



PENDLETON METHODIST CHURCH

A Global Methodist Congregation

**Contemporary
Worship
9:00 am**

**Sunday
School
10:00 am**

**Traditional
Worship
11:00 am**

**5th Sundays
10:30 am**

*The Global
Methodist Church
exists to make
disciples of
Jesus Christ
and spread
scriptural holiness
across the globe.*

Quarterly Newsletter • Vol. 2 No. 2

April - June 2026

From the Pastor's Desk ...

By Pastor Kevin Cooley



Ecclesia – it's a Greek word used to define a gathering of people who made political and judicial decisions. Literally, it means "a called-out assembly." It's also the word that early Christians used to define their gatherings, and which English translates as church.

I find it rather fascinating that the early Christians would adopt a decidedly secular term rather than rely on a familiar name for a religious assembly (for instance, synagogue) to define themselves. Though I don't pretend to understand the rationale of our church ancestors, it seems as though the term ecclesia was an attempt to stress the newness of what they were up to – becoming a distinctive (called-out) community committed to a unique leader (Jesus) and holding to a unique standard (righteousness).

Given this backdrop, it seems strange then that modern discussions about church often center on relevancy of the church to the culture(s) in which we find ourselves. To put it another way, we concern ourselves with how we "fit in" to the larger communities around us. This emphasis puts us, I believe, at odds with what the church was intended to be originally.

By definition, it appears that the central desire of the early church was to "stand out" – to be a distinctive and strong voice to the culture and community rather than to accommodate it, to be a voice of difference rather than a mere projection of what was called good by the larger community.

Church, to really be church, must embrace the distinctiveness that is captured in the term ecclesia. That means constantly evaluating ourselves in respect to who we are, whose we are, and what God has called us to be.

Your Brother in Christ,
Kevin

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What is happening
AT
PEEPS



PEEPS IS MOVING AND GROOVING! THE PRESCHOOL HAD VALENTINE'S PARTIES AND CELEBRATED READ TO SUCCEED WEEK WITH DRESS UP DAYS AND A PARADE. THE KIDS ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO DONUTS WITH DADS, EASTER PARTIES AND EGG HUNTS, MUFFINS WITH MOM, AND OUR END OF THE YEAR PROGRAM. WE CAN'T WAIT FOR ALL THESE FUN ACTIVITIES AT THE END OF THE YEAR! IF YOU WANT TO SEE MORE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING AT PEEPS, SCAN THE QR CODE.



PEEPS NEWSLETTER WEBLINK: [HTTPS://SECURE.SMORE.COM/N/NQPK4](https://secure.smores.com/n/nqpk4)

Word of Thanks

Maggie Cooley and Beau Bradley offer our sincere gratitude for the wedding shower hosted by Pendleton Methodist Church on March 15. We were overwhelmed by the beauty of the decorations, the deliciousness of the food, and, most importantly, the expressions of grace and love extended to us by the Congregational Life team and the entire church. Thank you all for allowing our families to be a part of the shower and for making them feel welcome. We are also most grateful for the gifts provided at the shower. These gifts will go a long way towards helping us to begin life together as a couple. We love you all dearly. ~Maggie and Beau



PMC Newsletter Publication Schedule:

The PMC Newsletter is a quarterly newsletter published by the communications committee.

Please email your submissions to
April Haynes at hlhandakh@msn.com or
Cathy Welton at ralph_e_welton@bellsouth.net

First Thursday Lunch Group

Please check the church bulletin for restaurant information for April and May.

Ladies' Bible Study

by Cathy Welton and Sheron Sweeney



The Ladies' Bible Study group began a new study in February, using the book **"40 Days through the Bible: The Answers to Your Deepest Longings"** by Lysa Terkeurst and the Proverbs 31 Ministries Team. We are exploring the 8 major longings of the human heart and how Jesus fulfills all of them. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 11:30 am in the Conference Room across from the church office. We have a great group, and it's not too late to join us!

If you are interested, please contact Sheron Sweeney (864-637-8205) or Cathy Welton (864-506-4355). We would love to have you!

Church Council Planning Session Summary

by Carol Burdette - Council Chair

Our Church Council had a wonderful annual planning retreat on February 21st. Most members were present, and the discussion was robust!

