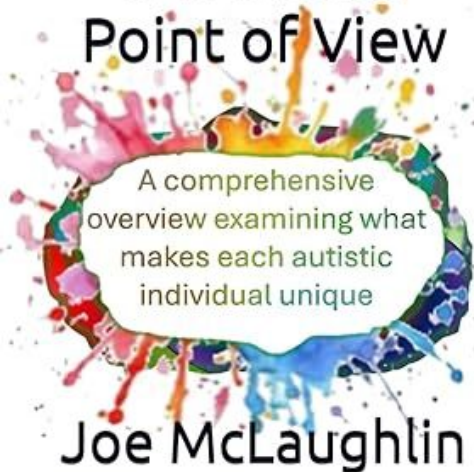


Creating a Community of Autism Understanding

Understanding Autism from an Autistic Point of View



Joe McLaughlin

Thank you to our Children's Ministry Council for inviting Joe McLaughlin, author of *Understanding Autism from an Autistic Point of View*, to speak at FBCP on May 3. We had around 30 people attend this informative presentation on Sunday evening. Children's Council and other volunteers prepared some wonderful refreshments for all to enjoy.

Joe's presentation began with an overview of the history of autism, explaining how understanding of neurodiversity has greatly changed over the years and is continuing to evolve. Joe also shared his personal experience with autism; he did not realize he was autistic until he was in his 40s when his children were diagnosed with autism. As he learned about the criteria for an autism diagnosis, he realized that many of the behaviors were very familiar to him! He did not pursue a formal diagnosis until a few years later, when he found he needed accommodations in the workplace.

The presentation included a number of lists, charts, and diagrams, many of which can be found in his book, *Understanding Autism from an Autistic Point of View*. Some key takeaways included:

- For many people with autism, filtering out "non-relevant" signals is difficult because of the way their brain processes stimuli.
- An autistic meltdown is different from a temper tantrum. A meltdown occurs when the brain becomes overwhelmed; it is comparable to a blown fuse.
- Think in terms of "areas of complication" rather than labels such as "high" and "low" functioning.

If you would like to learn more about this topic, we have ordered a couple of copies of the book to have available at church for individuals to borrow; Pastor Jennifer also has a copy that can be borrowed. We will place a sign-up sheet on the table outside the church office where you can indicate your interest to borrow a copy of the book.

May we all continue to learn and grow together, as we endeavor to be the welcoming and inclusive body of Christ!

Graduate Recognition



We would like to recognize any high school or college graduates in our church family. If you or a family member is graduating, please contact the church office to share the name of the graduate, school, and degree. Congratulations, class of 2026!

Mission Partner: Cultivate Abundance



One of the CBF field personnel supported by CBF's Offering for Global Missions is **Rick Burnette**, with whom FBCP partners through the Encourager Church program. Rick and his wife, **Ellen**, serve in south Florida addressing food insecurity among migrant farmworkers.

Recently, their nonprofit, **Cultivate Abundance**, shared this update:

During 2021-22, Rebecca Garofano, who interned with us in Thailand, conducted nutritional research in collaboration with Cultivate Abundance under the supervision of her major professor, Dr. Margaret Voss, at Syracuse University. Through participatory surveys carried out with Latino and Haitian Immokalee residents – most of whom being clients of Misión Peniel – Rebecca collected feedback with which to analyze the Immokalee resident's nutritional context. Meanwhile, she investigated the food desert residents' options for food access, including home gardening and foraging wild vegetables as well as receiving food at Misión Peniel. Compiling lists of accessible fruit, vegetables, and herbs, Rebecca determined that the nutritional value associated with diversity of the food being sourced within Immokalee was considerable.



*One finding that stuck out was that the variety of nutrients being supplied by an assortment of produce, as measured among the Immokalee residents, may indicate **“that the presence of fruits and vegetables via Cultivate Abundance in the Misión Peniel food pantry is an access point that improves diet diversity and supports health of pantry participants.** As a result of this work, overall diet diversity of research participants may have, in part, reflected the produce made available to them through Cultivate Abundance's programs, along with other sources.”*

Such scientific validation helps to affirm the efforts of Cultivate Abundance and Misión Peniel as well as our partners in ministry.

FBCP sends a quarterly contribution to Cultivate Abundance; these contributions are made possible by your generous gifts to our general budget. Through giving to our general budget and to CBF's Offering for Global Missions, we support meaningful ministry around the world.

Offering for Global Missions



**OFFERING FOR
GLOBAL MISSIONS**

In this season of Easter, remember the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's **Offering for Global Missions**. 100% of your gifts for the Offering will support the long-term presence of CBF field personnel serving in the United States and around the world. You may give in the offering plate or online; designate your gift **CBF Global**.

Senior Adult Ministry



At our meeting on Thursday, April 23, we recognized longtime faithful member **Evelyn Simpson**. Evelyn began attending Senior Adult group meetings when Annie Tribble was in leadership. Evelyn lead the Keenagers for many years and has most recently been a valued contributing member of the Senior Adult Ministry team. Within the next few months Evelyn plans to leave Pendleton and FBCP and move to Texas and live near her children.



Senior Adult Ministry meets in the Fellowship Hall the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. All Senior Adults are invited to attend the meetings for food, fun, and fellowship.

Evelyn Simpson and Heather Mullinax If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact **Jane Huss**, Lead Volunteer, at janereynoldshuss@gmail.com or 864-979-2281.

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

Psalms & Prayers: Adult Wednesday Night Bible Study

Colossians 3:16 invites us to "let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."

Join us at Wednesday Night Bible Study during May as we take a closer look at the Psalms as a resource for prayer. This ancient prayer book still offers us rich language and imagery for communicating with and worshipping God. What's your favorite Psalm?

Nominating Committee Completes Process

The **Nominating Committee** has prayerfully and successfully completed its work for the upcoming church year beginning June 1.

Over the past several weeks, the committee members met to thoughtfully consider nominations, and spoke to each individual regarding their willingness to serve as they sought to match the nominee's gifts with areas of ministry, thus fulfilling the committee's purpose of Intentional Faith Development.

The proposed slate of new committee members was presented to the congregation and officially approved during the Church Conference on April 26.

New this year, in order to encourage a successful start in ministry, all committees will gather for the first time after Wednesday Night Supper on May 27, to select their chairpersons and begin the year united in purpose. This intentional start will allow each team to move forward with a prayerful focus and a clear understanding of their responsibilities in supporting the life and ministry of our church. Thank you to the members of the Nominating Committee and to each church member accepting the call to serve this coming term.

— Nominating Committee: **Jane Huss**, Chair · **Dave Alverson** · **Heather Mullinax** · **Kay Thomas**



First Baptist Church of Pendleton
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fbcpendleton.org
 (864) 646-3913

SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, May 31 · Church Picnic



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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