



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, July 19, 2026
10:30am**

Matthew 13:24–30

The Parable of Weeds among the Wheat

²⁴ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Celebration of Worship
Sunday, July 19, 2026 – 10:30am

Silent Meditation

—Daniel Kahneman

“People who face a difficult question often answer an easier one instead, without realizing it.”

Prelude

Our Great Savior

arr. Karen Ball

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Daniel de Beer

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 139)

Vicki Melton

One: We’ve come to worship God,

All: who loved us before we were yet born,

One: who knows us even better than we know ourselves,

All: whose presence never leaves us,

One: and whose love for us never ceases.

All: This is our God.

One: Let’s worship together!

***Hymn #366**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

***Invocation**

Rev. Dr. Daniel de Beer

Unison Prayer of Confession (based on Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43)

Merciful and Holy God, You are the Sower of good seeds, planting truth, grace, and love in the soil of our hearts. We admit we have tolerated bitterness when You called us to forgiveness. We have allowed the noise of the world to drown out the whisper of Your Spirit. We have judged others harshly, forgetting that the harvest belongs to You alone. Lord, you remind us you are patient, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. Forgive us for our impatience, our quickness to condemn, and our slowness to trust your timing. Teach us to live as children of light in a world where darkness still lingers. Give us eyes to see Your hand at work, even when the field looks messy and unfinished. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Response #707 *Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord*

Take Thou our hearts, O Christ, they are Thine own; come Thou within our souls and claim Thy throne; help us to shed abroad Thy deathless love; use us to make the earth like heaven above.

(Children may leave for Kid's Space)

Scripture Reading Matthew 13:24–30 (pg. 14)
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon “A challenging question...” **Rev. Dr. Daniel de Beer**

***Affirmation of Faith** based on Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

We believe in the sovereignty of God, who patiently allows the righteous and the wicked to coexist until the appointed harvest, revealing God's love and patience for the world God has made.

Even amid righteousness and wickedness, God's purposes will be fulfilled, and God's reign will prevail and His righteousness will be fully revealed.

We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ, trusting His wisdom, justice, and final victory over evil. Therefore, we commit to living faithfully and humbly, trusting God's work in us and in others, refraining from judgment, and resting in God's timing and purposes.

***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

Hymn #367** ***Come, Ye Thankful People, Come (vv. 2 & 3)

Minute for Mission Bluffton Jasper Volunteers in Medicine Pam Toney

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings and Change Can Make a Change

Offertory *The Hands of the Lord*
John Dreier, soloist

*** Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. de Beer

***Hymn #248**

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

***Benediction**

Rev. de Beer

***Postlude**

Festive Episode

by Louis Scarmolin

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

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Thank you to John Dreier for sharing his gifts in the special music today.

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 - To help us extend a warm welcome to everyone worshipping with us today, we invite you to sign the friendship pad, located on the aisle side of your pew. Please include your name and contact information you'd like to share. After signing, pass the pad along and take a moment to 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 during the offertory.

Please remember with your prayers:

Richard Gielbelhaus Jerri Hanna Rev. David Johnson Judy Wells

**The flowers today are to the Glory of God,
given by Kay Hedrick in honor of Bob Hedrick's birthday.**

Bible Studies and Adult Program Studies for 2026. Rev. Danie or Dave's Bible Study using the book "*Testimony of Faithful Witnesses in the Bible*" by Rev. Dr. Broderick D. Belin meets **Tuesdays at 1:00pm** in the parlor and will continue each Tuesday through August 11th.

Adult Sunday Class meets in the parlor at 9:15am.

Kid's Space will continue to meet through the summer.

July Change Can Make a Change offering will be received for **Bluffton Jasper Volunteers in Medicine**. The mission of Bluffton Jasper County Volunteers in Medicine (BJVIM) is to provide free medical, dental, and mental health care in a compassionate and professional manner to the uninsured of greater Bluffton and Jasper County, with an emphasis on preventive medicine and health education. Through the generosity of volunteer healthcare professionals, community partners, and donors, BJVIM helps ensure that neighbors facing barriers to care have access to essential health services. In 2025 alone, BJVIM provided 8,124 medical, dental, and mental health visits through our Bluffton and Ridgeland clinics. To learn more, visit www.bjvim.org.

Agape Family Life Center - We have learned about a need to help supply additional snacks for the children attending the Summer Camp at Agape Family Life Center. If you would like to donate some of the following items, that would be much appreciated. All items should be individually packaged: goldfish, small cookies, crackers, chips, and packages of peanut butter cheese crackers and similar crackers plus fruit flavored breakfast bars, juice boxes, individual packages of mac and cheese and individual fruit cups.

