

**From Martha: Feel The Love February**

Thank you to everyone who sent in their “priority” comments last month. From that, we took away a few places of consensus, one of which is a desire to be as connected to each other as we possibly can. Working with our new Deacon Panel, we’ve decided to offer ***“Feel the Love February!”*** We’re inviting you to participate, if you would like to do so, in a project to build a connection with another person in our congregation. Here’s how it would work:

Submit your name (names, if your whole family would like to participate) to Martha  
([marthakearse@peaklandbc.org](mailto:marthakearse@peaklandbc.org));

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, Martha will draw pairs of names from the collection of those who have said they would like to participate;

Martha will notify the partners of each other’s names and invite you to let the other person ***“Feel the Love!”***

During the rest of February, 1-2 times per week, send some love to your partner: a quick text, a funny email, a music video link share, a notecard, a phone call, cookies at the door (store-bought for now, please)—whatever you can think of that lets the other person know they are being loved;

Those participating will also be invited to pray for their partner as well, to share celebrations, concerns, ideas, fears, thoughts—whatever you feel comfortable to share with each other.

We are so glad to hear that many of you have been able to get the vaccine and hope that this will mean that we are able to gather normally in the foreseeable future. In the meantime, February can be a long, cold month—let’s warm it up with by sharing the love!



## **Report on Deacon Panel 2021**

In January of 2020, we reaffirmed and ordained a deacon panel to serve the congregation for one year, each one offering pastoral care, which included prayer, communication and connection to a group of our active participants here at PBC. Our deacon panel included Gus Lamond (Chair), Bonnie Benedict, Louise Riley, Rhondys Cook, Georgeann Snead, Parks Snead, Purnell Pettyjohn, Clif Potter, Susan Spencer and Vicki Mays as Correspondence Deacon. We had one training, which primarily involved understanding the HIPPA laws and some “what-not-to-do’s”, before the pandemic hit. During 2020, those deacons kept us connected with emails, phone calls, notecards and prayers, working with the Prayer Team and the staff to keep the community connected as best we could.

In 2021, several who had agreed to be deacons for 2020 had space to take on another year as your deacons and we added one new deacon. Returning are Bonnie Benedict, who has agreed to be the Deacon Chair and to have a Care List; Purnell Pettyjohn; Clif Potter; Parks Snead; and Susan Spencer. Our new Deacon is Deborah Raessler and Vicki Mays continues as our Correspondence Deacon.

When we are able to be together again, I hope we can have a service to recognize those who have stepped forward to do this and other leadership work in the church. Until then, we express our gratitude to them and our support for this work they have agreed to do.

In light of our realities, we have<sup>3</sup> tried to be as clear as possible in our expectations of our Deacon Panel.

The priorities we agreed on together were that the Deacons would:

- 1) Continue to facilitate the connection of people to each other and to help with tasks of communication. Sending note cards, making phone calls, sending emails.
- 2) Respond to requests for pastoral care, connecting church office/staff when approved by those involved.

With COVID numbers high in Lynchburg, we hope to encourage each other to prioritize safety and connect in ways that keep everyone as safe as possible.

Deacon Care Lists include those people who have let us know they would like to be cared for by a deacon. If you are new to our community or are not currently on a Care List but would like to be on a Deacon Care List, let our church office know ([pbcoffice@peaklandbc.org](mailto:pbcoffice@peaklandbc.org))!





### Church Emails

Please remember that as of January 1, 2021, we will officially be using the new email addresses for all contacts and will no longer be checking the old addresses. Make sure to change these addresses in your contacts:

- Martha Kearse: [marthakearse@peaklandbc.org](mailto:marthakearse@peaklandbc.org)
- Nicole Zulauf: [pbcoffice@peaklandbc.org](mailto:pbcoffice@peaklandbc.org)
- Susan Allen: [pbcfinance@peaklandbc.org](mailto:pbcfinance@peaklandbc.org)

### February Worship

We will continue to hold worship as a pre-recorded service, shared on Facebook and YouTube along with print copies of sermons, through the month of January. We will reassess the possibility of in-person gathering before the end of the month.

Our theme through February will continue to be “Sacred Music,” with interviews from within our community and some from elsewhere in our city and our larger community of faith. Engaging in Worship at Peakland Baptist Church is happening right now in the following ways:

- Online access to worship through Facebook live, our website, YouTube link, and emailed copies of sermons;
- Sending worship resources and sermons by email and mail to those that do not have internet access;
- Offering space for those who wish to worship in person, with face masks and social distancing on Sunday mornings.

### Spiritual Formation Offerings

Our **Wednesday morning Bible Study, which meets at 10:30am each week via Zoom**, The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84559562588?pwd=NCTpVEloSm9UejVzZk1OMC9lOXE2dz09>

Meeting ID: 845 5956 2588

Passcode: 778066

+1 646 558 8656 US

That link will remain the same through the month of May of 2021. We are currently in the book of I John, and will continue through II John and III John. After that, we decided together our next book!

### Sunday School Class Information

The Searchers Class is currently meeting via Zoom. Contact Parks Snead or Deborah Raessler if you are interested in joining them!

The Formations Class continues to meet with social distancing and face masks in our Parlor on Sunday mornings from 9:45am-10:45am.

The Forum Class is checking in with each other regularly.

### Fellowship Opportunities

Our **Small Group Zoom** is on **Sunday evenings at 5pm**. It is just for fun and we usually discuss books, TV, movies, things are families are up to, food and how our week has gone. All are welcome! Our small Group will be meeting through February—here is the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82146462193?pwd=NmNVQTBPZ3NHWWNDMFJnYmZla0gydz09>

Meeting ID: 821 4646 2193

Passcode: 340730

1 646 558 8656 US

### February Birthdays

- |    |                   |
|----|-------------------|
| 1  | Samuel Redd       |
| 3  | Ashley Dietz      |
| 3  | Kendall Woody     |
| 6  | Sandy Garrard     |
| 7  | Emilia Rae Sawyer |
| 11 | Anne Lewis        |
| 12 | Will Lewis        |
| 13 | Harry Hammitt     |
| 13 | Lee Kirstein      |
| 15 | Michael Colucci   |
| 15 | Elaine Moody      |
| 16 | Monica Bowhay     |
| 18 | Richard Bergman   |
| 20 | Victoria Crabeel  |
| 25 | Pat Lovern        |
| 27 | Bala Dandapani    |
| 28 | Rob Feuerstein    |
| 28 | Victoria Riordan  |
| 28 | Dennis Taylor     |

The Searchers Class continues to meet on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. by Zoom. In February we will be discussing a section of Devotional Classics, edited by Richard Foster and James Bryan Smith. Each week will focus on a different writer: G.K. Chesterton (1/31), Athanasius, Annie Dillard, Soren Kierkegaard, and Dag Hammarskjold. Perhaps you would like to join us? Call Parks Snead or Deborah Raessler for more information.