



The Light

May 2026

*Brunch on
the Patio*

May 17, 2026 at 9:00am

Join us for Brunch on the patio
for members and friends
provided by the
Congregation Care Committee!

Bring your own lawn chair.

Sign-up by May 11th

Membership Ministry



Seven New Members joined our congregation on March 22nd.

Picture: front row Mark and Marla Suckow, Peggy and Jerry Broadwater. Back row Christine Gottsch and David Frankenfield. Not pictured - Andrea Frankenfield.



JERALD AND MARGARET BROADWATER

Peggy was born in Detroit, moved to California at age 10, and also spent time in Columbia, MO. Jerry, originally from Kansas City, MO, has lived in several cities including Charleston, SC. He is a retired pharmaceutical sales rep with one son in Minneapolis. Jerry enjoys playing and watching golf.



ANDREA AND DAVID FRANKENFIELD

Andrea and Dave relocated from Fort Worth, TX to the Lowcountry in November 2025. Both are retired military veterans—Andrea was a member of the Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps and Dave was a Chief Petty Officer with the Navy Reserves' Seabees. Additionally, Dave retired from the Army Corps of Engineers as an Army Civilian. Andrea holds bachelor's degrees in music and dietetics, along with a master's degree in nutrition. Dave is excited to explore the low country through motorcycle rides and photography, and Andrea actively participates in several wind ensembles. Together, they also enjoy spending time with their boxer, Daisy.



CHRISTINE GOTTSCH

Christine moved from Long Island, New York, to South Carolina in 2020. She holds degrees in education and business, with experience in teaching and management. Her family includes a son, daughter-in-law, and four grandchildren. Christine enjoys outdoor activities, travel, sports, history, and genealogy. She was President of the Sagtikos Manor Historical Society on Long Island and now volunteers in the low country with a veterans' group preserving local cemetery gravestones.



MARK AND MARLA SUCKOW

Mark and Marla moved from Northern Wisconsin to Bluffton in 2017 to be closer to their son and his family. They have three children, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Since their relocation, they've been snowbirds but are now transitioning to become full-time South Carolinians. Both have participated in Lions Clubs in Wisconsin and the low country. Throughout their careers, they lived in four different states and always enjoyed meeting new people. They value LPC's traditional service and welcoming atmosphere and are glad to have found a church home.

Membership Ministry

Hospitality Hosts Needed

Hospitality time after worship is an important part of our LPC fellowship life. We are looking for teams of two to host this important time once a quarter or just twice a year. Our Membership Ministry provides the coffee and OJ. Your team would provide light refreshments, set up, host, and clean up. Membership has a list of bakers who can assist with the refreshments, if you like. Contact Carol Hissom at (843) 705-1984 or 600carol@gmail.com.

March Madness

The Souper Bowl luncheon was cancelled due to our recent snowstorm. The Membership Ministry rebranded the luncheon and went with the next seasonal sporting event and held a March Madness Chili/Soup luncheon in Thomas Hall on March 15th. Over 40 people attended the fellowship potluck enjoying soup, chili, salads, bread, and dessert.



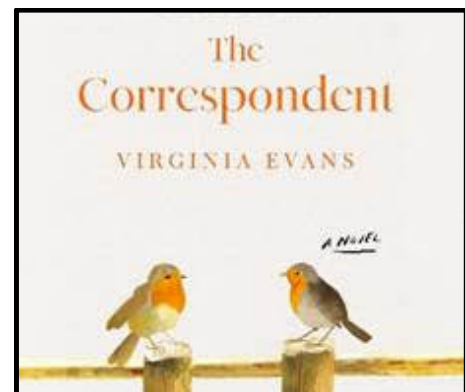
Office Volunteer Opportunities:

The church office is looking for volunteers to cover lunch hours and vacation hours and various office functions for the church administrator. The main duties are to answer the phone and help those coming in to borrow medical equipment from our lending closet. The medical lending program can be rewarding as you see our equipment being used by our members and neighbors in need. Training is provided so you can see what is involved. Please contact Christy if you are interested in volunteering by email, office@lowcountrypres.org or call the church office, 843-815-6570. Thank you.