We started out with a very positive financial report from our Treasurer, Ralph Welton, and Finance Committee Chair, Al Williams.

Our Stewardship Chair, Howard Corbett, wants to continue to keep the congregation abreast of all the spending, especially related to the local and foreign missions our church is supporting.

The Trustees presented an update on current renovations, including the painting of the sanctuary [the social hall will also be painted], remodeling in the area of the "old church" upstairs, upgrading current camera systems, installing two more TV monitors in the sanctuary for the minister and the choir, and updating our church sign out in the front of the church. All these items should be finished by June. A small committee will convene to work on the remodel of the kitchen. The Trustees are also asking the Church Council to consider an off-duty officer to secure our church premises on Sunday mornings. This item may be a "hot" item and will be voted on in our April meeting. Please let members of the Council know your feelings on this subject.

Russ Guffee will be convening our Long-Range Planning Committee in March to start looking at items that will take longer than one year to plan and execute.

Cindi Long made an excellent presentation of the plans of Congregational Life with 5th Sundays and special events planned. Please watch your church bulletin for the dates and times.

It was determined that there was a great need for Greeters for the 9:00 am service. Thanks to Council Member Anne McMahan, this has been started.

The Council was very complimentary of our Music Program under the direction of Dr. Adam Coats and the thankfulness of our Praise Band for the 9:00 am service.

On August 6-8, 2026, the SC Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church (entitled "Behold") will be held at Southern Wesleyan University. With PMC as the host church, the Presiding Elders will meet here just before the conference starts, and on August 9, Bishop Carolyn Moore will preach at PMC as well. We want our church to look its best!!

We discussed the playground and improvements that need to be made.

Bruce Smith reported on Magi. Our church should consider putting money in our budget for Magi, our members should consider giving to Magi over and above the gifts for the children, and more of our church members are needed to volunteer.

We talked about how our church can better support Salkehatchie and our youth programs. We also talked about more support for our children's programs.

Everyone raved about our Bible Studies and the new offerings such as Bible Recap.

A decision was made to buy new hymnals and give the congregation the opportunity to purchase one in honor or memory of someone.

As Chair, I have asked that we have an emphasis on ministry to our shut-ins and on outreach. You will begin to hear more about these items in the coming months.

Thank you for your input in our visioning sessions and in our ministry interest checklist.

We are growing our church in the faith of Jesus Christ, and the community is watching us!

May God richly bless our efforts to shine the light of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Make a Joyful Sound & Join the Choir!

by Adam Coats – Music Director at PMC

Music has always been one of the most beautiful ways we worship together as a church family. Whether it is the familiar sound of a beloved hymn or the uplifting energy of a contemporary song you hear on the radio, music has a way of opening our hearts and drawing us closer to God. One of the great joys of our choir is that it brings together people with a shared love for singing and worship, and we would love to welcome a few new voices, especially in our soprano section!

Our choir sings a wide variety of music throughout the year. On any given Sunday, you might hear a traditional hymn arrangement such as "How Great Thou Art," a joyful gospel-style piece, or a contemporary worship song like "10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)" or "Gratitude." During the liturgical seasons, we also enjoy preparing special music for occasions such as Christmas, Easter, and other meaningful moments in the church year.

If you love to sing but have never been part of a choir before, the soprano or the bass section is a wonderful place to start. Sopranos often carry the melody, which is the part you already know from singing along in the pews. You do not need any formal music training to join us. Truly, all that is required is a love for music and a heart for worship. One of the things that makes our choir special is its flexibility and welcoming spirit. While we always enjoy having our choir members with us each week, we understand that life can be busy. If you are only able to join us occasionally, that is perfectly fine. Come to rehearsal when you can, sing with us when you're available, and simply enjoy the fellowship and the music.

Choir rehearsals are each Sunday morning beginning at 8:50 am in the choir room and are filled with laughter, encouragement, and the shared goal of lifting our voices together in praise. We present our music at the 11:00 am service each week. At the end of the day, our purpose is simple: to have fun, support one another, and make a joyful sound unto the Lord. If you have ever found yourself humming along during a hymn or singing loudly in the car on the way to church, consider this your invitation. We would love for you to come sing with us!



