



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**

**1st Sunday in Lent
March 9, 2025
10:30am**

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. 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 2025

Jan Alpert
(843- 837-2177)
Kevin MacCarthy
(609-462-3903)
Pam Davis-Webb
(607-215-2289)
Dale Wilkes
(207-299-6693)

Class of 2026

Elaine Branda
(843-816-2240)
Chad Copenhaver
(303-589-3816)
Anne Redlus
(843-705-6373)

Class of 2027

Sandy Iams
(843-814-9078)
Eugenia Johnston
(770-540-9488)
Michael Koch
(434-738-7835)

Celebration of Worship
1st Sunday in Lent, March 9, 2025

Silent Meditation

“If you belong to God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread. - Luke 4.3
No, stay here. Let the stone be a stone, the traffic be traffic. Even this broken life, this troubled soul, this difficult time...Life is this, not something else...Nothing needs to be what it isn't. There is glory enough in the stone. And in you, already a child of God. You can't command the transformation, but only present yourself to God, who can.

Prelude

Simple Gifts
Jubilate Ringers

arr. Kevin McChesney

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. David Johnson

Call to Worship

Derek Hardin

Leader: When we question if we are loved or wanted...

People: God reassures us that we are valued and loved and precious.

Leader: When we are told to prove our worth...

People: The Spirit tells us that we are all God's beloved children and therefore worthy.

Leader: When we are tempted to seek attention and power...

All: Jesus reminds us that humble worship is the way to life.

***Hymn #167**

Forty Days and Forty Nights

***Invocation**

Rev. Johnson

Responsive Prayer of Confession

Leader: O God, open our hearts. Give us insight into all the ways we have fallen short, humility that we may accept your mercy, and courage that we may live by your promise.

People: We confess to you and to one another, that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God.

People: We have not loved you with all our heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves, nor have we forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Leader: Forgive us, O God.

People: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us and have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Leader: Christ, have mercy.

People: We have been self-centered and been envious of those more fortunate than ourselves.

Leader: Show us compassion, O God.

People: We have been blind to human need and suffering, indifferent to injustice and cruelty, and have been prejudiced towards those who differ from us.

Leader: Heal us, O God.

People: Lord, have mercy and cleanse us from our attachment to any hurtful things. Burn away their power by the fire of your Holy Spirit.

Leader: We pray these things, trusting in your steadfast love and generous grace. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Response #227

Jesus, Remember Me

***Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

***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

Children's Moment

Rev. Johnson

(Children leaving for Sunday School will be escorted from the Narthex)

The flowers today are to the Glory of God given by Carol Hissom in loving memory of her sister Sarah and in honor of her 6 children.

Infant Crying Room - Like many adults, some infants struggle to make it through the entire service. An area has been set aside outside of the nursery with sound and a view into the sanctuary. You are welcome to check out the area if the need arises.

The cross in the sanctuary can be a part of your Lenten journey. Following worship, you are invited to place written prayers of confession or intercession on the nails; a visible sign of your intention to entrust your life and that of others to God. You may also come during the week to place your prayers there. Sheets of paper and pens can be found on the side pew near it.

Trivia Night, Wednesday, March 12th at 6:00pm in Thomas Hall. Join us for an evening of trivia, subs and fun! Please bring your own beverage and enjoy a light dinner as you work with others to test your general and biblical knowledge. Donations are welcome at the door. **Sign-up in the Narthex or online by today.**

Adult Sunday School meets Sundays at 9:15am in the parlor. Sunday, March 16th the discussion will be Luke 1:9, 31-35 - The Tower in Siloam and the need for repentance . Come join us.

Children's Sunday School is on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month.