LPC Book Club:

The Correspondent, Virginia Evans

The book group will meet on Thursday, July 16th at 2:00 to discuss *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans, a gem of a novel about the power of finding connection with people through letters. Sybil Van Antwerp has throughout her life used letters to make sense of the world and her place in it, and she expects her world to go on as it always has—a mother, grandmother, wife, divorcee and distinguished lawyer. But letters from someone in her past cause her to reexamine her life.



Faith Formation

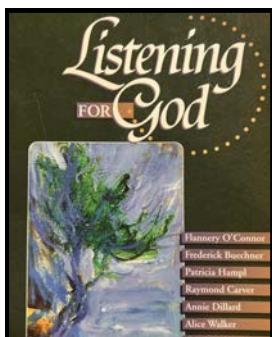
Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday School meets on the second and fourth Sundays of each month in the room down the hallway past the left entrance to the sanctuary. May 10 will be the last day for Children's Sunday School during the summer. Kids Space will continue each Sunday during the summer.



Palm Sunday

The children led the pastors into the sanctuary enthusiastically waving their palms. Then Rev. Danie told the children about Jesus entering Jerusalem riding a donkey while the people waved their palms and shouted praises.



Spring Bible Study

"Short Stories of God's Presence" – Rev. Johnson is leading a discussion group with a different stand-alone short story, the 4th Thursday of each month. This meeting is at 4 pm in the parlor at the main church.

Conversation Study for Men

The 3rd Saturday of each month at 9:00 in the Parlor at the main church, Rev. De Beer and/or Rev. Johnson will lead a casual conversation study for men. All men are welcome for coffee and discussions.



Adult Sunday School

Each Sunday morning, people gather in the parlor from 9:15 to 10:00 to enjoy a learning experience. Subjects vary from Bible verses to contemporary subjects. You are welcome to visit anytime. Adult Sunday School will continue each Sunday morning during the spring and summer. For more information contact Joe Franklin – jfrankli@georgiasouthern.edu or Bill Walker – kamwheeling@gmail.com



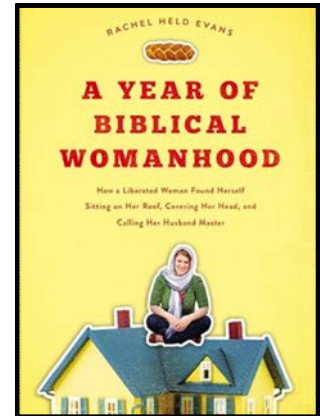
Faith Formation

Women of Faith

Women of Faith are in the midst of an engaging and lively study of *A Year of Biblical Womanhood* by Rachel Held Evans. We warmly invite you to join us on Tuesday, May 12th at 11 a.m. in the parlor for our final session before our summer hiatus. Our May discussions will focus on pages 146-173 (*Purity*).

The group will be taking the months of June, July and August off and will reconvene on September 8th. will continue as the focus book for the remainder of 2026. We'd be delighted to have you join the conversation!

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

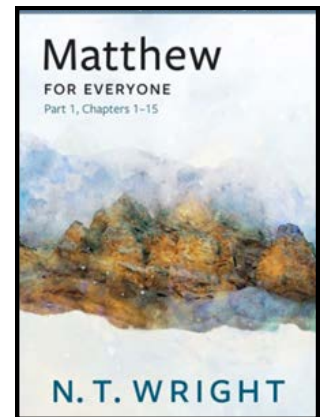


Men of Purpose

“MATTHEW FOR EVERYONE” by N.T. Wright

This expanded edition includes Wright’s updated translation of the biblical text, supplemented by a new introduction and a dynamic study guide tailored for small group study sessions. A Bible verse is given, then Wright gives several paragraphs of his commentary on that scripture.

