



The Light

November/December 2023



Dedication of Thomas Hall

November 5th 11:30am (following worship)

Ceremony and Unveiling of Memorial Plaque
Remarks by LPC Members and Members of
the Thomas Family

Light lunch to follow

All are invited to view Thomas Hall and
celebrate this milestone



Welcome New Members!

Our latest class of new members joined on October 22nd and then dined together at Lulus at Rose Hill. Please see their pictures and brief biographies on page 12 and 13 so that you can begin to make connections with them. Contact information can be found on sheets in the Narthex. Let's welcome these new members!

EARTH CARE MINISTRY

VOLUNTEERS: LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE LPC'S EARTH CARE PROGRAM?

Here are the tasks we need volunteers for this December-May! Can you help, please?

- Maintain the Earth Care bulletin board in the Narthex. Post interesting articles to share as needed.
- Pick up and recycle boxes, paper, cans, etc. from the LPC office every 2 weeks or as needed. Thomas Hall recycling bins emptied as needed.
- Earth Day is Monday, April 22, 2024. Plan publicity and an activity or two to celebrate this day!



Sign up on the Earth Care Bulletin Board through November in the Narthex! We thank you in advance! Questions? Gretchen & Jon Nickel gretchjon@yahoo.com

Walk for Water

The Bluffton Walk for Water was blessed with a beautiful morning in Wright Family Park to begin our 9/23 Walk. 7 teams totaling 116 Walkers participated raising \$15K from registrations, donations and sponsorships! 100% goes directly to Water Mission in N. Charleston.

We were fortunate to have on hand an actual Living Water Filtration System like those sent to foreign countries and disaster areas where clean water is scarce. Water Mission is changing lives every day by people like LPC members who generously gave this year.

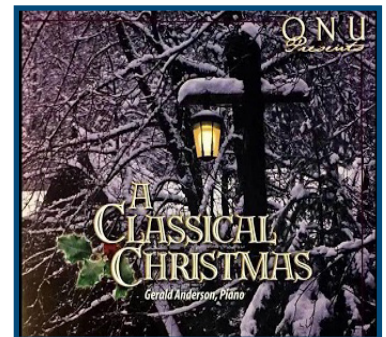
With a \$1000 sponsorship, \$1900 in registrations and donations, \$1650 from Minute for Mission, and \$1703 Aug. Change for Change, \$6253 was raised!

With gratitude, Jon & Gretchen Nickel



Christmas CDs to Benefit Earth Care

Dr. Gerald Anderson, former LPC member now on staff at 1st Pres. HHI, generously donated dozens of his "A Classical Christmas" CDs to benefit Earth Care in 2017. The remaining CDs are available for your donation in the Narthex on Nov 5 and 12 following services or as long as they last! Dr. Anderson and our current pianist/organist Dr. Karen Ball were both professors at Olivet Nazarene University. Welcome the Christmas season with a wonderful medley of favorites guaranteed to please!



COMMUNICATIONS

Membership Directory Photo Sessions

Our scheduling process has begun! Please schedule an appointment for 12/1, 12/2, 12/4, 12/5, or 12/6. Weekdays from 2 pm – 8:30pm and Saturday from 10am – 4pm. Each family photographed will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait.

Members may register online at www.ucdir.com. Click on photography appointment scheduling login; church code **sc281** password **photos**. You can also register in person after worship services or by calling the church office at 843-815-6570.

The Communications Committee could use volunteers to register after worship services and at the photo-shoots. Please contact Janit Maguire at 845-527-6409 or janitmaguire@gmail.com or Lynn Cordy at -14-475-2118 or lcordy@me.com to volunteer.



Membership Directory Photos

Sign-up for photo sessions on December 1, 2, 4, 5 or 6.
Weekdays: 2-8:30 pm, Saturday: 10:30 am - 4 pm

Registration Options for photos:

- online at www.ucdir.com
 - click on photography appointment scheduling login; church code **sc281** password **photos**
- in-person after Worship Services
- call LPC office at 843-815-6570

Our Church Directory won't be complete without you!

Everyone photographed receives a complimentary 8x10 portrait & directory. Additional portraits available for purchase on the day of photography.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Connections

Forever on the go keeping connections strong with many of our members are Joann McElravy and Lois Johnson. They are a dynamic duo with all they do in a month's time. Some of those things include: sending cards and devotionals; dropping by with flowers, muffins, or soups; making phone calls; visiting; and delivering material dealing with the grieving process. It is not unusual for them to have 40 to 50 contacts in a month. We are blessed to have them and thankful for all they do for LPC members.

