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

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Oct. 21, 2026

While in college, I was a member of a fraternity. Each year, someone from every fraternity would give a speech to those looking to join. I remember one of the fraternities saying, "We are the best because we are the biggest, and we are the biggest because we are the best." They measured success by the number of members they had. It's the same for a lot of churches. I've never been one to measure success strictly by numbers.

For a church our size, we do a lot of amazing things. I told the session at our last meeting that our congregation is not normal, and I meant that in a good way! Right now, we have two Bible study groups meeting, a mediation group, an artist group, dinners of six, and our small-town adventures group—not to mention the Presbyterian Women and the men's Lanterns group. Even though you might see them on Sunday mornings, we also have a very active youth group which includes three churches' young people. We have a food pantry that gives away food every week and a clothes closet that gives away much needed clothing. We host *ShowerUp* every Sunday, which allows our neighbors experiencing homelessness a rare chance for a real shower. We also host and support Love Revolution every Sunday which gives our neighbors with food insecurities a good, hot meal. We support Seven Oaks Elementary School with donations for the children and the teachers. We supply a meal at Providence Men's Home once a month. The list goes on. I am very proud of what we do, and you should be as well.

At the last session meeting an elder was saying what a great worship service we had celebrating our 60 years here at SOPC, and what a shame it was that we didn't have more people here to enjoy it. I want to encourage all of us to do all we can to get the word out about all the amazing things God is doing at our church. Right now, please do two things. First, pray for our church. Pray every day that God's will is being done by this congregation. Second, tell everyone about the good things we are doing. Invite a friend to church. We don't need a special Sunday to invite guests. We need every Sunday to be *Invite a Guest Sunday*. We are doing too many good things here to keep it to ourselves. Go tell it on the mountain!

In Christ,

Rodney

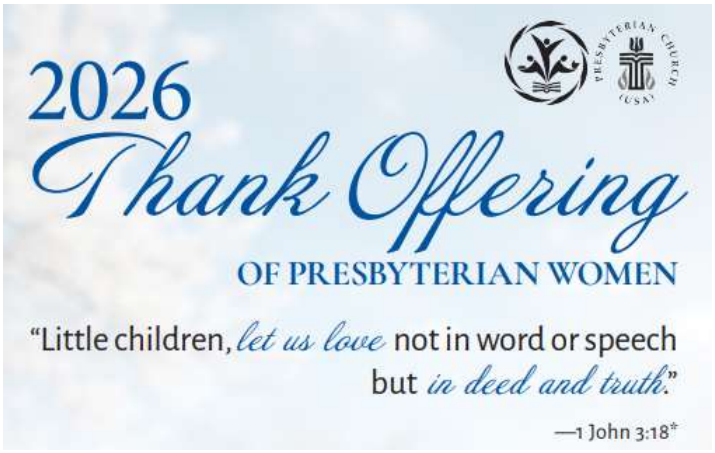
Here is a hint from Pastor Rodney about our worship service this Sunday, 10/18/26:

October is clergy appreciation month, and we certainly have a lot to appreciate in Rev. Rodney & Mrs. Nina Norris! The Administration Ministry invites you to spend a few moments reflecting on all that the Norris family means to you, your family, our church, and the community. Then, write your reflections down in a note, on a card, or in an email. You will find a box with botanical print on it in the narthex. On the top of the box are the words "Grateful & Blessed." Please place your reflections of gratitude in this box during the month of October or email them directly to Pastor Rodney at rev.norris@sopc.net.

- **Not this coming Sunday but next, 11/1/26, is All Saints' Sunday in the Christian Church...a time when we remember those who have gone before us in the faith. It is our tradition at SOPC to read the names of church family members and loved ones who have joined the Church Triumphant in the past year (since November 1, 2025) during this service. If you have a loved one you would like us to include, please email 1. their name as you would like it to appear in the bulletin and to be read aloud, 2. their years of life (ex. 1935-2026), and their relationship to you or to SOPC (ex. beloved father of Bob Smith or Cherished Member of SOPC Family) to sopc@sopc.net by TUESDAY, 10/27/26. Thank you for facilitating this meaningful portion of our worship!**

