



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**

**4th Sunday in Lent
March 30, 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
4th Sunday in Lent, March 30, 2025

Silent Meditation

Henri Nouwen, The Return of the Prodigal

One of the greatest challenges of the spiritual life is to receive God's forgiveness. There is something in us humans that keeps us clinging to our sins and prevents us from letting God erase our past and offer us a completely new beginning... Do I really want to be so totally forgiven that a completely new way of living becomes possible?... Receiving forgiveness requires a total willingness to let God be God and do all the healing, restoring, and renewing."

Prelude

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

arr. Larry Shackley

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. David Johnson

Introit

Take My Life

arr. Allan Robert Petker

Call to Worship

Mary Johnson

Leader: Jesus tells that God searches relentlessly for those who are lost,

People: And is filled with joy when they are found.

Leader: Jesus tells that God waits patiently for lost children to return home,

People: And welcomes them in without reservation.

Leader: Jesus tells that even the righteous can distance themselves and become lost,

People: And they too are sought out and invited to join God's celebration. Come, let us worship our gracious God!

***Hymn #774**

There Is Now a New Creation

***Invocation**

Rev. Elizabeth Johnson

Unison Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we confess that we sometimes turn away from your love, preferring life on our own instead of life with you. Forgive us, we pray, and don't give up on us. Welcoming God, when we come to our senses and return home to you, your embrace reassures us and invites us in. We give thanks for your overwhelming grace. Celebrating God, we confess that our resentment builds when you welcome some that we think are undeserving. Forgive us and open our hearts to share in your joy. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Response #227

Jesus, Remember Me

*Affirmation of Faith

Excerpt from Declaration of Barmen **

The church's commission, upon which its freedom is founded, consists in delivering the message of the free grace of God to all people in Christ's stead, and therefore in the ministry of his own Word and work through sermon and Sacrament.

*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. David Johnson

(Children leaving for Kid's Space will be escorted from the Narthex)

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

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

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

arr. Don Phillips

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. David Johnson

*Hymn #418

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

Anthem

If You Trust in God

arr. Tom Fettke

Scripture Reading

Luke 15:1-24 (pg. 73)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**The flowers today are to the Glory of God given by
Jim & Lila Wright in honor of their 45th anniversary .**

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 are on the side pew near it.

Adult Sunday School meets Sundays at 9:15am in the parlor. April 6th our lesson will be on Luke 18:31-19:10, healing a blind man. 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 April 1st is Luke 22:14-23, 56, the Lord's Supper, and a Dispute about Greatness.

Women of Faith will meet on Tuesday, April 8th 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 Chapters 7-9, pages 121-174.

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. 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. Please make your checks out to LPC.

LPC's monthly Grief Support Group will meet Sunday, April 6th in the back room by the nursery following worship.

Lenten Devotionals are available on the counter in the Narthex or consider using a digital version. 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.

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. Specific dates will be chosen when we have a better idea of who will attend. Childcare can be arranged upon request.

Salty Dog Boat Cruise - Join us for a fun Port Royal Sound boat cruise on Saturday, May 17 at 4 pm. The 63' catamaran leaves from Lemon Island Marina at the Port Royal Sound Foundation at 310 Okatie Hwy. Beaufort. Food/drink may be purchased onboard beginning an hour before cruise time. Outside food is not allowed. The 90 minute cruise is for adults 21 years of age and over. To sign-up, purchase your tickets (\$40 per person) as soon as possible online at prsfstsaltydogcruise.square.site or call 843-290-5442. ***Make sure you register for the Saturday, May 17 cruise at 4 pm.*** Also please sign-up on the Membership Board in the Narthex or on our website so we know how many will be attending. You must be onboard 20 minutes before departure. Hosted by your LPC Membership Ministry. Contact Dale Wilkes at dalewilkes207@gmail.com or 207-299-6693 with other questions.

Dine Around for May 2025 – October 2025 - Groups of 8 (singles and couples) meet for a meal once a month, either Sunday brunch or dinner during the week at a restaurant. Members of the group rotate choosing the location. Sign-up by April 7 in the Narthex or online. Members and visitors are invited to participate. Contact Elder Dale Wilkes at 207 299-6693 or dalewilkes207@gmail.com with any questions.

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 questions: hhgolfer@gmail.com.

All are invited to celebrate the wedding of Chris Richards and Larry Tremitiere on April 5th at 11:00am. A reception will follow in Thomas Hall. In lieu of gifts, please donate to your favorite charity.

Order forms for Memorial Easter plants are on the counter in the Narthex. Please fill out the form and place it along with your check payable to LPC in the offering basket, or send it to the church office.

These Days devotionals for April/May/June are available in the Narthex.

Bound Together Book Club, April 24th at 2pm in the parlor. *Ordinary Grace*, a New York Times bestseller, by William Kent Kruger will be our next book discussion. *Ordinary Grace* is a brilliantly moving account of a boy trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God. All are welcome to join us. Betty Smith and Alane Peragallo will facilitate the discussion.

Mary Green Chorale will perform Brahms Requiem here at LPC on April 11th at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$30 (open seating) at the door or visit marygreenchorale.org for ticket outlets. Our own Karen Ball will be playing the organ.

The Flower Ministry is in need of one or two re-arrangers. This involves dividing and re-arranging the sanctuary flowers after the Sunday service, approximately once a month. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Fran Parker at frannieparker38@gmail.com or 843-757-8181.

Faith Formation Challenge - The Faith Formation Ministry challenges you to join us as we reflect on Bible verses which have impacted our lives in significant ways. During our Lenten journey, we are sharing some of those versus with you. Which Bible verse is special in your spiritual walk? You can share it by sending it to Elaine Branda at- hhgolfer@gmail.com or by placing it in her mailbox in the church office.

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. ~James 4:8 Elaine Branda

Do not be anxious about anything but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

~Philippians 4:6-7 Alane Peragallo

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

~Matthew 28:30 Patti Rozonkiewicz

He has shown you, O man, what is good. What does the LORD require of you, but to act justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

~Micah 6:8 Nancy Hill

I consider that our suffering are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed to us. ~Romans 8:18 Don Evans

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Spring Food drive for Agape!

Ponchitta and Viola showed us the empty shelves and commented on how LPC always delivers food when it is most needed! You donated 1,021 food items! That included 27 large bags of fresh fruit, 26 bags of fresh vegetables, 163 cans of tuna and chicken, 65 boxes of cereal, 66 jars of PB&J and many other needed food items!