

LOWCOUNTRY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Sunday, November 22, 2026
10:30am

Galatians 3:23-29

[23]Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until
faith would be revealed. [24]Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ
came, so that we might be justified by faith. [25]But now that faith has come, we
are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, [26]for in Christ Jesus you are all
children of God through faith. [27]As many of you as were baptized into Christ
have clothed yourselves with Christ. [28]There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is
no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are
one in Christ Jesus. [29]And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's
offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Mark 3:32-35

[32]A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your
brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” [33]And he replied, “Who are
my mother and my brothers?” [34]And looking at those who sat around him, he
said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! [35]Whoever does the will of God is
my brother and sister and mother.”

Celebration of Worship
Sunday, November 22, 2026 – 10:30am

Silent Meditation Frederich Buechner

Basically, your friends are not your friends for any particular reason. They are your friends for no particular reason. The job you do, the family you have, the way you vote, the major achievements and blunders of your life, your religious convictions or lack of them are all somehow set off to one side when the two of you get together. If you are old friends, you know all those things about each other and a lot more besides, but they are beside the point. The usual distinctions of older-younger, richer-poorer, smarter-dumber, male-female even, cease to matter. You meet with a clean slate every time, and you meet on equal terms.

Prelude *Come Thou Almighty King* arr. Karen Ball

Welcome and Announcements Rev. David Johnson

Introit *The Steadfast Love of the Lord* Hymn #59

Call to Worship Robert Yakely

One: We gather together in the name of Jesus Christ—
All: Members of God's family, and brothers and sisters to one another.
One: There are no outsiders here among us, no one has any special standing.
All: All are welcome and valued as beloved children of God.
One: For we have been brought together by the redeeming love of Jesus,
All: Who is our teacher, our Lord, and head of the church.
One: We join together as God's family for worship!

Hymn #367** ***Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

***Invocation** Rev. Johnson

Unison Prayer of Confession

Holy and life-giving God, this morning we confess the times that our words or actions have hurt the people around us, often those we love the most. We confess that sometimes we would rather be right than loving, and bully others to our point of view. Sometimes we refuse to let go of grudges, preferring the role of victim to the joy of restored relationship. Forgive us God, and set us free to live and love as brothers and sisters in Christ. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Response Hymn #62 ***Love the Lord Your God*****

Love the Lord your God with all your heart. Love the Lord your God with all your soul. Love the Lord your God with all your mind. Love the Lord your God with all that you are.

Children's Moment (Children may leave for Children's Church)

Scripture Reading Galatians 3:23-29 (pg. 178)
Mark 3:32-35 (pg. 35)
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon **"Family Matters"** **Rev. David Johnson**

Hymn #318** ***In Christ There is no East or West **(vv. 1, 2, 3)**

***Affirmation of Faith** **Confession of 1967 (9.44)**

God has created the peoples of the earth to be one universal family. In his reconciling love, God overcomes the barriers between sisters and brothers and breaks down every form of discrimination based on racial or ethnic difference, real or imaginary. The church is called to bring all people to receive and uphold one another as persons in all relationships of life… Congregations, individuals, or groups of Christians who exclude, dominate, or patronize others, however subtly, resist the Spirit of God and bring contempt on the faith which they profess.

***Gloria Patri # 581**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer Rev. de Beer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings and Change Can Make a Change

Offertory *To Everything There is a Season* Ron Harris
Chancel Choir

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication** Rev. de Beer

Hymn #37** ***Let All Things Now Living

***Benediction** Rev. Johnson

***Postlude** *Rejoice the Lord Is King* arr. Jason Payne

*** Those who are able, please stand.**

*** Love The Lord Your God* - Words and Music by Jean and Jim Strathdee
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Please remember with your prayers:
Judy Wells John Rea Pat Woodard

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Jerri Hanna.
A memorial service is being planned for January 23rd at 11:00am.

The flowers today are to the Glory of God, given by
Betty Smith in loving memory of her parents and brother.