This discussion of this book will continue through May 9, then the group will not meet again until Sept 12 in the fall and will start discussions using a new book to be determined.



Men of Purpose is a small discussion group of fellows who meet each Saturday morning at 9:00 am in the Parlor at the main church. All men are welcome. For questions, please contact Bill Walker – kamwheeling@gmail.com.



MOP fall 2025 Photo by Rich Allen



WOF experiment with “modest” dress!



WOF locate matching heart pieces for February conversation partners.



On March 28 we celebrated Chuck Thomas’s many contributions to Men of Purpose and said “So Long” before he moved to Greenwood, SC.

Working Together in Service

Members of the Worship Ministry and the Building & Grounds Team, along with volunteers from the congregation, recently joined together in a shared effort to clean and refresh the church sanctuary. With many hands working side by side, dusting, polishing, and preparing the space, the teams helped ensure that our sanctuary remains a welcoming and reverent place for worship.

This time of service was more than simple cleaning—it was an act of care for the sacred space where our congregation gathers to pray, sing, and grow in faith. We are grateful for the spirit of cooperation and dedication shown by everyone who participated!



Missions

March Agape Food Drive

Thank you all for your generous donations to Agape! Once again Ponchitta was very thankful for LPC's support! We delivered 1,034 food items including 258 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables. We also collected 95 cans of tuna and chicken, 92 jars of peanut butter and jelly and 127 cans of soup.



Many thanks to those who helped, Debbie and Joe Franklin, Kathleen Casey, Sandy Iams, Paul Sells, Tom Catanese and Dale Wilkes for all their help greeting, unloading and sorting the food. It's wonderful to see all of you stop by to donate!



Missions Update on Giving:

1. Souper Bowl of Caring donations totaled \$1,922 and the recipient was Bluffton Community Kitchen.
2. Change Can Make a Change
 - a. January – Memory Matters received \$1,734.
 - b. February – Child Abuse Prevention Association received \$3,697.
 - c. March – Tunnel to Towers received \$3,602.50These donations are outstanding and the Mission Team thanks you for your generous support
3. In the last few months, Missions received asks from two community organizations:
 - a. The Sun City Lions Club asked for support in the purchase of a new vision screening camera which costs \$5,000. In the current school year, members of this club screened over 6,000 students in 17 schools for vision and hearing. The Mission team voted to donate \$1,000. towards this camera.
 - b. The GFWC Woman's League of the Lowcountry asked for help in making up more Pink Bags of Hope for women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. The club members had donated 80 bags in the Fall and the supply at Dr. Ringer's office by the end of February was down to 4. The bags contain 10-12 items that would support a woman dealing with breast cancer. The members of the club will make the bags up and Missions will help with the purchase of the items with a \$1,000 donation.

Change Can Make a Change

April - One Great Hour of Sharing sponsored by the Presbyterian Church USA

May - World Central Kitchen (See more on page 13)

June – School Supplies for Agape Family Life Center and Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce Back to School Days

Missions

Red Cross Blood Drive

Our next American Red Cross Blood Drive at LPC will be Monday, July 6th from 1:30-6 pm at Thomas Hall. Watch for more information in the Sunday church bulletins as the time gets closer.

Blessing Box

On May 26th, LPC will celebrate the 2nd Anniversary of our Blessing Box. It has been utilized regularly and hopefully benefits people in the area. It is monitored with weekly assignments by our team: Wendy MacCarthy, Janis Lakin, Don and June Allison, Sandy Benninger, Ann Warren and Anne Redlus. Our congregations has been very generous with donations when the ask has gone out. At the end of April, we will take a pause in your donations to the box. May we all remember that the Blessing Box was dedicated in the memory of Kevin and Wendy MacCarthy's daughter, Kelly who passed away in 2018.

Did You Know?

LPC donated \$2500.00 from our Mission Beyond budget to All Hands and Hearts. Their program in Ukraine is providing access to mobile train cars that offer warmth, electricity and connection for residents who have been affected by the power outages from the drone and missile attacks.



