

THE BEACON

Sunrise Presbyterian Church

February 2024 Newsletter

SUNRISE CHURCH

Oyster Roast & Chili Potluck



February

11

11:00 AM

Sign up to bring a soup, chili, or cornbread on the signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall or email hello@oursunrise.org. A suggested \$10 donation is requested for the Oyster Roast. Special envelopes are available in the Narthex.

Lent Begins . . . Wednesday, February 14th

Throughout my ministry, I have promoted the special nature of Lent as a time of sacred preparation for the celebration of Easter morning. It is a time of personal reflection and community fellowship. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, and it is a service that is both deeply personal and profoundly communal. In the receiving of ashes we humble ourselves before God, and we join together in supporting each other in a journey of renewal.

As part of the annual, personal journey towards Jerusalem and Holy Week, many people choose to prepare themselves by *giving up something* for Lent. Over the years, I've tracked the top contenders. Chocolate seems to be a perennial list topper for things to give up during Lent. To chocolate can be added other favorite foods or drinks. Coffee, alcohol, or soda tends to be near the top of the list. More recently, social media has been added. People will choose to limit or eliminate Facebook, Twitter [X], or other social media sites.

Lent becomes a season of reorientation, turning from things that really do not matter or are holding us back. It is a time to focus on the *goodness* of God's creation. Yes, in spite of all the bad news in the world, there is much that is good, when we open our eyes to see it. First, there is the gift of our lives, which means we are a gift in the lives of the people around us. Do we take that *good* news seriously enough? The world itself is an incredible gift that, too often, we take for granted. Appreciating the wonder of God's creation is something we can practice each and every day. Recently, the sunrises have been glorious! If you are not an early riser, the sunsets have been equally amazing. Focusing on the goodness all around us will help to reorient our perspective, which is the purpose of Lent.

While Lent has been traditionally seen as a season of denial, it can also be a time for picking up good habits. When we give up something for Lent we are shedding an old habit in order to embrace better habits. The purpose of denial in giving up a *bad* habit is so that it might be replaced with a *good* one. What good habits would you like to adopt? Lent is a great time for doing it. In fact, we could even announce to our friends and family our intentions. Some accountability is a really helpful motivation.

This year consider adopting a new, good habit, and be intentional about practicing it. Instead of setting such a high, challenging bar that you spend much of your time anticipating the end of Lent, pick a small step that you can easily manage. If your goal is eating healthier, pick a fruit or vegetable you like and add it to your daily diet. If it's exercising more, park your car on the far side of the parking lot and walk to your destination. A bonus is that there are usually more parking spaces there!

I invite you to mark your calendar and plan to attend our Ash Wednesday Service. It is a profoundly beautiful service with deep roots in how to fully live our faith.

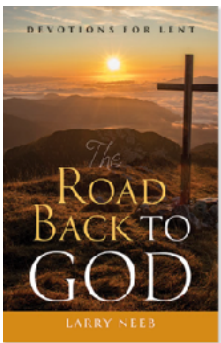
In God's grace,



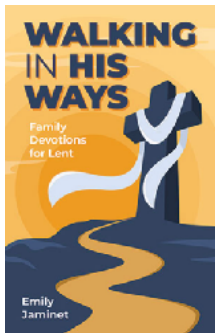
Ash Wednesday Service ~ February 14th at 6:30 p.m.

PREPARING FOR LENT

Lent devotionals are available in the Narthex and will be distributed to Growing Faith & Family Chapel families.



This Lent devotional is designed to help us discover a deeper and richer relationship with God. The truth, of course, is that we can never find God unless God first finds us. As we draw near to Christ's cross, God's forgiving and renewing power animates us in our Christian walk of active love and service.



Families, make this Lent six weeks of spiritual transformation. Scripture verses, reflections, conversations and activities will help each person better live out his or her faith and walk in the ways of Christ with prayer, fasting from wants and desires and giving alms. Special downloadable coloring pages and challenges round out the experience.



The Ash Wednesday Service is Wednesday, February 14th at 6:30 p.m. To begin the Lenten Season, join us for this very special Ash Wednesday Service. Through music, prayer and scripture, we'll reorient our spiritual lives. Communion will be served as well as the receiving of ashes.

TACKLE HUNGER



BE A
GAMECHANGER!

Souper Bowl of Caring • February 11th

Souper Bowl of Caring is a youth-inspired movement working across the nation to tackle hunger in their local communities. Again this year, we will be donating to the College of Charleston Cougar Food Pantry which is a student led organization created to combat food insecurity while helping to unify the College of Charleston campus through collaboration and student involvement. You may bring in canned or dry goods and drop them off in the bin in the Narthex or outside the Fellowship Hall doors. If you would like to make a monetary donation, we encourage you to donate directly at <https://give.cofc.edu/donate>. Thank you!

Sunrise Columbarium and Memorial Garden

The Construction & Maintenance Committee has been working diligently evaluating columbarium companies. Site visits have been made to clients of the final two companies being considered. A decision is expected to be made within a few weeks. We will communicate the name of the company and the schedule as soon as the decision is final.

Do you have skills in construction, structural engineering, architecture, drafting, surveying, landscape architecture/design, graphic design? If so and you would like to help, please contact Lamar Graves, Construction & Maintenance Chair, at ltkdg@bellsouth.net or at 843-855-7824.

We welcome Al Dawson, Karen Jones and Pam Kane to the Legal Committee. They are working with Phil Riker, Chair, and Lynn Riker to develop a contract for the sale of a niche and rules and regulations.

