

SOPC Leaflet, Wednesday, April 9, 2025



We hope that you will join us at Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church as we journey through Holy Week 2025.



Palm Sunday: April 13th

9:45 am: Sunday School & Choir Rehearsal

11 am: Worship – Hosanna! Sermon = *This Little Lamb*

Maundy Thursday: April 17th

3-5:15 pm: Prayer Stations - Sanctuary, Narthex, & Choir Room

5:30 pm: Communion Service & Light Meal - Youth Room;
Sermon = *The 5th Cup, A Way of Hope*



Good Friday: April 18th

1-3 pm: Open Sanctuary for Prayer and Reflection

The Prayer Stations will still be set up.

Resurrection of the Lord / Easter Sunday: April 20th

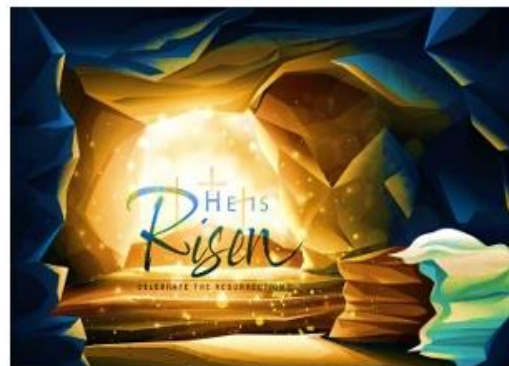
9 am: Easter Fellowship Breakfast - Youth Room

9:45 am: Sunday School

10:30 am: Flowering the Cross & Choir Rehearsal

11 am: Worship of Our Risen Lord! Alleluia!

Sermon = *It Was Still Dark*



- **Jim's Corner:** I want to take a moment of your time and inform you of what has been taking place over the last month here at SOPC.

The Steering Committee, selected by the session to plan a path forward for SOPC, proposed at a called meeting of Session to:

1. Stay the present course and continue to move forward in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ, trusting that the Lord will bless the ministry that is presently at work at SOPC.
2. A motion to move forward with the election of a Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) to begin the process of searching for a future pastor.

The session approved the motion to move forward with a slate of nominees for a PNC to present to the congregation for election.

At present, while waiting on the Commission on Ministry of Trinity Presbytery to officially approve the session's action, the Administrative Committee of Session has begun contacting possible nominees for a PNC. Once the slate of nominees is completed, a congregational meeting will be called by the session to elect the PNC.

As the Administrative Committee begins the nomination process, please keep them in your prayers, and if called upon to serve on the PNC, please seriously consider serving.

Devotional Message:

A gold cross, hung around your neck or pinned to your lapel, tells the world of your faith. It also symbolizes a certain morality adhered to by Christians. And wearing it often brings a degree of respect from others.

But take that tiny piece of jewelry back in time two thousand years and try wearing it around your neck or on your toga. People would give you puzzled, suspicious looks, thinking you were some kind of lunatic. Back then, the cross was not a symbol of faith but of failure, not of morality but of lawlessness, not of respect but of unspeakable shame.

Then, the cross was not polished and esteemed. It loomed menacingly on the frayed hem of the city's outskirts, overlooking the garbage dumps. Made of rough-cut timbers and iron spikes, it stood ominously on the horizon--a sentry at attention, standing watch for the enemies of the empire--a stoic monument in the architecture of a renowned civilization.

For Jesus—who had no room in the inn at His birth and “nowhere to lay His weary head” during His life—the cross was a final place of rest. There He raised His weary, bloodstained head and asked the judge of the universe not for vengeance, or even justice, but for mercy on those who crucified and cursed Him. There, humanity received a second chance. And an eagerly awaiting Father received His Son.

That is why, for two thousand years, the cross has captured the attention of artists, poets, architects, and yes, even jewelers. In the cruel brutality, they each saw something beautiful; in the rough-cut wood, something golden.

This coming week is what Christians call Holy Week. I welcome all of you to please come and worship either this Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, or Easter Sunday and remember the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He came for you and died and was resurrected for your sake. Amen.

Pastor Jim

- Pastor Jim's Acorn Devotions leading up to Easter will be coming daily to your email inbox! Be sure to look for them!
- Palm branches to wave during the 1st hymn this Sunday, April 13th, will be available in the narthex. All children and youth are invited to gather in the narthex to process in, waving their palm branches.
- This Sunday, Jeanne LeBoeuf will talk to us about One Great Hour of Sharing. In preparation for her presentation, please take 2 minutes to watch this informative video about where \$ from the offering we collect goes: <https://vimeo.com/1062934237>. The link to this video is also in the body of the email to which this *Leaflet* was attached.

