

SUMMERVILLE Presbyterian Church

Share Christ, Serve Others, Grow Together in Faith

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Service—March 5
- First Wednesday in the Word—March 5
- PW Circle Meetings—March 11
- Church Family Breakfast—March 16
- Hands of Christ "Undie Sunday"—March 16
- Youth Hang Time with Pastor—March 16
- St. Patrick's Day—March 17
- Young at Heart Kickoff Meeting—March 17
- Ladies Luncheon—March 27
- Walk for Water—March 29
- Doty Park Dinner in the Park—March 30

FROM THE PASTOR



January and February have been filled with activities at SPC. So for me, and perhaps for you, having a season of reflection and letting go is a felt need. Busy-ness is perhaps the greatest enemy of a rich spiritual life, which takes time to simmer. Think about a crock pot versus a microwave. We often want a microwave spirituality, a quick devotion in the morning before

we're out the door. But what our souls really crave is crockpot spirituality, the slow cooking that allows meat to tenderize and flavors to come together. We need time to marinate in God's presence, which we do by simply being still, taking a walk to appreciate the wonders of creation, or, repetitively reading through a psalm.

Lent can also be seen as an invitation to let go of anxieties, seeking instead to fill those anxious spaces with confidence in God's presence. This requires conscious effort, for those "worry ruts" are deep and well-traveled. One of my favorite verses that I turn to in those times is 2 Corinthians 10:5: "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

I usually focus on the second part of that sentence, taking every thought captive, because I know my tendency to stew on an issue in a way that is unhealthy. It's like putting too much spice in a recipe, so that the spice and not the dish becomes the main focus.

But today I found myself drawn to the first part, demolishing strongholds that set themselves against the knowledge of God. Demolition is quite an empowering image. We are reminded that God has broken down walls and defeated the powers of sin. We aren't merely victims of our circumstances. We can participate with God in the transformation of our lives and the world. This may have inspired the song "I Speak Jesus" by Charity Gayle:

I just wanna speak the name of Jesus Over every heart and every mind 'Cause I know there is peace within Your presence I speak Jesus

I just wanna speak the name of Jesus 'Til every dark addiction starts to break Declaring there is hope and there is freedom I speak Jesus

'Cause Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life Break every stronghold Shine through the shadows Burn like a fire So let's demolish some strongholds this Lent in the name of Jesus. Let's take our worrying thoughts captive by engaging with God in prayer. For there we will find peace in his presence.



Sermon Series

This Lent we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

For each step in Peter's journey, there is an accompanying phrase from the hymn "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing." As we follow Peter's story, we will sing our way through Lent, binding our wandering hearts to God.

In this series, we affirm that faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows. In some ways, wandering is exploration, not necessarily distance from God. Because Peter keeps going, he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls.

This Lent, you are invited to look for yourself in the stepping stones of Peter's story. As we wander, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing. Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God. When you look closely at Peter's story, you find Jesus at each step along the way—offering him abundance, catching him when he begins to sink, challenging him when he stands in the way, washing his feet, predicting his betrayal, and offering him *agape* love.

In Peter's story, we find our own. Join me this Lent as we figure out faith with Peter!

In Christ's service,

Pastor Anita

Date	Special Day	Title	OT Scripture	NT Scripture
3/2 3/5	Transfiguration of the Lord		Exodus 34:29-35	Luke 9:28-36
	Ash Wednesday	"Tune my heart"	Psalm 51:1-17	
3/9	Lent 1	"Jesus sought me"	Psalm 25:1-10	Luke 5:1-11
3/16	Lent 2	"Rescue me from danger"	Psalm 22:23-31	Matthew 14:22-33
3/23	Lent 3	"Praise the mount"	Psalm 19	Matthew 16:13-28
3/30	Lent 4	"I'm fixed upon it"	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Matthew 16:21-23

WORSHIP



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

March marks the beginning of Lent, a time where we prepare ourselves for the death and resurrection of Christ. In keeping with liturgical tradition, we will not sing "Alleluias" from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday in our

traditional worship services. This is a musical representation of sacrifice and purification that we observe throughout the 40 days of Lent.

Our Handbell Ensemble and Jewel Tones will be featured early this month, while the Chancel Choir is working on the Good Friday Cantata. We will be presenting "The Living Last Words of Christ" by Ruth Elaine Schram on Good Friday. In this dramatic and powerful work, the composer imagines the responses of other witnesses at Calvary, creating short dramatic monologues for each: the contemptuous soldier; the crucified thief's sympathetic sibling; the scornful priest; the anguished shepherd who remembers Jesus' miraculous birth; the grieving mother of Christ; and the heartbroken disciple, searching for answers. The cantata will feature seven readers, full choir and instrumentalists. Please let me know if you are interested in reading for this event.

