



SEPTEMBER 2026

# CHAPEL BELLS

## *A Letter From The Pastor*

BY KEVIN ANDERSON

*O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.  
(Psalm 63:1)*

The words above are the first lines of Psalm 63, a psalm introduced as **"A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah."**

It has been an unusually dry summer for most of North Carolina. Though we have recently received a fair amount of rain, numerous counties in the state still lag behind normal rainfall for the year.

The land is dry and weary.

The words of the psalm attributed to David likely reflect a time in his life when he escaped danger by retreating to the wilderness. He once fled to the deserted wilderness to escape the threats of Saul and later from his own son, Absalom, who challenged his kingship. Some believe the last line of Psalm 63 points to the time David escaped from Absalom's threat since it mentions "the king."

In the wilderness, David may have been hungry, thirsty, or even distraught over his own son grabbing power and overthrowing him.



## *A Letter From The Pastor continued...*

David may well have had moments of self-pity, bitterness, or anger toward Absalom, and the situation. Here in Psalm 63 though, he expresses his longing for God. David prays to One he knows well. Psalm 63 are not words of a stranger searching for God. It is not this kind of prayer- **"O God, if you are there, if you really exist!"** No, David says, **"O God, you are MY God, earnestly I seek you!"**

The **"dry and weary land where there is no water"** triggers my memories of Al Asad Air Base in Iraq many years ago. Though it rarely rained in the summer months I was there, there was always plenty of water, courtesy of the supply of water bottles carefully positioned around every tent and building where U.S. military members worked and lived. It was a dry and weary land, but the supply of water was always near.

You may not be fleeing from danger into dry and weary lands like David, but you may be experiencing a wilderness-type time in your life. We all go through dry, weary periods in our lives. Times when hardship, disappointment, heartache, loneliness, and anxiety leave us feeling parched and drained.

Thankfully, there is a constant supply to quench every thirst your life needs- not in carefully prepositioned water bottles scattered around every place you go, but through the presence of a faithful God whose **"steadfast love is better than life."** (Psalm 63:3)

Awake, all thirsty souls!

Faithfully,

*Kevin*



## Upcoming Chapel Highlights

- **Sunday, September 6th:** Communion
- **Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>:** Joshua Messick Concert, 3 PM, with reception following. *\*\* Please note, there will be NO Coffee Hour this Sunday.*



## JOSHUA MESSICK IN CONCERT

Sunday, September 13th at 3:00 p.m.



Enjoy an inspiring afternoon of music with world-renowned hammered dulcimer artist **Joshua Messick**.



Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.



Admission is **FREE**

A love offering will be collected on the day to benefit **Yokefellow**



Learn more about Joshua Messick:

.....  
[www.joshuamessick.com](http://www.joshuamessick.com)  
.....



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## Coffee For Veterans

Our next meeting will meet on **Thursday, September 10th at 10 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. All veterans are welcome!

**Coffee - Camaraderie - Connections**



## Women's Ministry Dinner Outing Parcel Exchange, Rutherfordton



**Thursday September 3rd - 5:00PM**

**Everyone in the church is invited.** We will meet at the restaurant and enjoy an evening of dinner and fellowship. There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall for your RSVP.

## Women's Ministry Lunch Outing at The Book & Bee Cafe & Tea

**Wednesday September 30th - 10:30AM**

All ladies are invited to join us as we enjoy an early lunch and see the cafe decorated beautifully for fall! We will meet at the church at 9:30 AM to carpool. There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall for your RSVP.



## \*Save The Date

Southern Highlands Craft Fair Outing & Lunch in Asheville, NC - **Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**



## LADIES FALL BIBLE STUDY

What Love Is - The Letters of 1, 2, 3 John

By Kelly Minter

**Tuesday, September 29th - November 3rd**

**10:00 AM & 6:00 PM - Fellowship Hall**

Facilitated by: Lanita Anderson

Books \$21 (Cash or Check to FMC - available at first Bible study session)



My Dear Children... the letters of 1, 2, & 3 John define love in the person of Jesus and call us to love like He loved. In an age when opinions fly at us unbridled, John gives us the immutable gift of truth and anchors us in a culture that has lost its way. Throughout his letters, John gives us the ultimate gift of assurance: we can “know that we know” Jesus. His themes of fellowship, light, assurance, abiding and love are wonderfully grounding and will help to show us they have the power to change all of life for us. John’s heart is pastoral and his voice is pleading and his message couldn’t be timelier. John tells us, “this is what love is...” And then he shows us Jesus.



