



SOPC Leaflet, April 1, 2026



- **SOPC Prayer Stations:** The narthex, sanctuary, and Bride's Room will be open from **2:30 – 4:30 pm on THIS Thursday, MAUNDY Thursday (4/2/26)**, with prayer stations, devotional activities, and space for personal reflection as we remember Jesus' final days before the crucifixion.
- The Session of **Trinity Presbyterian Church** cordially invites you (SOPC & friends) to worship and partake in the sacrament of Communion with them on **Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 5:30 pm...TOMORROW!** Our very own **Bruce Hurley** will be leading the service. Attire is casual, and the address is 1000 Greenlawn Dr., Columbia, SC 29209.



- Please remember to **bring some flowers with you to church THIS Sunday, April 5th. EASTER!** 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. **There will be refreshments!**
- **PLEASE NOTE: The church office will be closed Monday, 4/6/26, for Easter Monday.**



- **Our Small Town Adventure *Day Trippers* journeyed to Beaufort, SC on Wednesday, March 25th. Twelve people participated. Highlights were a horse-drawn carriage tour of the Historic District, and a tour of the Parish Church of St. Helena—a church with special family ties for our Kitsie Miller!**
- **From Dr. Danny Murphy:**

Hello Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church,

Some days, life feels like it's running on fumes. You believe Jesus rose. You sing it at Easter. You can explain it theologically. And then Monday shows up with anxiety, temptation, unfinished grief, and responsibilities that don't wait for your heart to catch up.

Have you ever wondered why a risen Savior can feel so far from ordinary life?

That's the tension many of us carry: *Jesus is alive—so why do I still feel stuck in old fears, old reactions, and old patterns?* Peter's words meet us right there. He doesn't say we were born again to a general idea. He says we're born again to a **living hope**—a hope with a heartbeat, strong enough to change today.

The resurrection isn't only a miracle to admire. It's a power to practice.

Here are *Four Resurrection Rhythms* you can build into April (and beyond) so your life begins to match what you say you believe.

Start the Day With Living Hope, Not Borrowed Dread. Peter says God "has caused us" to be born again. New life begins with God's initiative, not our willpower. So before you scroll, rush, or rehearse everything that might go wrong, practice a simple rhythm:

Whisper, "**Jesus, You are alive—so hope is alive in me.**"

Name one place you feel powerless. Then surrender it: "**I receive mercy for today, not mastery over tomorrow.**"

Living hope doesn't pretend problems aren't real; it refuses to let them become your ruler.

Practice Holiness as a New Nature, Not Self-improvement. Because Jesus rose, you are not merely “trying harder.” You are living from a new birth. Holiness becomes alignment with who you now are.

When temptation calls, answer: **“That’s not my home anymore.”**

When shame accuses, reply: **“The tomb is empty. My past doesn’t get the last word.”**

The resurrection doesn’t only forgive sin; it breaks sin’s claim to ownership. You may still feel the pull, but you don’t have to live as if you belong to it.

Choose Courageous Love in Small, Costly Ways. Courage isn’t only for dramatic moments. Most courage happens quietly: telling the truth without spinning it, apologizing without defending yourself, forgiving without pretending it didn’t hurt, praying when you feel dry, obeying when it would be easier to blend in.

Because Jesus is alive, love is never wasted. In a world that rewards cynicism, courageous love is a holy rebellion.

Ask yourself each day: **“What would I do today if I truly believed the risen Jesus is with me?”**

Then do one small thing in that direction. Resurrection life often looks like a faithful next step.

Finally, Return to Mercy Quickly—Resurrection People Don’t Live in Condemnation. Resurrection rhythms include repentance, not as punishment, but as return. When you fail (and you will), don’t spiral. Don’t hide. Don’t delay.

Confess plainly. Receive mercy boldly. Get up again.

The empty tomb is God’s loudest declaration that failure is not final—and shame is not your identity.