Backpack Buddies

15 volunteers packed food bags for Backpack Buddies at Red Cedar Elementary on March 3rd. Our next food packing will be on Tuesday, May 5 at 3:10 p.m. at Red Cedar Elementary. All volunteers are welcome and appreciated.



Memory Matters Seminar in Thomas Hall

The local Memory Matters organization sponsored an "Ask a Neurologist" seminar, led by Dr. Hannah Harrison at LPC's Thomas Hall on March 25. Over 125 people, including many LPC members, packed LPC's Thomas Hall to hear Dr. Harrison's presentation on red flags of concern vs. normal signs of aging, the 4 types of memory loss disease, the latest information about diagnostic tests and assessments, and how to prepare for a loved one's appointment with a neurologist.



Dr. Harrison answered many questions from the audience, and stayed after the program for 1-on-1 questions and discussion with audience members.

Memory Matters also presented a brief overview of their monthly class called "The Savvy Caregiver", designed to help family caregivers work with and support their loved ones who are living with Alzheimer's or other dementia conditions.

Memory Matters gave LPC a book entitled "A Dignified Life: The Best Friends Approach to Alzheimer's Care". A guide for care partners. It is available in the LPC library.

Music Ministry



Music Updates

Thank you to all of the Bell Ringers and Choir Members for adding so much to the services at LPC this past season, which included both the Advent and Lenten Cantatas. Thank you for the beautiful performance of "This is My Father's World" on April 12th with choir, bells and piano. Your dedication, positive attitude, and musical gifts are enjoyed by all and deeply appreciated. Special thanks to Dr. Karen Ball for all that she brings each Sunday to the worship service through her playing and her musical selections, many of which are her own arrangements. And thank you to Karen Johnson for subbing for Karen Ball at the keyboard during the year while also singing in the choir. Shout out to Andrea Frankenfield (flute) and Burton Rich (cello) for adding to the worship music this past year with their beautiful playing.

Thank you to Tom Smith who leads the Children's Choir, bringing a smile to our faces as we enjoy their singing. If you have a young child or grandchild, interested in singing with this group, please contact Tom for more information.

The Jubilate Ringers played for the last time on May 10th and will take a break during the summer months. The Chancel Choir will sing for the last time on June 14th. They will start up again in September. This summer we will offer Special Music, presented by various members of the choir and outside musicians.

We in the Music Ministry are so thankful for the staff, elders and congregation who are so appreciative and supportive of our musical offerings each Sunday.

Your encouragement lifts our spirits and it is a joy to Praise God with our music.



And finally, we encourage anyone who is interested in playing bells, singing in the choir or who plays an instrument to join us in the Music Ministry of the church. Please contact Robin Lind or Judy Barry for more information. Thank you.

Member Spotlight



Evelyn Baker, a founding member of LPC, is in the Member Spotlight for this quarter. She and her husband William (Bill) Baker moved to South Carolina in 1989. Married on September 6, 1953, they became parents to daughter Lynn (Baker) Whiteside and to son Jay Baker. Evelyn is the proud grandparent of 3 grandchildren – Ben and Jaclyn Whiteside and Halea Baker.

Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Evelyn attended church all her life. She and her husband Bill lived 21 years in Indiana – attending a Presbyterian church - before moving to South Carolina to enjoy their retirement and to be closer to their daughter Lynn.

While living in Pennsylvania, Evelyn worked, for 12 ½ years, at Applebee's Wholesale Plumbing & Heating, while Bill worked in management at Bethlehem Steel. Living in Indiana, they experienced a lifestyle change living and working a cattle farm. Their children attended school, worked the farm and were very involved in the 4-H program.

