



SOPC Leaflet, Wednesday, February 25, 2026

We're being *lifted* to new heights at SOPC!



“I hope that everyone at this church knows just how much I love them,” our Building Superintendent, Karl Thompson, proclaimed as he connected his harness and ascended in the hydraulic lift’s basket to change the bulbs in the sanctuary chandeliers. Big thanks go out to our Buildings & Grounds Ministry, chaired by Banks Robinson, and to Karl, for their hard work coordinating the replacement of the chandelier bulbs. To answer the question that many have asked them: Yes, they are 10-year LED bulbs. ☺ The photo on the left below was Karl’s view of the pews below from the ceiling. Hope you’re not scared of heights!



- One of our guest preachers, Rev. Joey Byrd, would like to issue a special invitation to the congregation for this Sunday’s (3/1/26) worship service. There will be pieces of art on display in the sanctuary as visual aids for his message about the importance of lighting in art AND IN FAITH! How appropriate that the light bulbs in the chandeliers of the sanctuary have just been replaced! The art will include his original works and those of artists in our congregation. His sermon title will be *Turn on the lights, please.* The scripture lesson is from Matthew 5:13-20



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Kathy Locklair & Elizabeth Taylor
- 8: Shelagh Wirth
- 9: Betty Anderson & Greg Mixon
- 10: Brenda Turner
- 15: Troupe Cartee
- 16: Sarah Bryan
- 18: Loretta Demko
- 22: Beth Sellars
- 23: Annah Hiers
- 24: Savannah Tapler
- 28: Weston Pilkington
- 29: Bev Elbert



- “Dear SOPC, Monroe and I would like to thank you for the calls, cards, food, visits, and for helping me on many occasions. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated and brings a smile to our faces. You are a wonderful church family! Sincerely, Monroe & Charlotte [Swearingen]”



- Our Discipleship Bible Study will resume on Thursday, March 12th, at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Classroom, led by Lloyd Pilkington. More information will be coming soon about this and other Spring Small Groups!



- Our next churchwide Fellowship Luncheon is Sunday, 3/15/26, after worship in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be about the Shepherd's Center of St. Andrews, and the menu is a St. Patty's Irish tribute: Irish flag salad, Corned Beef & Cabbage, Fingerling Potatoes, Lucky Golden Corn Muffins, & Bourbon Bread Pudding! *Erin go bragh!*
- Last week, our youth made cards for SOPC's homebound members and prayed over each one's recipient.



- Ladies, the PW Gathering of Trinity Presbytery is being held HERE AT SOPC on Saturday, 3/21/26. Our very own Liz Harris is one of the speakers, and Rev. Brooklynn Smith, the Chaplain at Columbia's Presbyterian Communities, is leading worship. The offering will o towards our Love Revolution and Clothing Closet. If you register by 3/9/26 using the form below, the cost is \$35/person which includes lunch. The cost is \$40/person after 3/9/26. We hope that you will be able to attend this special time.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN TRINITY PRESBYTERY
ANNUAL GATHERING

Saturday, March 21, 2026

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St Andrews Road, Columbia, SC 29210
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Online registration opens @ 9:00 am
Worship Service starts @ 10:00 am

Worship Leader: The Rev. Brooklynn Smith

Speakers: Elizabeth Harris, Seven Oaks Presbyterian
Aeri Senock, Ashland Methodist
David Jenkins, Mulberry Presbyterian

Learn about the wonderful things happening at Seven Oaks Presbyterian in partnership with community members and other local churches. The Love Revolution and the Clothing Closet are two of the missions they are involved in. The Love Revolution is a group of committed volunteers and community members that partner with local grocery stores to feed the hungry and food insecure in the neighborhood. The Clothing Closet collects donated coats and other clothing items to help those in need.

The offering taken during the worship service will be donated to the Love Revolution and the Clothing Closet to help them with their mission work. Offering checks to support these missions should be made payable to PW of Trinity Presbytery.

