

DISCIPLES MAKING A DIFFERENCE

February 2026

LIVING INTO OUR DISCIPLESHIP

Lent 2026

February 17th Shrove Tuesday

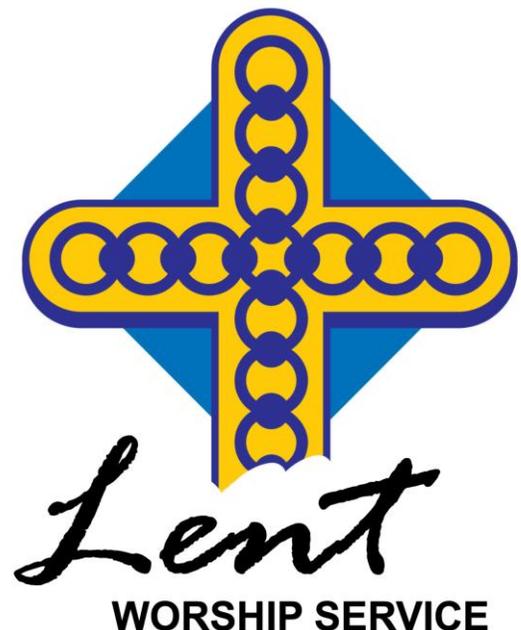
All activities in the Fellowship Hall

5:30 Meal (Lutheran Men)

6:30 Education and Burning of Palms



Pastors in the conference will bring a message to Mt. Hermon on Wednesdays in Lent. We will worship at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall and then share a meal together. The first worship will be on February 25. A pasta bar will be provided by the Care Team.



BEING A NEIGHBOR



³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers? ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Luke 10:36-37

Jesus asked, “Which one of these was a neighbor?” Mr. Rogers asked, “Won’t you be my neighbor?” I ask, “Who is your neighbor?”

Sometimes we don’t even know who lives in the house next to ours, and then sometimes we are best friends with our next-door neighbors. Webster defines neighbor as: “being immediately adjoining or relatively near.”

But how near is “near.”

Sometimes we fail to realize that people living in Lower Richland, Little Mountain, and Clinton are our neighbors. So, it would not be a stretch for us in West Columbia to fail to understand that those in Charleston, Greenville, and Myrtle Beach are our neighbors too. Yet neighbors aren’t defined merely by the distance – they’re also connected by beliefs, humanity, and needs.

Matthew writes in chapter 22: *³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’* I am certain that Jesus is not saying that we are to love just those who live near us or those in our nearby towns. I am certain that Jesus is speaking of those who need compassion. Those who are anywhere and everywhere!

The Good Samaritan was a person viewed as an enemy to the Jew who was beaten, yet Jesus called him the “neighbor to the man” in the ditch. The distance from Samaria and Galilee is the same memorable distance that Mary traveled to see Elizabeth: 90 miles. Jesus asks who the neighbor to someone is who lives 90 miles away and a neighbor who does not share the same religious beliefs.

The answer for all these questions of being a neighbor is US! We are all neighbors. Whether we live an hour and a half (or more) from someone AND we have different religious beliefs (and maybe political beliefs too): We are all neighbors! When we leave worship each Sunday, we declare: “Go to make a difference in the world for all of us and all of our neighbors.”

*Sister in Christ,
Pastor Gina*

CHURCH COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

Congregational Council Minutes December 2025

ATTENDANCE: Absent – Mary Koon, Jennifer Miller, Jerry Price, and Al Stevens

CARES AND CONCERNS: Prayers for Doris Maddox who is in the hospital; Jan Schofield and Andrea Bowers at the death of their sister; Joy Haygood during her chemo treatments; Josh Knutson, a young Charleston-area pastor who passed away unexpectedly; Skyler Miller who is healing, but lost a close friend in a car accident; Frankie Jackson who had knee surgery; Elyse Kinard for upcoming surgery on November 21; thanksgiving for Ryan Corley and Gina McKelvey, the two new members who joined today; and the three women who visited last week and returned today.

MEMBER CARE:

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Accepted as presented

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: Accepted as presented

REPORTS:

- Pastor Gina: Report for November 2025 was submitted.
- Treasurer: 1a Balance Sheet Last Month for October 2025, 1b Budget Comparison Last Month October 2025, and 1c Designated Funds Last Month for October 2025 were submitted.
- Financial Secretary: Funds Report for October 2025 was submitted.
- Executive Committee:

Team Reports/Recommendations:

Team for Ministry: Met on November 3

Care: Written report submitted. New Chairs for this Team are needed for 2026.

Outreach: Written report submitted. The Fall Festival went well and we will likely partner with Mt. Hebron on other events in 2026.