Upon moving to Bluffton, Evelyn and Bill became involved with the forming of Lowcountry Presbyterian. Worship began in September of 1993 on the second floor of a bank building on the corner of Burnt Church Road and 278. In four months time, the church sanctuary was built and the first services were held on Christmas Eve. That sanctuary is today's Thomas Hall. It was intended to serve as the church until the larger church could be built and then become the fellowship hall. Evelyn and Bill were among the 88 members who were formally chartered by the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery in June of 1994. Dr. Frank Sells served as the organizing pastor. Evelyn served LPC as a faithful choir member until a few years ago.

Because of mobility, Evelyn is not able to attend Sunday services as she would like. So, when she is able to attend, stop by and say "hello."

Worship Ministry

Kirkin' O' The Tartan: Faith, Heritage and Blessing at LPC

On February 13th, LPC observed the Kirkin' of the Tartan, a tradition that celebrates Scottish heritage while remembering the courage of those who preserved their faith and culture.

The tradition recalls a time in the 18th century when Highland dress and tartans were banned in Scotland. According to popular tradition, Scottish clanspeople would secretly bring a piece of their family tartan to church so it could be blessed, asking God to protect their loved ones and preserve their identity. In celebrating the Kirkin' o' the Tartan, we honor those who came before us and remember that, like the threads of a tartan woven together, our lives are bound together in faith and community.



The Beauty of Easter

On Easter Sunday, our sanctuary was beautifully adorned with vibrant Easter plants, adding color and life to our celebration of the resurrection. Lilies and azaleas surrounded the worship space, serving as a joyful reminder of new life and the hope we celebrate in the risen Christ.

The Worship Ministry is grateful to all who helped provide the flowers. We also give thanks to our ministers, musicians, ushers, liturgists, AV/sound team members, greeters, and hospitality volunteers, whose leadership and gifts enriched our Easter celebration!



May Birthdays

1 Lynette Tate	11 Eva Kottraba
1 Clint Young	13 Steve Tate
2 Tony Pannozzo	14 Jaxson Hardin
2 Fran Parker	19 Gray Toulmin
4 David Casperson	20 Susan Forrest
4 Chris Johnson	22 Herb Costolo
4 Pam Davis Webb	23 Terry Parker
5 Lynn Cordy	23 Dennis Pearsall
6 Sharon Stauffer	26 Cristi Rozea
6 S. Dale Wilkes	27 Andy Hough
7 Debbie Hough	28 Robin Bloom
8 Dede Bush	30 Venus Holland
8 Janet Clapp	30 Emear Smith
11 Stephen Ball	31 Joann Pearsall

July Birthdays

1 Andrea Frankenfield	17 Robert Hedrick
2 Stuart Bendelow	17 Jay Marshall
5 Carolyn Welsh	19 Tom Smith
7 Marsha Hester	19 Carol Thorne
9 Mary Beth Schauer	20 Margaret Johansen
9 Robin Lind	20 Perry Robinson
10 Carter Fox	21 Phyllis Willever
11 Susan Fearon	23 Emily Hale Pope
11 Roxy Isaacs	24 Debby Miller
11 Lori Law	26 Leslie Dove
11 Clarke Marshall	26 Craig Johnson
11 Dottie McElroy	26 Dave Stevenson
13 Robert Heisey	27 Chuck Thomas
16 Bonnie Flack	30 Taylor Evans
17 Michele Eberhart	

June Birthdays

1 Elaine Branda	18 John Schauer
1 Bob Flack	19 Peggy Evans
1 Bob Overfield	19 Rick Underwood
1 Burton Rich	20 Susan Belli
2 Sharon Heisey	21 Paul Sell
3 Wendy MacCarthy	22 Bob Krantz
4 Betty Breedlove	22 Sue Higgins
5 Donald Allison	22 Stephen Meyer
6 Kate McClain	23 Karen Buhman
6 Susan Wilson	23 Scott Miller
8 Kathy Walters	24 Karl Juelch
9 Millie Meyer	24 Emery Johnson
10 Ronald Buhman	25 Anne Grayson
10 Carmen Chaveles	26 June Allison
14 Jan Catanese	28 Donna Metzinger
14 Matt Quick	28 John Warren
15 Ellie Quick	29 Jim Wildt

Christian Sympathy:

Christian sympathy is extended to Micki Underwood on the death of her brother, Chuck Funk.

