

## Comfort & Joy Beyond the Holidays

This week, the season of Christmas comes to an end, after 12 days of Christmas (Dec 25-Jan 5) and Epiphany (Jan 6), when we celebrate the arrival of the Magi. As we pack away decorations and resume regular routines, some may be eager to return to some sense of normalcy, while others may prefer to linger in the holiday spirit a bit longer.

While there is joy in the “special,” there is often a sense of comfort in the ordinary. As we wrap up this season in which we sing of “good tidings of comfort and joy,” may we take a bit of the joy of the season with us into the ordinariness of January.

A tradition that helps me do this is the Epiphany practice of receiving Star Words, or Star Gifts. Just when we thought all the gifts had been opened, we are offered the gift of a word. As the Magi were guided by a star to find the Christ child, these words are intended to guide us closer to Christ on our own faith journeys.

This past Sunday, we received Star Words as part of our worship service. If you did not have the chance to receive one on Sunday, the basket of words is available on the table outside the church office. You may also email me at [jennifer@fbcpendleton.org](mailto:jennifer@fbcpendleton.org) or call the church office at **864-646-3913** and we would love to send you a Star Word.



Star Words are not chosen but received, as a gift, so they are selected from the basket without looking at the word on the other side of the card. When you receive your Star Word, treasure it and ponder it in your heart as Mary did when she heard the words of the shepherds (Luke 2:19). May your Star Word bring glimmers of joy throughout the year, reminding you of the good news:

**Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord.** (Luke 2:11, CEB)

Merry Christmas, Happy Epiphany, and Happy New Year!

--Pastor Jennifer Rygg, 1/4/26

## Pictures from Advent



The Maxey Family lights the candles on the Advent wreath.



The Sanctuary Choir presented a Service of Lessons and Carols during worship on Dec 21.

## Immigration Bridges Workshop

One way to bridge our disagreements around immigration is to understand what divides us. In this FREE workshop, community experts from Upstate SC will describe the workings and shortcomings of our immigration system. They will also discuss immigration solutions that welcome immigrants and refugees as neighbors without harming the interests of American citizens. Just as important, workshop participants will discuss how to act on their concerns about immigration. For details and free registration: <https://immigrationbridges.substack.com/p/immigration-bridges-workshop>

This workshop will be held Thursday, Jan 22 from 6-8 pm in the FBCP Fellowship Hall.

## Staff Christmas Lunch

The church staff thoroughly enjoyed a Christmas lunch together on Dec 16, fitting a joyful event into a busy season and even getting a picture with Santa while they were out!

Pictured (l-r) S. Claus, Joe Reed, Karel Reed, Kiley Daniel, Jeffrey Daniel, Jennifer Rygg, Richard Huss, Becky Westmoreland, Chris Cottingham.



## Christmas Caroling



The church family enjoyed a delightful evening singing Christmas carols on Wednesday, Dec 17.

# Senior Adult Ministry



## Senior Adult Ministry: An Exciting Year Ahead!

While our Senior Adult Ministry will take a short break with no meetings in January, we are already looking ahead with great excitement to what's coming next! Mark your calendars now for our first meeting of 2026 on Thursday, February 12—you won't want to miss it.

We are thrilled to kick off the year with a special treat as **The Gypsy Sallies** join us for our first February gathering. Known for their lively music, joyful spirit, and toe-tapping fun, the Gypsy Sallies are sure to make this a memorable start to the year. It will be a wonderful time of fellowship, laughter, and celebration together.

Senior Adult Ministry continues to be a place where friendships grow, faith is strengthened, and joy is shared. If you've been attending for years or have been thinking about joining us for the first time, February 12 is the perfect opportunity to be part of the fun.

### Volunteer to Help Prepare Meals

We are excited to begin planning meals for our Senior Adult luncheons and invite you to be part of this important ministry! **Bruce & Barbara Blackmon** are in charge of Senior Adult Ministry Food Services and will be in the kitchen during each meeting from 10:00 am through clean-up. If you are willing to prepare a meal for one of our luncheons, please contact Bruce or Barbara to sign up. You may reach them by email at [dbruceblackmon@gmail.com](mailto:dbruceblackmon@gmail.com) or [bblckmncuret@gmail.com](mailto:bblckmncuret@gmail.com), or by phone at **864-653-0228** or **864-903-3739**. We plan to complete the meal schedule for the year soon, so please sign up as early as possible—we truly appreciate your support and willingness to serve!

### Give From the Heart to Grow the Community Outreach

This February, our church family is invited to support a special fundraiser for our Senior Adult Ministry. Through **Give From the Heart to Grow the Community Outreach**, your generosity will help provide transportation, meals, supplies, and meaningful activities that allow our senior adults to stay connected, supported, and engaged in fellowship. This ministry is a vital part of our church community, offering friendship, care, and encouragement to those who have given so much to others. Every gift, no matter the size, helps us continue reaching hearts and strengthening community. Thank you for giving from the heart and helping our Senior Adult Ministry grow. We will be accepting donations through February 28.

Senior Adult Ministry is a welcoming place for fellowship, laughter, and meaningful connections. We gather on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month (no meetings in January), from 9:30 am to noon in the Fellowship Hall. These times together are filled with good food, joyful conversation, and encouraging community. All seniors are warmly invited to join us in this special ministry. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact **Jane Huss** at **864-979-2281** or by email at [janereynoldshuss@gmail.com](mailto:janereynoldshuss@gmail.com). We would love to have you join us!

Enjoy your January break, stay warm, and get ready! We can't wait to see you as we begin an exciting new year together!

**Jane Huss**, Lead Volunteer

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



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**IMMIGRATION BRIDGES WORKSHOP**  
 Thursday, Jan 22 · 6-8 pm



**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](http://fbcpendleton.org)

**PASTORAL EMERGENCY**  
**Rev. Jennifer McClung Rygg**  
**864-760-7135**

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