Thank You

Karen and Jerri thank all those involved with Congregational Care. We would not be able to accomplish half of the things we do without the support and participation of such a giving and caring group. We wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and Blessed Holiday Season.

FAITH FORMATION

Sunday School

Children's Sunday School is offered on the second and fourth Sundays of each month for four and five-year olds during the 10:30 a.m. service in the classroom near the nursery. During the fall, member Phyllis Willever taught the children stories about Moses: the parting of the waters of the Red Sea, manna from heaven, and the Tabernacle in the desert.



Adult Sunday School meets in the Church Parlor from 9:30-10:10 a.m. on Sunday mornings. During the fall, we continued our understanding of the Psalms as we followed the Seasons of Psalms initiative with discussions of Psalms 107, 113, 124-134, and 136. Some Sundays were spent discussing scripture and life application relating to The Wired Word topical readings. All are welcome and no pre-study is required. (Photo: The class at the entrance to the "Tabernacle in the desert.")

LPC Supports Temple Oseh Shalom

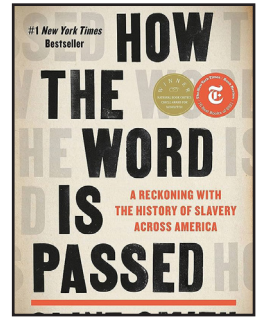
Several members of LPC attended Temple Oseh Shalom's service Friday evening, October 20th to show solidarity with them in this time. During their worship service, Rev. Herrin's statement of support and prayer was read out loud.



Rabbi Kanter thanked those members who attended and a member of the Temple attended LPC's worship service Sunday the 22nd in appreciation. LPC has shared its space with the Temple for over 10 years. The cabinet in the Narthex displaying the Torah and Bible was made in celebration of the partnership. Dale Wilkes who attended the Temple service found particularly meaningful a quote shared from Rabbi David Wolpe from Sinai Temple in L.A. "We pray not to wipe out haters, but to banish hatred."

Fall Book Study

On October 24, a small group met in the Parlor for a time of reflection about their visit, impressions, and what they learned about this part of our history. A discussion of Clint Smith's book *How The Word Is Passed: A Reckoning With the History of Slavery Across America* followed. Smith's book takes a look at how memory and history play a part in making sense of our country and how it has come to be.



"Discovering the Gospel of Mark's Subtle Messages"

For three weeks in October, about sixteen members studied the book of Mark with retired Presbyterian minister Rev Rob Blumer who taught us a new way to dissect the scriptures. He left us with Mark's message that we see God's true divinity when we are open to His humanity. If you missed it, check out the videos under Virtual Worship on the LPC website.

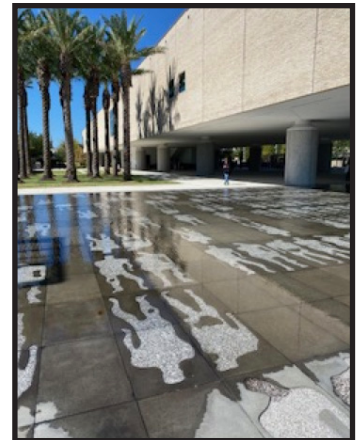


FAITH FORMATION

LPC Trip to the International African American Museum

Fourteen LPC members traveled to Charleston on Wed, Oct. 18 to visit the new International African American Museum. The museum opened in June and is located on the historically sacred site of Gadsden's Wharf, the point at which an estimated 40 percent of enslaved Africans entered this country. The African Ancestors Memorial Garden surrounds the exterior of the building.

Through film, art, exhibitions, and interactive displays the group explored the journey and legacy of the estimated 12.5 million Africans forcibly brought to and sold into bondage in the Americas. After a sobering two hours, the group enjoyed lunch at nearby Saffron Restaurant and Bakery.



(Pictured right: Reflection pool of silhouettes representing the estimated 1.8 million slave captives who perished in the almost 2 month voyage across the Atlantic.)



(Pictured above: The full group at Saffron's for lunch)



(Pictured above: The group outside the museum)

LPC Calls a New Associate!

On September 24th, at the Congregational Meeting following worship, Rev. David Johnson was chosen to serve as our Associate Pastor by a unanimous vote of the members present. Rev. Johnson will start Nov. 1!

