



The Messenger

February 2022



Feel the Love February

Remember how we were locked down and isolated last winter? Remember how we thought maybe we wouldn't have to be locked down and isolated by this winter? The solution to being right back where we were is not despair—the solution is **FEEL THE LOVE FEBRUARY!** You're invited (if you wish) to email Martha (marthakearse@peaklandbc.org) and let me know that you'd like to be paired with someone for **FEEL THE LOVE FEBRUARY**. Once I have names (around Feb. 6th) I'll pair you up and let you know who your partner for the month will be. During the rest of February, then, you'll be invited to shower your partner with love by:

- Sending happy texts/emails
- Dropping off treats
- Sending cards
- Other?

You and your partner decide what would make you feel joy during this month—you can even meet up if you want, that's entirely up to you. If you're willing, you and your partner can also take one of our homebound people to send some love to as well!

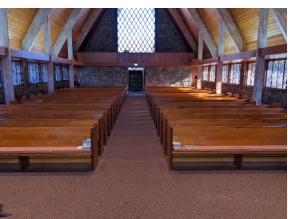
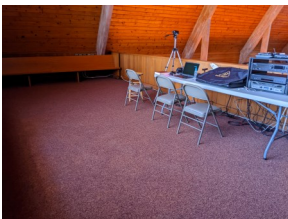
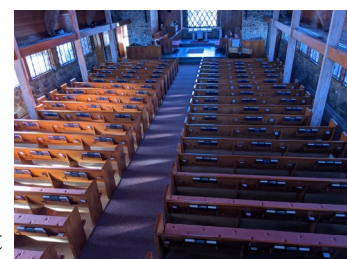
So let me know that you'd like a partner—feel free to include ideas if there's someone you'd like to get to know better. Sign up and get ready to **FEEL THE LOVE!**

New Carpet in Our Sanctuary!

During the week of January 24-30, the old beige carpet in our sanctuary was taken up and sent to its reward and new carpet tiles, full of color, vibrancy and no possibility for tripping hazards was installed. We cannot wait for you to be able to come see how beautiful the sanctuary is with this new carpet in it! Our already amazing sanctuary is filled with a richness of color that enhances its beauty, as well as making the room much safer than it was before.

As always, we are grateful to those who took time to investigate and plan for this upgrade in our sanctuary, to those who figured out the finances, to those who moved all the items in the balcony so that the installation of the carpet tiles was possible up there, and to those whose hands did the labor of laying the carpet tiles. Please be sure to thank the Facilities Team, the Finance Team and our Church Admin (and her able

consort) for their hard work! This is also a good time to be aware of our Congregational Council, through which such decisions are made—not only should we be grateful for them, but remember that they are taking their turn—everyone gets a turn to participate in decision-making!



Care Groups

Our Care Groups have begun forming! We now have a Dinner Group and a Food for Thought Group! You can contact the church office if you'd like to join either of these, or if you have an idea for a Care Group you'd like to form. Here's a reminder of what our Care Group Program looks like:

What is a Care Group?

- A group of 8-10 people who have a shared interest (of any sort) who agree to connect with each other once/month through the year.

How do I join a Care Group?

- Gather some friends and let Martha know who has joined you in the Care Group;
- Email Martha to join an existing Care Group;

Why should I join a Care Group?

- One of the most frequently stated priorities of the church that came out of our summer conversations was a desire to get to know each other better—Care Groups hope to serve that need;
- Our Deacon program has offered care over the last two years, but our deacons struggle to get responses from their groups and we have struggled to get enough people to serve as Deacons.
- Care Groups allow each of us to carry a small piece of looking out for each other without anyone having to be overburdened.

What will be asked of me in a Care Group?

- Meet (in person when possible) once/month. You can have any kind of gathering you wish—food, games, sports, your shared activity, hot tubbing...whatever the group decides.
- Each member of the Care Group will cover one task:
 - Communicating needs to the church
 - Bringing food
 - Organizing the group
 - Leading the activity
 - Writing notes or emails to those who cannot attend
 - Connecting with homebound members (each Care Group will get one or two homebound members to connect with)

The tasks can be permanently assigned or float around the group, but Bonnie Benedict, the Chair of the Care Group team, will need to know who is doing the communication each month.

Care Groups offer some of the best parts of being in a church community—let us know when you're ready to join!

Young Adult Trivia Nights

For our 18 and over group:

February 15: The White Hart Café—Narnia Trivia—7:30pm

February 23: Apocalypse Ale—7:30pm

March 7: Rivermont Pizza—9pm

Let Martha know if you're interested—bring a friend or two!

Sounds of the Mountains Storytelling Festival

When? April 9, 2022

Where? Fincastle, VA

What? Day trip

Who? Anyone who is interested

Cost? \$25/adult, \$11/under 18

How? Room for 14 on rental bus; drivers for extras come free!

Process? Email Martha at marthakearse@peaklandbc.org before March 4 (ish) to sign up!

