

The Leaflet
...a weekly newsletter of SOPC
in Columbia, SC.



April 30, 2026



- We are thrilled to announce that, at last Sunday's congregational meeting, the church voted "YES!" to approving Rev. Rodney E. Norris as our new "Called & Installed" Pastor at SOPC! His first Sunday in the pulpit will be NEXT WEEK, 5/10/26. The decision will be recognized and approved at the Presbytery meeting on 5/16/26, and there will be an Installation service and reception at a later date. Welcome back to SOPC, Pastor Rodney, Mrs. Nina, and family! We thank God for calling you and for sending you to us!
- Our youth have been busy! The first picture below is of them cooking the casseroles for their current camp fundraiser. The second picture is of them at a Fireflies Baseball game with the youth from Westminster PC. This week, Confirmation and Youth will meet on SATURDAY at the Bussells' house from 4:30 – 7:30 for worship, dinner, and to continue working on their cooking project for the fundraiser.



- Ladies of the Church, please join us!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

*Birthday
Offering*

CELEBRATION DINNER

featuring Rev. Kevin Cartee,
Executive Director,
Fellowship Camp & Conference Center

6:00pm

May 12, 2026

hosted by Westminster Presbyterian Church
1715 Broad River Rd, Columbia, SC

- Our Elders-Elect will have examination conversations on May 12th, from 4:30—6:00 pm in the Session Room.
- May 10: We will collect our annual Mother’s Day Offering for the Presbyterian Communities of SC. For more information about where this \$ goes, please contact Marion Wishart or visit this link: <https://www.prescommunities.org/mother-s-day-offering>. Marion will share a Minute for Mission with us THIS Sunday 5/3/26 about the offering.
- Also, on May 10th, we will have Cookies and Conversation after worship to treat our Moms to something sweet and to meet-n-greet the Norris family!
- June 30: We will prepare, deliever, and serve a meal to Migrant Ministry. This ministry is where our Father’s Day offering goes. For more information, contact Jim Taylor or Tish Lowe.
- September 2 or 9: These are the possible dates for our next Red Cross Blood Drive! We are waiting to hear back from them as to which date it will be.



- Fellowship Meal We will have a churchwide Fellowship Luncheon Sunday, May 17, after worship in the Fellowship Hall. The menu is Sesame Ginger Chicken Kabobs, Rice Pilaf, Steamed Broccoli, & Pineapple Upside Down Cake. Yum!
- Tuesday at the Movies Small Group has scheduled our next time for Tuesday May 12 at AMC for the 1PM showing of “The Devil Wears Prada #2”. All are welcome. Reserved tickets are \$6. Contact Sue Kesterson, skesterson@sc.rr.com to be included in reservation. It is easy to cancel later if needed.



- From SOPC’s Administration Ministry: As we celebrate God’s faithfulness, it’s time to rejoice in the progress of our Raise the Roofs Campaign! Launched in the spring of 2023, we are approaching its third anniversary on April 30, 2026. Thanks to your generous and faithful giving, we have reached \$128,000 of our \$150,000 goal as of December 31, 2025. With just a little more to go—and a few outstanding pledges—we are very close to fully achieving this milestone! Please take a moment to review your First Quarter Giving Statement, distributed on April 9, to check the status of your pledge. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Sharon Staton. Thank you for your continued faithfulness and commitment to the life of Seven Oaks as we serve God together in our community.
- Also from our Administration Ministry:

Thank you for keeping your pledge up to date, as this helps us plan and fulfill the programs of the church! Last month's offering and the year-to-date information are shown below:

	Giving	Budgeted	Difference
March	\$20,291	\$18,650	\$1,641
YTD 2026	\$53,066	\$55,950	(\$2,884)

Total revenue for the first 3 months of 2026 (including other income such as rent) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through March	\$69,229
Total Expenses through March	<u>\$58,005</u>
Revenues in Excess of Expenses	\$11,224

- **Get to Know Your Church Family: An Interview by Mark Dillard with Mary Dempster:**

Mary Dempster has been an active member of SOPC since 2011. She has a special interest in working with children and youth in our church. She and Kris' daughter Abby will enter the 9th grade at Irmo High this fall.

