

The Leaflet

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



May 13, 2026



Dear Friends,

It appears that many people in today's world need to go back to kindergarten to learn how to be nice. We don't have to agree on everything, but we do need to treat each other with love and respect.

A young boy came to his grandfather, filled with anger at another boy who had done him an injustice. The old grandfather said to his grandson, "Let me tell you a story. I too, at times, have felt a great hate for those that have taken so much, with no sorrow for what they do. But hate wears you down, and hate does not hurt your enemy. Hate is like taking poison and wishing your enemy would die. I have struggled with these feelings many times." It is as if there are two wolves inside me: one wolf is good and does no harm. He lives in harmony with all around him and does not take offense when no offense was intended. He will only fight when it is right to do so, and in the right way. But the other wolf, is full of anger. The littlest thing will set him into a fit of temper. He fights everyone, all the time, for no reason. He cannot think because his anger and hate are so great. It is helpless anger, because his anger will change nothing. Sometimes it is hard to live with these two wolves inside me, because both wolves try to dominate my spirit.

The boy looked intently into his grandfather's eyes and asked, "Which wolf will win?" The grandfather smiled and said, "The one I feed."

Feed love and it will overcome hate every time.

In Christ,
Rodney

Rev. Rodney Norris' new email address is rev.norris@sopc.net.

He'd love to hear from you! The church office phone number is 803-772-1761.
If you need his cell phone number, feel free to contact Annah in the church office.

Congratulations!

- We will recognize our high school graduate, Sawyer Creighton, in worship this Sunday, 5/17/26. Please be sure to let him know how proud we are of him and that we are praying for his next chapter. Sawyer is pictured below with his cousin, Laura Crosby, who sang in our SOPC choir & participated in our youth group a couple of years ago. Laura will be attending Midlands Tech and pursuing a degree in the field of nuclear medicine. Sawyer will be starting at Clemson University in the fall and plans to study animal science.



- This Sunday's Sermon - Don't Just Stand There with Your Mouth Open
New Testament Scripture - Luke 24:44-53 & Acts 1:6-14

This Sunday is Ascension Sunday. From the beginning, God told us that Jesus came from heaven and would one day return to heaven. The passage from Acts describes Jesus' ascension. Right before Jesus ascends to heaven, he tells his disciples to carry on his work of spreading the good news of God's love, and he reminds them they are not left alone. The Holy Spirit will be with them to help. Over 2,000 years later, Jesus' message is still the same for us. We are to spread God's love in the world with the help of the Holy Spirit. See you Sunday!



- Please plan to wear “fiery” colors to worship on Pentecost NEXT SUNDAY, 5/24/26: red, orange, gold, yellow, etc. This symbolizes the arrival of the Holy Spirit, Christians’ companion, guide, empowerment, and direct connection to the Divine! In Acts 2:23, the Holy Spirit is described as appearing to the Disciples as flames above their heads.



- Confirmation Class & Youth Group will meet here this week at 4:30 and 5:30 respectively. In addition to games, food, worship, fellowship, and discipleship, they will also be planning summer missions!
- The ladies of the Columbia Presbyterian Community were treated to their annual Mother’s Day Tea Party by our Hannah Circle. Fun was had by all!



- **Congratulations to Polly Robinson who was honored last week with the Presbyterian Women’s Honorary Lifetime Membership! It is well-deserved! Thank you, Polly, for all you do for God via SOPC!**



- **Our Cokies and Conversation last Sunday after worship to treat our moms to something sweet & to welcome and introduce ourselves to Pastor Rodney and the Norris family was a delight!**



- **Next Wednesday, May 20th, from 5:30 - 7:00 pm, our very own Kathy Morganelli’s art will be introduced with a free reception as the month’s featured art at the Vista Art Night in “The Nook,” at the Koger Center for the Arts, 1051 Greene St., Columbia, 29201. We are overjoyed for you, Kathy!**



THE LOVE REVOLUTION

This coming Sunday, 5/17/26, is the 3rd Sunday of the month. That means that it's "OUR" Sunday to lead the efforts at Love Revolution outside in the Pavilion. If you would like to help, please contact Sharon Staton, Liz Harris, or Robert Miller...or just show up with a willing spirit to help our neighbors in need! The Clothing Closet opens at 3:00 pm. Meal preparations begin at 3:30 pm, and the meal is usually served around 4 pm. There is also Circle Time for Prayers & Praises, etc.



PROVIDENCE HOME

Christ-Centered Transitional Ministry for Men

NEXT WEDNESDAY, May 20th, folks from SOPC will prepare, deliver, and serve a meal to the residents and staff of Providence Home. If you would like to help, or have questions, please contact Robert Miller. If you would like to learn more about the mission and ministry of Providence Home, contact Tara Whitfield or visit: <https://www.providencehomecolumbia.org/>.



June 30: We will prepare, deliver, 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 we will host a Red Cross Blood Drive. Contact Tish Lowe to volunteer to help, or visit redcrossblood.org to sign up to donate blood. Annah in the church office will be happy to help anyone not comfortable with the online sign up. 803-772-1761.



