



APRIL 2026

CHAPEL BELLS

A Letter From The Pastor

BY KEVIN ANDERSON

Several years ago, I first heard about a Bigfoot Festival in nearby Marion, North Carolina. I put it on my calendar to attend and for various reasons, I have missed it every year. (I think Lanita may erase it from my calendar or makes plans for something else on the day of the festival!)

Much to my surprise, Marion is not the only place in the United States that holds a Bigfoot Festival. There are similar type events in South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Oregon, California, West Virginia, Maine, Georgia, Arkansas, and Pennsylvania.

These events are dedicated to learning more about the elusive, mysterious creature. They host educational panels and have live music, food vendors, and of course, plenty of Bigfoot-themed merchandise.

The motto for the Marion's festival is **"Come a skeptic; leave a believer."**

The accounts of Jesus' Resurrection recorded in the New Testament Gospels show people who made the transformation from skeptic to believer when faced with the empty tomb. John's Gospel tells us Peter, the disciple and an unnamed disciple (most likely John) ran to the place of the tomb of Jesus when told by Mary Magdalene and the other women that the tomb was empty. Peter lost the footrace to the tomb with John but went inside the tomb first to investigate for himself the evidence of the empty tomb- the left-behind linen cloths of Jesus.



A Letter From The Pastor continued...

One verse in John 20 sums up this transforming change in John:

"Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed." (John 20:8)

Did John "see and believe" because he was more in tune with all that Jesus had spoken of leading up to the crucifixion? After all, the gospels report Jesus told his disciples that he would go to Jerusalem suffer and die, and after three days, rise. Did John, standing inside the empty tomb suddenly recall those words of Jesus and "see and believe?"

No one is certain what triggered John's immediate faith, other than God's work in his heart. Others over time, became convinced of the truth of Jesus' resurrection. This truth became the foundation of the Christian message- and God continues to enable people to hear the good news of the resurrection, respond and believe! Even today, some respond to the empty tomb just like John - **"I see. I believe."**

We all face a decisive moment in our lives to respond to the claims of the empty tomb. Is Jesus who he said he was? Is He risen from the dead? And if He is risen, will we stake our lives on trusting a risen savior?

"Come a skeptic; leave a believer."

Faithfully,

Kevin

Chapel Finances (as of February 28, 2026)



General Fund Budgeted: \$36,180.75
General Fund Receipts For February: \$59,665.27

Historically high in February, it counterbalances lower summer contributions.



Building & Grounds Reserve Balance: \$40,283.71

Rebuilding this fund for the big expenses ahead -- repaving our two parking lots and replacing 7 "elderly" heat pumps -- and unexpected major expenditures.



Compassion Fund Balance: \$11,050.00
Distributed in February: \$2,654.24

Thank you, Chapel! We "the church" can be pleased with our outreach to the needy in our community.



Scholarship Fund Balance: \$12,444.45

With \$10,000 scheduled to be awarded in June to three high school students, we are on our way to \$10,000 for 2027.



To donate online visit www.fairfieldmountainchapel.org/donate
When you're ready, click "Donate Now" and follow the instructions



Upcoming Chapel Highlights

- **Maundy Thursday Communion Service, April 2, 7 PM**
- **Journey to the Cross (Stations of the Cross) - Good Friday, April 3rd, 9 AM—3 PM.** Journey to the Cross is a self-guided, walkthrough experience that tells the story of Good Friday. The "journey" will take you to ten unique stops, or stations, where you will spend time reading, reflecting and responding to the story of the Cross.
- **Easter Sunday Worship – 10 AM.**
- **A Service of Remembrance and Celebration for David Gallup, Saturday, April 11th at 11 AM** at the Chapel with a reception to follow in the Chapel Fellowship Hall.
- **Sunday, April 12 - Communion Sunday**

Coffee For Veterans

Our next meeting will meet on **Thursday, April 9th at 10 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. All veterans are welcome!

Coffee - Camaraderie - Connections



Pathfinder's Student Ministry

Our next Pathfinders will meet **Sunday, April 19th, from 5:30-7:00 PM** in the Chapel Fellowship Hall. Come join us for food, games, and Bible study! **For all students 6th grade – 12th grade.**





Ladies Spring Bible Study

Never Less Than - Living Empowered, Esteemed, and Equipped When the World Tells You Otherwise

