



SOPC Leaflet, Wednesday, November 5, 2025

A Message from Pastor Jim:

Tending God's Garden

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work. (Genesis 2:15)

Are you a gardener? I am not, but my father-in-law was. He built a little hot house for seedlings so he could get his plants in early. He had a planting chart mentally laid out well in advance, planning where each plant would go. He rooted flowering plants and gave a lot of them away.

God placed us on earth to do some work. I suppose God could have made the world in such a way that we didn't need to do anything. Maybe the vines could grow year-round, and their fruit would fall into our mouths; or the wool of the sheep would automatically spin into cloth. Instead, God created the world so his children could use its fertile soil and resources to do productive and creative things. The Creator made his children much like himself. Work is not a result of the curse (see Genesis 3). Rather, work demonstrates our nature as God's image-bearers. We are re-creators who have been given a measure of our Father's capability and creativity.

Whether it involves gardening, engineering, teaching, building, or dozens of other occupations, our work is something like our Father's. We are to shape and change and develop the good creation that God provides. By doing productive work in God's world, we show that we are his children.

This coming Sunday is pledge Sunday at Seven Oaks PC. I pray you will begin to pray about not only your monetary pledge, but your contribution of time and gifts of talent to the church over the coming year. SOPC is blessed with many of you who already give and work for our Lord's church.

Dear Father, thank you for our work. Help us to creatively labor in your amazing creation. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

****Extra Stewardship packets, Time & Talent forms, and pledge cards are available in the Narthex and in the church office. Please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to "tend the garden"--use your time, talents, treasures, service,**

and witness—as a grateful expression of being created in God’s likeness and being given stewardship of His Creation and blessings. We will dedicate these pledges to God’s service via SOPC **THIS SUNDAY, 11/9/25, Commitment Sunday.** If you have any questions, please contact a Stewardship Committee member. They are listed in the brochure included in the packet.***



Thank you, Rev. Bob!



Pastor Jim plans to be back in the pulpit on 11/16th!

- ❖ **This Sunday’s Guest Preacher: Rev. Bob Brearley**
- ❖ **This Sunday’s sermon: *A Glad & Generous Heart***
- ❖ **This Sunday’s Scripture: Luke 19:1-10**





It's time to order poinsettias to adorn our sanctuary during the 2025 Advent & Christmas seasons!

The cost is \$14 per plant, payable to SOPC, due by Sunday, November 9th.

Please place this form with your payment in the offering boxes in the Narthex or return it to the church office. If you pay online, please select "Other," type in, "Poinsettia Order," and opt to cover the credit card processing charges. Thanks!

Your Name: _____

Your Email Address: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Number of Poinsettias: _____ x \$14 = \$ _____ Total

In Honor / Memory of: _____



❖ **Church Family Updates:**

- **Patty Mullins** had knee replacement surgery yesterday, 11/4/25. It went well, and she is home recovering.
- **Donna Moore** had back surgery Monday, 11/3/25. She is also recovering well at home.
- **Shelagh Wirth's** surgery to remove pre-cancerous cells from her esophagus went well yesterday in Charleston. Her sister is driving her back down to Florida.
- **Monroe Swearingen** is continuing his recovery and rehabilitation at Presbyterian Communities.

❖ There will **NOT** be a Churchwide Fellowship Meal in November, but never fear! Our annual tradition of the Prime Rib Fellowship Meal in December is in the works!!

❖ **A Note of Thanks:** Janet Jordan reached out to the church office to convey her sincere appreciation for all the calls, texts, cards, and expressions of care from her SOPC family during the recent loss of her sister. Your kindness and support have meant a great deal to her and her family.

❖ **A Month of Thanksgiving!** Gratitude calendars for the month of November from the Christian Education ministry are available here, in the Narthex, and in church office. These calendars offer daily prompts for individuals and/or families to share about, pray about, and think about various blessings for which they are grateful.

30 Days of Thanksgiving

Saturday, Nov. 1 Sunday, Nov. 2

DAY 1 A simple joy in your daily routine	DAY 2 Write down 3 things you're grateful for	DAY 3 A skill or talent you're proud of	DAY 4 A cozy moment from today	DAY 5 Someone who makes you laugh
DAY 6 A time you helped someone	DAY 7 An object that brings you comfort	DAY 8 A family tradition you love	DAY 9 A favorite memory you cherish	DAY 10 A friend who always supports you
DAY 11 A book, movie, or song that lifts you up	DAY 12 Someone who inspires you	DAY 13 Share a favorite quote on gratitude	DAY 14 A place that feels like home	DAY 15 A lesson you've learned recently
DAY 16 A kind act someone did for you	DAY 17 A goal you're working toward	DAY 18 Someone who made you smile today	DAY 19 An achievement you're proud of	DAY 20 The beauty of nature around you
DAY 21 Five things you're thankful for outdoors	DAY 22 A challenge you've overcome	DAY 23 Your favorite Thanksgiving memory	DAY 24 Something you're looking forward to	DAY 25 Someone you think of often
DAY 26 One thing you're thankful for with a loved one	Thanksgiving Day: DAY 27 A meal that brings back good memories	DAY 28 Something that makes you feel calm	DAY 29 A piece of advice that helped you	DAY 30 Reflect on three blessings from this past month