Congregational Life Update

by Cindi Long

Lenten Luncheon

What a joy to serve almost 60 folks for the Lenten Luncheon on Wednesday, March 11! There were plenty of delicious soups, scrumptious sandwiches, and mouth-watering brownies and cookies. Thanks to all who joined for this time of reflection on the Lenten season. A huge thanks to all of the Congregational Life team members who prepared the meal. Thanks to Kevin Cooley for a devotion that focused on the season.

Supper Club

Thursday, May 14 at 6pm
Public Well Café & Pizza

5733 Dobbins Bridge Road, Anderson
Please call or text Cathy Welton (864-506-4355)
by Sunday, May 10th, to RSVP.

The Supper Club will not meet in June, July, or August
If you would like to car pool from Pendleton Methodist Church, please let Cathy know.



Church-wide Picnic

Mark your calendars now for the
PMC family cookout

Sunday, May 31, at 5:00 pm
at Barrett's Park

Hamburgers & hotdogs will be provided, just bring your favorite salads, chips, and/or desserts. There will be activities for all age groups! Plan now and bring your family to Barrett's Park for an evening of fun and fellowship with your church family!
Hope to see you there!

A (Paraphrased)
Excerpt from

“Kindness for All Living Things”

by Kevin Cooley



I'm an Eastern Bluebird. In the 1970s, pesticide use, timber clearing, and invasive species of birds caused a rapid collapse among my breed.

Then people started building boxes.

The idea was simple. If natural cavities are disappearing, build artificial ones. A wooden box with an entrance hole just under two inches — large enough for a bluebird, too small for a starling. Mount it on a post along a rural road. Space them a few hundred feet apart. Check them weekly through nesting season.

Thousands of volunteers across the country started doing exactly that. Bluebird trails — lines of nest boxes maintained by retirees, birders, scout troops, and farmers — spread across nearly every state. The boxes replaced what the landscape had lost.

The population recovered. From near collapse to millions of breeding pairs over the course of a few decades. One of the most successful grassroots conservation efforts in North American history. No legislation drove it. No agency funded it. People with drills and scrap lumber decided my species was worth saving.

I'm the only thrush in North America that nests exclusively in cavities. I can't excavate my own — my beak isn't built for it. I depend entirely on holes made by woodpeckers, natural decay, or someone who mounted a box on a fence post.

I exist because someone picked up a drill. Read more: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1ENfeQ42WV/>

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John Sarratt, a member of our congregation, builds bluebird houses on a regular basis. He provides them to anyone who will take one. In fact, you may have seen him giving them out on a Sunday after the 11:00 am service. Thanks, John, for putting your skills to great use!!!



An Easter Cross

by Martha Jeffries

The focal point in our Fellowship Hall is a large wooden cross with stained-glass dogwood flowers that can be illuminated. The cross was made as a gift to the church in the early 2000s by Rhonda Newman, a well-known artist in our area who attended PMC. Rhonda, her husband Chris, and their two children, Savanna and Grayson, moved to Easley not too long after the cross was completed.

As an added generational connection to Pendleton Church, Rhonda's husband, Chris Newman, is the grandson of Laura Stevenson, who was a faithful member of Pendleton Church for many years until she passed away in 2014. Laura Stevenson's father, Fred Martin, made the long metal chain that was used as a barrier around the porch of the 2nd church. Thus, several generations of one family served in this church.



Stained-glass dogwood flower cross.

Chain on porch of the 2nd church by Mr. Martin.

Update from the Trustees

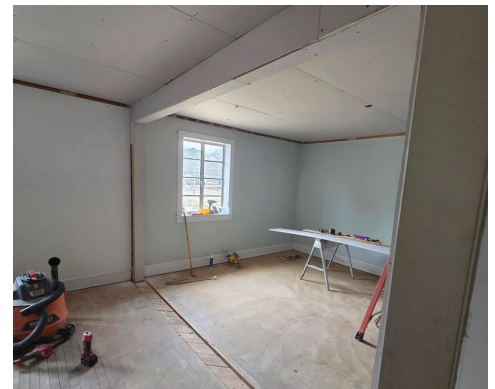
by Bryan Greene

The sanctuary has been repainted and looks great. The remodel in the upstairs classrooms has also been completed. I am so grateful we were able to refinish the old hardwood floors; it looks amazing.

