



SOPC Leaflet, March 4, 2026



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead an hour when you go to bed this Saturday night.
We'd hate for you to miss church on Sunday!



Last Sunday, 3/1/26, our guest preacher, Rev. Joey Byrd, spoke about the importance of LIGHT in art and in life/faith, how Jesus is the Light of the World, and how we are called to let our own lights shine to point others to Christ. Artwork by Rev. Joey, Tish Lowe, Kathy Morganelli, and Elizabeth Taylor was on display in the sanctuary. **This week, 3/8/26**, Rev. Byrd will share another of his paintings, a man in a boat, in which some people have claimed to see Jesus. He invites you to **Come & See** what and who you see as part of your worship experience.



- **The Rapid Shelter in Columbia was overjoyed to accept SOPC’s donations of linens for their residents on 2/25th. Thanks to the Hannah Circle for coordinating this effort.**



- **If you see Mark Dillard, be sure to congratulate him on his retirement after 33 years as Executive Director of a trade association! He is looking forward to time for writing and his music.**



- **begin next week! There’s still time to sign up!**

Discipleship Bible Study—Season 2!

Facilitator: Lloyd Pilkington

Dates: Thursdays starting March 12th

Time: 10:30 am

Location: Fellowship Classroom

This is a continuation of Ray Vander Laan’s video series on *Discipleship*. Comments from the series include, “It helps us to develop our character to be more like Jesus, using historical information that transfers easily into modern day lives.”

Small Town Adventures

Host: Marion Watson-Wishart

If you like discovering all the wonder of our beautiful state, one day at a time, this group is for you!! Towns visited will not be more than 1 ½ hours away. Lunch is also involved!! Sign up to keep informed – no one is expected to make all trips!!

Terrific Tuesdays at The Movies

Hosts: Sue & Ron Kesterson

Come join us on *Discount Tuesdays* for a movie!! Movies will be selected a week in advance. Many times, we are the only ones in the theatre! So, do not worry about crowds. For \$5 – you can get popcorn AND a drink!! Join us for fellowship and fun!!

Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am with them. - Matthew 18:20

A Completely Biased History of the Christian Church—Part 2!

Teacher: Bruce C Hurley

Dates: Wednesdays starting March 11th

Time: 10:30 am

Location: Fellowship Classroom

This is a continuation of the class taught in the fall.

Trinity Meditation

Teachers: Annie Moffatt & Jimmy Revell

Dates: Tuesdays starting March 10th

Time: noon

Locations: Narthex & Bride’s Room / Library

It has been said that prayer is talking to God, and that meditation is listening to God. It is difficult to find time to listen. This beginning class will focus on three types of meditations—each lasting about 15 minutes. The first type is *Qigong*, a moving meditation focused on the in-breath and the out-breath. The movements bring us closer to our *qi* or life energy. In this group, we will focus on the energy of the Holy Spirit. The next meditation is a sitting meditation, where we will focus on getting closer to God. The third type of meditation is a walking meditation. We will again focus on breath while remembering the path Jesus showed us. There will be discussion and thoughts to guide us along our journey. Annie Moffatt will teach sitting and walking meditations, along with leading discussions. Her husband, Jimmy Revell, will teach the Qigong, (pronounced “Chee-gong”), meditation.



- Our next churchwide Fellowship Luncheon is NEXT 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!*
- **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 go 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



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

Worship Leader: The Rev. Brooklynn Smith

**Speakers: Elizabeth Harris, Seven Oaks Presbyterian
Ann Smoak, Ashland Methodist
David Jenkins, McGregor 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 parishioners 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.

Representatives from Camp Fellowship, Thornwell, Presbyterian Communities, and Mission Haven will be on site.

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 at door (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
109 CEDAR COURT
LAURENS, SC 29360

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.

- **It's time to nominate a new class of Elders for SOPC. Please turn in your nominations by THIS Sunday, 3/8/26.**



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 _____

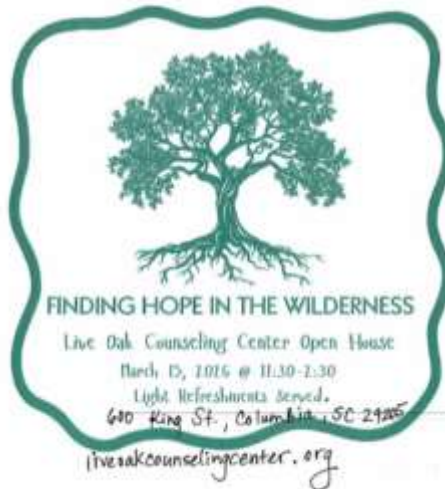
To the Glory of God

In Celebration of the Resurrection



- 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! Susan Yelverton, a therapist with LOC who sees some of her patients on our campus, will share a Minute for Mission with us this Sunday (3/8th) to tell us more.



- Please remember to bring some flowers with you to church on Easter, Sunday, April 5th. They can be from your yard or from the store. We will continue our tradition of *Flowering the Resurrection Cross* outside the sanctuary beginning at 10:30 that morning.



