleton. We are hoping to make 2026 even better!

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 inclusive hospitality in 2025!

Senior Adult Ministry meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month except January. There are no meetings in January. We meet from 9:30-noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Jane Huss at mobile (864)-979-2281 or email [janereynoldshuss@gmail.com](mailto:janereynoldshuss@gmail.com) if you have any questions. All Seniors are invited to join us at our meetings and enjoy food, fun, and fellowship.

To God be all glory and praise. Merry Christmas!

—Jane Huss · Lead Volunteer





**First Baptist Church of Pendleton**  
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**CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION  
 & CANDLELIGHT · Dec 24 · 5:00**



**Deacons for the 2025-2026 Church Year**

Flock 01: A - Bl	Warren Willoughby	(864) 940-5471
Flock 02: Bo - Cha	Hayden Maxey	(843) 246-4858
Flock 03: Che - Da	Heather Mullinax	(864) 221-7651
Flock 04: Do - Hen	Cindy Still	(864) 324-6203
Flock 05: Her - McCo	Jan McCracken	(864) 934-4574
Flock 06: McCr - Pa	Shelby Quattlebaum	(864) 934-6086
Flock 07: Pe - Ta	Barbara Blackmon	(864) 903-3739
Flock 08: Th - Z	Jane Reynolds Huss	(864) 979-2281
Deacons & Spouses	Suzanne Morse	(864) 643-9909

**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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