

The Beacon

Sunrise Presbyterian Church

May 2023 Newsletter



Despite the rainy weather, Resurrection Sunday was still a glorious morning rejoicing in our Risen Lord.

He is not here; He is **Risen**, just as He said.

Matthew 28:6

Connections

Recently, I have been exploring what an author of an article I read has called the three **B's** of the church: **belief, behavior, and belonging**. The article addressed the present situation for so many congregations, declining attendance at weekly worship services. From national surveys, the article compared what people say they believe with their practicing of religion. While people have become less likely to attend worship weekly, there has not been a significant decline in people's belief in God. I would like to review some of the imagery I have shared as a way of highlighting the *connections* that make church life so vital.

There is an adage about the spread of Christianity from the time of the apostles to medieval Europe. Christianity began in Jerusalem as a *fellowship*. When it moved into the Greek-speaking world, it became a *philosophy*. When it arrived in Rome, it was an *institution*. In Europe, where it was known as Christendom; it was the *culture*. Each of these transitions contribute something to our understanding about the present situation in the church

At its origins, Christianity was a *fellowship*. It was built on relationships and shared experiences. Jesus demonstrated this by calling the disciples as the first act of his earthly ministry. Jesus modeled for us how fellowship is an essential part of following him.

As Christianity developed it sought to put into words what the faithful believed. The church came to call the ways we describe our beliefs orthodoxy (right belief). To affirm something outside of these *right beliefs* was considered a heresy! Teaching the faith meant instructing people in the right beliefs.

Once Christianity was embraced as the religion of the Roman Empire, it had institutional responsibilities, and the practice of faith became significant. How and where you worshipped mattered.

Finally, as Christianity became the religion of medieval Europe, and it shaped the whole culture. By birth, everyone was a Christian. Art, music, literature were all connected to the church.

While this overview is simplistic, I believe it contains insights into the journey of the church. From it we can glean assumptions that have guided us in the past. Reflecting on these assumptions may allow us to *reclaim* parts of our heritage that we may have taken for granted.

There was a time not that long ago when belonging to a community could be taken for granted. In those circumstances, teaching the faith and practicing the ritual of weekly worship attendance was an important emphasis. Today, community cannot be assumed as a given. The bonds that once held us together have weakened. Our lives lead us in so many different directions. Building meaningful community bonds has become a real challenge.

I like to think of community bonds as *connections*. At Sunrise, we have three local connections. There are the personal friendships that grow from being part of the congregation. I have seen these friendships develop, flourish, and nurture people. There are the church connections that allow us to do more together than we could ever do individually. Being part of something larger than oneself is an inspiring experience. Finally, there are our community connections that extend beyond the congregation. We open our doors to our local community. We are the polling site for Sullivan's Island. We host the Seaside Singers and recently enjoyed a wonderful concert. We host Blood Drives. There is a long list of groups and activities that are part of the Sunrise *Community*. These connections are a vital part of both our church life and witness.

In God's grace,



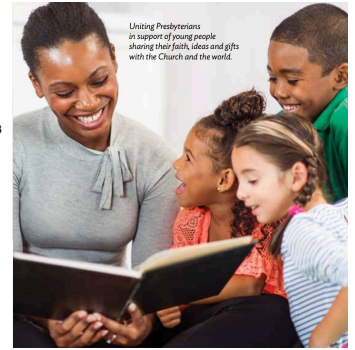
May 28th



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

**BUILDING UP THE
BODY OF CHRIST.** — EPH. 4:12, CEB



The Pentecost Offering helps guide young people in Christian formation from their earliest years to young adulthood. With our gifts, we are there to help build these youngest members of the body of Christ into the people God would have them become.

Thank you for your generous contributions to the
Remembrance Garden...



~ Roberta B. Blanchard in memory of our mothers, Grace and Harriette

If you'd like to help keep the garden beautiful, please complete the donation form located in the Narthex and note Remembrance Garden on the check memo line. Contributions given in memory of or in honor of someone will be included in the Beacon Dedication binder.

Palmetto Vocal Project Presents an A Cappella Concert
of lively, classic and modern songs in 4-part harmony

Special Guests:

Entourage Quartet
Goin' Coastal and Southern Transfer

Your toes will be tapping and you'll leave
this performance with a song in your heart!

May 13th, 7:30pm
Lucy Garrett Beckham High School
1560 Mathis Ferry Road,
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Ticket prices:
\$20 for adults
\$10 students age 13-21
No charge 12 years or under

palmettovocalproject.com



April in Pictures: Palm Sunday, Children's Easter Egg Hunt, and Growing Faith Learning & Fun!