Thank You Notes:

My Lowcountry Friends, Your beautiful crocheted prayer shawl brought me warmth in two ways. My hospital "shivers" and most importantly, my faith and spirit. And a visit from Pastor Dave brings me such joy as well. I am blessed. - Sue Forrest

Thank you so much for all the kindness shown to us after Frank's hospital stay and my recent surgery. The cards, calls, flowers, food, emails and visits were so appreciated. - Elaine and Frank Branda

LPC family, thank you so much for the flowers, visits, food, cards, countless emails and texts you have showered me with since my knee surgery on April 6. I am so fortunate to be a member of such a loving, caring church family. Blessings, Doris Koch

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers and generous gift card for dinner in celebration of my 15 years working here at LPC. It has been such a pleasure to work with all of you. This church has such a kind and generous spirit and I am happy to be a part of the work and ministry. - Christy James



May Change Can Make a Change:

World Central Kitchen:

May's Change Can Make a Change will be to support the World Central Kitchen. Founded in 2010 by Chef Jose Andres, it is a nonprofit organization that is first to the frontlines providing fresh meals in response to crises. Applying their model of quick action, leveraging local resources and adapting in real time, WCK has served more than 600 million nourishing meals around the world. When disaster strikes WCK's Relief team mobilizes with the urgency of now to start cooking and serving meals to people in need. Currently, WCK can be found in Ukraine, Hawaii, Mariana Islands, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lebanon, Israel and Egypt to name a few places.



In April 2026, the WCK's Relief Team was in Georgia responding to the Highway 82 fire which was a fast moving blaze that destroyed more than 5,000 acres, destroying 87 homes and threatening about 1,000 more. WCK provides good food not only for nourishment but also comfort and hope especially in times of crisis. Learn more at wck.org. Thank you for your support.

Session Highlights

The Session called an Annual Congregational meeting for 1/25 and stated session meetings on 1/27, 2/24, and 3/24. Highlights are listed below.

Reviewed:

- 2025 Annual Report.
- 2025 financial statements with the congregation (Treasurer Evans)
- Mission Study process with the congregation

Elected:

- 2026 Church Officer Nominating Committee: Terry Parker, Micki Underwood and Venus Holland. The chair and an additional elder member will be elected at a future session meeting.
- Members of the Pastor Nominating Committee: Stephen Ball, Annie Ehrhart, Debbie Hager, Lori Higgins, Alane Peragallo, Elder Patti Rozonkiewicz, and Paul Sell.
- Elders Jan Alpert and Patti Rozonkiewicz to serve as commissioners at the 5/12 and 9/19 Charleston Atlantic Presbytery meetings respectively.
- Elder Janit Maguire to continue to serve a 2-year term 5/1/26-4/30/28 as Assistant Treasurer.

Approved:

- Rev. Johnson's 2026 terms of call
- Mission Study
- Quote to replace handrails in the accessible parking lot
- Policies for electronic meetings and antiracism as required by the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery
- Ministry Discernment Profile, which is posted on the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection website. Both applicants and the LPC Pastor Nominating Committee will use this site to communicate regarding our search for a Senior Pastor.
- 2025 Church Statistical Report to be submitted to Charleston Atlantic Presbytery.
- Quote to replace front exterior railings.
- Scheduled annual corporate meeting for 11/1/26
- Received seven new members on 3/22/26.

The next three meetings are scheduled for 4/24, 5/26, and 6/23. 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.



The Building & Grounds Ministry wants to recognize Brenda Wildt and her team of "gardeners" who worked so diligently at cleaning up the overgrown vegetation around the Patio/Meditation Garden area. This is the first step of further beautification of this area.

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.



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