What was it like growing up in Cheraw, South Carolina?

"Cheraw is your typical small town; everybody and their brother know what you are doing and know your parents. It was at times a struggle because you were watching your every move. My dad owned one of the two car dealerships and opened up a hotel in town and my mom was an 8th grade Science Teacher in Chesterfield."

What was your church background growing up?

"Church was a big part of my youth. I grew up Episcopalian. We had a really great turn out of kids; we did ski trips and mission trips. During my early adult years I was one of the Youth leaders - that was an amazing experience watching the children grow in their spirituality."

How long have y'all been going to SOPC? What attracted you to the church?

"I attended some in the area but I was not thrilled with the choices. The people at these churches were NOT welcoming. I decided that I was going to look into the Presbyterian churches in the area and ended up at SOPC. We were welcomed with open arms into this church. And sitting in the back row....You all made me feel renewed - it felt like going home and I just cried through the whole service. That was back in 2011 and I have been coming here ever since."

Tell us a bit about your daughter, Abby.

“She is on the JV girls Lacrosse team at Irmo High School and will be attending Irmo High next year. She is learning to play guitar and taking singing lessons. She loves youth group and I feel she is growing into a wonderful teenager.”

What do you see as the future of SOPC? Where would you like for the new pastor to take us?

“I hope to see us grow and flourish. I hope that the new pastor can get us back to the religious aspect of church. Such as worshiping Jesus/God. I can watch the news for political references; when I come to church it is to learn and grow spiritually.”

What are some facts about you that people wouldn't know?

“I graduated with a degree in Spanish and taught it to 7th, 8th and 9th graders for two years in Rockingham, NC.”

“I also drove the roller coasters at Carowinds for a little while one summer. When I say "drove" it is a fancy word for saying I pushed the button for the ride to start moving.”



• 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.

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 dozens)		
OATMEAL RAISIN COOKIES		\$12 (1 dozen) \$22 (2 dozens)		
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 YOUTH MINISTRY 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, 803-622-9569 WITH ANY QUESTIONS.



- “Dear SOPC, you sure know how to spoil an admin.! Thank you for the GORGEOUS hanging basket of pertunias and sweet card I received for Administrative Professionals’ Day. Serving here has been a blessing from day #1! I hope that my current 2.5 years here will be the first of many more! Love in Christ, Annah”



- Our Ladies’ Luncheon will be Monday, May 18th, at noon at Tupelo Honey, 2138 Pickens St., Columbia, 29201. Please let Margaret Royals know if you plan to attend. mroyals052@gmail.com or 803-608-1434
- The children who attend Peaceful Gatherings Nature School on campus here during the week celebrated Earth Day by picking up trash on campus for us!





- 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 or a greeter will then bring a wheelchair out to your car to get you. They will also take you out to your car after worship. It is our pleasure to do this! If you need a ride to church, please contact your shepherd or the church office.
- If you are at the store and are able & feel led to pick up a few items for our Blessing Box / Food Pantry/Clothing Closet, we could use some small packages of unscented body wipes and/or travel size shampoos.
- We're collecting cans' pop tops! So far, we have donated 7 gallon-sized Ziploc bags FULL of pop tops to the Ronald McDonald House in Columbia.
- 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:
 - May 7: Mother's Day Tea @ PCSC; National Day of Prayer
 - May 10: Mother's Day; PCSC Offering; Cookies & Conversation; Pastor Rodney's 1st Sunday in the pulpit
 - May 12: Tuesday at the Movies; Elders-Elect Examination Conversations; PW BDay Dinner at Westminster
 - May 16: Trinity Presbytery Meeting
 - May 17: Churchwide Fellowship Luncheon
 - May 24: Pentecost
 - May 25: Memorial Day
 - June 30: Migrant Ministry Meal
 - July 21: SOPW Salad Luncheon
- 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!