The goal is to have the columbarium and garden completed in 2024. We look forward to sharing updates about the project. Contact Ida Havelka, Columbarium Committee Chair, at ihavelka@comcast.net or at 843-412-1884 for more information.

Sunrise's 2024 Elders

David Brown (Missions Elder)

Stephanie Kimker (Worship & Music Elder)

Andy Rhyne (Pastoral Care Elder)

Neila Cary (Fellowship Elder)

Lamar Graves (Building & Grounds Elder)

Jon Mersereau (Clerk of Session, Elder)

Ray Dickinson (Finance Elder)

Jimmy Hiers (Personnel Elder)

Shauna Nelson (Welcoming and Assimilation Elder)

A BIG thank you to our Elders who rotated off the Session:
Cal McRae & Eric Kimker

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Over the holidays, Noah Parker and Henry Cecil had a class project for School of the Arts to identify a need in our community and they chose to support East Cooper Community Outreach. Noah & Henry collected and delivered 141 pounds of food donations from the Sunrise congregation to ECCO. Thank you for supporting their efforts!

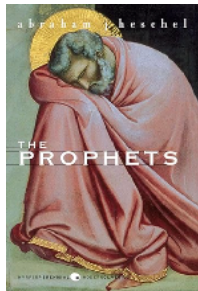


The Men's Breakfast Group invites you to join them for fellowship and food on February 13th at 9 am to celebrate Valentine's Day. Please sign up on the signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

February at Sunrise

Growing FAITH

Growing Faith will meet February 25th at 9am in the upstairs classroom. Please feel free to share this message with any older elementary & middle school students (4th - 8th grade) you know who might be interested in joining. ~ Reece



The Adult Sunday School has begun their new study using the book *The Prophets* by Abraham Heschel on Sundays at 9:00 am in the Library. *The Prophets* is widely recognized as a masterpiece of biblical scholarship. Heschel attempts to understand the thoughts, feelings, and impressions of each of the prophets, presenting the reader with a sense of their very being. Books are available for purchase for \$17 at the church office.

The Miriam-Naomi Circle will meet February 13th at 10 am in the Library using the book *Romans Learner Session Guide: Books of Faith* by Matthew J. Marohl. The church has the books available for purchase. Please see Pastor Vance to get your copy. 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 at (843) 906-8653.



The Women's Evening Bible Study will meet at 5:30 pm February 20th using *Journaling the Psalms: A Guide for Reflection and Prayer* by Paula Gooder. The church office has books available for purchase at \$17 each. Please contact the office at 843.883.3888 or hello@oursunrise.org to pickup your copy. New participants are welcome. I can't wait to begin this study with you! ~ Reece

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.



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.



February

BIRTHDAYS

2 Caroline Champagne

4 Barbara Powell

6 Maddie Russell

6 Annie Hakimi

9 Kylie Ruddock

10 Andy Rhyne

10 Ernest Thomas

10 Zinnia Tully

11 Russ Penley

11 Maggie White

13 Gary Hawkins

15 John Eppelsheimer

16 Sharon Floyd

20 Bill Schupp

20 Manning Rosen

20 Reid Tinker

22 Jane Hooper

23 Libby Kilpatrick

23 Van Nettles

24 Leo Hurst

25 Logan Nelson

25 Pam Rayburn

26 Becca Hodges

26 Dennis Frazier

27 Trent Tinker

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Choir Practice 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 4:30pm - Boy Scouts -	29 9am - Veritas Class 1:30pm - Music Lessons 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6:45pm - Seaside Singers	30 7:30am - Men's Breakfast	31 10am - AA Meeting	1 9am - Veritas 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6pm - Choir Practice	2 11am - Bridge - Fellowship	3 6am - Primary Election
4 Communion 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Choir Practice 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 4:30pm - Boy Scouts -	5 9am - Veritas Class 1:30pm - Music Lessons 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6:45pm - Seaside Singers	6 7:30am - Men's Breakfast	7 10am - AA Meeting	8 9am - Veritas 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6pm - Choir Practice	9 11am - Bridge - Fellowship 5pm - Veritas Movie Night -	10
11 Souper Bowl of Caring 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Choir Practice 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 11am - Chili Potluck/Oyster 2pm - Girl Scouts -	12 9am - Veritas Class 1:30pm - Music Lessons 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6:45pm - Seaside Singers	13 9am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Miriam-Naomi Circle	14 10am - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Ash Wednesday	15 9am - Veritas 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6pm - Choir Practice	16 11am - Bridge - Fellowship	17
18 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Choir Practice 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service	19 Presidents' Day 1:30pm - Music Lessons 5pm - Seaside Singers	20 7:30am - Men's Breakfast 5:30pm - Women's Evening	21 10am - AA Meeting	22 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6pm - Choir Practice	23 11am - Bridge - Fellowship	24 Wedding - Sanctuary 6am - Primary Election
25 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Choir Practice 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship) 9am - Growing Faith - Family 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 4:30pm - Boy Scouts -	26 9am - Veritas Class 1:30pm - Music Lessons 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6:45pm - Seaside Singers	27 7:30am - Men's Breakfast	28 10am - AA Meeting	29 9am - Veritas 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6pm - Choir Practice	1 11am - Bridge - Fellowship	2

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

Phone: (843) 883-3888
www.oursunrise.org

Sunrise Staff

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