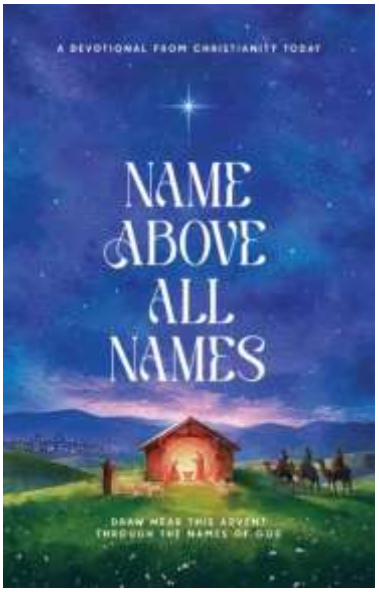
- **Sunday, November 8th is Dedication Sunday for our Stewardship efforts for 2027. Please make every effort to attend in person as we affirm our commitment, in covenant with God, to lifting SOPC into its next season! If you have not already returned your Time & Talent inventory form and/or your financial pledge, there will be a time for you to do so during worship on the 8th. If you need an extra copy of the blank forms, they are available in the narthex and from the church office.**
- **This Sunday, Banks Robinson will share a Minute for Mission with us about the status of our Raise the Roofs campaign.**

- **This Sunday, there will be special envelopes in the narthex for the Presbyterian Women's annual *Thank Offering*, as well as a bulletin insert about the effort. For more information, visit https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/support-mission/thank-offering/.**
- **MORE Justice *Community Problems Assembly* is Thursday, October 29th. Starts at 6 PM at Bethel AME on Woodrow St. Hope to see lots of members there to see how the organization works.**



MIDLANDS ORGANIZED RESPONSE FOR EQUITY AND JUSTICE
MORE JUSTICE

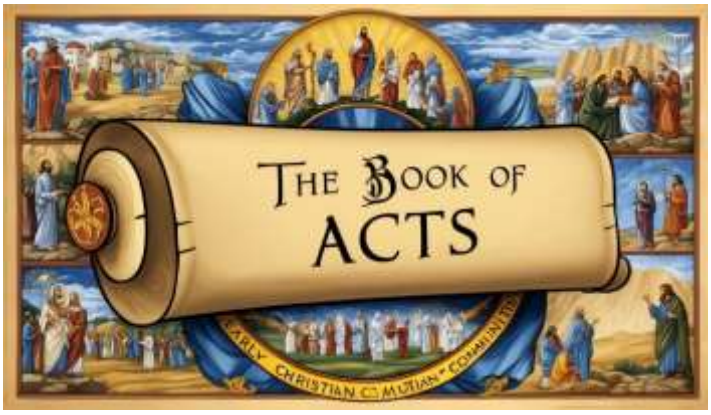
- **Our Small-Town Adventures Group will explore Hartsville, SC on Wednesday, November 4th. For more information or to join the fun, contact Marion Wishart.**
- **The Christian Education Ministry is providing each family in the church with a copy of Name of Above All Names, an Advent Devotional book from Christianity Today. The books will be available in the narthex starting Sunday, November 15th and have devotions for you and your family to read together every day in Advent: November 29th – December 25th. This will be a great way to center your hearts and minds around the true meaning of Christmas and "prepare the way" for peace, hope, joy, and love to be born anew in you, just as they were in the manger that 1st Holy Night!**



- **Thanks to the 24 volunteers who helped make our Fall Festival such a blessing to our community and all in attendance!! We welcomed 91 guests onto campus!! Here are some pictures from the day:**

- **Here are some additional pictures from the reception after Pastor Rodney's installation on 10/4/26:**

- If you would like to read the latest newsletter of the Synod of South Atlantic, please copy and paste or type this web address into your browser: https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Synod-of-South-Atlantic-Newsletter--October-15--2026.html?soid=1113711098704&aid=hF0ranhFNBY.



- Everyone is invited to attend the Adult Sunday School Class' exciting study on the Book of Acts, each Sunday at 9:45 am in the Fellowship Classroom! Acts is about the birth and growth of the early Christian church following the ascension of Christ. It follows the ministries of the apostles, especially Peter and Paul, despite persecution, imprisonment, fear, and cultural clashes. We will be learning about the power of the Holy Spirit, the faithfulness of the early believers, and the sovereignty of God. These anchor this study of the growth of the early Christian church!

- November is Thornwell Emphasis Month. Tish Lowe will share a Minute for Mission with us on November 15th about this vital ministry, and we will collect our annual Thornwell offering on November 22nd.
- Save the Date: We will host our annual Family Promsie Basketball Clinic & Lunch on Saturday, January 23rd, from 11 am until 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. John Paul Sellars' basketball team will lead the clinic. Please contact Tish Lowe, Missions Ministry Chair, if you would like to volunteer.