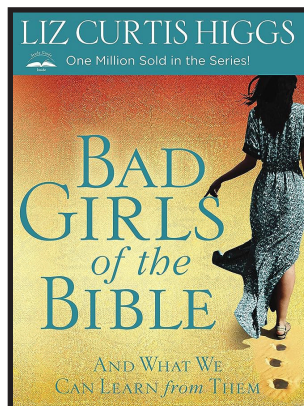
Pictured above: Rev. Johnson with members of the APNC, Diane Mikkelson, (chair) Jan Catanese, and Jon Nickel (Bill Thorpe and Kelly Manning weren't able to be present).



FAITH FORMATION

Women of Faith

LPC's Women of Faith have enjoyed many lively discussions, learning from the choices of several "Bad Girls" of the Bible. Our November 14th meeting discussion will focus on the story of Sapphira and Ananias from Acts 5:1-11.



Women of Faith is a supportive community of LPC women, friends and visitors. The group utilizes book study to discuss, debate and creatively engage with God's word in our lives and world. We meet in friendship and fellowship on the second Tuesday of each month at 11am in the Parlor. Why not consider joining us?

Each chapter of our current book, *Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs, can be read as a stand alone section, making it easy to participate in any session! Here's a peek at what's ahead!

- November 14th - pages 127-146
- January 9th - pages 147-168
- February 13th - pages 169-188
- March 12th - pages 189-213
- April 9th - pages 214-238
- May 14th - review and wrap up

Please contact Venus Holland (reidallenholland@gmail.com) or Pam Davis-Webb (psdw44@gmail.com) for more information.

Men of Purpose

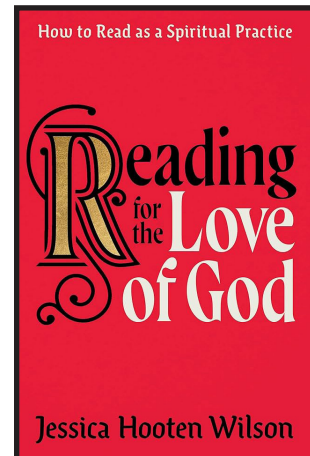
Men of Purpose is a Men's discussions small group. We're reading and discussing *The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak – Lessons on Faith from Nine Biblical Families* by Shannon Bream. Remaining chapters are Dinah (10/28), Ester (11/4), Michal (11/11) and Miracles for Mothers and Daughters (11/18). We will start a new book on 12/2. We will not be meeting on Nov. 25, Dec. 23 and Dec. 30. For questions, contact Bill Walker – billwalker42@gmail.com.



On September 7th, eleven members of LPC met to discuss the novel, *The Dearly Beloved* by Cara Wall. Everyone enjoyed reading and discussing the book.

Bound Together Book Club

The next selection for The Bound Together Book Club is Reading for the *Love of God, How to Read as a Spiritual Practice* by Jessica Hooten Wilson. "This engaging guide outlines several ways Christian thinkers—including Augustine, Julian of Norwich, Frederick Douglass, and Dorothy L. Sayers—approached the act of reading. It also includes suggested reading lists, guided practices to approaching texts, and tips for meditating on specific texts or Bible passages." Chris Herrin and Carol Bogle will lead the discussion on Thursday, December 7 at 3:15 in the parlor. We hope you can join us. You can sign up online at or on the sign up sheet in the Narthex.



Missions Ministry ~ November & December 2023

Change-Can-Make-a-Change
and
Angel Tree

\$25 Walmart gift cards &
children's books for NOC students



Our Change-Can-Make-a-Change Program will benefit local families seeking help from Agape Family Life Center in Hardeeville, SC. Please consider donating money towards \$25 Walmart gift cards. Please donate by December 5th.



Our Angel Tree Program will be used for the purchasing books for the students attending the Neighborhood Outreach Connection (NOC) who meet in Fellowship Hall. Paper angels noting book titles will be on the tree in the narthex

If you choose to purchase \$25 Walmart gift cards, please either drop them off at the church office or put them in the designated box on the Angel Tree table in the narthex. If you choose to contribute via checks or cash, please note Angel Tree or CCMAC on your check or envelope.

Thank you for your generosity!

For more information, contact Diane Mikkelson at dianemikke@aol.com or (843) 368-6865

MISSIONS MINISTRY



Presbyterian Giving Catalog

As the Holiday Season approaches, the Missions Ministry will be promoting the Presbyterian Giving Catalog as we did last year. Catalogs will be distributed after each service on December 3rd. This will give you a chance to look over all the opportunities for giving before handing in your order by the end of the year.

