

SOPC Leaflet, Wednesday, May 7, 2025



- From Pastor Jim:

Grace Teaches Us

*He gave himself for us so he might pay the
Price to free us from all evil and to make
Us pure people who belong only to him.*

Titus 2:14

Do we ever compromise tonight, knowing we'll confess tomorrow?

It's easy to be like the fellow visiting Las Vegas who called the preacher, wanting to know the hours of the Sunday service. The preacher was impressed. "Most people who come to Las Vegas don't do so to go to church."

"Oh, I'm not coming just for church. I'm coming for the gambling and parties and wild women. If I have half as much fun as I intend to, I'll need a church come Sunday morning."

Is that the intent of grace? Is God's goal to promote disobedience? Hardly.

***"Grace...teaches us not to live against God nor to do the evil things the world wants us to do. Instead, that grace teaches us to live now in a wise and right way and in a way that shows we serve God"* (Titus 2:11-12). God's grace has released us from selfishness. Why return?**

In the Grip of Grace



- Unfortunately, In our post-modern, technologically dependent world, email and text scams are rampant. Scammers have discovered that well-meaning, generous, church-going folks have big hearts. We are NOT the only church this is happening to. In fact, most churches are experiencing it. Perpetrators hack into the web-based software companies we use to keep church records and send out church communications faster than protective measures can keep up. We are doing everything we can to address the problem. Please don't allow yourself to be victimized.
 1. Pastor Jim/Bruce/Annah will NEVER email or text you asking for money or gift cards for special projects...especially secret ones.
 2. Always check the email address and/or phone number a message is coming from, not just the name they claim. Compare it to the email addresses and phone numbers you know to be legitimate. If you are unsure of REAL email addresses and cell phone numbers that folks use, contact Annah in the church office. She will be happy to share them with you.
 3. When in doubt, PLEASE call (803-772-1761), or email (sopc@sopc.net), the church office to confirm whether or not something is legitimate.

Stay vigilant for yourself and your church family, friends! Thank you. ♥

- This Sunday's sermon: *Kingdom Rest*
- This Sunday's Scripture passages: Psalm 145:8-14; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

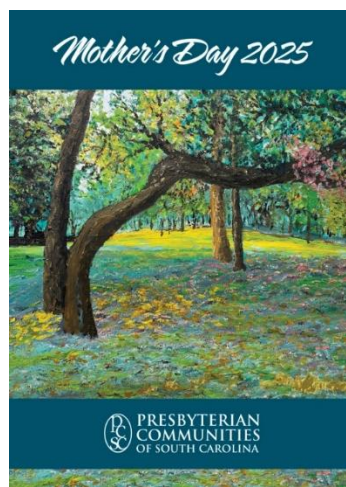


- This Sunday, we...welcome, Rev. Rachel Fitch to our pulpit!



Rachel is a preacher's kid who grew up at Spring Valley and Eastminster Presbyterian Churches with her parents, Brad and Nancy Smith, and her siblings. She attended the USC Honors College and later Duke Divinity School. While in seminary, she lived in an intentional Christian community of people living with and without disabilities, where she met her neighbor (now husband) Stephen. After three years in Greensboro, NC where Rachel completed a pastoral residency at First Presbyterian and Stephen pastored two small rural Methodist churches, they are excited to be back in the Midlands. Most importantly, their little boy Isaac (age 2) loves being closer to his grandparents.

- This Sunday, we will collect our annual Mothers' Day Offering for The Presbyterian Communities of SC, (PCSC). The envelopes for this worthy cause are available in the narthex / lobby. There will be an insert in Sunday's bulletin to tell you a little more about where the \$ goes. To give via www.sopc.net, please designate your gift for the Mothers' Day Offering for PCSC. Please give as you are able and feel led. For more information, feel free to visit <https://www.prescommunities.org/mother-s-day-offering>.



