

The Beacon

Sunrise Presbyterian Church

May 2021 Newsletter



HAPPY EASTER!

Sunrise Presbyterian Church

Sullivan's Island, SC

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Out of curiosity, I opened last May's *From the Pastor's Desk*. It provides a snapshot of the coming year and offers a good introduction to the plans we are making to emerge from this long journey.

The Beacon ~ May, 2020

A new normal has become a common phrase for all of us. At Sunrise, we have been exploring ways to continue our worship life while maintaining necessary physical distancing. Your worship staff has been gathering each Sunday in the sanctuary to live-stream worship at 10:00 a.m. on Facebook.

It looks as if we will be continuing our live-stream worship for the foreseeable future. In light of the need to continue our virtual worship, we are trying new approaches to worship.

Family Service on Zoom

On Sunday, May 3rd the Family Service will resume, using Zoom. Reece and Andy are hosting this gathering. For a Zoom invitation, please email: sunrisepresbyterian3222@gmail.com.

10:00 a.m. Worship

With a single Sunday morning worship service, your worship staff has been combining New Dawn Worship with 11:00 a.m. Worship. Matthew, Heidi and Kent have provided worship music leadership, while Reece, Layton, and I have preached.

Virtual Communion

On Monday evening, at a Zoom Session Meeting, the Elders agreed to try a *virtual* communion service, using Zoom gatherings. During the *live-stream* worship service, Elders and former Elders, will host Zoom gatherings. You may personally contact one of the Elders or email: sunrisepresbyterian3222@gmail.com to be connected with a Zoom group.

To prepare for sharing communion at home, you will provide your own bread and grape juice. In this way, we can share the Lord's Supper, even though we must remain physically separated.

May 2021

You will notice a number of changes that have occurred over the last year. Layton Williams accepted a special, full-time job opportunity in November. *Zoom Virtual Communion* was a better concept than reality. Monthly *Virtual Communion* continues, but is not promoted as a group celebration. Eric Lavender volunteers his guitar talents in Sunday Worship.

As we return to more in-person gatherings, *Zoom* will remain part of the life of Sunrise. It allows people to participate whenever they are unable to attend in-person.

This month, the *Women's Evening Bible Study* with Reece will be held both on Zoom and in-person.

The *Men's Prayer Breakfast* is beginning to make plans to resume its Thursday morning gatherings sometime in the next month or two.

As we move through the summer, we will be expanding our in-person events and making plans for a much-anticipated fall that looks familiar with friends gathered at Sunrise!

In God's grace,





PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

May 23

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency:

- Young Adult Volunteers
- Ministries for Youth
- Children-at-Risk
- Pentecost Offering Financials



A STEADY REMINDER OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Mark and I had been married 26 years. Our sons were 18 and 20. We loved being parents, but with our younger son graduating high school, we were eagerly anticipating the empty nest and having more time for each other.

In the fall, when our younger son started college, Mark began having stomach issues and back pain, which would linger for a few days and then disappear, only to reappear later. He also developed a cough. When his doctor ordered an MRI, the results were devastating—Stage IV pancreatic cancer, already in his liver and both lungs. Mark was only 53.

Our lives were turned upside down. I suddenly found myself trying to provide emotional support to Mark and our sons during the worst experience any of us had ever endured. I wanted and needed to keep myself together to focus on caring for Mark, but I was emotionally drained—full of sadness and terrified of what the future held. I had always been a “take responsibility for everything myself” kind of person. However, I knew I couldn’t do this alone.

I talked to my pastor about it, and she suggested matching me with a Stephen Minister. I agreed, and less than two weeks after Mark was diagnosed, my Stephen Minister came for the first of her weekly visits. It’s difficult to convey how important this Stephen Ministry relationship was for me. Our pastor was wonderful, and we had an amazing amount of support from many other people, but the time I spent with my Stephen Minister was the only time in the week when I could truly focus on my own needs. She was there just for me. My Stephen Minister let me know that, while she was very concerned for Mark, her role was to be my support—to listen and help me process what I was feeling and going through, without giving advice or telling me what to do. The consistency of our Stephen Ministry relationship was crucial in helping me cope. Her weekly visits became an anchor in my life—something I could rely on when everything else was so uncertain. She was a steady reminder of God’s presence, helping me know I was never alone.

Although Mark and I chose to talk publicly about his condition, my Stephen Ministry relationship was completely confidential. I knew I could share anything with her, and that’s where it would stay. Mark’s illness progressed rapidly—ten weeks of treatment, followed by six weeks of hospice, and then his passing. My needs changed as I went from being a wife to being a caregiver to being a grieving widow and dealing with everything that the loss of a spouse entails. Through it all, my Stephen Minister’s love and support continued. She was there for me at every stage of my journey. It was never easy, but my Stephen Minister helped me through the most difficult moments of my life. I really can’t say enough about how much I appreciate my church’s Stephen Ministry. The compassionate, consistent, and confidential support of my Stephen Minister was so important in helping me cope—and then begin to heal.

If you would like to speak with a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Vance at (843)883-3888 or sunrisepresbyterian3222@gmail.com



Grocery bags with shopping lists are attached and available in the Narthex beginning on May 2nd. All filled grocery bags need to be returned to the Narthex or in the bin outside the Fellowship Hall doors by Sunday, May 9th. Each month, ECCO relies on donations from community members, civic organizations, businesses, churches, and neighborhoods. Throughout this pandemic, the number of families ECCO is serving has grown exponentially. In the month of May, ECCO distributed over 1,100 pre-packaged food orders to 752 local families in need. Thank you in advance for your generous donations!