There will be a table in the Narthex on December 10th and 17th to answer any questions and for you to hand in your orders. Orders and checks can also be placed in the offering basket or turned into the office. Checks should be made out to Lowcountry Presbyterian Church. The gift areas are Kits and tools, People, Water, Livestock and Agriculture. Last year, members of the church donated \$5,061 to this program and purchased 99 items from the catalog.

Again, we will form a paper chain, with each purchase, called Links of Love, to show how together we can make a significant and lasting impact for people and communities around the world.

This chairman is very excited to see if we can surpass last year's giving.

Any questions, contact Anne Redlus, Elder for Missions Beyond, anneredlus@gmail.com or call 843-705-6373.



Backpack Buddies

Backpack Buddies - Thirteen members of LPC came together to pack 167 bags of food on September 12th. Distribution of the food will take place on each Friday during the month of September. Fifty food insecure children at Prichardville Elementary School will be the recipients of the food.



Simmonsville Road Trash Pickup on Friday, Sept. 29:

L-R: JR Wilson, Dave Casperson, Jean Nordby, Jim Wright, Gretchen Jon Nickel, Kevin MacCarthy and not pictured, Sandy Benninger.



Mitten Project for Local Families



As in past years, we are joining members of Temple Oseh Shalom (who worship in our sanctuary) to help with the Mitten Project.

Please donate new hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, earmuffs and/or headbands. Donations may be dropped off in the Narthex or at the Nov. 12th Food Drive.

Please help us make this joint effort a success again this year!
These families appreciate anything you can do to help!



Thank you from the Missions Ministry Team!



Agape Thanksgiving Food Drive

Sunday, Nov. 12
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Thanksgiving will be here before we know it! Please bring your food donations to LPC on Sunday, November 12th.



If you're attending church that day, please drive through to unload after the service. We're looking forward to seeing everyone and filling our cars with your generous donations!

Most Needed & Requested Items:

- apples and oranges
- sweet and white potatoes
- stuffing mix
- gravy
- canned vegetables
- cereal
- baby food
- mascea (flour to make tortilla)
- canned fruit
- peanut butter and jelly
- canned chicken and tuna
- dry and canned beans



If you have any questions, please contact
Jan Catanese 248-766-0402

MUSIC MINISTRY



Our new associate, Dave Johnson, photo bombed the bell choir picture on one of his move-in days.

Greetings from the Music Worship Team, the Chancel Choir and the Jubilate Ringers!

We are pleased to announce the Advent Cantata for 2023: A Time of Waiting. The Cantata will consist of 5 readings (from various authors) and 5 choral anthems, which include:

- A New Noel by Travis L. Boyd
- Hope is Dawning on the World by Larry Shackley (choir with solo by Karen Ball)
- We Wait for God by Fredrick Gustav Brockman
- A Song for Advent by Jon Paige (music by Lowell Mason)
- Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room by Lloyd Larson

Rehearsals for this year's Advent Cantata have begun and it will be presented on Sunday, December 10th. There will only be one service that day at 10:30 a.m. A dress rehearsal for the Cantata will be held on Saturday, December 9th at 10:30 a.m.

in the Sanctuary. The focus of the Cantata will be on the meaning of Advent as a time of waiting and preparing for the Messiah to come into the world. The Jubilate Ringers will be providing the Prelude and Offertory for the service.

The choir continues to encourage interested singers to join the choir, even if only for the Cantata. Rehearsals begin at 6:30 on Thursday evenings in the Sanctuary and focus on the Cantata music for the first 30 minutes. Contact Robin Lind for more information.



WORSHIP MINISTRY

Hanging of the Greens—Sunday, December 3rd following 10:30 am worship.
All volunteers welcomed and rewarded with pizza.

Poinsettias

It is time to order Memorial Poinsettias for the Sanctuary. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone, please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket or send it to the church office by December 5th. Make checks payable to LPC with the notation "**Poinsettia**" on your check. 6" poinsettias are **\$15.00** each.

Please fill in your name and the honoree/memorial designation so we may include it in our Christmas bulletin. If you have questions, please call the church office, 843-815-6570.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Honor of: _____

Or

In Memory of: _____

I would like to: Take my poinsettia _____ Donate my poinsettia _____ (Will be delivered to members receiving congregational care to enjoy during the Advent and Christmas season.)



Kirkin' O' the Tartans Service

Our annual Kirkin' O' the Tartans Service will be held on February 11, 2024.