Registration fees from Camp Fellowship, Thommas E. Pope/Presbyterian Communities, and Mission Ministries will be \$3.00.

THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO ALL WOMEN OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

REGISTRATION FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ANNUAL GATHERING

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION MARCH 9, 2026
\$35 by March 9, 2026. \$40 after (includes lunch)

NAME: _____

CHURCH NAME: _____ CLUSTER #: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ CONTACT PHONE #: _____

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM WITH CHECK PAYABLE TO: **PW of TRINITY PRESBYTERY**

MAIL TO: **MARY FUHRMAN, TREASURER**
108 CEDAR COURT
LAURENS, SC 29368

Make copies as needed.

- If you would like to volunteer in the sanctuary's sound booth occasionally, please contact the church office. Training provided!



- If anyone in our church family would benefit from wheelchair service from the car into worship, we would be happy to assist you! When you arrive Sunday morning, have whoever is driving you enter the narthex and inform the usher that you are in the parking lot. The usher will then bring a wheelchair out to your car to get you. The usher will also take you out to your car after worship. It is our pleasure to do this!



Confirmation

- Our 2026 Confirmation Class has begun and is off to a great start! *Confirmation* is a time for young people to learn about what being a Christian and being a member of a PC(USA) congregation means. Then, they decide for themselves whether they want to publicly declare and demonstrate their personal commitment to Christ and to SOPC by being Confirmed in the Holy Spirit & by officially joining the church. Any adult members who would consider being a mentor to one of our confirmands or who would like to know more about it, please call Julie/Ernie Bussells or Kathy Keane.



- Our next gathering of the SOPC Book Group will be at Loveland Coffee on the last Thursday in March, 3/26/26, at 3:00 pm. We will discuss In Cold Blood by Truman Capote. We'd love to see you just to catch up on what you've been doing! Questions? Call or Text Kitsie Miller. 803-463-6958.
- Our Fellowship and Roads to Faith Adult Sunday School Classes, who are currently meeting together, are studying a series of lessons by Max Lucado. The title is *They Walked with God: 40 Bible Characters Who Inspire Us*. All adults are invited to join us each Sunday morning at 9:45 in the Fellowship Classroom! We would love to have you!

- **Way to Tackle Hunger, Scouts & Youth!** In their annual Scouting for Food campaign, our Troop 91 scouts collected 1373 pounds of food and \$844. Our youth collected \$439 through their Souper Bowl of Caring offering. The food and money from both groups were donated to Sharing God’s Love. The young people wish to thank their SOPC family for your support and generosity!



- **It’s time to nominate a new class of Elders for SOPC:**



Our congregation votes on elders to serve on the Session--exercising leadership, government, and discipline, and having responsibility for the life of our church.

Elders should be "persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills of leadership and being compassionate in spirit." (Book of Order G-2.03)

Any active member of SOPC may be nominated unless he or she is currently serving a second consecutive term on the Session.

Suggested Names for Nomination:

Reaching out to your listed nominees to ensure that they wish to serve in this capacity before returning this form is optional. If you would like to comment on your reasons for nominating these persons, please feel free to do so on the back of this page. Your name is optional. Please place this form in one of the offering boxes in the narthex. You can also drop it by the church office or hand it to someone on the Nominating Committee. If you need contact information for any of the committee members listed below, please call the church office at 803-772-1761 or email the church office at sopc@sopc.net.

2026 Elder Nominating Committee:

- Jeanne LeBoeuf (Chair)
- Tish Lowe (Vice Chair)
- Julie Bussells (Representing PW)
- Ron Kesterson
- Janice Reiser
- Polly Robinson

- Don't miss the March 15th deadline to order lilies for the sanctuary for Easter.



Easter Lilies 2026

It is SOPC's tradition to adorn our Sanctuary with lilies for the Easter worship service.