As always, please reach out to me at

summervillepresmusic@gmail.com if you are interested in getting involved in the music ministry at SPC.

William Bennett

Director of Music





COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

This hymn will definitely become the hymn of the month, as Pastor Anita will use parts of it for her next sermon series and we

will be finding ways to feature it throughout the season of Lent. After that we should have a new appreciation for the message delivered in this hymn.

The man who wrote "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" was Robert Robinson. He was born in 1735 in Swaffam, a market town in England. Robert was forced to grow up without a father after his died when Robert was just eight years old. Added to this misfortune, the family was disinherited by Robert's wealthy maternal grandfather who never forgave his daughter for marrying a man below her social station.

As soon as Robert was old enough, he was sent to London to apprentice with a barber. His formal education was limited, but he studied on his own. He was thrust into the hardship of being the breadwinner for his widowed mother and himself. He also, unfortunately, learned about drinking and gang life. One evening Robert went to a fortune teller, which bothered him enough for him to suggest to his buddies that they attend an evangelistic meeting being held by George Whitefield, one of history's greatest speakers.

Robert immediately sobered up and sensed Whitefield was preaching directly to him. The preacher's words haunted him for three years, until at age19, he gave his heart to Christ. Soon after, Robert entered the ministry. It was three years later, at age 23, that he wrote a hymn for his sermon on Pentecost Sunday. It was a prayer that the Holy Spirit flood into our hearts with His streams of mercy, enabling us to sing God's praises and remain faithful to Him.

Let us at Summerville Presbyterian sing this hymn for the same purpose: to praise God and remain faithful to Him.

From "Then Sings My Soul" by Robert J. Morgan and internet

Contemporary Music

The Praise Team has had an amazing time offering special music at the presbytery meeting as well as participating in the talent show and chili cook off. We got to play some familiar oldies. The church family really enjoyed seeing us there. We're excited for more opportunities like those!

Our biggest goal is to create an uplifting atmosphere that enhances our worship service. We cherish every moment to share music with you, and your input is invaluable to us! We would love to hear your song suggestions and are always looking for new music to incorporate into worship. If you have a favorite hymn or contemporary song that you feel will resonate with our congregation, don't hesitate to share it with us on your Connection Card.

Come join us for contemporary service at 10:00 am in the gym and sing along! We look forward to seeing you!

Julia Miller and Joe Swisher

Co-Directors of Contemporary Music





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Mothers Morning Out Update

We have really been growing at MMO! We currently have 64 students. If you are around during the week, I am sure you have heard lots of happy little voices. Our registration started in mid-February, and we are accepting new students for



the 2025/2026 school year. We are excited to be able to offer a new four-day option

for our older children!

We celebrated Valentine's Day with lots of parties and treats. After that we had to rethink all those treats, when we started our unit on good dental health! We even had a dental hygienist come and speak to us about brushing our teeth and how to keep our teeth and gums healthy. February was a very busy month, full of fun activities, and we are looking forward to more outside time as it warms up in March!

We are feeling blessed and wearing our green. Thank you for all of your prayers and support.

Needs: Applesauce, bananas, cheese crackers, pretzels, Jell-O, puddings, cereals

Rebecca Mills

Director of Children's Ministry and Mothers Morning Out

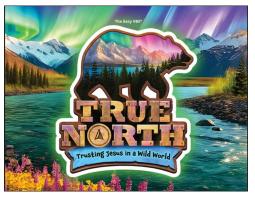








Joy Kids is back in session! Come and share Sunday evenings with us as we start our new adventure through the season of Lent! (K-5th) 4:30-5:45 pm



SAVE THE DATE!

We will be doing a three-day VBS format this year, so plan to join us June 2-4, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Lunch provided each day. Stay tuned for child and volunteer registration to go live!



Sundays 10:00 am

SPIRITUAL GROWTH & OUTREACH



NURTURE



Are you a "young at heart" senior who's interested in learning about interesting topics, meeting new people and having fun?

If so, please make plans to attend a lunch here at SPC at noon on Monday, March 17, in Lanneau Hall to discuss a new program geared towards improving the lives of seniors. The Nurture and Fellowship Teams would like to start such a program and they want your input. Please come to the lunch on St. Patrick's Day and bring your most delicious Irish dish or favorite "green dish" and your ideas to make this program a success.

If interested, please contact Sharon Klein at sharonemilyk@gmail.com.