Support: Written report submitted. There is significant water damage in the kitchen and bathrooms in the parsonage. The Team expects the cost for repairs is approximately \$13,000. The carpet needs to be removed and will be replaced with LVP flooring. We will use money from Building Improvement and rent money to complete repairs which will be done in early 2026. Greg Bowman has already done a lot of light repair work in the parsonage. Property taxes will be due in January 2026 and will cost approximately \$3,700.

Finance: No report submitted.

Teach: No report submitted. The Children's Choir will sing at the Christmas Eve service and the Epiphany service.

Worship: Written report submitted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Director of Music Search Team – Irina Roof has extended her commitment through February 2026.
2. Stage Curtain – Check sent to Georgia Stage – no further updates at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Congregational Meeting for November 16
2. Nominations – Appearing on the ballot will be Jamie Addison, Diane Boulware, Wayne Eargle, Angie Hydrick, Melanie Jackson, Marion Leaphart, Emily Morris, Joel Price, Jr., and Youth Representatives Hayden Eargle and Sam Koon.
3. Agenda – The agenda for the Annual Meeting was accepted as presented.
4. Next Meeting: Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 11:30am. Newly elected Council members will be in attendance.
5. Next Month's Devotions and Lock Up – Jennifer Miller

Sheila Eargle, Council Secretary

ATTENDANCE REPORT

	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Live Streaming</u>	<u>Total</u>
December 24, 4:00pm	90	n/a	90
December 24, 7:00pm	67	185	252
December 28	85	142	227
January 04	105	165	270
January 06 Epiphany	69	n/a	69
January 11	72	132	204
January 18	82	127	209
January 25	n/a	216	216

TREASURER REPORT

Loan Balance 12/31/2025

45,768.60

2025 Year End

	Actual Income	Actual Expense	Difference
Current & Benevolence	265,930.69	262,715.03	3,215.66

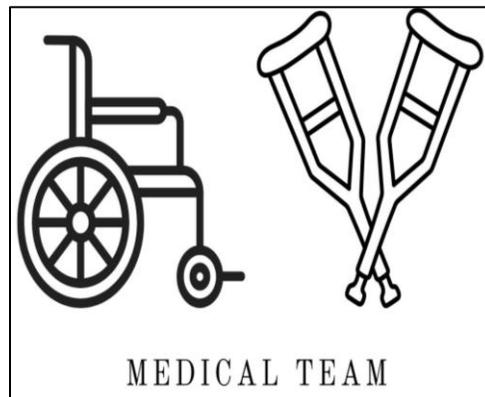
Thank you for your continued financial support of the ministries at Mt. Hermon. You donated \$40,873.85 during the month of December. Mt Hermon ended the year with a positive income to expenses of \$3,215.66! Thank you for your stewardship!

CARE TEAM HAPPENINGS

The Care Team meets on the 1st Monday of every month at 5:30 pm in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Sherwood Garrett or any team members and attend the next meeting!

Medical Team Ministry

Already the Medical Team has received a number of medical devices which anyone may use. If you have medical equipment that you wish to donate to this ministry, please contact Myra Kinard at 803-920-0222.



Care Connection

Our morning check-ins continue. Each morning you'll receive a text (or phone call, if you prefer). Just a quick response is all that's needed to be sure everyone is ready for the day!

If you would like to be included, please contact the church office!

Health & Wellness Seminar was POSTPONED due to a winter storm. Michele Head, NP, daughter of Earl and Mary Frances Sease, will be the speaker for Lutheran Men meeting on Monday, February 9, at 6:30. You'll learn practical tips for better lifestyle choices, explore wellness-focused diets, and discover secrets to healthy cooking. Light refreshments will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

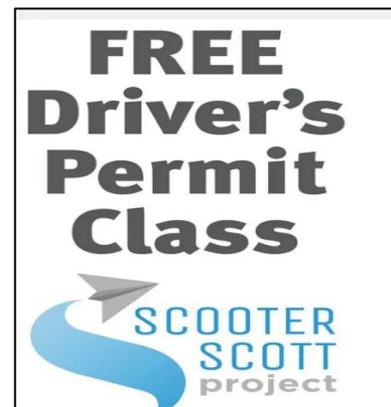


OUTREACH TEAM HAPPENINGS

The Outreach Team meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Charlene Corley, or any team member and attend the next meeting.

Scooter Scott Project-Driving Class

The Outreach committee is once again sponsoring along with the Scooter Scott Project, a Driver Permit Class. It will be held February 3 - 5 starting at 5:00pm until 7:00pm. We would love to have you come and help with this project. It is very rewarding to see the excitement on the student's faces when they pass their test. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please let Charlene Corley know 803-636-5352.



Food Pantry Frozen Meals

The Outreach Team is sponsoring a new ministry. Often following a meal in our Fellowship Hall, we package meals, freeze them, and distribute them through the Food Pantry. Many of our participants appreciate these meals. We are asking if you would like to prepare homemade meals especially to distribute through the Food Pantry. We will keep these items in the freezer in the Food Pantry. Examples are spaghetti, lasagna, vegetable soup, chicken pot pie, meat and veggie casseroles.

