



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, September 20, 2026
10:30am**

Matthew 20:1-16

The Laborers in the Vineyard

¹For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; ⁴and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" ⁷They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard."

⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." ¹³But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

Celebration of Worship
Sunday, September 20, 2026 – 10:30am

Silent Meditation

— John Bunyan

“You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.”

Prelude

How Great Thou Art

arr. Karen Ball

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Daniel de Beer

Introit

To God Be the Glory

(Hymn #634, v. 1)

Call to Worship

Vicki Melton

One: Come! Come and worship, you who woke early and you who slept late;
you who come often, and you who don't.

All: **Whether we are first or last or somewhere in between, there is room
for all of us in God's kingdom, and more than enough grace to go
around.**

**Let us worship God together, celebrating the generosity and mercy
that surpasses human expectations.**

***Hymn #396**

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

***Invocation**

Rev. de Beer

Unison Prayer of Confession

**God of abundant goodness, we confess that we want grace for ourselves but
often exclude other people from your grace. We judge the efforts and motives
of others while ignoring the faults of our own. Forgive us, we pray, when we
let jealousy overtake us.**

**Forgive us, we pray, when we are petty even in the presence of your
generosity. Forgive us, we pray, when we feel slighted by you. We ask once
again for your mercy.**

**Teach us to be more merciful toward one another. We pray in the name of
Christ Jesus, by whose grace we are saved. Amen**

Assurance of Pardon

Response Hymn #468 *In My Life* (vv. 1 & 2)***

In my life, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.

In our song, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.

Children's Moment

(Children may leave for Kids' Space)

Scripture Reading

Matthew 20: 1-16 (pg. 20)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Generosity does not calculate ...” Rev. Dr. Daniel de Beer

***Hymn #722**

***Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak* (vv. 1, 2, & 5)**

***Affirmation of Faith** based on an Affirmation of Faith from the Uniting Church in Australia

We believe in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We proclaim Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, and confess him as Lord, to the glory of God the Father. In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we acclaim Jesus as Lord of the Church, Head over all things, and the beginning of a new creation. We recognize that we live and serve between Christ's death and resurrection and the final fulfillment he will bring. We believe God's grace is measured not by how long we have served or what we have achieved, but by God's abundant love. We trust that God gives freely, fully, and faithfully—to the first, the last, and all who believe. We rejoice in God's generosity.

Therefore, we turn away from envy, share what we have, and live together in gratitude. With all God's people, we will serve the world for which Christ died, while we wait in hope for the day of the Lord Jesus.

***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. Johnson

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

Jim Pickard

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

Please remember with your prayers:

Dede Bush Jerri Hanna Kay Hedrick Judy Wells Pat Woodard

**The flowers today are to the Glory of God,
given by Becki Hale and family in loving memory of James Hale.**

Our Tuesday Bible Study will resume on September 29th at 1:30pm in the Parlor with an 8-session study of the Lord's Prayer.

New Member Classes are scheduled for September 22 and 29, 4-6 pm. If you been visiting for a while and are now ready to join the LPC family OR would you just like to know more about what membership means, please sign up for the classes by contacting the church office at office@lowcountrypres.org or 843-815-6570 or sign-up on the bulletin board. If you are interested, but this time does not work for you, contact the office.

The Membership Ministry is sponsoring an indoor picnic on Sunday, September 27th after church. Sandwiches from Jimmy Johns, sides, and desserts will be served. Please indicate one of the following preferences: No Preference - Vegetarian - Gluten Free, also indicate on the sign-up sheet (online or in the Narthex) name, number coming, and sandwich preference. Cost is \$10 per person at the door.

September Change Can Make a Change – Walk for Water. Can you imagine not having fresh, cool water to drink in the summer heat? Or having just 5 gallons of water a day for the entire family's washing, cooking and cleaning? Two billion people around the world face that reality every day, with no access to safe, clean water. But you can help change that. Beaufort County Walk for Water raises awareness and money to fight the global water crisis. All proceeds go to Water Mission, a nonprofit Christian engineering organization in Charleston that builds safe water and sanitation solutions in developing countries and disaster areas. Water Mission's response team was one of the first onsite after Hurricane Helene hit North Carolina in 2024? Access to clean, safe water helped our neighbors survive!



LPC will again sponsor the Beaufort County Walk for Water October 3rd at 9 am at the Bluffton United Methodist Church "Backlot".

Registration is free! Visit walkforwater.com/beaufort to sign up and join the "LPC Water Walkers" and get a free T-shirt by donating at least \$25 to this important cause. Contact: Don Hamburger at 843.729.7136 or donaldj.hamburger@gmail.com with questions or visit watermission.org to learn more.