Check the March bulletins for further details.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers that Ingrid brought me. They helped to brighten my day, along with a hug from Ingrid, and helped lift me out of a "slump" I was in. I am so grateful to be a part of such a loving church family. **Gwen Cadora**

Dear Friends of Congregational Care at SPC, You are a group of volunteers who make every day at SPC great. Your jobs are so appreciated for seven days a week, 52 weeks a year. My sincere thanks for cards, telephone calls, visits, flowers and the best gift of all, a nice warm shawl delivered as we waited for the snowfall. I have enjoyed using it every day, and the love of someone who donated their time for a handcrafted gift. Just know you are appreciated by so many people as you deal with all types of caring issues in the church! Keep up the good work and know you are loved and always doing God's work for the people. Sincerely, Jerry Davenport

P.S. Knee surgery doing really well.



SPC TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

If you need a ride, or if you would like to be added to this awesome team of drivers, please contact Charlie Harris at 571-492-2407.



OUR SPRING GRIEFSHARE CYCLE HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

Please go to GriefShare.org to view other locations in Summerville that offer this program.

CLARENCE'S CORNER & MILITARY PRAYERS



Clarence's Corner

Happy March, friends!

Pretty soon the days will be getting warmer and longer, so don't forget to "Jump Ahead" on March 9! During the month of March we move into the church season of Lent. One of my young friends recently asked me: "Why do we give something up at Lent, Clarence?" My answer to him was this:

Christians traditionally "give something up" for Lent as a way to symbolically sacrifice a pleasure or luxury, mirroring Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the desert, thus demonstrating self-discipline and focusing their attention on spiritual growth during this period leading up to Easter. The act of giving something up is meant to remind us of our dependence on God and our commitment to prioritize our faith over worldly desires. Key points about giving up something for Lent:

Imitating Jesus' sacrifice:

The 40 days of Lent represent the time Jesus spent fasting in the desert, where he faced temptations.

Self-discipline and reflection:

By giving up something you enjoy, you practice self-control and use the time to reflect on your relationship with God.

Focus on spiritual growth:

The act of sacrifice is intended to draw attention to your spiritual needs and encourage deeper prayer and devotion.

Preparation for Easter:

Lent is a time of preparation for the celebration of Easter, where the resurrection of Jesus signifies new life and renewal.

Come by the office and see me sometime!

With love and puppy kisses,

Clarence Congregational Care Dog







Military Prayer List

- Michael Arnold, Army, Hunter Air Field, Savannah, GA (Nancy Piscatella's grandson)
- Cade Carpenter, USAF, Honolulu, HI; Zoë Carpenter, USAF, Scotts AFB, San Antonio, TX (Kathy Whittle's nephew and niece)
- Derek Craver (son of Don and Patricia) Navy, Jacksonville, FL
- Quincy D'Antonio (Linda Wigfield's grandson) Health Clinic, Navy Base, BHC Diego Garcia, Indian Ocean
- Jack Graves (Sally and Lionel Lawson's grandson), Army, Fairbanks, AK
- Elijah Kellar (Robert and Sue Wearn's nephew), US Navy, Long Beach, MS
- Trent Kern (Bill and Gail Hausler's grandson-in-law), Air Force, Charleston AFB, North Charleston, SC
- Matt Kitchen (Merrilyn Long's nephew) Coast Guard, Schererville, IN
- Andre Maurice Moncrief (son of Sherry Roberts), Army Reserve, Modesto, CA
- Lt. Parker Northrop (son-in-law of Hunter and Perry Harris) Navy, Sicily
- Sebastian Silvers (son-in-law of Chris and Rebecca Mills) Army Flight Engineer, Ain Al-Asad, Iraq
- Andrew Tuttle (Patty Taylor's greatnephew) Army, Fort Wainwright, AK
- Capt. Charles Young, USNR, NAVWAR, CYBER EAST
- HM2 (FMF) Nathan Herrington, Surface Force Independent Duty Corpsman School

Please let the church office know when changes occur. Thank you.

SERVICE & OUTREACH



We are so excited to be making plans for the upcoming distribution. We can't wait to welcome our young preschool friends this year and hope this will draw even more families. To make that happen, we are focusing right now on new and gently-used school-appropriate clothing, socks and underwear in sizes 2T-5T.



"Undie Sunday" on March 16 is a great opportunity to bring in boys and girls underwear in sizes 2T-adult small. While we appreciate all donations, we've learned that boys tend to prefer boxers over

briefs, and girls like characters and colors!