- **<u>Our sister church in Nueva Paz, Cuba needs our help</u>. They are unable to get over-the-counter medicines. Ther diet is lacking.**

Therefore, it is critical that they supplement with multi-vitamins, which they are unable to buy. We will be <u>collecting in the basket in the narthex</u> for several weeks. Please consider contributing to this project. Anything is much appreciated. If you have questions, contact Kathy Keane. A list of specific needed items is below:

Multi-Vitamins for Men
Multi-Vitamins for Women
Multi-Vitamins for Children
Acetaminophen
Ibuprofen
Aspirin
Infants'/Children's:Tylenol and Ibuprofen
Allergy: Benadryl, Citricine (Zyrtec), Loratadine (Claritin)
Flu Medicines
Cough Medicines
Pain reliever Cream for Arthritis
Benadryl Cream
Oral rehydration salts (ORS)
Imodium
Alka Seltzer
Pepto Bismol
Hemorrhoid cream
Vicks VapoRub
Eyeglasses with different prescriptions
Toiletries – shampoo, toothpaste, soap

- **Our siblings in faith at McGregor PC have invited us to join them for a presentation from Lighthouse for Life about human sex trafficking and how it affects our community and the world.**

It's time to order poinsettias to adorn our sanctuary at Christmas!

The cost is $14 per plant, payable to SOPC, due by Sunday, November 8th.

Please place this form with your payment in the offering plates or return it to the church office. If you pay online, please select "Other," type in, "Poinsettia Order," and opt to cover the credit card processing charges. Thanks!

Your Name:_____

Your Email Address: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Number of Poinsettias: _____ x $14 = $ _____ Total

In Honor / Memory of: _____

_____

_____

THE LOVE REVOLUTION

- **As you know, every Sunday, we *host* Love Revolution, a free meal in the Pavilion for those in need in the community every Sunday. Bring a dish if you can. If not, you can just show up to help serve around 3:30 pm! The 3rd and 5th Sundays of each month are our days to lead the way in food preparation and volunteer servers. Sundays are FULL of opportunities to serve after worship! Our Clothing Closet and ShowerUp ministry both open at 2 pm each week. These, along with the Love Revolution meals and fellowship time, are truly a beacon of hope for those less fortunate in our community. If you have questions about any of our "Service Sunday" programs, or would like to help us serve as the hands and feet of God in our community, give the church office a call at 803-772-1761 or email us at sopc@sopc.net. We'll connect you with folks that can answer your questions, share their stories of the impact of these vital missions, and get you ready to start volunteering if you'd like to.**

ShowerUp
Shower Grace. Hope. Love.

- **Youth, we will meet for lunch after worship Sundayat 12:30 pm in the youth room and then travel to Clinton Sease Farm for the Corn Maze!**

- **SOPC's Book Group will gather at Loveland Coffee THIS Thursday, October 29, at 3 pm for fellowship and to discuss *How the One Armed Sister Sweeps Her House* by Cherie Jones. Contact Kitsie Miller for more information, to let her know you're coming, or just to say, "Hi!"**

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If you are at the store and are able & feel led, our food pantry could use some **single-serving-size-salty-snacks. Thanks!**

- **1. Please leave the "Fan" setting on all SOPC thermostats set to "Auto," NOT "On." During the warm days, if the fan is set to "On," it just blows hot air into the rooms. (And, vice versa on cold days.) Thank you! 2. If you notice maintenance concerns or have room set-up requests for events, Karl welcomes you to call or text him directly on his church cell phone at 803-237-4519. It's easier for him to hear requests directly from you to avoid confusion and to facilitate him asking relevant questions.**
- **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!**

- *Feather & Puddles, here, SOPC's Office Geese, checking in! We are happy to share that other than some silly geese in the petting zoo of the Fall Festival Saturday, no one has been acting like animals since our last report in the Leaflet. This week's outfit is in honor of the strength and courage of so many of our human cousins who have fought and are fighting breast cancer. May all the pink you see in October serve as a reminder of the importance of testing and early detection.*

If you have information that you would like to go out to our church family in the Leaflet and/or bulletin, please get it to Annah in the church office by the Tuesday before. Thanks!

sopc@sopc.net or 803-772-1761

Also, please don't forget that a digital, up-to-the-minute church calendar is available at https://sopc.net/calendar/.