The next task will be the two old restrooms near the youth room. We are adding showers to both restrooms and updating the countertops and floors. This project should start around March 23 and take about 30 days to complete.

We are also removing the sheetrock in the gym area and replacing it with wood siding to match the rest of the wall. The gym and social hall will be repainted by the end of April. The upstairs hallway above PEEPS will be painted by June. Other projects we are looking into are new countertops in the kitchen and sunshades on the playground.

I want to give a big thank you to South Pointe Construction, Isom Electric, and Carolina Paint Company. All of them have kept us under budget, and they work hard to have us ready for Sunday services every week!



Children's Ministry

by Josh Runion

We had a great Valentine's Party with Club 22:6, focused on the topic of love. We played games, decorated cookies, painted wooden hearts, and ate pizza together! Before each activity, we discussed love from a biblical view. We learned that God is Love (1 John 4:13), talked about his love for us (John 3:16), and how we can live a life of love (1 John 13:35)

Our Community Easter Hunt on March 29th was so much FUN! Thanks for coming out and supporting our children's ministry.



Find out more and get notifications about KidMin news and activities, text @club22 to 81010.

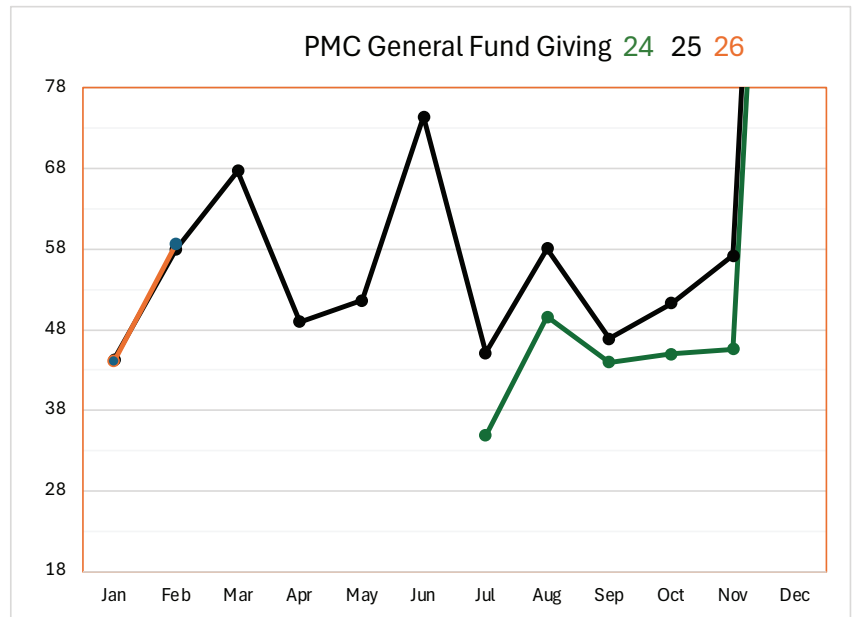
Our Stewardship

The above graph presents giving toward our operating expenses for the years 2024, 2025, and 2026 since separating from the UMC in July 2024.

During 2025, our giving for operations exceeded budgeted operating expenses by \$336,881. The Church Council has agreed to tithe on this additional giving, and we will be giving \$33,688 to missions and ministries beyond what is included in our 2026 budget.

Giving to non-budgeted ministry expenditures during 2025 totaled \$105,302, as follows:

- AOP Clubhouse \$10,000
- Clemson Community Care \$8,203
- GMC New Church Plants \$10,000
- GMC Tuition Reimbursement for Ministerial Students \$10,000
- GMC Humanitarian Aid for Africa \$13,720
- Helping Hands \$3,273
- Magi \$26,362
- Panama Mission Trips \$6,144
- Salkehatchie \$17,600



God has been faithful to PMC as we have been faithful to Him! Praise God as he gives us the ability to meet our operating costs and go beyond to minister to others!

Panama Mission Trip: *Thank you for your support!*

by Sam Walker

Hi PMC Family!