Blessing Box Collection during September. If you would like to support the Blessing Box, we are collecting the following items: Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Laundry Detergent, Dishwashing Soap (smaller sizes of these items...easily found in the Dollar Store), Bar Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, deodorant. Suggested canned items include Soups, tuna, chicken, beans, pasta and canned pasta sauce. There will be a container in the Narthex to collect your donations. In advance, the Blessing Box team thanks you for your support.

Sign up now for the next round of Dine Around. Meet and/or become acquainted with church members in small groups while you explore the local restaurants. Sunday Brunch and Dinner options are available. For the Sunday Brunch we will also offer a singles/solos option. Sign up in the Narthex or online by noon on October 6.

Men of Purpose meets Saturdays at 9:00am. They just started a new study with the book "Unwavering Faithfulness" by Walter Brueggmann and Brent A. Strawn. All men are invited. Books are available in the church office for \$15. For questions, please contact: Bill Walker –kamwheeling@gmail.com.

Our next book group discussion will be on Tuesday, October 27th at 2:30pm in the classroom. We will be discussing *Whistler* by Ann Patchett. It is a story about two adults looking back over the choices they made, and the choices that were made for them. The book is about bravery, memory, and the often small yet consequential moments that define our lives. It's ultimately about how love endures, and how the feeling of being known by one other person, even for a short period of time, can change everything.

Hosts and Bakers are needed for hospitality after worship in October. Please sign-up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Call Carol Hissom if you have questions: (724) 255-2949.

You are invited to Temple Oseh Shalom's Sukkot Celebration, Saturday, September 26th, 3-5pm (Rain date Sunday, September 27) on the patio of LPC. Light refreshments will be served. Let them know if you are joining them (by September 23rd) RSVP to: Phil Wizwer (843-707-7460) or philwiz@aol.com, or Paul McIntyre (443-306-5008) pfcarrs@gmail.com.

Sukkot is one of the most joyful festivals on the Jewish calendar. It celebrates the fall harvest and commemorates the 40 years the Israelites spent wandering in the wilderness. The word Sukkot means "booths" or "huts," referring to the temporary shelters used during that journey.

As you probably know, English isn't the Bible's first language. The Bible most of us read has been translated from Hebrew (what we call the Old Testament) and Greek (our New Testament). This fall we have a unique opportunity to deepen our understanding of the Hebrew Scriptures. Deena Chontow has invited members of LPC to join with Temple Oseh Shalom to learn basic Hebrew in 5-8 sessions. The class is free, the book is free, the experience will be invaluable. If interested, please sign up on the bulletin board or the weekly e-blast. Class schedule TBD.

Update from Rev. Robert Gamble and This Child Here Ministry -

August 18th was the 4th anniversary of the Center for Creative Activities in Izmail, Ukraine where the doors and programs are opened for families displaced by the war in Ukraine. They are now averaging 5 air raids a day. Twice in the last week, drones hit targets in their city. On August 27, Drone circles the region while Rev. Gamble and his wife, Oli sit on the floor in their small corridor between their kitchen and living room. The text on everyone's cell reads, "increased danger to the city; immediately go to shelter. Please continue to pray for this ministry and the people of Ukraine.

Latest news: Although the Gambles are uncomfortable about leaving Ukraine at this time because of the number of drone attacks has greatly increased, they are coming to New Jersey for Rev. Gamble to have open heart surgery on September 18th at the Gagnon Heart Center. He and his doctors have been watching this problem for 10 years and it is time to get it fixed. He will remain in NJ for 3 weeks after the surgery and then go back to their home in North Carolina for another 5-7 weeks of recovery. Please keep the Gambles in your prayers and if you would like to send him a card after October 1st, please send to Rev. Robert Gamble, 567 Bee Tree Road, Swannanoa, NC 28778

I would like to thank everyone for the outpouring of love, prayers and well wishes after fracturing my hip last week. Time to catch up on my reading! I am being looked after by many people and that includes my wonderful husband! I am grateful I get to be part of a wonderful and loving congregation.

Blessings, Wendy MacCarthy

We thank our congregation for the blessing of cards, notes, acts of kindness and especially your prayers for Joan as she heals from a serious eye infection.

With gratitude, Bill and Joan Walker



LPC is an Earth Care Congregation!

Earth Care Tips:

As gardens wind down for the season, try composting fading plants and kitchen scraps instead of tossing them. It keeps waste out of the landfill and returns rich soil to the earth God entrusted to our care (Genesis 2:15). A simple countertop bin is a good place to start.

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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
(843- 837-2177)

Sandy Iams
(843-814-9078)

Eugenia Johnston
(770-540-9488)

Class of 2028

Kathleen Casey
(732-740-7496)

Don Hamburger
(843-729-7136)

Vicki Melton
(843-338-8735)

Patti Rozonkiewicz
(630-841-1935)

Janit Maguire, Clerk
(845-527-6409)