You may purchase a lily to be given in celebration of the resurrection, to the glory of God, and/or in appreciation/memory/honor of a loved one, friend, or church family member.

Names of donors, (unless they wish to remain anonymous,) and those honored will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026. You may pick up your lily after worship on Easter Sunday.

Please complete this form and place it with payment in the offering basket or submit it to the church office. Please make checks payable to SOPC with "Easter Lily" in the memo line. If you pay online, please designate it as "Other," type in "Easter Lily," and select the option that covers the church's credit card processing fees.

The deadline to order is Sunday, March 15, 2026.

Please print clearly. Write names as you wish them to be listed in the bulletin.

_____ (Qty.) Easter Lilies x \$16 each = \$_____ Total Amount

Donor Name(s): _____

Do You Wish to Remain Anonymous? Yes / No (Circle one.)

Donor Phone # &/or Email: _____

In Appreciation of _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

To the Glory of God

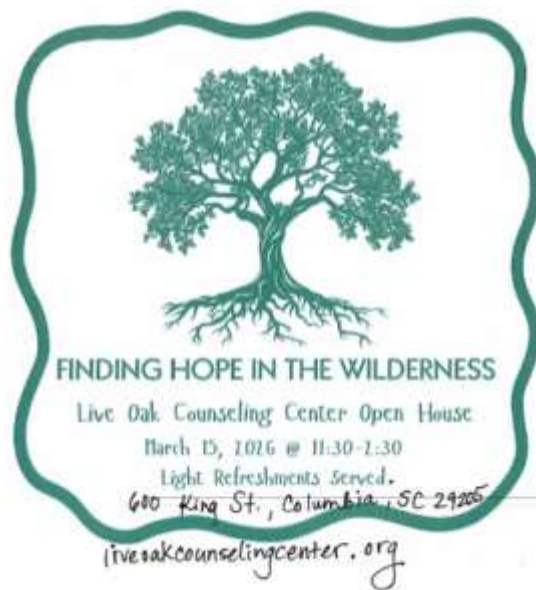
In Celebration of the Resurrection

- The picture below is from 2/8/26, our Scout Sunday celebration. 8 scouts from our Troop 91 were in attendance. 6 are pictured below, along with SOPC's Troop 91 mascot, a cardboard silhouette cut-out named "Scout" (center).



- Our next Ladies' Luncheon will be Monday, March 16th at noon at Tupelo Honey, 2138 Pickens St., Columbia. Please let Margaret Royals know if you plan to attend. mroyals052@gmail.com or 803-608-1434

Join us for Open House
on March 15!



- We're Invited! Live Oak Counseling, a faith-based counseling center whom we support financially and with space on our campus occasionally, is having an

OPEN HOUSE on Sunday, March 15th, from 11:30 am until 2:30 pm. The theme is Finding Hope in the Wilderness. Light refreshments will be served. There's time to make it to 600 King St., Columbia, 29205 after our Fellowship Luncheon!

- We can 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 well in advance. Thanks!
- We're Collecting: These items may be placed in the large baskets in the narthex or brought to the church office.
 - Pop-Tarts & packs of crackers for our Blessing Box food pantry. These are favorites of our neighbors in need.
 - Please save your cans' pop tops and bring them to the church office. So far, we have donated 7 gallon-sized Ziploc bags FULL of pop tops to the Ronald McDonald House in Columbia.
- Save the Date:
 - March 6: World Day of Prayer
 - March 8: Clocks Spring Forward an Hour
 - March 15: Deadline to Order Easter Lilies
 - March 21: Trinity Presbytery PW Annual Gathering with Rev. Brooklynn Smith at SOPC
 - March 29: Palm Sunday
 - April 2: Maundy Thursday
 - April 3: Good Friday
 - April 5: Easter Sunday
- If you have information to go out to our church family in the Leaflet and/or bulletin, please get it to Annah by the Tuesday before. Thanks!