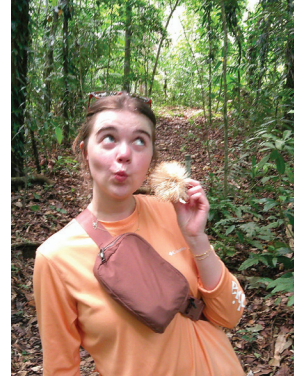
I want to extend my sincere gratitude for your generous support in helping make my mission trip to Panama possible. Your contribution through financial support, encouragement, and prayer made a truly meaningful impact, and I am so grateful.

During our time in Panama, our team had the opportunity to serve and encourage the church Comunidad Misionera Vida Nueva in several ways. Our team assisted with church renovations, built relationships with young adults through practicing both Spanish and English together, and led lessons while sharing the Gospel with children in the community. We also participated in worship services held in both Spanish and Kuna, which was a powerful and unique experience.

In addition to ministry work, we were able to explore and study Panama's incredible ecosystem. We were able to visit Barro Colorado Island on the Panama Canal, zip line through the rainforest canopy, and exploring El Parque Natural Metropolitano, a protected rainforest in Panama City. The partnership missions with science broadened my perspective and deepened my understanding of God's vastness and creativity.

This experience brought challenges and humility, deepened my love and faith in the Lord, and allowed me to be part of something far greater than myself. None of this would have been possible without your kindness and willingness to give. Thank you for partnering with me and God's mission. I would love the opportunity to share more about this experience with you sometime!

Many thanks,
Sam



Youth News

by Chase and Michaela Greene

Our youth group is springing forward into spring! We recently kicked off The Bible Recap with both our middle school and high school classes, and we're excited to see how God continues to work in our students.

We are also starting a new plan for the group with biweekly afternoon gatherings, giving students more opportunities for fellowship, growth, and fun together.

Our youth are also looking for ways to serve through community service and acts of kindness for our church and local community. If you know of a person, family, or program that could use some help, we would gladly step in and serve.

Salkehatchie Camp is just around the corner! If you know a future camper who is at least 14 years old and might be interested in attending camp, please reach out for more information. Camp details and house applications will be coming out very soon, so stay tuned for updates!

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support for our youth group.



The Bible Recap



The Bible Recap study guides are available in the office if you would like to have a companion study. This book includes all that is available on The Bible Recap app, with the exception of the links to the podcast.

*There is no SET way to join
in on this Bible reading project,
but we do hope you
get connected and
start reading the Bible!*

We are so excited about the launch of The Bible Recap here at Pendleton Methodist Church! We have 90+ users who have connected with us via The Bible Recap App, and more have already started through other individual plans. Small groups have been formed to help us through the PMC Bible Recap Plan – here they are:

PMC Bible Recap Plan Small Groups

Sundays – 4:00 pm

In-person Reflections

Home of Laura and Joe Pearson (laurav256@hotmail.com)

Every Other Monday - 6 pm

Online Reflections

(Russ and Diane Guffee, rguffee@charter.net, dguffee@charter.net)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84231179009?pwd=aXqcmswmA7vKlttcooB-cAXjxSzQG3s.1>

Meeting ID: 842 3117 9009 Passcode: 730330

Tuesdays – 11:00 am

Men's In-person Reflections – Church

(George Atkinson, geoatk@gmail.com)

Tuesdays – 11:15 am

In-person Reflections – Church

(Jodie Burton, 5634burton@gmail.com)

Wednesdays – 6:00 pm

In-person AND Zoom Reflections – Church and Online

(Phil and Susan Davis, spdaviscentral@gmail.com)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87575595780?pwd=IrmOrbzZZMnGcpx5y-CxdvYApPppfaa.1>

In addition, four of our Sunday School classes are using the PMC Bible Recap Plan as context for their ongoing study. All groups meet at 10 am on Sundays:

Middle and Senior High School Classes – Chase and Michaela Green (chasemgreen01@gmail.com, m.elizath.hall5@gmail.com)

Genesis to Revelation Class – Kathy Farmer and Dave Lowery (farmdoc1@charter.net, lowerydavid74@gmail.com)

College-Age Class – Mason Lefils (masonlefiles@icloud.com)



Worship Committee

by Karen Link

The Worship Committee would like to spotlight the Praise Band and the Choir for being a key part of our worship services. Both put in many hours of practice and are dedicated to presenting their best at every service. Thank you all!