DAY 1 _____ **DAY 16** _____

DAY 2 _____ **DAY 17** _____

DAY 3 _____ **DAY 18** _____

DAY 4 _____ **DAY 19** _____

DAY 5 _____ **DAY 20** _____

DAY 6 _____ **DAY 21** _____

DAY 7 _____ **DAY 22** _____

DAY 8 _____ **DAY 23** _____

DAY 9 _____ **DAY 24** _____

DAY 10 _____ **DAY 25** _____

DAY 11 _____ **DAY 26** _____

DAY 12 _____ **DAY 27** _____

DAY 13 _____ **DAY 28** _____

DAY 14 _____ **DAY 29** _____

DAY 15 _____ **DAY 30** _____



Our youth

have begun an initiative to help our neighbors in need during the current climate of food insecurity. They are calling it the **Cans or Cash Bash**! Now through 11/23rd, they will be collecting canned goods and shelf-stable food items and/or monetary donations to help provide for those who might be hungry during this difficult time. They will be sharing a Minute for Mission about it with us in worship this Sunday. This was completely their idea, and they made a 30 second video about it that they invite you to watch: <https://youtu.be/-Bdy9FQiwes?si=fecvqWJaDzo0Y4Oa>. The link is also in the email body to which this *Leaflet* is attached. Items/donations may be dropped off in the church office anytime between now and the 23rd. To donate online, please visit <https://onrealm.org/SevenOaksPresby/-/form/give/now>, select “Other” in the “Fund” drop-down menu, and type “Cans or Cash Bash” in the memo line.



- ❖ If your group is planning a **Holiday party or project**, please get the **dates/times/locations to Annah in the church office** so that she can 1. Help you get the word out, and 2. Make sure that none of our church resources/facilities are double-booked. Thanks!
- ❖ The **November Ladies’ Luncheon** will be held on Monday the 17th at California Dreaming on Main St. in Columbia at noon. If attending, please notify Margaret Royals via email: mroyals052@gmail.com or via text/phone: 803-608-1434. Thanks!



- ❖ **Our SOPC Book Group** is currently reading *The Woman They Could Not Silence* by Kate Moore and will meet to discuss it on 11/20/25 at Loveland Coffee in Irmo at 3 pm.



- ❖ We will collect our annual **Thornwell Offering** on Sunday, 11/23rd. For more information about Thornwell, visit: <https://thornwell.org/> or reach out to SOPC's Missions Ministry Chair, Tish Lowe.
- ❖ **From our Disciple Care Ministry:** Westminster PC is hosting a workshop on November 9th for those experiencing **grief, including strategies for navigating the Holidays**. Please see the flyer below. Pre-registration is appreciated, and the link to register is: <https://www.griefshare.org/events/276847>. If anyone has questions, have them contact Andrea Paschal at Westminster. Her contact information is on the flyer.



Grieving a loss? Know someone who is?

Grief & Share

Surviving the *Holidays*

Encouragement, support, and valuable tools to
navigate the challenges of the season.

Join us for this holiday seminar

Location	Date & time	Contact info
Westminster Presbyterian 1715 Broad River Rd Columbia, SC	Sunday, November 9 4:00 - 6:00 pm	Andrea Paschal andrea@westminsterpres.org (803) 772-1338

griefshare.org/holidays

- ❖ If you would like to volunteer in the sanctuary's sound booth occasionally, please contact the church office. Training provided! We can also train folks so that we can show videos with our Minutes for Missions before worship. This training with Karl will take several weeks before the desired event, and needs to be scheduled in advance. Thanks!
- ❖ Parents of Young Children: Please grab a "Wiggle Bag" from the coat rack just inside the sanctuary entrance doors before worship starts and remember that the little ones go to the Children's Corner after the Children's Message during the service. Thanks!

- ❖ **We're Collecting:** These items may be placed in the large baskets in the narthex or brought to the church office.
 - **Travel-size toiletries** to hand out from our Clothing Closet weekly. Travel size are best for those experiencing homelessness or housing instability. We can always use small soaps, shampoos, lotions, conditioners, deodorants, toothpastes, and pocket packs of Kleenex. We have plenty of toothbrushes, disposable razors, combs, feminine hygiene products, and incontinence products for now. **If you travel, please save the hotels' provided individual toiletries for us! Thanks!!**
 - **Pop-tarts and individual serving size cups of cold breakfast cereal** for our Blessing Box food pantry. These are favorites of our neighbors in need, and we are completely out.
 - We collect **used crayons** in the church office for www.thecrayoninitiative.org. They sort them, melt them down, and make them into free, ergonomic crayons for pediatric hospital patients. We have collected **397 pounds** so far!
 - Please save your cans' **pop tops** and bring them to the church office. So far, we have donated **4 gallon-sized Ziploc bags FULL** of pop tops to the Ronald McDonald House in Columbia.
- ❖ **Save the Date:**
 - **November 11: Veterans' Day—Thank you!!**
 - **November 17: Session Meeting**
 - **November 18: SOPC will host the meeting of Trinity Presbytery.**
 - **November 23: Thornwell Offering**
 - **November 27: Thanksgiving Day**
 - **November 30: 1st Sunday of Advent**
 - **December 7: 2nd Sunday of Advent; Christmas Music in Worship**
 - **December 11: Hannah Circle's Christmas Cookie Party at PCSC**
 - **December 14: 3rd Sunday of Advent**
 - **December 21: 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Joy Offering**
 - **December 24: Christmas Eve**
 - **December 25: Christmas Day**
- ❖ **If you have information to go out to our church family in the weekly Leaflet newsletter, please get it to Annah in the church office by Tuesday of the week you want it to go out. Thanks!**