## Men's Ministry

**Breakfast and the Bible, Saturday September 26th at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall**

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or call the church office to attend.





**\*Helping hands Ministry** is intended to help both people in our own congregation and neighbors in the surrounding community with tasks such as moving boxes, cleaning up debris in yards, helping with light maintenance tasks in the home, etc. **Again, we're looking for volunteers that would be willing to perform these tasks.**



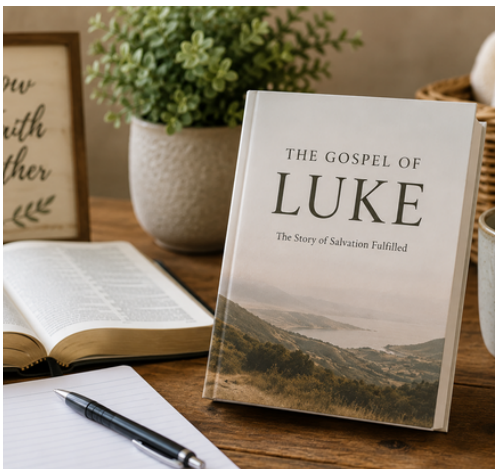
If you're interested in taking part in either or both of these ministry opportunities, contact **Mike Clardy** at 828-532-4102 or at [mclardy10@gmail.com](mailto:mclardy10@gmail.com).



## Pathfinder's Student Ministry

Our next Pathfinders will meet **Sunday, September 13th and Sunday, September 27th, from 5:30-7:00 PM** in the Chapel Fellowship Hall. Come join us for food, games, and Bible study! **For all students 6<sup>th</sup> grade – 12<sup>th</sup> grade.**

## Adult Discipleship Class



Beginning, **Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM**, and **continuing through Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**. This will be a discussion on the devotional book *Respectable People Don't Get Into Heaven*, a study on the Gospel of Luke. The class will meet on one side of the choir room. Books are available in the Church Office. For more information, contact the church office or Tammy Martell. Sign up by calling the office or signing the signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome!



From Dee Montgomery...

The Montgomery family would like to thank the FMC congregation for the many acts of love and kindness shown during Mark's recent illness and passing. We are so grateful for the prayers, cards, flowers, food, visits, and other acts of love shown to us during this time. We send out a special thank you to all who prepared and participated in the beautiful memorial service and reception given in Mark's memory. Your continued support is a great comfort to us all.





## Scholarship News

Over the next few months, we will share some updates from previous Chapel Scholarship recipients to help you see how your contributions to the Scholarship Fund impacts lives!

### From Olivia Bragdon, Scholarship recipient in 2023...

*I have been at College of the Ozarks for the past two years studying Elementary Education. I have one year left and will be student teaching next spring. I have recently taken up an interest in teaching English as a second language and have been learning Spanish. I hope to participate in an immersive program after I graduate next spring. My plans are very up in the air and I'm excited to see where the Lord leads me. I'm so grateful for this church's support for my future and will be praying for you all!*

### From Danae Roos, Scholarship recipient in 2024...

*I am so grateful for the financial support I received after graduating high school. I truly appreciate your generosity and support, and your investment in my future means more than you know.*

*I'm doing well and have really been enjoying my classes. When I graduated, I originally planned to pursue a degree to become an ultrasound technician. After completing some coursework, I felt led in a different direction and decided to change my major to elementary education. I'm excited to now be pursuing something I truly have peace and passion for.*



*My current plan is to graduate in December 2027 and then begin working toward my master's degree. I give God all the glory for guiding my steps and providing for me through each season. Thank you again for all of your encouragement and support throughout my journey, it's truly been a blessing.*

### **From Sofia Royal, Scholarship recipient in 2025...**

*After being awarded a scholarship from Fairfield Mountain Chapel, it has helped me move forward in my education and pursue my interests. I started going to Blue Ridge Community College in the fall to pursue an Associate of Sciences program. Once I graduate from Community College, I hope to transfer to a four-year college such as UNC Wilmington or UNC Chapel Hill to pursue an education in nutrition and become a Registered Dietitian.*

*This scholarship has helped provide me with the books and technology that I use to learn in school. I am very grateful for the support Fairfield Mountain Chapel has given me with this scholarship, helping me pursue further education!*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers and love during this difficult time in my life. I have felt your love and support and I so appreciate your kind thoughts and prayers. I truly feel like I have turned a big corner and am doing so much better.

**Diane Grossheim Scoff**

# WHERE TO FIND US!



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## THANK YOU FOR READING!