- World Day of Prayer is a worldwide, ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.
- It is initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions.
- It is symbolized by an annual day of celebration observed on the first Friday in March to which all people are welcome. **It's THIS FRIDAY, 3/6/26!**
- It brings women of different races, cultures and traditions together in fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.
- Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and have immeasurable influence in the world.
- The motto of World Day of Prayer is *"Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action."*

A March Lenten Devotion from Dr. Danny C. Murphy, General Presbyter & Stated Clerk

Hello Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church,

March can feel like a holy in-between space—Ash Wednesday behind us, Easter not yet in sight. Winter still lingers at the edges, but spring is quietly working its way up through the cold ground. And sometimes our souls mirror the season.

You've been praying for clarity.
You've been waiting for direction.
You've tried to stay faithful, but the path feels uncertain, and the answers feel delayed.

Have you ever been in that place where you love God, yet still whisper, *"Why is this taking so long?"* You trust God, yet wonder, *"Where are You leading me?"*

That's Lenten faith. It's wilderness faith with ashes on the forehead and hope in the heart: God is present, but the road is unclear. You know God can provide, but you don't know how or when. You want a blueprint, and God offers daily bread.

Deuteronomy 8:2 is striking because it doesn't describe Israel as lost. It says the Lord led them, *"these forty years in the wilderness."* The wilderness wasn't an accident. It was a place of formation. God wasn't only moving them

toward a destination; God was shaping them into a people who could live in dependence on God.

And isn't that what Lent invites us into? Not simply a spiritual "time-out," but a sacred training ground, a season where God retrains our desires, loosens our grip on control, and teaches us to follow step-by-step.

If you're in a wilderness season, confused, tired, and still waiting, God hasn't lost you. God is leading you. Here are **four Lenten Trail Markers** to help you recognize God's leading and keep walking with faith when you don't have the map.

Trail Marker #1: Remember the "Whole Way" God Has Already Led You

The verse begins: "*You shall remember...*" Lent is a season of honest reflection, but it's not a season of selective memory. Wilderness seasons tempt us to rewrite our story using only the hardest chapters.

But remembrance restores truth.

Make a simple list: moments God provided, protected, opened doors, closed doors, carried you through. Not because you're trying to hype yourself up, but because testimony strengthens trust. Memory becomes a lamp when the present feels dim.

Ask yourself: Where have I seen God's fingerprints before, even if I didn't recognize them at the time?

Trail Marker #2: Receive Today's Bread Without Demanding Tomorrow's Map

In the wilderness, God often gives enough light for the next step, not the whole route. That's frustrating, especially for planners, achievers, and those of us who feel safer with certainty.

But daily dependence is the point.

Lent gently exposes how often what we call "wisdom" is really a craving for control. Fasting teaches us this: we can survive without what we thought we needed, because God is still faithful. In the wilderness, faith learns a new prayer: "*Lord, give me what I need for today, and I will follow You today.*"

Ask: What is the next faithful step I already know to take?

Trail Marker #3: Let the Wilderness Humble You Without Hardening You

Deuteronomy says God led them to humble them. Humility isn't humiliation. It's being freed from the illusion that you can hold your life together by sheer willpower.

Lent is where God softens what suffering can calcify.

Waiting can soften your heart into surrender, or harden it into cynicism. The wilderness reveals what's in us: fear, self-reliance, resentment, impatience. But God doesn't reveal it to crush you; God reveals it to heal you.

Ask: Where has waiting tempted me to become guarded instead of gentle?

Trail Marker #4: Interpret the Delay as Preparation, Not Punishment

Some growth only happens in the in-between. You may be praying for direction while God builds discernment. You may be praying for a breakthrough while God strengthens endurance. You may be praying for the promise while God prepares the person who can steward it.

This in-between season can feel like winter soil—cold, quiet, and unmoving—as if nothing is happening at all. And yet beneath the surface, roots are stretching deeper, preparing for what will bloom in time.

And you're not alone in it. Jesus was led into the wilderness, too (Matthew 4). Not because the Father abandoned Him, but because the Spirit appointed Him. He knows hunger, temptation, and the ache of waiting—and He overcame. That means your wilderness is not God's absence; it can be God's shaping presence.

So keep walking. Lent doesn't rush you to Easter—it walks you toward resurrection one faithful step at a time.

You may not have the timeline.
You may not have the complete answer.
But you have the Lord who leads.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, in this holy Season of Lent, help me remember the whole way You have led me. When answers feel delayed, and the path feels unclear, quiet my anxious thoughts and steady my heart in Your love. Give me daily bread, grace for this moment, strength for this day, and the courage to take the next faithful step. Humble me where I've depended on myself. Soften me where waiting has made me guarded. Restore hope where disappointment has left me empty. You entered the wilderness and overcame; meet me in mine, and teach me to follow You with trust and perseverance. I place my life in Your hands, here in the in-between, until You bring me through. Amen.*

- **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.**
 - **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!**