Welcome to worship! All visitors are welcome to LPC where we seek to love and serve Christ. Let us know of your visit using the visitor card in the pew rack and dropping it in the offering basket. Care for infants through 6 years old during worship is provided in the nursery. Activity bags for elementary age children are available in the Narthex.

Friendship Pads - We extend a warm welcome to everyone worshiping with us today and invite you to sign the friendship pad in your pew. Please include your name and contact information you'd like to share. After signing, pass the pad along and greet those around you. After all have signed, return it to its original place, remove the signed sheet, and place it in the offering basket.

Pledge Card Reminder – If you haven't returned your 2027 Pledge Card, it is not too late. Please place your pledge card in the offering basket or send it to the church office. This will help the finance committee complete the 2027 Budget. Extra cards are available in the Narthex.

No Adult Sunday Class November 29th. Join us Sunday, December 6th in the parlor at 9:15am to discuss Esther 4:1-17, For Such a Time as This.

Children's Sunday school is the 2nd and 4th Sunday following the Children's Moment.

Tuesday Bible Study – Join us Tuesdays at 1:30pm in the parlor as we study the Lord's Prayer.

The short story reading and discussion group that usually meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 4pm in the parlor will meet **Thursday, December 3rd**. All are welcome to participate. Contact Rev. Dave for a copy of the book. They will discuss chapter 4.

🌿 **Deck the Halls! Hanging of the Greens** 🎄 The Christmas season is fast approaching, and it soon will be time to *Deck the Halls—together!* Mark your calendars and plan to join us for our annual **Hanging of the Greens next Sunday, November 29th**, immediately following worship. We'll transform our beautiful sanctuary with greenery, wreaths, bows, and all the beauty of the season as we prepare our church to celebrate the birth of Christ.
Many hands make light and festive work! Come lend your time and your Christmas spirit. And when the decorating is done, we'll celebrate our efforts with a light pizza lunch!
Please meet in the rear right pews immediately following worship on 11/29. 🎄

Mittens and Things Collection - If you forgot your <u>New</u> Children's Winter Clothing (mittens, scarves, gloves, jackets, boots and sweaters - sizes Toddler through Teen), please bring them first thing Monday morning.

It is time to order memorial poinsettias - To purchase poinsettias for the sanctuary for Christmas in memory or in honor of someone, please fill out the form located in the Narthex and place it in the offering basket or mail it to the church office by December 1st. Make checks payable to LPC with the notation "Poinsettia". 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.

Christmas Potluck - December 2, 2026 at 6:00pm in Thomas Hall - Join us for potluck and Christmas Sing-a-long. Membership Ministry will provide spiral ham and dinner rolls. Bring your favorite Christmas Mug and describe to your tablemates why it is your favorite. Use it for your beverage and save a paper cup. **Sign-up by noon on November 29th** in the Narthex or online and indicate what you will bring (side, salad or dessert). Merry Christmas!

November Change Can Make a Change will be used for our annual Angel Tree for the children of Agape in Hardeeville and Neighborhood Outreach Connection (NOC) children in Bluffton. NOC after school program meets in our Al and Marian Thomas Hall. We will be providing $25 Walmart gift cards for the families of NOC children and Agape children. We will be using the CCMAC for purchasing those cards and also for food for their families. The Mission Ministry members will do the shopping with the proceeds from CCMAC.
Angel Tree gifts are due November 30th. If you selected an angel from the Angel Tree, please wrap the gift and attach the angel to the package. Place the gift on the designated table in the Narthex. Thank you for your generosity over the many years of our Angel Tree.

Thank you to all the members of our Congregation who donated canned goods and fresh produce to our Agape Family Life Center Collection on Sunday, November 8th. With the final count, 1,688 items were collected and placed in the pickup van from Agape. The Mission Team was very appreciative of the team from Agape picking up the items at church and taking everything directly back to Agape. We had a great group working with the food donations. Thank you to Kathleen Casey, Sandy Iams, Sandy Benninger, Diane and Mick Mikkelson, Paul Sell, David Frankenfield, Dale Wilkes, Jan and Tom Catanese and Anne Redlus for volunteering their time. Prayers are lifted up to all the families who will receive this food from our Congregation.

