

The Leaflet

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



May 6, 2026



Hello Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church! I feel so blessed and excited to be your new pastor. They say you can never truly go home because things are rarely the same when you return. But I must say, "It is good to be home!" I can't truly express how much this church means to me and my family in this short letter. It would take a novel to fully express my love and appreciation for Seven Oaks Presbyterian. I was baptized and confirmed in this church. I still have the Bible that was given to me at confirmation by my covenant partner Hope Carver. My two oldest children were baptized in this church by the Rev. Kim Olson. My wife and I served as youth advisors. My sister was married in this church. I was ordained and served as a ruling elder here and then later I was ordained here as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. I preached my first sermon in this sanctuary. My mother's funeral was held in this church. After all of this, I get to return and give back to the church that gave so much to me. Mr. Carver wrote in my Bible that it was his prayer the Holy Spirit would guide and direct me. It most certainly has, and the Holy Spirit has guided me home.

Life's not perfect, and I know there will ups and downs in our ministry together. But, with God all things are possible, and I know we will do great things together. I would like to end with a wonderful quote from Martin B. Copenhaver, "When the angel says, 'Do not be afraid,' or when Jesus says, 'Fear not' it is not assurance that nothing can go wrong, because often things do go wrong. It is not assurance that everything turns out for the best, because if we are honest about it, it seldom does. Rather it is assurance that, whatever may happen to us, whatever a day may hold, God has the power to strengthen us and uphold us; that whatever we must face, we do not face it alone; that nothing we encounter is stronger than God's love; that ultimately God gets the last word..."

**In Christ,
Rodney**



- We've had a break-in! An elf dressed as a golf caddy made his way into the church office and decorated Pastor Rodney's office door to welcome him on his 1st day, 5-4-26! Be on the lookout for this rascally caddy-elf and his mischievous ways in the future! Our youth were inspired by his shenanigans and left notes in the shape of golf balls for Pastor Rodney!



- THIS SUNDAY, 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>.

- **Confirmation Class & Youth Group** will not meet this week so that our young people can spend time with their moms and mother-figures.
- **Our Small Town Adventures Small Group** trekked to Moncks Corner and Mepkin Abbey on April 30th. It was a blessing to all who attended. Photos below are from Mark Johnson. Contact Marion Wishart if you would like to join them for the next trip!



- **Ladies of the church, please join us!**



- Our Elders-Elect will have examination conversations **THIS TUESDAY**, May 12th, from 4:30—6:00 pm in the Session Room.
- **Also THIS SUNDAY**, 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, 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.



- **Fellowship Meal** We will have a churchwide Fellowship Luncheon NEXT 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 **THIS 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 observed 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! To check the status of your pledge, or 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.



- **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 below, 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 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.



- 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.



- Please plan to wear "fiery" colors to worship on Pentecost, 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.

Congratulations!

- We will recognize our high school graduate, Sawyer Creighton, in worship on 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.



- 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!



- 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 packs of crackers 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 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; 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
- 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!