May at Sunrise



Start off your Tuesdays with the Jerry Dillon Men's Prayer Breakfast at 7:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Start the day off right with great food, fellowship, and a devotion.

Growing FAITH

Our next *Growing Faith* (4th - 8th grade) meeting on Sunday, May 21st will be our final session of the school year, and we will be celebrating May, June, and July birthdays! Before we meet, please have your child/children watch Disney's *Pinocchio*. This is the 2022 Tom Hanks version. It has lots of really good themes that should lead to good discussion! We will start next school year's sessions on August 27th. As always, thanks for your support of these classes. -Reece and Ernest

The Miriam-Naomi Circle

The Miriam-Naomi Circle will meet in the Library May 9th at 10am as we continue our study of the Gospel of Mark using *Mark's Story of Jesus* by Werner H. Kelber as our study guide. We welcome new participants in the Circle. After we meet, those of us who are able to do so usually regroup for lunch at a nearby restaurant. If you have any questions or if you would like to be added to our mailing list, please call Patsy Hindman (843) 906-8653.

Cents-Ability is collected the 2nd Sunday of each month. Thanks to you, donations have been made to Neighbors Together, East Cooper Meals on Wheels, and East Cooper Community Outreach. Please continue to give at least two cents per person per meal in the bowl in the Narthex. This simple act is an expression of thanksgiving for what we have received.



Women's Evening Bible Study

The Women's Evening Bible Study will meet May 16th at 5:30 pm using the new Bible study book *PHILIPPIANS* by N. T. Wright. We'll continue to meet at the church and via Zoom. -Reece

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>30</p> <p>9am - Devotional Service -</p> <p>9:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10am - Choir Practice</p> <p>10am - Family Service/Adult</p> <p>11am - Worship Service</p> <p>4:30pm - Boy Scouts -</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1:30pm - Music Lessons</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>7pm - Seaside Singers</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7am - Municipal Election -</p> <p>7:30am - Men's Breakfast</p> <p>4:15pm - Deakins Lessons -</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10am - AA Meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>6pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30pm - PVP - Fellowship</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12:30pm - Bridge -</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>9am - Devotional Service -</p> <p>9:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10am - Choir Practice</p> <p>10am - Family Service/Adult</p> <p>11am - Worship Service</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1:30pm - Music Lessons</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>7:30pm - PVP - Fellowship</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30am - Men's Breakfast</p> <p>10am - Miriam-Naomi Circle</p> <p>4:15pm - Deakins Lessons -</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10am - AA Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>6pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30pm - PVP - Fellowship</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:30pm - Bridge -</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10am - Hunter Memorial</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Centis-Ability</p> <p>Mother's Day</p> <p>9am - Devotional Service -</p> <p>9:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10am - Choir Practice</p> <p>10am - Family Service/Adult</p> <p>11am - Worship Service</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1:30pm - Music Lessons</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:30am - Men's Breakfast</p> <p>5:30pm - Women's Evening</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10am - AA Meeting</p> <p>6pm - Pack Meeting -</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>6pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30pm - PVP - Fellowship</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:30pm - Bridge -</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9am - Devotional Service -</p> <p>9am - Growing Faith - Family</p> <p>9:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10am - Choir Practice</p> <p>10am - Family Service/Adult</p> <p>11am - Worship Service</p> <p>4:30pm - Boy Scouts -</p>	<p>22</p> <p>1:30pm - Music Lessons</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:30am - Men's Breakfast</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10am - AA Meeting</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>6pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12:30pm - Bridge -</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9am - Devotional Service -</p> <p>9:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10am - Choir Practice</p> <p>10am - Family Service/Adult</p> <p>11am - Worship Service</p> <p>4:30pm - Boy Scouts -</p> <p>5:30pm - Youth Group -</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Memorial Day</p> <p>1:30pm - Music Lessons</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:30am - Men's Breakfast</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10am - AA Meeting</p>	<p>1</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>6pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>2</p> <p>12:30pm - Bridge -</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11am - SIPD Blood Drive</p>



5/3 Brandon Clark

5/4 Nancy Dean

5/6 Korey McDavid

5/8 Cydne Abernathy

5/9 Matt Norton

5/10 Chris McKee

5/10 Cyndi Kunkle

5/11 Chris McKee

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

5/20 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 Kathy Jordan

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

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www.oursunrise.org

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