ECCO Wish List

May 2

- Ketchup & Mayo
- Salt & Pepper
- Grape Jelly
- Salad Dressing
- Lotion
- Juice Boxes
- Snacks
- Grits
- Body Wash
- Hand Soap



Summer is right around the corner so don't forget to sign up for our Virtual VBS! **June 21st – June 25th**. The fun starts at 9:30 am and continues until 11:00 am. Call (843) 883-3888 or visit www.vbspro.events/p/sunrisechurch.com to register your children for this fun adventure!

Every day, your children will discover the answers to some of the big questions about God as they sing, laugh, and craft. We will be using Zoom for live music concerts, Bible stories, and packets of easy to do at home crafts for the entire week (with all supplies included) will be mailed to you.

Children will learn answers to the big questions about GOD.

Day One: Who is God?

Day Two: How do I know God exists?

Day Three: What does God ask of me?

Day Four: Why does God love me?

Day Five: How can I get to know God better?



He is risen!

Pictures from Easter at Sunrise Church



May Calendar

Sunday Worship Service ~ Online and In-Person at 10 am (NO FELLOWSHIP)

Family Service ~ Sundays at 9AM (ZOOM)

Adult Sunday School ~ Sunday evenings at 5 pm (ZOOM)

Women's Evening Bible Study ~ 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm (ZOOM)

Please contact the church office at sunrisepresbyterian3222@gmail.com if you'd like an invite for any of the ZOOM meetings.

**Give
Thanks
With
A
Grateful
Heart**



**Please continue your financial support of the ministry
and mission of Sunrise through the following ~**

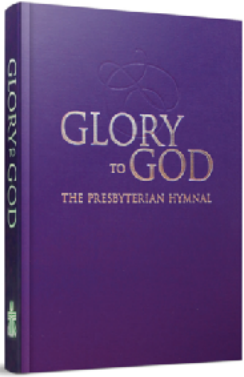
Mailing a check to:
Sunrise Presbyterian Church
PO Box 517, Sullivan's Island, SC 29482

Or

Give Securely Online at

<https://www.oursunrise.org/give/>

New Hymnals for the church will be ordered soon



If you would like to make a donation toward the purchasing of new hymnals, please send a check or cash along with your dedication and mail it to Sunrise Church, 3222 Middle St, Sullivan's Island, SC 29482 or you may make a donation online at <https://www.oursunrise.org/give/> with "Hymnal" in the memo line and email sunrisepresbyterian3222@gmail.com with your dedication. Dedications may be made *in memory* of or *in honor* of loved one(s). The cost of each hymnal is \$20. Dedications will be acknowledged with a bookplate on the inside cover of the hymnal. Thank you!

Daily Devotionals Available

Current 2021 copies of the Upper Room are available in the Narthex and online. If you would like us to mail you a copy, please contact the church office. You may also view an online version of the Upper Room and These Days by using the links below.

https://destination-site-production.s3.amazonaws.com/covers/URE_May-June2021.pdf

<https://www.pcusastore.com/Pages/Default.aspx?ContentID=14604&Title=These-Days>

prayer list

Sunrise Church sends a meditation and prayer on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday via email and posts on Facebook. If you'd like to receive these during this difficult time of uncertainty we are facing, you may subscribe on our website at <https://www.oursunrise.org/resources/signup/> or by emailing the church office at sunrisepresbyterian3222@gmail.com. Please also continue to pray for those on the prayer list below:

Recent Prayer Concerns (*Names are listed for a month*): Carol Crochet (June Dawson's niece), William Molony, Gail Owen (Lynn Riker's sister), Cory Soal (Ross & Julie Heaton's nephew), Len & Denice Kowalski and their son Chris (friends of Betty Milner), Paige (niece of Alan & Melissa Henderson), Lee Sarp, Robert Shahid, Mitch Wertz (John & Sue Worth's son), Patrick McDougal, Brady Moreau & Amy Wertz Moreau (John Wertz's grandson & daughter), Catherine (friend of Melissa & Alan Henderson), John Wertz.

Continuing Prayer Concerns: Linda Scott, Betty Hughes (friend of Shirley Joyner), Gladys Durand, John Myatt, Bonnie Wells, Madelyn Knight (Kelly Long's mother), Cherry Leslie (Shirley Joyner's friend), Leesa Phipps, Matthew Fullwood, Linda Hawkins, Les Smith (friend of Eric Lavender), Lynne Smith, Mike McCarty (Pat Odom's brother), April Towry (Billie McRae's niece), Chuck Westall, Scott Sawyer (friend of Kurt & Jayne Nendorf), Frank Godfrey, Victoria Jones, Peggy Wolford, Dorothy Rhyne, Nancy Butler, Kerry Hardy, Betty Imsande, Lou Bovie, Shauna Nelson.

May Birthdays



5/3 Brandon Clark

5/4 Nancy Dean

5/6 Korey McDavid

5/8 Cydne Abernathy

5/9 Marian Schmelter

5/9 Matt Norton

5/10 Chris McKee

5/10 Cyndi Kunkle

5/12 Susanne Marshall

5/13 Jean Campbell

5/14 Bill Casey

5/14 Malin Allard

5/15 Karen Schmelter

5/16 John Petzold

5/18 Bonnie Burton

5/19 Mattie Smith

5/19 Ariel Lavender

5/20 Dottie Ashley

5/20 Candace Rosen

5/21 Peggy Wolford

5/21 Debbie Croxton

5/24 Shelly White

5/26 Ross Heaton

5/26 Nicole McKee

5/27 Neila Cary

5/28 Carol Dawson

5/28 Bob Hooper

5/29 Jackson Naylor

5/30 Chris Hardwick

5/31 Esther Bast

5/31 Kathy Jordan

Church Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday
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