Men of Purpose meets Saturdays at 9:00am - They are studying the book "Unwavering Faithfulness" by Walter Brueggmann and Brent A. Strawn. All men are invited. Books are available for $15. Questions? Contact: Bill Walker – kamwheeling@gmail.com.

Join Our Livestream and Sound Team! LPC members and friends are invited to volunteer with our Livestream and Sound Team! This is a wonderful opportunity to use your gifts, develop new skills, and serve the Lord behind the scenes. Our team helps ensure that worship services are heard clearly and streamed smoothly, making it possible for people both in our church and beyond to participate in worship. All you need is a willing heart, a teachable spirit, and a desire to serve. Training and support will be provided, and the time commitment is just one Sunday per month. If interested, please contact Pam Davis-Webb at psdw44@gmail.com. Thank you for prayerfully considering this opportunity to serve. Every helping hand makes a difference!

"Thank you" doesn't adequately express our thanks for the moral support, prayers, cards and the many other ways you affirmed your presence in our lives during the past 8 weeks. We appreciate every one of you, and love you!
Sincerely, Danie and Annette

LPC Family, we made it out unscathed Monday night. A slight delay in Chicago put us in about 9 o'clock at Las Vegas. It was a very long day for us, but we managed and John did very well considering... I can't tell you what a pleasure it was Sunday. The well wishes and prayers really touched our hearts. We give our very best to our Presbyterian family. You will always be special to us.
Fondly, Edith and John Rea

The Meditation Garden was planted and completed. We have accomplished a great deal since we began in May with the clean-up. There are sixteen members of the Garden Ministry who have contributed to the beautification project: refurbishing signage, raking, removing debris, pulling weeds, pulling up acorn trees, shoveling, digging holes, amending the holes, research, finding plants, sending soil samples to the Clemson Extension Agent, discussing with the Clemson Extension Agent and Bluffton Master Gardeners, and planting, fertilizing and now watering. It is becoming a real garden which we hope will inspire more use, become a place to meditate, reflect, and pray, and be an additional outdoor space for many occasions. When you are led by the Holy Spirit you just have to go with his flow as he guides, directs, and leads.
The artist, Theresa King, painted the wall in the Impressionistic style of Monet. She worked for four hours and gifted her work to us. We thank her for generously sharing of her gift. This fountain area will be completed next spring with additional plants; some not available now.
Now we will begin to see the fruits of all our labor as the plants grow and flourish and provide color beginning in winter, spring, summer and fall. The Garden Ministry will continue as a Garden Club to meet often, share knowledge, maintain, water, and care for this lovely garden.
My gratitude to all for the support of beautifying this lovely garden space and to all those whose hands, feet, hearts, minds, and souls contributed generously with their time.
Happy Thanksgiving! There is much to be thankful for every day. God Bless you and yours.
In Christ, Brenda Wildt

LPC is an Earth Care Congregation!
Since 2018, LPC has earned and maintained our designation as an Earthcare Congregation in the PC(USA). In doing this, we commit to keeping the Earthcare Pledge.

Earth care Pledge (excerpt)
Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

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10 Simmonsville Road
Bluffton, SC 29910

Church Office: (843) 815-6570
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Web Page: **www.lowcountrypres.org**

Office hours: Mon-Thu: 8:30am-4:00pm;
Friday: 8:30am-Noon

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Daniel de Beer, Transitional Pastor: **daniel@lowcountrypres.org**
Rev. David Johnson, Associate Pastor**:** **revjohnson@lowcountrypres.org**
Office/Christy James: **office@lowcountrypres.org**
Dr. Robin Lind, Music Director: **rlind@lowcountrypres.org**
Dr. Karen Ball, Organist—**kball@olivet.edu**

The Session

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Elaine Branda (843-816-2240)	Jan Alpert (843- 837-2177)	Kathleen Casey (732-740-7496)
Anne Redlus (843-705-6373)	Sandy Iams (843-814-9078)	Don Hamburger (843-729-7136)
Bill Walker (843-816-0884)	Eugenia Johnston (770-540-9488)	Vicki Melton (843-338-8735)
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