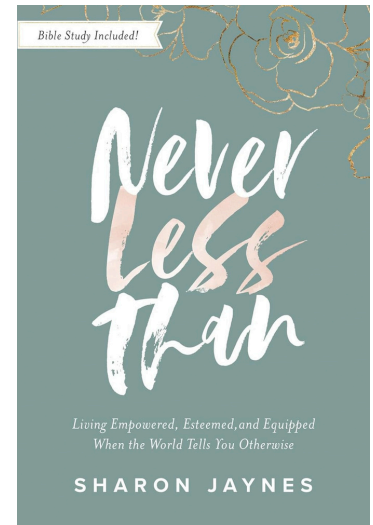
By Sharon Jaynes

Tuesday, April 7th - 10:00 AM & 6:00 PM, Fellowship Hall

Facilitated by: Lanita Anderson

Books \$6

(Cash or Check to FMC - available at first Bible study session)



“What does God really think about the grand finale of His creation: woman? You’ll discover the lengths Jesus went to during His time on earth to debunk the belief that women were “less than” and declare the truth that women are co-image bearers with immense value and divine purpose. Not only did Jesus accept women as they were, but He also challenged them to become more.

We’ll explore Jesus’ encounters with women in the New Testament and how He broke the cultural rules of His day to empower and equip God’s daughters for all time - that includes you today. Their story is your story... and it’s a good one!”

Women’s Ministry Lunch Outing

Black Mountain Bistro, Black Mountain NC



Friday, April 24th - 11:30 AM.

All ladies are invited to join us for lunch and shopping.

We’ll meet at the church at 10:30 AM to carpool.

Please sign up on the Women’s Ministry bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, and feel free to invite a friend or neighbor!



Men's Ministry

***Breakfast and the Bible, Saturday, April 25th at 9 AM.**

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or call the church office to attend. We're looking for volunteers to set up and cook the delicious breakfast and, of course, there is always the cleanup that needs to be done.

***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 I can be reached by voice or text at **828-532-4102** or by email at **mclardy10@gmail.com**. Of course, I see most of you on Sunday mornings as well and would be pleased to discuss this with you in person. Thanks in advance for your willingness to be of service.

- Mike Clardy



Chapel Workday, Saturday, April 18th, 9 AM.

Come help with projects around the Chapel. A sandwich lunch will be provided.




YOU'RE INVITED!

PEN PAL

Reveal Party!

The wait is finally over...
it's time to meet your pen pal in person! 🥳

 **Date:** April 30, 2026

 **Time:** 2:15 PM

 **Location:**
Lake Lure Classical Academy
Mrs. Graeper's Classroom

Join us for a fun and exciting afternoon
as we reveal our pen pals, celebrate friendships,
and enjoy this special moment together! 💕💕

✨ There will be smiles, surprises,
and lots of fun! ✨

 Please note:
Background checks are required
for all visitors.

We can't wait to see you there!



Two Pairs of Bronze Urns – seeking new home!



After recently moving our beloved statue of Jesus and the Children to its new location adjacent to the Serenity Garden, we have two unused sets of heavy planter urns. The Landscape Ministry Team plans to sell these beautiful pieces with all proceeds going to our Building & Grounds Reserve Fund. Before we list the urns for sale to the public, we wanted to first offer these to our Chapel family.

The larger pair features five children playfully clambering about, while the smaller pair has two winged cherubs quietly gazing from either side. Each pair of urns are solid bronze and securely mounted to a heavy base. The small pair has a round base, and the larger urns have a hexagonal base.

While the artist is unknown, similar bronze pieces regularly sell for sums which can range from hundreds to even thousands of dollars. If you have a place in your home or garden for either pair, they are available on a first-come basis and priced as follows:

\$750 – pair of urns, hexagonal base \$500 – pair of urns, round base

****If you have any questions or interest, please contact Marcia Fitzgerald (803) 984-6291 or Charlie Ellis (704) 577-5858. Thank you!**



The Everett and Jenny Chapman Scholarship.

The Scholarship Ministry Team met on **February 24th** to review the FMC Scholarship application. Funds to be distributed this year equal \$10,000. The team met with LLCA seniors on Wednesday, March 4th. Applications will be handed out to all seniors interested. Children of members and staff at FMC are eligible to apply, as well as home-schooled students with a valid Lake Lure address. **Deadline date for applicants is Friday, April 17th.** See April Hill or Dee Montgomery for more information.



Relay for Life (a community event where we come together, celebrate and fight back against cancer) will take place **Saturday, May 9** at Lake Lure Classical Academy. If you would be willing to donate cakes, cookies, or brownies for the fundraiser cake walk, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall. **Everyone should have their items to the Chapel by 3:30 PM on May 8th for pickup.**



1384 Buffalo Creek Road,
Lake Lure, North Carolina 28746
fairfieldmtnchpl@bellsouth.net
Tel: 828-625-2411

www.fairfieldmountainchapel.org



Like, Share & Follow

Visit Facebook: [FairfieldMountainsChapel](https://www.facebook.com/FairfieldMountainsChapel)