

## Creating a Community of Autism Understanding

Understanding Autism from an Autistic Point of View



Joe McLaughlin

Approximately 1 in 31 children in the US are diagnosed with autism. The challenges of autism affect individuals, families, churches, schools, and other groups in our communities. How can we better understand autism?

Joe McLaughlin, author of *Understanding Autism from an Autistic Point of View*, will share his perspective and insight in a presentation on **Sunday, May 3 at 5 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join this community event. Thank you to the Children's Ministry Council for planning and hosting this event!

## Celebrating Our Church Staff

This month (April 2026) brings several opportunities to celebrate our church staff.

Chris Cottingham has been serving at FBCP for ten years. He began in April 2016 as our interim part-time Youth Minister.

Also, Wednesday, April 22 is Administrative Professionals Day! Thank you to **Joseph Reed**, Office Manager (and also Building Manager) and **Becky Westmoreland**, Financial Assistant, for ALL you do to keep our church running smoothly.

"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." Colossians 3:15

## Good Faith Magazine



FBCP has a group subscription to Good Faith Media magazine. The Flamingo Sunday School class uses the Bible studies for their weekly lessons; the magazine also includes a variety of articles on faith-related topics. We currently have some sample copies available in Room 308. If you usually receive a copy at home and did not receive the Apr-Jun 2026 issue, please pick up a sample copy. If you would like to be added to the subscription list, please contact the church office.

## Flood Buckets

Flood buckets are a valuable resource when disaster strikes, and it's very important that they are readily available. **Alan Williams**, CBFSC Disaster Recovery Coordinator, brought 206 flood buckets to store at First Baptist Church of Pendleton on April 13. He was very appreciative of being able to store them at FBCP, where they can be quickly deployed when inevitably needed.



Thank you to the quick-response loading crew, including **Joseph Reed**, **Dave Alverson**, **Skip Still**, **Rick Massey**, **Lesa & Dale Chandler**, and **Josh Hunt** (CBFSC Associate Coordinator).

# Save the Date: Church Picnic · May 31



We have already reserved Twin Lakes Shelter #2 for our traditional summer church picnic on May 31. The church will provide chicken and beverages; please plan to bring a side or dessert to share. We will have the church bus available for rides (remember that there is a \$5 per car entrance fee to Twin Lakes). We will have further updates as the time approaches. Save the date for the church picnic on May 31!

# Clemson Community Care Presentation April 29

On Wednesday, April 29, Lauren Russell from Clemson Community Care (CCC) will be sharing an update on CCC during Adult Bible Study.

Karen Carter, long time director of CCC, is retiring, and Lauren, who has been serving as Program Director, will be transitioning to the role of Executive Director. CCC serves our neighbors in Clemson, Central, and Pendleton through providing food, rental/utilities/deposit assistance, and other support. FBCP sends a quarterly contribution to CCC out of our general budget. In addition, we collect donations of nonperishable food, toiletries, and paper products on a regular basis, with a special emphasis on communion Sundays. We have also hosted several drive-through community food drives for CCC. Clemson Community Care is a valued mission partner of our church and an important resource in our community.

Join us on Wednesday, April 29 from 6:30 - 7:15 pm in Room 306 to meet Lauren and to learn more about the work of CCC.

# Invitation to a Special Presentation



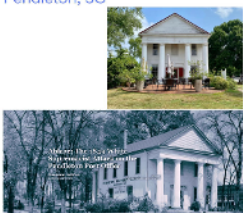
JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY  
 DR. SUSANNA ASHTON  
 PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH  
 CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Pendleton Area Advocates for Intellectual Freedom invite the public (and FBCP members) to attend an educational presentation titled **Ablaze: The 1849 White Supremacist Attack on the Pendleton Post Office**, which discusses the topic "What can a violent attack on the Pendleton post office in 1849 tell us about public speech and censorship today?" featuring **Dr. Susanna Ashton**, Professor of English at Clemson University. The meeting will be Tuesday, April 28 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary of FBCP. There is no cost to attend, and no registration is required. There will be an opportunity for discussion after the presentation.

**TOPIC:**  
*What can a violent attack on the Pendleton post office in 1849 tell us about public speech and censorship today?*

**APRIL 28, 2026**  
**7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**  
 Location: the Sanctuary of  
 First Baptist Church of Pendleton  
 351 South Broad Street  
 Pendleton, SC

In this illustrated lecture, Dr. Susanna Ashton examines a charged local episode involving media circulation, performative outrage, and racial conflict. By tracing how the event was reported, witnessed, and remembered, she offers a historically grounded perspective on the ongoing struggle over who controls information and whose voices are heard.



# Senior Adult Ministry

Our Senior Adult Ministry kicked off April with a meaningful and refreshing time together, centered on the beauty of God’s creation and the arrival of spring.

Jennifer Rygg opened our gathering by inviting us to pause and notice the wonder of the season through the poem “Birdsong” by Rev. Sarah A. Speed. This thoughtful reflection set the tone for our time, helping us turn our hearts toward gratitude and attentiveness to God’s presence all around us.

She then guided us in a prayer practice known as *Lectio Divina* in Nature, encouraging us to listen for God through creation itself. Drawing from Job 12:7–10, we were reminded that the natural world speaks of God’s wisdom, power, and care—if we take the time to truly observe and listen.

To bring this idea to life, Richard Baldwin shared beautiful photographs from his own garden, showcasing spring flowers in full bloom. His images gave us a vivid glimpse of renewal and growth, reminding us of the quiet yet powerful ways God is always at work.

It was a peaceful and inspiring start to the month, and we are grateful for the opportunity to grow together in faith, reflection, and appreciation for God’s creation.

We look forward to what’s ahead this season!

Senior Adult Ministry meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month from 9:30-12:00 in the Fellowship Hall. All Senior adults are welcome to attend. Our next gathering is this Thursday, April 9. We look forward to seeing everyone for good times of food, fun, and fellowship.

Jane Huss - Lead Volunteer · [janereynoldshuss@gmail.com](mailto:janereynoldshuss@gmail.com) · 864-979-2281

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





**First Baptist Church of Pendleton**  
 351 South Broad Street  
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 Pendleton, SC 29670

fbcpendleton.org  
 (864) 646-3913

**Understanding Autism**  
**Sunday, May 3 · 5 pm · Fellowship Hall**



**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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