Hopeful, Holy, Courageous

This is what it means to live the new life now:

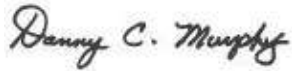
- **Hopeful**, because Jesus is alive, so despair doesn’t get the throne.
- **Holy**, because you’ve been born again, so sin doesn’t define you.
- **Courageous**, because resurrection means love will outlast loss.

April doesn’t have to be a month where you only remember resurrection. It can be a month where you practice it—one rhythm at a time—until your life begins to sound like the gospel you believe.

Let today be the day Easter becomes more than an event. Receive it as daily power: **living hope—right now—through the risen Jesus.**

Prayer: *Father, blessed are You—Your mercy reached me when I couldn’t reach You. Thank You for new birth and living hope through Jesus’ resurrection. Train my heart in resurrection rhythms: replace my fear with hope, strengthen me in temptation, make me courageous in costly love, and lead me quickly back to Your mercy when I fall. Help me live the new life now—hopeful, holy, and unashamed—because You are alive. Amen.*

Faithfully yours,



Dr. Danny C. Murphy
General Presbyter & Stated Clerk

- **Our youth are taking orders for casseroles and sweet treats (that they will help prepare) for you to either take home and enjoy or donate to Love Revolution. All proceeds will help defray their cost of attending Montreat and Camp Fellowship this summer. These camps are wonderful opportunities for them to grow in their faith and to strengthen the bonds of fellowship with one another and with other Presbyterian young people. Order forms are available below, attached to this email, in the narthex, and from the church office. THANK YOU to our church family for supporting this effort!**
- **Attention YOUTH & Parents: Confirmation Class & Youth Group will NOT meet this week (4/5) or next (4/12), but watch for texts and emails regarding fundraiser cooking sessions!**

SOPC YOUTH ORDER FORM



NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

OPTIONS	QUANTITY	SUGGESTED DONATION	TOTAL	FOR LOVE REVOLUTION OR TAKE HOME
CHICKEN CASSEROLE		\$25		
RIGATONI WITH MEAT SAUCE CASSEROLE		\$25		
CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES		\$12 (1 dozen) \$22 (2 dozen)		
OATMEAL RAISIN COOKIES		\$12 (1 dozen) \$22 (2 dozen)		
SWEET BREAD (pumpkin, gingerbread or banana)		\$15 (1 Loaf)		
DONATION ONLY: If you would like to sponsor a student's registration (or a portion of it) by simply donating, please specify the amount.				

SOPC AND WESTMINSTER YOUTH WILL BE PREPARING THESE CASSEROLES AND BAKED GOODS! IF YOU ARE PURCHASING THEM TO BE DONATED TO LOVE REVOLUTION, WE WILL COORDINATE WITH THEM TO FIND OUT WHEN THEY WILL NEED THEM DELIVERED. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HELPING OUR YOUTH EXPERIENCE THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH THAT HAPPENS AT CAMP FELLOWSHIP AND MONTREAT!! PLEASE CONTACT JULIE OR ERNIE BUSSELLS, 803-622-9509 WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

- **We're Invited: McGregor Presbyterian Church will be a host for the Free live streaming of the National Faith + Climate Forum on April 26, 2026 starting at 12 PM.**

Please register online so we can estimate numbers. Same day registration is allowed.

Flyer below. Please contact me with any questions: Glenda Swearingen - (803) 606-3284

Calling Congregants of All Ages!

You're Invited to the Free National Faith + Climate Forum 2026!

Saturday, April 25, 2026

12 PM - 5:30 PM ET

McGregor Presbyterian Church

6505 St Andrews Road

Columbia, SC 29212

Join faith leaders and community members at **McGregor Presbyterian Church** for a live watch party of the **National Faith + Climate Forum 2026**.

Come and be part of a movement towards sustainable congregational practices and robust community resilience as we explore the intersection of faith and environmental action. Let's inspire and support each other in acts of faith that care for creation and advocate for climate justice.

The Event is Free

Please Be Sure to Specify

McGregor Presbyterian

as the Host Church for the Live Watch When Registering

Register and learn more today by scanning the QR code below or
<https://nationalfaithandclimateforum.org>





- 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 *The Radium Girls* by Kate Moore. 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.