Info? (click and hold control and click on link:)



[Sounds of the Mountains Story Festival - Sounds of the Mountains Storytelling Festival](#)

Directory Updates

During the month of January, Leslie and Martha have been working on updating our directory. You have received a copy of the current directory by email or snail mail if you have requested to receive your information that way. Please fill in any missing information, as well as updating any changes in addresses, phone numbers, or emails that may have occurred over the last year. We'd also love to have any addresses you have for college students if you're ok with sharing them.

If you've joined our community since 2019, we'd love to have a family picture, along with birthdays and any other information we may not already have. In March, we'd like to be able to share **new member pictures** so that as we're able to re-gather, people will know who has joined us!

We will also ask if anyone needs to be added or removed from the directory, so that our information matches what each of you sees as your status with the church. Through the year, we always appreciate updates as they happen. We're able to update our directory regularly and can print a new copy for you at any time if you request one. Otherwise, we will only print copies once a year.

As soon as our updates are finished, we will mail out a hard copy of the updated directory and send you a pdf of the director via email. I download the pdf to my phone, so that I always have addresses and numbers handy!

Re-Gathering for In-Person Worship

Last week, the Congregational Council voted to continue to offer virtual worship only through the second week of February. The reports we are getting from the hospitals include the highest numbers of people hospitalized with COVID through the whole pandemic, although fewer are requiring ventilators. Those we have consulted have said to expect things to be getting better by around Valentine's Day. So our schedule, for now, will be:

Virtual worship: January 30
February 6
February 13

We will reassess after the 13th and let you know as soon as there is a decision about whether to return to in-person worship. In the meantime, you are invited to join us for our Sunday evening Zooms if you wish:

Children/Youth—5pm—

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82032781851?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82032781851?pwd=eVIJd1RibDN6YmcYOCthS2F6QkJFQT09)
[pwd=eVIJd1RibDN6YmcYOCthS2F6QkJFQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82032781851?pwd=eVIJd1RibDN6YmcYOCthS2F6QkJFQT09)

Meeting ID: 820 3278 1851
Passcode: 930181

Adults—6pm

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86559107154?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86559107154?pwd=TGMrdkRaa0tnUXlHWE5ZK2xJaE1pdz09)
[pwd=TGMrdkRaa0tnUXlHWE5ZK2xJaE1pdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86559107154?pwd=TGMrdkRaa0tnUXlHWE5ZK2xJaE1pdz09)

Meeting ID: 865 5910 7154
Passcode: 429524

You're also welcome to join us on **Wednesdays at 10:30am** for our weekly **Bible Study**—we're finishing the book of Hebrews and wide open to suggestions for the next book of the Bible to study.

Here is our Zoom link for Bible study:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86595223070?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86595223070?pwd=M3VDNkMzMzQvaGdkalZhcVEzK3JDQT09)
[pwd=M3VDNkMzMzQvaGdkalZhcVEzK3JDQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86595223070?pwd=M3VDNkMzMzQvaGdkalZhcVEzK3JDQT09)

Meeting ID: 865 9522 3070
Passcode: 645313

It's a good reason to sign up for Feel the Love February and to get started with a Care Group (*Shameless Plugs*).

Office Schedule—February

Martha—on vacation, Jan. 31-Feb. 4; regular hours M-Th after Feb. 6
Leslie—M-T and Th/F —9am-2pm—day off: Wednesday
Susan—available by email any time: pbcfinance@peaklandbc.org

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Rev. Dr. Martha Dixon Kearse, Pastor



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
15	Michael Colucci
15	Elaine Moody
18	Richard Bergman
20	Victoria Crabeel
25	Pat Lovern
27	Bala Dandapani
28	Rob Feuerstein
28	Victoria Riordan
28	Dennis Taylor

Gratitude for Gifts

Our community is very fortunate in our financial well-being and in the faithful gifts of our community over the years, particularly through the pandemic. We do want to give special thanks for two gifts that came in over the last year from the estates of two of our members. During 2021, we received a gift from the estate of Myrna Nein in the amount of \$35,000, which went quite a way toward helping us to balance our books last year. After Christmas, we returned to a check from the estate of Margaret Osteen for over \$189,000.

Ordinarily, our policy is that gifts such as these go into our Endowment fund. Currently, however, our Endowment is doing well and our day-to-day finances were much improved by using Myrna's gift in our operating budget last year. Because the gift from Margaret is such a large one, we will take the opportunity to discuss the best use of those funds. After the Congregational Council meets in February, we should have some ideas to bring to the church.

We are extraordinarily privileged with many good things here at Peakland Baptist—our gorgeous facility, our beautiful grounds, our wonderful sense of committed community and the generous nature of our people. We celebrate these gifts and the memory of the people who gave them. One thought that has already been mentioned is that we might focus on Margaret Osteen's love of hospitality as we discuss the funds she gave to the church.

We are grateful for every gift, whatever the amount, whether the gift comes in the form of funding, of prayer, of talents or of time. All of these enrich all of us and we are grateful for each Other.