It will include a procession/recession of Tartan (Clan) banners. If you are interested in ordering a banner to participate or any other clan accessories (such as ties, scarves and shawls), please contact: Fran Parker at 843-757-8181 or frannieparker38@gmail.com.

Orders must be placed by November 30th for delivery in time for the service.



Look for more information closer to the date of the Kirkin' on our eblasts and website!

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY



Marty and Dennis Eubanks moved from Berks County, Pennsylvania to the Low Country in the Fall of 2018. Marty had a 50 year career as a dental hygienist in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Dennis had a 31 year in law enforcement in Pennsylvania, after serving 4 years in the United States Air Force. Marty loves exercising, pickle ball, and spending time with family and friends. Dennis loves Bocce, reading about Low Country history, and watching dirt track car racing.



Ron Woolston and Sue Dason moved to Latitude Margaritaville in 2021. Originally from the Rochester, NY area, they retired 10 years ago, Ron from Circulation for Gannett newspapers and Sue as a Buyer for the local Gas and Electric Utility. They enjoy traveling and reading along with getting involved in a variety of activities at Latitude Margaritaville.



Lynn Norton is a native of Kansas City, did her schooling and training in Rhode Island and has been enjoying living in the low country for the past 22 years. She is the proud mother of six and grandmother of one. She works as an OB/GYN with Riverside Women's Care at Hilton Head and Coastal Carolina hospitals. She enjoys travel, reading, and outdoor activities. Lynn is excited to join LPC and have the opportunity to grow and serve alongside her new church family.



Susan Herron Forrest was raised in Rocky River, Ohio and attended an Episcopal Church. She married, after her junior year in college, her dear husband of 60 years. Tom and Sue divided these years between Albany, New York and the Adirondack Mountains. Their marriage produced three children, a law degree for Tom and two masters degrees for Sue (English and Social Welfare). Sue taught English in a Catholic girls school; then went on to provide therapy for troubled youths as well as for probated sex offenders. On Sundays, Sue and Tom worshipped at First Lutheran Church (the oldest Lutheran congregation in America). After Tom's death three years ago, Sue became a permanent resident in Hilton Head (Moss Creek).

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY



Patti Rozonkiewicz moved here from a suburb of Chicago, IL almost 3 years ago but grew up in a little town in upstate NY. She lives in SunCity on the North side with her husband Mitch and mom Bea, who also comes to this church with her. Patti and Mitch have one son who lives in IL and a fur kid, Harley. Her hobbies are painting, crafts, swimming, biking, and bible study.



Dottie McElroy grew up in WV and MD. She and her husband, Ken (who passed away in 2020) lived in Crofton, MD and both worked for the government in Washington, DC. In January 1997, Dottie and Ken retired and moved to Clearwater, FL where they resided for 10 years. In 2007 they moved "half-way" back to Sun City to be closer to family. They were members of Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church in Clearwater.



please join us for a

Christmas *Potluck*

On December 6th

Join us for a celebration of the holiday season at our annual Christmas potluck dinner. Come to share not only delicious food but also a spirit of togetherness and gratitude. Following the meal, we'll raise our voices in joyful song with the timeless melodies of Christmas. Please bring a dish to share and your heart ready to sing along! Check the bulletin for further details.

STEWARDSHIP DINNER

HONOR THE LORD WITH ALL THAT YOU HAVE....Proverbs 3:9

The Stewardship Campaign for 2024 included the annual Stewardship Dinner held on Tuesday, October 17th on the patio. We enjoyed brilliant weather which allowed for lively fellowship.

After our meal from Jim-n-Nick's Barbecue we were treated to a presentation from Rev. John Wall entitled "All In." The presentation included his showing the 'alabaster jar' he received as a gift from his son.

The presentation was recorded and can be viewed online at lowcountrypres.org/virtual-worship.

Many thanks to all who assisted in making the evening a success. We received help in setting up, cleaning up, leaf blowing, money handling and audio-visual recording.