LPC's American Red Cross Blood Drive met with success. Missions sponsored a blood drive at Thomas Hall on Monday, July 6th. There were 21 units of blood collected which will potentially save 47 lives. Thank you to the volunteers who helped that day Carol Hissom and Nancy Hill along with the Mission Members, Kathleen Casey, Sandy Iams and Anne Redlus.

Agape Summer Food Drive - Sunday August 9th - 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Please help us stock Agape's shelves for the summer by bringing your food donations to LPC on Sunday, August 9th between 11:30 am and 1:00 pm. We will unload your vehicle. If you are attending church that day, please drive through to unload after the service. We are looking forward to seeing everyone and filling our cars with your generous donations! Thank you from the Mission Committee.

Most requested and needed items:

apples and oranges

Maseca (flour to make tortillas)

canned fruit and vegetables

canned chicken and tuna

cereal

pasta sauce and pasta

sweet and white potatoes and onions

dry and canned beans and rice

peanut butter and jelly

baby food

soup

If you have any questions or want to help, please contact Jan Catanese (248)766-0402 or e-mail Jcatanese60@gmail.com.

Your PNC has been meeting almost weekly, going through dozens of applications and interviews. We are committed to following the Holy Spirit's leading in finding the best Senior Pastor to lead this congregation. We are deeply grateful for your prayers, encouragement, and patience throughout this time of transition. Your support strengthens us more than you know.

As we continue this journey together, we ask for your ongoing prayers:

- For our congregation and staff, as we navigate this time of change with grace and unity.
- For the PNC, that we may listen well, discern wisely, and remain open to the Spirit's guidance.
- For our future Senior Pastor, whoever and wherever they may be, that God will prepare their heart even now for the ministry ahead.

Thank you for walking with us in faith and hope. God is at work, and we trust that the right leader will come in God's perfect timing.

The S.T.E.P.S. Planning Team of our Charleston Atlantic Presbytery invite you to our annual STEPS event taking place on **Saturday, August 29th** at the Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church. As people of faith, we have good news to share! We develop our faith in many different ways and through many different acts. STEPS has learning opportunities for every ministry of the church. Join us and others from the congregations in our presbytery as we gather for this opportunity to share and enrich our faith through learning, worship, and fellowship. For more information pick up a brochure on the counter in the narthex, or go to the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery at <https://capresbytery.org/>.

Hospitality after church. Please consider signing up for hospitality. Hosts and donors are needed each week. Approximately two dozen goodies are needed from each donor. The item DOES NOT need to be homemade, store-bought is great. Looking ahead, on August 23 - 2 hosts and partial goodies are needed. Please sign up on the sheets on the bulletin board in the Narthex and text Carol Hissom, 724-255-2949.

Thank you so much for the many expressions of caring that we received over the last few weeks concerning our daughter's surgery. It was comforting knowing that so many people took the time to reach out to us.

Elaine and Frank Branda



LPC is an Earth Care Congregation!

Earth Care Tips:

Begin the day with stillness.

In a season dominated by constant notifications and advertising, nature offers a counterbalance — a reminder that the natural world moves at a slower and steadier pace. So reconnect with the outdoors. Even a five-minute walk lowers stress, supports cardiovascular health, and brings your attention back to something grounding. Observing seasonal changes helps reconnect you to nature — a connection often is lost in the rush of the holidays.

As you walk, notice the sound of the wind, the crunch of leaves or the rhythm of your neighborhood. These details will deepen your awareness of your surroundings. When we pay attention to the world and community around you, it becomes easier to make choices that support your overall well-being and the planet's too. Presence in nature naturally fosters stewardship.

LOWCOUNTRY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**10 Simmonsville Road
Bluffton, SC 29910**

Church Office: (843) 815-6570

E-Mail: office@lowcountrypres.org

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

Elaine Branda
(843-816-2240)
Anne Redlus
(843-705-6373)
Bill Walker
(843-816-0884)
Pam Davis-Webb
(607-215-2289)

Class of 2027

Jan Alpert
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Sandy Iams
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Eugenia Johnston
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Class of 2028

Kathleen Casey
(732-740-7496)
Don Hamburger
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Vicki Melton
(843-338-8735)
Patti Rozonkiewicz
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Janit Maguire, Clerk
(845-527-6409)