



*First Baptist Church*  
OF PENDLETON  
*Rooted in Faith Growing in Love*

Newsletter Volume 46 Number 7

April 21, 2020

## Quarantine Reflections

What a long and unusual month this has been! It is hard to believe that two months ago, most of us were carrying on with life as usual, unaware that our daily routines were about to make a dramatic shift. This shift has affected our different lives in very different ways.

I have wondered if perhaps for many of us, this time of physical distancing has exaggerated what was already present in our lives. Those who were lonely have experienced an increasing awareness of their loneliness. Those who were juggling work and children are now juggling more responsibilities - figuring out work in the midst of a global pandemic, with children now at home instead of at school. Relationships that were strained have been strained further. Those who were struggling financially are now struggling even more. Challenges such as depression and anxiety are likely more intense. In addition to all of the difficulties related to the COVID-19 virus, the ongoing challenges and struggles of life have continued - accidents, illnesses, injuries, new babies, severe weather, acts of violence - these weeks may have been quiet in some ways, but they have certainly not been uneventful.

According to Wikipedia, the word "quarantine" derives from the Venetian "quarantena" (forty days), and referred to the period that ship passengers and crew members were required to be isolated when

arriving in a new location in order to prevent the spread of the Black Death during the 14th-15th century pandemic. As students of Scripture, we are certainly aware of the recurrence of the theme of 40 days throughout both the Old and New Testaments. During the time of Noah, the rain fell for 40 days and 40 nights. Moses spent 40 days and 40 nights on the mountain receiving instructions from God. Elijah was sustained by one meal for 40 days and 40 nights before encountering God in the silence of a mountainside. Jesus was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days.

Perhaps you have noticed that we are quickly approaching 40 days of quarantine, and it seems that this period will extend a bit longer. March 15th was the last date we were able to hold in-person services at

church. 40 days later will be Friday, April 24th, the day we were scheduled to host the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina's annual General Assembly. For us, the 40th day will not mark the end of this quarantine.

At this time, we are still waiting on recommendations of officials regarding when we might safely gather again. Church Council will meet via video/phone conference next week to discuss possible next steps. We are beginning to imagine



continued on p.2

## Quarantine Reflections, from p. 1

the end of this time of distancing, but we are not there yet, and we are not promised exactly when it will be.

In this time of uncertainty, I am reminded of the words of Jesus to Mary in John chapter 20. Mary Magdalene had come to the tomb grieving the violent death of her dear friend and teacher, and to her surprise, he is there, alive, walking, talking and speaking to her. I imagine she must have wanted to embrace him, to hold on tightly and never let him out of her sight again. But Jesus says: "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father." (John 20:17)

Not yet. We are in a period of not yet. Though we want to be together as a church community, though we need to come together to discuss and make decisions as a church - we are in a difficult, ambiguous, strange period of not yet. We cannot hold on to one another, and we miss the hugs and handshakes and warmth of our church family. Just as surely as Jesus rose from the dead, Jesus will bring new life and hope and growth out of this time of struggle and darkness. Perhaps not yet, and perhaps that new life will not look the way we imagined or even hoped, but Jesus is alive. Jesus is at work. Jesus is at work in us.

--Pastor Jennifer Rygg, 4/20/20

---

First Baptist Church of Pendleton recently sent a contribution from our Hands On Mission fund to United Way of Pickens County. We received back this thank you note.



I hope you're staying safe and well! We are so grateful for First Baptist Church of Pendleton's generous gift to the **COVID-19 Community Relief Fund**, and I can't wait to tell you about specific ways that lives have been touched because of your church's generosity!

I wanted to reach out to you about being publicly recognized on United Way's social media pages and website. We want our community to know WHO is making relief and support possible!

Again, thank you so much for your generosity!

-- Lyndy Barnes  
United Way of Pickens County

---

## Sunday School Literature and Devotionals Available

**Sunday School literature** for the upcoming trimester/quarter has arrived and is in the church library.

**Reflections** devotionals, **Formations** SS and **Connections** SS materials are for May through August 2020.

**Open Windows** devotionals and **Explore the Bible** SS material is for June through August 2020.

If you would like us to mail you a devotional and/or SS material, please send a message to [office@fbcpendleton.org](mailto:office@fbcpendleton.org) by April 27 for **Reflections**, **Formations**, and **Connections** or by May 18 for **Open Windows** and **Explore the Bible**.

# Pendleton Community Counseling Center



## A Message from Dede Norungolo, MRC, CRC, LPC, LAC, CAC



We are learning much about faith and love as we move through a unique time of fear. I feel our way will be illuminated by that faith and love!!