Fellowship Meal

- **Our next churchwide Fellowship Luncheon will be Sunday, April 19th, after worship in the Fellowship Hall. The menu is salad, chicken alfredo, broccoli, and dessert. Yum!**



- **Our next Ladies' Luncheon will be Monday, April 20th 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**



PRESBYTERIAN STUDENT CENTER

1702 Greene Street, Columbia, SC 29201
www.ukirksc.org (803) 799-0212

The Rev. John Cook, Campus Minister
jcook@shandonpresbyterian.org

Greetings from UKirk SC!

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 4:4-9)

We can indeed “rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice” in great thanksgiving for all we were able to accomplish in campus ministry in the year 2025. Our Presbyterian Campus Ministry made significant, meaningful strides witnessing to the “Good News” of God’s love in Jesus Christ to the higher education community of Columbia” which may be seen in the:

- 78,704 prayed for at the Carolina-Akron football game (In 24 years praying for over 1.6 million at USC games & functions, the Campus Minister holds a 15-9 record as a game prayer!)
- 1,400 Hours of student hospitality shared through our UKirk Presbyterian Student Center
- 512 Meals served as a part of our UKirk Wednesdays dinner and program ministry
- 200+ Students, faculty, and staff at USC reached/reached out to yearly in campus ministry
- 45 Students, graduate students, & faculty/staff served each week by UKirk Campus Ministry
- 30+ Students, graduate students, faculty, and staff who participate in our Parking Ministry
- 28 UKirk alumni helped to/through/beyond seminary by our mentoring & ministry in 25 years
- 27 UKirk alumni serving the church: 24 ordained pastors & 1 Director of Christian Education
- 7 days a week we are engaged in ministry during the academic year with fellowship, hospitality, mentoring, mission, mission trips, pastoral care, retreats, table fellowship, UKirk Bible Study Mondays, UKirk Wednesdays, and Worship Sundays (rides to Shandon)

In 2025 we were indeed empowered to go far in ministry, mission, worship, and witness through the support of Shandon Presbyterian and Trinity Presbytery, along with the faithful support of UKirk family, parents, friends, and alumni. That’s right – people just like you. We are so grateful for your support of our campus ministry in 2025: \$400. Your gift helped make campus ministry soar!

We hope you will join us again in the coming year to see just how far together we can take the ministry of UKirk SC. That’s right! We could again use your prayerful and financial support to help us broaden our outreach, deepen our impact, and enlarge our witness in 2026. You may give online at ukirksc.org or by check payable to Shandon Presbyterian Church, care of UKirk SC. The students, faculty, and staff we will reach daily in ministry together will sing your praises in thanksgiving!

God’s blessings on you and your family and UKirk!

Rev. John R. Cook, Presbyterian Campus Minister, UKirk SC and
Associate Pastor for Discipleship, Shandon Presbyterian Church

- [Camp Fellowship is looking for gently used patio furniture—a 4-6 piece set—for the Retreat House. This porch had to be repaired after Hurricane Helene. If you know of anyone who might be upgrading their outdoor spaces and has durable, life-left-in-it patio furniture to donate or sell cheaply, please contact Kevin Cartee: \[kevin@campfellowship.org\]\(mailto:kevin@campfellowship.org\); 864-998-3400.](http://campfellowship.org)



- [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!

- **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!**
- **If you would like to volunteer in the sanctuary's sound booth occasionally, please contact the church office. Training provided!**
 - **Save the Date:**
 - **April 2: Maundy Thursday; 5:30 pm Service at Trinity PC**
 - **April 3: Good Friday**
 - **April 5: Easter Sunday**
 - **April 6: Easter Monday—Office closed.**
 - **April 19: Churchwide Fellowship Luncheon**
 - **April 22: *Caring for God's Creation*—Earth Day**
 - **May 10: Mother's Day; PCSC Offering**
 - **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!**