We are also looking to add some volunteers to help with sorting, boxing and bundling. If you are able to commit to coming in for an hour or so on a regular basis we would be so grateful for the help!

Thank you for your continued support of Hands of Christ. We are looking forward to another great year!

Save the Date: April 27 will be "Sock Drop Sunday."

Heather Kemble and Sheila Wilson Hands of Christ

walk for ^{water} water water



The 2025 Walk for Water will be held Saturday, March 29, at Riverfront Park in North Charleston. Please contact the church office or Wayne Mayberry from the Service Ministry Team if you are interested in joining the "SPC Water Flow" walking team.



NEEDS FOR ANCHOR HOUSE AND LIGHT HOUSE: Prayers pillows, pillow cases coffee, sugar, floor cleaners Q-Tips, paper plates laundry baskets, dryer sheets



We have had a busy 2025 so far and are looking to do even more as the year continues! We hope to expand our mentoring, secure an office space, and continue to help families meet basic needs such as food and housing. We will mark our five-year anniversary at the end of March and will have a celebratory picnic in early April. Stay tuned for more details, as we would love to celebrate not just our families but all of the volunteers and donors who have helped, encouraged, contributed and prayed for us. We are so very grateful for our SPC family!

Heather Kemble Hearts for Summerville



NEXT DOTY PARK DINNER IS MARCH 30 @ 1:00 PM

CONTACT VICKY METHOT FOR MORE INFO.

FELLOWSHIP



If you have suggestions for future FunTimers events, please contact Jennifer Grainger, Zachary Storti from the Fellowship Ministry Team, or the church office.





Thursday, March 27, 11:30 am Five Loaves 214 N. Cedar St., Summerville

Please contact Claudette Young at claudettemarieyoung@yahoo.com or by phone at (843) 991-1057 to confirm your attendance.

ASH WEDNESDAY

"From dust you came and from dust you will return."

> Join us for a Soup Supper in the Gym at 5:45pm, then an Ash Wednesday service in the Sanctuary at 6:30pm

If you would like to prepare/bring a soup please sign up on the back of the Connection Card or contact the church office.





CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC SAVE THE DATE MAY 18 at 12 PM



FINANCE & MISC



The offerings along with monies received for the use of facilities and the total expenses for the one month of January and year-to-date are as follows:

 Monthly

 Receipts
 \$ 114,478.00

 Expenses
 \$ 46,237.00

 Excess (deficit)
 \$ 68,241.00

Year-to-Date \$114,478.00 \$46,237.00 \$68,241.00

Monthly Receipts and Expenses fluctuate, which has resulted in 2025 year-to-date excess revenues over expenses of \$68,241. January, February and March revenues reflect numerous IRA contributions which is consistent with the prior year, the result is a large excess which will be used throughout the year. The Finance Committee would like to thank everyone for financially supporting our church.



		•	<u>.</u>	14	
Melissa	Acree	2	Stuart	Кау	18
Susan	Spearman	2	Rachel	Van Der Meyden	18
Henk	Van Der Meyden	2	Raymond	Von Dohlen	19
Esther	Brooks	3	RW	Brown	20
Phyllis	Couch	3	Kevin	Harley	21
Caroline	McDougal	4	Michael	Rose	21
Kristi	Selander	4	William	Bennett	24
Donald	Powell	6	Barry	Connor	24
Mary Ellen	Budd	7	William	Edwards	24
Diane	Burden	7	Anna	Lybrand	24
B. J.	Kier	7	Linda	Walters	24
Robin	van der Meyden	7	Carol Lee	Brewer	25
Emory	McFann	9	Jim	Burden	25
Tonya	Holmes	11	Gwendolyn	Cadora	25
Jennifer	Grainger	12	Mary Anne	Crosby	25
Robert	Moore	13	Kim	Smith	25
Bruce	Adams	14	Diane	Hill	26
J.	Hausler	14	Sharon	Napoleone	28
Margaret	Hoybach	14	Guy	Via	28
Rebecca	Mills	16	Philip	Dunham	29
Matthew	Dillane	18	Amelia	Price	29



GUESS WHO?



Who is this beloved MMO teacher?

Submit guesses to summervillepres@gmail.com.

First correct answer receives a gift card prize!

Answer from **February** was Gail Chastain. Shawn Blunt was the winner in February!

Corrected answer from **January** was Sarah Gaillard. Emily Morgan was the winner in January!



"You Are Blessed to Be a Blessing" Genesis 12:1-3

To explore the options and benefits offered through Legacy Giving, and to send a message of love and hope to future generations, pick up a "Legacy" flyer in the church office and schedule a conversation with Cecilia Bond, Finance Manager. All discussions are confidential and without obligation.