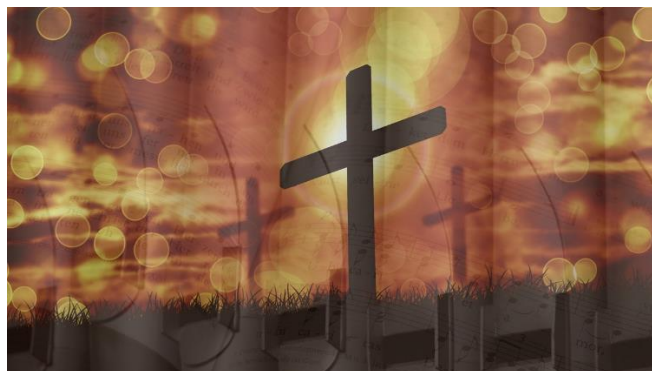


- Also this Sunday, 4/13/25, Banks Robinson will share with us about the Pastoral Nominating Committee that is forming here at SOPC!
- There will be prayer stations set up in the sanctuary, narthex and choir room on Maundy Thursday, 4/17th, from 3-5:15 pm and on Good Friday, 4/18th, from 1-3 pm. Come experience different ways to pray and augment your Holy Week journey!
- From our Music Ministry--Hymn Time: Take a moment this week to be inspired by the music and lyrics of three beautiful hymns centered on Jesus' sacrificial love shown for us. just click on the title of each to view a music video for the respective hymn. If you have any trouble with the links, they are also in the body of the email to which this *Leaflet* was attached.

Ah, Holy Jesus: <https://youtu.be/9s157sZ4Ps0>

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross: <https://youtu.be/ESlks3swcnU>

If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee: A Hymn Story & Reflection:
<https://youtu.be/myiaV02amZQ>



- **The Missions ministry needs you!** Each year, we partner with **Migrant Ministries** to help provide a meal for migrant workers in the Ridge Spring area. One Tuesday in the summer, we prepare a supper, take it to the camp, and serve it to the workers. **We need volunteers willing to assist with meal preparation, delivery, set up, and serving.** Possible dates for us to choose from are July 1, July 8, July 22, and August 5. **If you are available and willing, please contact Jim Taylor at 803-960-2956. We need to commit to a date as soon as possible.** Thank you!



WE WANT YOU!

- Please join us for **Love Revolution** in the Pavilion on Sunday from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm and help us serve food to our neighbors in need! **Our Clothing Closet** will open 30 minutes prior.
- **TOMORROW is Family Promise of the Midlands' Night of Promise Gala with Craig Melvin** as the guest speaker. Please visit **<https://familypromisemidlands.org/>** for more information.
- Don't forget to **bring flowers from your yard or the store to help flower our Easter Cross on Sunday, April 20th, at 10:30 am!**



- **Lost & Found:** Did anyone who attended the funeral service of Jane Norris this past Saturday find a **man's wallet**? Please contact the church office if so.
- Our **Thursday morning 1st John Bible study**, led by Pastor Jim, will continue tomorrow morning, 4/10/25, at 10:30 in the Fellowship Classroom. **We will NOT meet Maundy Thursday, the 17th, but will resume the following week.**
- **Our Fellowship & Roads To Faith Adult Sunday School classes**, (who are currently meeting together,) are studying the Gospel of John. All adults of the

church--and friends--are welcome to join us in the Fellowship Classroom on Sunday mornings at 9:45!

- SOPC BOOK GROUP is reading *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi this month. They will meet for discussion and fellowship on Thursday, 4/24/25 at 1:30 pm at Snow's Ice Cream.
- Session's next meeting will be on Monday, April 21st.
- SOPW's Honorary Life Membership Award will be presented during worship on Sunday, May 18th.
- Our next Ladies Luncheon will be Monday, April 21st, at noon at Tupelo Honey, 2138 Pickens Street, Columbia. If attending, please notify Margaret Royals at 803-608-1434, 803-957-0430, or mroyals052@gmail.com. Thanks.
- Tuesday was National Library Workers' Day. Did you know that SOPC has a Music Librarian?! Thanks to Molly Jackson for filling this vital role for our Music Ministry!
- Our YOUTH created a banner mural for the youth room with the Holy Week story from Scripture. You are invited to drop by and see it!



The youth will not meet this Sunday, 4/13, or next Sunday, 4/20. We encourage you to spend time with your families during the sacred days of Palm Sunday and Easter. We'll see you soon! Please feel free to contact Julie Bussells with any questions or for more information about our youth ministry: 803-622-9509.

- SOPC will host a meeting of Trinity Presbytery on Tuesday, November 18th. **VOLUNTEERS** are needed to greet, direct parking, serve lunch, etc.
- If you would like to volunteer in the sanctuary's sound booth occasionally, please contact the church office. Training provided!

- Warm greetings from our Rachel Circle! 4/8/25



- So far, we have collected 125 POUNDS of used crayons that will be sorted, melted down, and made into new, ergonomic, free crayons for pediatric hospital patients. Since 2013, TheCrayonInitiative.org has saved over 432,000 pounds of discarded crayons from landfills and has created/distributed 1 MILLION packs of free crayons.
- Our Good News Ministry stands ready and equipped with technological tools to welcome new disciples into the SOPC family. Please join us in praying for God's guidance in ways we can reach out to our neighbors and invite them to share in Christ's love and mission with us!
- If you have cans' pop-tops that you have been collecting, Annah would be happy to deliver them to Ronald McDonald House charities periodically. Just leave them in the large baskets on either side of the sanctuary doors or bring them by the church office.
- Parents of Young Children: Please grab a "Wiggle Bag" from the Narthex / lobby before worship starts and remember that the little ones go to the Children's Corner after the Children's Message during the service. Thanks!
- Our SOPC Food Pantry is in need of bottled water. As the weather gets warmer, those who come to us for help are often thirsty. If you are able and feel led, please consider grabbing an extra 6-pack or case of bottled water the next time you are at the store.

