



JANUARY 2026

# CHAPEL BELLS

## *A Letter From The Pastor*

BY KEVIN ANDERSON

*So, she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me."  
(Genesis 16:13)*

Hagar is a little-known character in the Bible. No, not "Hagar the Horrible" from comic strip fame! Hagar is an Egyptian slave or servant in the household of Abraham and Sarah. She is introduced in the book of Genesis after God promises Abraham he would have a son. At this point in the story, Sarah, his wife, has not been pregnant. So, in a strange twist of events, Sarah decides to give her husband Abraham an heir through her servant, Hagar!

Even a casual observer of the Bible might see the difficulty that this arrangement would cause! Abraham follows the advice of his wife, Sarah, and takes Hagar as his wife and shortly thereafter, the Egyptian servant becomes pregnant with Abraham's child.

The strife between Hagar and Sarah begins immediately, which Sarah reports to Abraham. Rather than intervening, Abraham tells Sarah to "do with Hagar whatever you wish!" So, she treats her harshly and Hagar decides she has had enough, so she runs away from Abraham and Sarah's household.



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

In the wilderness, this pregnant Egyptian servant who was treated badly by her master is visited by an angel and told to return and submit to Sarah, the very one who has mistreated her! The angel promised Hagar not only would she have a son (Ishmael), but that her offspring would one day be so many, it would be impossible to count them!

The quote at the beginning of my remarks is from Genesis 16:13 and is Hagar's response to God visiting her in the wilderness, on the run from a bad situation. She is alone in the wilderness and left unattended, she would surely have perished. Now, Hagar acknowledges God is One who sees her and cares for her!

God is a God of seeing. God is a God who sees us and looks after us. In the coming year, may we gather for worship, commit to serve each other and those in our community, and trust we are seen and cared for by a loving God!

Faithfully,

*Kevin*



## FROM THE CHAPEL STAFF!



**From Rhonda** - The chapel has been an amazing source of encouragement as I dusted off my organ skills. I appreciate your recognition and continued support. Thank you for allowing me to serve in this special way and for acknowledging that service through the Holiday Love Gift.

**From Steve** - We appreciate the Love Offering all of you sent to us. Thank you again!

**From Lenora** - To the FMC congregation: I cannot tell you how overwhelmed I was to receive your love gift last month. Your extraordinary generosity, and your words of support, moved me to tears. I feel so privileged to share music with you in this blessed place! Thank you so very much. Warmly, Lenora

**From Lyn** - Dear Church Family, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredibly generous love gift you presented to me. Your kindness, thoughtfulness, and overwhelming support truly touched my heart. It's a profound blessing to serve such a loving, giving congregation, and your generosity is a beautiful reflection of God's grace working through you all. Thank you for being my church family, for your prayers, and support over the years. Your love makes my work here so meaningful, and I am deeply grateful for each and every one of you.

**From April** – To my wonderful work family, thank you for the thoughtful gift. I'm truly humbled by your generosity and feel so lucky to be surrounded by such caring people. You've helped to make the Christmas season so special once again!

**From Larry** – Thank you for the Love Offering!

**From Kevin** – You all are such a generous church! Thank you for the Love gift you provide for the entire staff!



There will be no financial report until we close the books on 2025. However, I am happy to report that the congregation raised **\$3961.00** at our Christmas Eve service!

All of it was deposited into our Compassion Fund to be used for the needy in the community.

Thanks to all who contributed so generously.

Ken McAlear, Chapel Treasurer



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When you're ready, click "Donate Now" and follow the  
instructions*



## Upcoming Worship Highlights

- **Sunday, January 18th** The Chapel will welcome Dan Bragdon, Executive Director of Camp Lurecrest, as our guest speaker during the worship service. Camp Lurecrest, located right here in Lake Lure, is one of the many ministry organizations the chapel supports through our Missions budget. Make plans to come here Dan as he shares how God is using Camp Lurecrest to change lives!

## Coffee For Veterans

Our next meeting will meet on **Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>** at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. All veterans are welcome!

**Coffee - Camaraderie - Connections**



## Pathfinder's Student Ministry

Pathfinders will meet Sunday, January 11th, 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.**





The Memorial Service for **Bob Bourne** will be held at a later date and publicized via the Sunday Bulletin and chapel website.



Memorial Service for Millie Loud will be **Saturday, January 24th** at 11 AM at the Chapel with a reception following in the Fellowship Hall.

Christian Sympathy is expressed to the family of former member and Lake Lure resident **James "Jimmy" Harvey Hodges II** who passed away December 26th at his home in Florida surrounded by his family. He is now resting in the arms of His Savior, reunited with his beloved wife, Margo, and his son, Lance. In lieu of flowers, please donate to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital ([stjude.org](http://stjude.org)). A Celebration of Life will be held on a future date.



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