Stewardship Team-Randy Aubrey, Tom Catanese and Joe Franklin



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Lois Johnson	12	Sue Day
3	Don Keller	12	John Woodruff
3	Joan Mullins	13	Carolyn Tripp
4	Louise Cooper	17	Lois Poper
4	Chad Copenhaver	17	Betty Smith
5	Hillary Meyer	19	Josh Fox
6	Nancy Graham	19	Margaret Hartley
8	Sandra Copenhaver	19	Faith Hull
9	Harriet Senior	29	Rick Bogert
10	Lucy Herrin	29	Bill Rozea
11	Tom Cordy		

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Ron Bleile	22	Donald Bortz
4	Joan Walker	24	Ella Barry
6	Jan Alpert	26	Karen Meyer
6	Jane Deakin	28	Susan Zeleznik
8	Scott Kunkle	30	Alane Peragallo
13	Sandy Iams	31	Janis Lakin
13	Jane Lundblad	31	Howard Redlus
14	Patti Rozonkiewicz		
14	Ann Warren		
16	Bo Welch		
17	Tom Catanese		
17	Graham Painter		
19	Dale Nordby		
21	Karen Ball		



THANK YOU NOTES

"Thank you - I am grateful and blessed to be a member of such a caring congregation. Thank you so much for all of the wonderful cards and prayers." - Gigi Johnston

"Dear Members, thank you for your prayers and support."
- Bud & Pat Woodard

"On behalf of my family, a big "thank you" to everyone who offered support, prayer, comfort and good wishes during my father's recent illness and subsequent passing. At 96, he certainly had a life well-lived and well-loved by those who knew him. After 64 years of marriage, he left the physical world with my mom by his side, and on his last day, we shared some laughs. Clear-headed to the end, he told me about the reception party that was taking place to welcome him, and he saw his beloved cousins and "little dogs" waiting for him and welcoming him -- proof of heaven, if you ask me! Please continue to pray for my mom, who is navigating her new life at Benton House." - Lori Higgins

"I wish to sincerely express my appreciation to so many who have expressed concern, best wishes and even brought flowers while I am recovering from a fall at our Fitness Center September 23rd causing a painful wrenching injury to the rib cage and right hip. After one week the pain has diminished substantially and I have started short walks with my walker. Thanks be to God and thanks be to All of you who helped me during this unexpected time of crisis." - Bill Thorpe

Lois and Lou Lunardini wish to thank the Church for their prayers and support through Lou's multiple surgeries, including the most recent one that was successful.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Please keep Bud Woodard on your prayer list. We want you to know that Bill and Judy Thorpe have shown us so much kindness and love. - Bud & Pat Woodard

Thank you for your generous gift to Volunteers in Medicine in Joan's name. Due to your gift, they will be able to continue helping the community with their medical needs - which is something she loved to do.
Thanks, Larry Tremiere

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:

Lori Higgins on the death of her father,
Cameron Higgins.

Joann McElravy & Fred Wolf on the death of his sister, Barbara Benson, and Joann's brother-in-law, Dr. David Long.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session convened called meetings on 09/27/23 and 10/25/23, where they:

- Completed a study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book "Life Together" and started a new study of Jonathan Merritt's book "Learning to Speak God from Scratch."
- Approved recommendation from finance to use \$70,000 in Memorial Funds and \$50,000 from Capital Reserves for cost over-runs on Thomas Hall.
- Reported on Fellowship Hall renovation progress. Dedication scheduled for Nov. 5, 2023.
- Reported on Congregational Officer Nominating Committee candidates.
- Scheduled a session retreat in November in Fellowship Hall
- Approved the Communion schedule for 2024

The next two Session meetings are scheduled for November 17th and December 13th. If you have any questions or would like to see the minutes, please contact Janit Maguire, Clerk of Session at janitmaguire@gmail.com or 845-527-6409.

DATES TO REMEMBER

**November 5th - Dedication of Thomas Hall
(10:30am Worship Only - Dedication to follow the worship service)**

November 12th - Food Drive 11:30am to 1pm

December 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 - Picture Days for New Directory

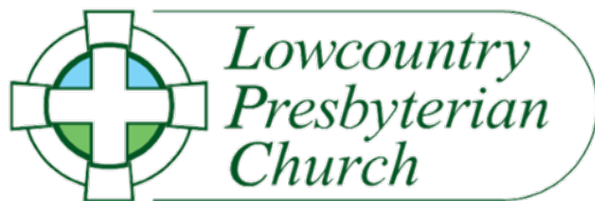
December 6th - Christmas Dinner

December 10th - Christmas Cantata by the Chancel Choir

**December 24th - Morning Worship 10:30am (only)
Communion & Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at 4 & 7pm**

Mission Statement:

Surrounded by God's grace, we are a family of faith joined together through Christ, offering meaning and hope to all by the way we worship, serve and live.



10 Simmonsville Rd., Bluffton SC 29910
Phone: 843-815-6570
E-mail: office@lowcountrypres.org