Lenten Bible Study - The purpose of Lent is to prepare us for Easter through the disciplines of prayer, fasting, repentance, charity, simple living, and self-denial. Our Lenten Bible Study, held at 2:15pm on Tuesdays in Thomas Hall, continues through April 8. Each standalone class will use different Bible stories to help us prepare for Easter. Our focus for March 11th is Luke 13:1-9 Repent or Perish and Luke 10:25-37 The Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Payne-ful Business: Margaret Seidler's interest in her family's ancestral past uncovered the Payne-ful truth that her family's history included buying and selling slaves in Charleston. Ms. Seidler has published her story, believing that true healing can only happen when we own up to our past. She will share her family's story after worship on **March 16**. We hope you will plan to attend this important event. We also encourage you to join in reading her book, "Payne-ful Business: Charleston's Journey to the Truth." We will discuss it on Wednesday, **March 12**, at 4pm in the parlor and also schedule time with her after she speaks. Her book is available at payne-fulbusiness.com.

Women of Faith will meet on Tuesday, March 11th at 11:00am in the parlor. The group, open to all LPC women and friends, meets every 2nd Tuesday. *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor is the current focus book, with this month's discussions focused on Chapter 6, pages 101-120.

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

Change Can Make a Change for March will benefit the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) dealing with the devastating fires in California. PDA has already released emergency grants to meet the urgent needs of the communities and to provide immediate care. The magnitude of this event will require the development of long-term projects and assistance. Your commitment will help PDA extend the hands of Christ. Give, Act, Pray Thank you for your support... Please make your checks out to LPC.

New Member Classes Coming Soon! Have you been visiting LPC for a while and now feel ready to join? OR would you like to learn more about what it would mean to be a LPC member? New Member classes will form in the next few months. If you are interested, please sign up on our website's Events page or contact the office at office@lowcountrypres.org or 843-815-6570 or . Specific dates will be chosen when we have a better idea of who will attend. Childcare can be arranged upon request.

Congratulations to Ellie and Matt Quick on the birth of their baby girl, Madeline Ryan Quick born March 1st . We as a congregation would like to collect gifts and cards to show them how much their family is loved and appreciated by us all. Some gift suggestions are: Target brand, size 1 diapers, Target gift cards and gift cards for any restaurants providing take-out. While gifts are not necessary, cards of congratulations are appreciated. Please place your gifts in the basket in the Narthex.

Agape Spring Food Drive - Sunday March 23 - 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Please help us stock Agape's shelves by bringing your food donations to LPC on Sunday, March 23rd. Please drive through after the service and we will unload your vehicle. We look forward to seeing everyone and filling our cars with your generous donations! Most requested and needed items:

apples and oranges	sweet and white potatoes and onions
Maseca (flour to make tortillas)	dry and canned beans and rice
canned fruit and vegetables	peanut butter and jelly
canned chicken and tuna	cereal and baby food

Thank you for helping us support Agape! If you have any questions or would like to assist, please contact Jan Catanese at 248-766-0402.

Lego Church - Sunday, April 6th at 4pm in Thomas Hall. Families with children through grade 5 are invited! After an interactive faith building time, the families will also enjoy dinner together. Please sign-up in the Narthex or online. Contact Elaine Branda if you have any questions at hhgolfer@gmail.com

Men of Purpose (MOP) meets Saturdays at 9am in the Parlor. They started a new book study of “INSPIRED” by Rachael Held Evans. All are welcome to visit this discussion based group anytime. Contact Bill Walker at kamwheeling@gmail.com for more information.

Lenten Devotionals are available on the counter in the Narthex. Consider using a digital version of one of our Lenten Devotionals. Not only will you save paper, but it will be easier to follow some of the links to more resources. Digital versions are available in the Friday e-blast, or contact the church office.

The Blessing Box Team would like to thank the Congregation for all the donations received in January and February. Our shelves are very full. We also can share that we have been receiving bags of canned goods and other items from people outside of the church. They add it to the box or just leave bags in front of the box. There has been a steady flow of people who are taking items from the box too. We are most grateful because this is how the box is supposed to work. So.....we are going to take the next two months off from asking you for donations.

Sunday Morning Flowers - If you would like to donate memorial flowers for a Sunday morning worship service, please sign-up in the Narthex. The flower chart is located near the office entrance.

Dear Church Members, Thank you for your prayers and concern. God’s blessings on all of you! ~~ Bud & Pat Woodard

Dear LPC Friends, Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, emails and lovely flowers after the passing of my mother. All of your nice gestures were much appreciated during this difficult time. Gratefully, Pam Panuline