- **Our next churchwide Fellowship Meal** will be a **FRIED CHICKEN LUNCHEON** on **Sunday, May 18th** after worship. **Come hungry!**



- **Sunday, May 25th**, please make plans to join us for **YOUTH SUNDAY** as our young people help lead worship and as we **honor Miss Rollin Cartee as she graduates** from high school and gets ready to attend PC in the fall—**Go Blue Hose!!**




- **Notes from the SOPC Family:**

“Dear SOPC church family,

Thank you for all the cards, prayers, and words of sympathy during our recent time of grieving the loss of Ed. I am touched by all of your kindness. Heaven gained an amazing man! Love, Cathy [Keelen]”

“To the very special people at Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church, I wish to express my gratitude to everyone at church for making myself and Mouse feel welcome from the very first day there. I can see the sincerity in your eyes. It is a heartfelt truth that you express. I am truly touched and blessed by knowing these things. That caring that you show when I am there and when I am not. The feeling of knowing you think of Mouse and me fills me with gratitude from knowing such as you. Thank you for your prayers even before this journey [to the Ukraine] begins. Pray that I walk the path the Lord has directed and that He will guide me through all I do so people in Ukraine will see His glory through me.

Know that I think of you also and that you too are in my prayers. There just aren't enough people in the world like you. I will see you all soon, God willing. But if not, know that you were loved and respected. Most sincerely,
Kelvin and Mouse 

- **Ladies, the PW Synod Triennial Gathering will be October 17 - 19, 2025 @ Epworth By the Sea, St. Simons Island. Registration forms are in the narthex. You can register online or via hard copy mail. For more information please use this link: <https://pwsosa.com/>**

*Synod of South Atlantic ~ and ~ Synod of Living Waters
Presbyterian Women's Triennial Gathering*

October 17th -19th, 2025

Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia



The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

Psalm 28:7

- **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 on July 1st this year. If you are available and willing, please contact Jim Taylor at 803-960-2956. Thank 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.
- **If you are able to help create projector slides of our weekly announcements, please contact Annah in the church office.** Training can be provided. All you need is access to the internet, access to email, and a willingness to learn a new means of expression. We have one person interested, but they can't do it every week. Many announcements repeat for several weeks. So, the volunteers do not need to create ALL the announcements each week...just take off expired ones and create a few new ones. Many hands make light work!



Download from
Dreamstime.com

- **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. They will meet for discussion and fellowship on Thursday, 5/29/25 at 1:30 pm at Snow's Ice Cream.
- **Session's next meeting** will be on Monday, May 19th.
- **SOPW's Honorary Life Membership Award** will be presented during worship on Sunday, May 18th.
- **Our YOUTH** will not meet this Sunday so that they can spend time with their moms and maternal figures! 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!
- **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 running low on easy-prep, pop-top items such as chef Boyardee, soup, etc.** The cans with pop tops are best, because those in need often may not have can openers. If you are able and feel led to pick up a few cans

the next time you are at the store, it would be greatly appreciated. We can also always use bottled water and pop-tarts / NutriGrain (soft fruit) bars.

- A friendly reminder that Church Office hours are Monday – Thursday from 10 am until 2 pm. If someone emails the church at sopc@sopc.net or leaves a voicemail on the church phone after 2 pm on Thursday, Annah won't get it until Monday morning at 10 am. Thanks for your patience and understanding!! ❤️
- Also, please note: Now that we are sending out weekly Leaflets, we ask each ministry to get us information for the Leaflet by Tuesday, rather than asking us to send out a dedicated email blast with their ministry's specific information. We are trying to limit the number of emails we send out each week. Exceptions to this are prayer requests and devotions / special announcements from Pastor Jim and/or the Session.
- Pastor Jim will be out of the office, (and the country,) through May 18th. He will be on a pilgrimage to the "7 Churches" in Turkey.
- There will be a Called Congregational Meeting on June 1 after worship to elect a PNC (Pastoral Nominating Committee.)
- We will install our new class of Elders in worship on June 1st as well.
- Our SOPC Presbyterian Women will host the ladies of our church, McGregor PC, Westminster PC, Providence PC, and our Presbyterian Communities ladies 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 flyer features a pink background with a white watering can and a potted plant with yellow and orange flowers. A woman in a white apron with a carrot pattern is watering the plant. The text is in various colors and fonts, including a large white font for the title and a smaller white font for the date and time.