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SESSION UPDATE & THE CHURCH MOUSE



Greetings! Below are several items of interest of recent Session activity:

- Session enjoyed dinner with the 2025 Confirmand Class, heard their faith statements and approved them as members of SPC.
- Session approved the use of a Consent Agenda for our meetings. This groups routine, non-controversial items that typically require no discussion into one motion. The advantage is efficiency, allowing more time for discussion of important topics. This is used by corporations, civic groups, non-profits and our Presbytery.
- Session approved MMO Board changes, revised MMO Bylaws and the MMO 2025-26 academic year budget to include options for both a 4-day program option as well as an additional hour of "lunch bunch"/extended day.
- Session approved the 2024 Statistical Report (an annual filing to the Presbytery).
- As you are aware, SPC hosted the February Charleston Atlantic Presbytery Meeting. We are very appreciative of the many volunteers who helped make this a success!
- Anita welcomed the new 2027 Elder Class to their first Session meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to see me on contact me at summervillepresclerk@gmail.com.

Blessings,

Oden Semones Clerk of Session



By Ezekiel W. Mouse, Esq. Special to 3rd Chronicles

"Ezekiel, I really enjoyed Pastor Anita's sermon series on Joseph."

"Me too, Mary. It made me wonder how many Josephs are mentioned in the Bible, so I looked it up."

"Well, I can think of only three."

"But I counted eight, Mary."

"The three I was thinking of are Joseph, the son of Jacob, that Pastor Anita preached on; Joseph, the foster father of Jesus; and Joseph of Arimathea."

"The other five included the son of a sacred musician, a son of Judah, two in the genealogy of Jesus, and Joseph Barsabbas, who was considered as a replacement for Judas by the Apostles."

"I had no idea about all those others. What is memorable about the three I could think of was the important part they played in understanding their story of faith in God."

"Yes, Joseph in Egypt was used by God to save the Israelites from starvation during a devastating drought, and we can read a lot about his journey to that conclusion."

"Surprisingly little is known about Jesus' foster father. He was a good and compassionate man, shown in the way he did not want Mary hurt when she was found to be with child. He was a man of faith who believed the message in his dreams to embrace and protect the infant Jesus, which he even moved to a new country to do. We don't know how old he was or when he died, but it had to be after the search for the 12-year-old Jesus in Jerusalem and the wedding in Cana, so before Jesus started his ministry."

"The only thing I remember about Joseph of Arimathea, was that he buried Jesus in a tomb he had cut out of a rock in his garden."

"That Joseph was a member of the Sanhedrin, a prominent member of the Jewish community, who had become a follower of Jesus. He went to the Roman authorities requesting the body of a man they had crucified. That took courage."

"What lesson do you think these three Josephs have for the Toms, Dicks and Harrys or the Barbaras, Sharons and Susans of today?"

"To be open to the plan God has for your life, to follow where your faith takes you, and to have the courage to claim allegiance to Jesus before all!"

S T A F F

Rev. Dr. Anita Herbert—Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Ralph Herbert—Discipleship Pastor Jennifer Grainger—Director of Spiritual Growth & Outreach Rebecca Mills—Director of Children's Ministry/ Director of Mother's Morning Out William Bennett—Director of Music Jim Moore—Organist Joe Swisher and Julia Miller—Co-Directors of Contemporary Worship Cecelia Bond—Finance Manager Julie McCormick—Administrative Office & Communications Coordinator Shirley Gay—Sexton Bob Hirsch—Sexton

SESSION

Fellowship—Sheri Page (Chair), Zachary Storti
Nurture—Charlie Harris (Chair), Sharlene Douthit-Schneidmuller
Service— Kristi Selander (Chair), Kelli Kemmerer
Spiritual Growth—Alicia Macomber (Chair), Hunter Harris
Property—Lauch Blue (Chair), Jade Hill
Finance—Jeff Bowers (Chair), Robert Pratt
Personnel—Jeff Bowers (Chair)
Worship— Walt Morgan (Chair), Mike Homola
Clerk of Session— Oden Semones

3 R D C H R O N I C L E S

Proofreaders: Frieda Hughey, Merrilyn Long, Carol Austin, Janice Sharp, Elaine Segelken, Diane Burden Assemblers: Cecelia Bond, Barbara Grube, Gail Hyatt, Patsy Rose, Rose Warrell, Lynn Hawks Send questions, comments and news to summervillepres@gmail.org The 3rd Chronicles deadline is normally the second Friday of each month.



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