- 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 next meeting of our Book Club will be Thursday, 5/28/26, at 3 pm at Loveland Coffee on Carlisle Street in Irmo. They will be discussing Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See. Please contact Kitsie Miller if you plan to attend. All are welcome!
- We collected \$300 for the annual *One Great Hour of Sharing* Offering on Easter Sunday. Thank you for your generosity!



- Have you noticed the new "flower bed" next to the fence we share with Ben Lippen? One of our Troop 91 scouts, Ava Adams, is turning that into her Eagle Scout project—a butterfly garden to support pollinators, beautify our landscape, and promote peace and serenity on campus. Annah has her contact information in the church office if you would like to get in touch.



- 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 single-serving breakfast cereal and/or bottles of water.
- 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 16: Trinity Presbytery Meeting**
 - **May 17: Churchwide Fellowship Luncheon; Graduate Recognition; Ascension Sunday**
 - **May 24: Pentecost-Wear “fiery” colors!**
 - **May 25: Memorial Day**
 - **May 31: Trinity Sunday**
 - **June 30: Migrant Ministry Meal**
 - **July 21: SOPW Salad Luncheon**
- **From Trinity Presbytery:**

Hello Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church,

May is a month of spotlights.

Mother’s Day fills sanctuaries with roses and restaurants with reservations. People post tributes—some joyful, some complicated—trying to fit a lifetime of love, sacrifice, absence, or longing into a few sentences. Then comes graduation: cords and gowns, parties and pictures, speeches that say, “You’re ready,” even when the heart whispers, I’m not sure I am.

And somewhere in the middle of it all, the Church celebrates Pentecost Sunday, the day the Holy Spirit was poured out, not for a select few on a stage, but for ordinary believers in ordinary places.

May celebrates the moments everyone can see.

But what about the lives being built where no one is clapping?

The 6:12 AM alarm. The third load of laundry. The grocery list and the gas tank. The mom who smiles at the breakfast table while quietly praying, “Lord, please help me not lose my patience today.” The graduate who scrolls job listings at midnight, stomach tight, wondering if their life is already falling behind. The caregiver, the single parent, the student, the believer—trying to stay steady when the world rewards the loud and the fast.

That’s where Zechariah 4:6 lands with holy kindness: Not by might. Not by power. By My Spirit.

In Zechariah’s day, God’s people were rebuilding—slowly. The calling was real, but the resources were small, and the obstacles were many. And God didn’t motivate them with guilt or hype. God gave them a promise: “What I’m asking you to build won’t be sustained by human adrenaline. My Spirit will do what your strength cannot.”

Pentecost echoes that same promise. The Spirit didn't come to create impressive Christians. The Holy Spirit came to empower faithful ones. The fire fell, the Church was born, and the message was clear: God's work will be done by God's Spirit, through surrendered people.

So how do we walk through May—this month of highlights—without despising the hidden places where God is doing some of God's deepest work?

Here's how:

Lay down the pressure to perform. "Might" and "power" aren't only about physical strength; they're the quiet belief that everything depends on you. Mothers feel it when the house is loud, and the needs are endless. Graduates feel it when the future feels like a test they didn't study for. The Spirit doesn't scold your limits. The Holy Spirit meets you in them. Sometimes the most powerful prayer isn't eloquent, just honest: "Lord, I can't carry this alone."

Treat small obedience like sacred seed. The Holy Spirit's power often looks unimpressive. It looks like telling the truth when a lie would be convenient. Turning off the screen and opening the Word. Holding your tongue. Sending the apology. Showing up again. These aren't tiny things in God's eyes. They are evidence that a different Power is at work in you. The world claps for achievements; heaven rejoices over faithfulness.

See your daily calling as holy ground. A mother's work is often hidden, but it isn't insignificant. Diapers, dishes, listening, guiding, correcting, praying, this is shaping a soul. A graduate's first steps may feel small, too: applications, interviews, learning how to be dependable, learning how to serve. Don't despise the beginning. The Holy Spirit loves ordinary ground. The Holy Spirit grows fruit in places the world overlooks.

Keep showing up when you feel nothing. There'll be days you don't feel strong, spiritual, or inspired. But the Holy Spirit isn't measured by your emotions. The Spirit is steady. Like roots stretching underground, the Holy Spirit's work is often deepest when it's quietest. Faithfulness isn't flashy—but it's forming you.

May reminds us: God's power is not reserved for stages. It's poured into kitchens and classrooms, into hospital rooms and work trucks, into resumes and bedtime prayers, into tearful drives and ordinary decisions. And one day, you'll look back and realize: the "small" things were never small. They were the Spirit building something lasting in you.

Prayer: *Holy Spirit, forgive me for chasing quick results and visible strength. Teach me to trust Your steady work in ordinary days. Give courage to unseen mothers, peace to uncertain graduates, and endurance to all who are faithful in hidden places. Help me obey in small ways, keep showing up, and believe You are building something beautiful. Not by my might or power, but by Your Spirit. Amen.*

Faithfully yours, Dr. Danny C. Murphy, General Presbyter & Stated Clerk

- **[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!](#)**