I wanted to reach out and share with you a coping device I've been promoting with family, friends, clients and staff called:

### **STOPP**

Stop

Take a Deep Breath

**O**bserve: What am I thinking about? What is it I'm reacting to? What am I feeling in my body?

**P**erspective – consider the bigger picture

**P**actice what works!

I am continuing to take new referrals and will see patients either through virtual visits via MyChart or by phone. I can easily see someone who is healthy and has difficulty with technology at our Easley location. **Call for an appointment at 1-888-293-7585.**

*Dede Norungolo is an Outpatient Counselor at Baptist Easley Counseling, part of Prisma Health.*

---

## **Online Bible Study Wednesdays · 6:30 pm**

Join us on a Zoom video conference or by phone at 6:30 pm on Wednesday nights for an online Bible study entitled **Faith over Fear**, led by Rev. Jennifer Rygg and Rev. Cara Morgan.

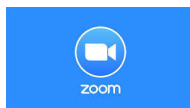
Scripture text for Wed, April 22

**1 Kings 19:1-5, 9b-18**

Topic

**Fear Leading to Hopelessness**

An optional Study Guide is available if you are interested. Email [jennifer@fbcpendeton.org](mailto:jennifer@fbcpendeton.org).



<https://zoom.us/j/867888594>  
Meeting ID: **867 888 594**



to join by phone, dial  
**1-929-436-2866**  
Meeting ID: **867 888 594**

**We have this setup as a recurring meeting,  
so the contact information is the same each week.**

# First Baptist Church of Pendleton

351 South Broad Street

PO Box 187

Pendleton, SC 29670

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

(864) 646-3913

## Deacons for 2019-2020 Church Year Updated March 2020

Flock 01 · A-BI	Glenn Andrews	(704) 523-1414
Flock 02 · Bo-Cl	Peggy Carter	(864) 356-4390
Flock 03 · Co-E	Bruce Blackmon	(864) 653-0228
Flock 04 · F	Warren Willoughby	(864) 940-5471
Flock 05 · G-Hen	Jan McCracken	(864) 934-4574
Flock 06 · Her-K	Rick Massey	(864) 940-3515
Flock 07a · L-Ma	Rev. Cara Morgan	(803) 348-7482
Flock 07b · Mc-Moo	Rev. Chris Cottingham	(864) 420-6221
Flock 08 · Mor-P	Cheryl Patterson	(864) 710-8238
Flock 09 · Q-Stri	Skip Still	(864) 903-1576
Flock 10 · Stro-V	Warren Willoughby	(864) 940-5471
Flock 11 · W	Kim Burgess	(864) 940-6902
Deacons and Spouses	Kim Burgess	(864) 940-6902

Join us online for worship this Sunday  
[fbcpendleton.org](http://fbcpendleton.org)

Please check the monthly calendar for events  
[fbcpendleton.org](http://fbcpendleton.org)

Pendleton Community Counseling Center  
**1-888-293-7585**

**PASTORAL EMERGENCY**  
**Pastor Jennifer Rygg**  
**864-760-7135**

The Newsletter  
Published every two weeks.  
©2020 First Baptist Church of Pendleton

### CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Jennifer Rygg** · [jennifer@fbcpendleton.org](mailto:jennifer@fbcpendleton.org) · mobile (864) 760-7135  
**Rev. Chris Cottingham** · [chris@fbcpendleton.org](mailto:chris@fbcpendleton.org) · mobile (864) 420-6221  
**Rev. Cara Morgan** · [cara@fbcpendleton.org](mailto:cara@fbcpendleton.org) · mobile (803) 348-7482  
**Marlena Dixon** · [buildingmanager@fbcpendleton.org](mailto:buildingmanager@fbcpendleton.org) · (864) 646-3913  
**Keleigh Frazier** · [children@fbcpendleton.org](mailto:children@fbcpendleton.org) · mobile (864) 637-9543  
**Richard Huss** · [organist@fbcpendleton.org](mailto:organist@fbcpendleton.org) · (864) 646-3913  
**Church Office / Joseph Reed** · [office@fbcpendleton.org](mailto:office@fbcpendleton.org) · (864) 646-3913  
**Cindy Still** · [seniorfellowship@fbcpendleton.org](mailto:seniorfellowship@fbcpendleton.org) · mobile (864) 324-6203  
**Becky Westmoreland** · [accounting@fbcpendleton.org](mailto:accounting@fbcpendleton.org) · (864) 646-3913

### CHURCH OFFICE

At this time, the church office is closed as staff members are working mostly from home. If you call the church office, please leave a message; the church voicemail is checked regularly.