- Our SOPC Presbyterian Women will host the ladies of our church, McGregor PC, Westminster PC, Providence PC, and Presbyterian Communities at the Annual Birthday Celebration Dinner on Tuesday, May 13th, at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please see the flyer below for more information.

Grow, Bloom, Repeat.

Presbyterian Women Annual Birthday Celebration

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025 AT 6 PM

Join us for dinner and presentations by friends from Love Revolution & Columbia Rapid Shelter!

RSVP to Julie Bussells,
SOPW Moderator, by
Monday, May 5th.
803-622-9509

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Rd., Columbia, SC 29210



- The following is an article from the Rev. Dr. Danny Murphy, General Presbyter & Stated Clerk of our Trinity Presbytery, from 3/31/25.

Called and Committed: Living Out Our Divine Assignment

"Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding" - Jeremiah 3:15, NIV.

In Jeremiah 3:15, God offers a profound promise to His people: to raise leaders—shepherds—whose hearts mirror His own. These aren't leaders driven by ego or ambition but by compassion, wisdom, and divine understanding. Their purpose isn't simply to guide but to reflect the very character of God as they care for God's people.

This promise has never been about titles or roles in name only; it was about *calling*—God's active hand selecting, shaping, and sending His servants into sacred responsibility.

This past Sunday, March 31, 2025, at 3:30 p.m., one of our congregations experienced a beautiful and sacred moment—the *installation of a new pastor*. It wasn't just a ceremony; it was a holy occasion where God's presence felt near, and the people of God came together to affirm God's calling powerfully.

But I want to invite you to consider something more profound. While we gathered to celebrate one individual's calling, the moment also quietly and powerfully reminded us that *God calls all of us*. Your calling may not place you in a pulpit but remains just as sacred. Whether you raise children, teach students, care for loved ones, lead in the workplace, or offer kindness in daily moments, God entrusts you with *purpose*.

God never calls without also equipping. Just as the new pastor will need God's strength, wisdom, and grace to shepherd well, we each need that same divine help in our daily assignments. Whether your role is public or behind the scenes, know it matters. It's holy work.

What if we began this week as though we had just been *installed*—freshly commissioned by God for the work God's placed in our hands? What if we moved forward with a renewed *sense of purpose*, quiet confidence rooted in Christ, and humility that honors the One who calls us?

What posture does God desire most in God's people? It's this: hearts aligned with God's own, hands open in humble service, and lives that echo God's love—sometimes boldly, sometimes tenderly, but always in tune with grace.

So, avoid the temptation to move through the week out of routine and approach it with reverence. Honor the sacred call shaping your life because you're not where you are by accident. God placed you there for such a time as this.


Take a moment to breathe and then ask: *How can I serve with greater attentiveness to God's voice? Where is God calling me to lead with knowledge, understanding, and compassion today?*

Let us pray: *Lord, thank You for the gift of calling—not just for those in leadership, but for each of us. As we give thanks for new beginnings in our McGregor congregation with their new pastor, the Rev. Dr. Sam Codington, stir a fresh awareness of **our purpose**. Help us to serve, lead, and love with Your grace and wisdom. In Jesus' name, **Amen**.*

Faithfully Yours,
Danny C. Murphy
General Presbyter and Stated Clerk



- Our siblings in faith at McGregor Presbyterian Church have invited us to join them for a workshop titled [Parenting in Today's World](#) on Thursday, May 1st at 6 pm. [The speaker is Susan Yelverton of Live Oak Counseling. Susan is the counselor who meets with clients on our SOPC campus when they cannot make it to the downtown office.](#) Please share with any parents or grandparents of children/youth.



Community Workshop Series at McGregor
Parenting in Today's World
Thursday, May 1, 2025

This workshop is for parents, grandparents, or anyone who wants to improve their relationship skills with the children/youth (preschool, elementary, high school, college) of today.

Topics will include:

- *How to Talk with Children/Youth and Be an Active Listener
- *Dealing with Anxiety in Today's Children/Youth
- *Helping Children/Youth Deal with the Impact of Social Media
- *Common Complaints of Children/Youth Regarding Parents/Grandparents or Other Caregivers

Presenter: Ms. Susan Yelverton, MSW, LISW
Live Oak Counseling Center, Columbia, SC

The workshop will begin at 6:00 p.m.
at McGregor Presbyterian Church
6505 St. Andrews Road, Columbia, SC

This workshop is open to the public. There is no admission fee, but preregistration is required. To register, send name, telephone/cell#, and email address to: mcpresadm@gmail.com. You can also call the church office at (803) 781-2391.

THIS WORKSHOP SERIES IS BEING OFFERED BY MCGREGOR PRESBYTERIAN TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON TOPICS OF INTEREST TO OUR COMMUNITY.