If you are interested in assisting with this ministry, please reach out to Diane Boulware or any Outreach Team member. There will be a sign-up/interest sheet in the breezeway.



SACK (Scriptures Arts Crocheting Knitting) with Danni Martin on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. The first SACK will be Tuesday, February 17, following Shrove Tuesday's meal and activities.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Meet in the church parking lot at 9am



Litter Trashes the Midlands
Don't do it!

February 14th

SUPPORT TEAM HAPPENINGS

The Support Team meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Ronnie Fulmer or any team members and attend the next meeting.

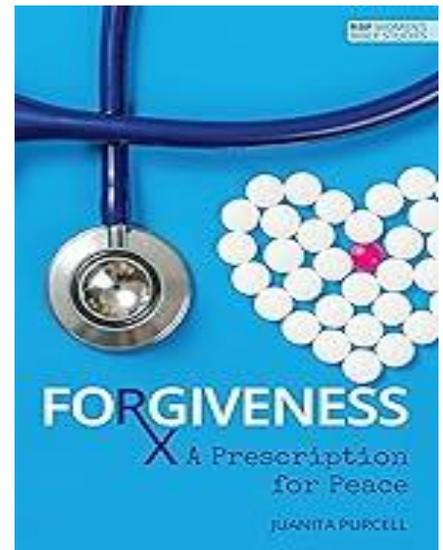
The Support is working on many projects and will have information to share with the congregation soon.

TEACH TEAM HAPPENINGS

The Teach Team meets on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 11:30am in the Education Wing. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Mary Koon, or any team member and attend the next meeting.

Forgiveness: A Prescription for Peace

Robin Machajewski and Danni Martin will be leading a Bible study about forgiveness. The studies will be held at the church on the following Sundays at 1:30-3:30pm: 2/1/26, 2/8/26, 2/22/26, 3/1/26, 3/8/26, and 3/15/26. 10 copies of the books have been donated. This Bible study will require some reading and self-reflection prior to meetings. If you are interested, please email Robin at Robeanei@gmail.com and she will coordinate getting a book to you prior to the study start date.



At the Shrove Tuesday meal, we will paint an **Alleluia banner** which we will bury since the word "Alleluia" is not spoken during the season of Lent. We will use this banner on the altar at Sunrise Service.

WORSHIP TEAM HAPPENINGS

The Worship Team meets on the 3rd Sunday at 11:30am in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Marion Leaphart or any team member and attend the next meeting.

The Search Team continues to seek the next Music Director for Mt. Hermon. We are grateful to Irina Roof, Ryan Price, and Josh Evanovich for their continued leadership.



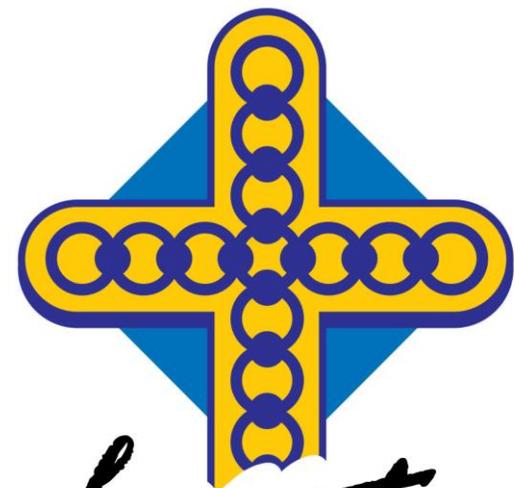
Altar Flowers

The 2026 flower chart is posted in the breezeway. Please sign up to remember or honor your loved ones. The cost of the flowers is \$65. You can place a check in the offering plate in the month when the flowers are placed on the altar.

Wednesdays in Lent

Pastors from Zion, St David, Mt Tabor, and Mt Hermon will rotate through the churches bringing a message on Wednesdays in Lent. We will worship at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall and then share a meal together.

February 25	pasta bar	Care Team
March 04	shrimp & grits	Support Team
March 11	-	Teach Team
March 18	pulled pork	Outreach Team
March 25	greek chicken	Worship Team



Lent

WORSHIP SERVICE

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	February 01	February 08	February 15	February 22
Ushers	Blake Allen	Mary Price	Kay Bryant	Arron Kinard
	Jeff Price	Angie Hydrick	Larry Amick	Frank Bouknight
Crucifer	Sydney Bucknam	Brayden Rutherford	Hayes Wingard	Hayden Eargle
Acolyte	Chanler Coppens	Dylan Whitaker	Mackenzie Burns	Braydon Johnson
Lector	Jim Whitaker	Diane Boulware	Allison Swygert	Frankie Jackson
Comm Assts	Sydney Bucknam	Brayden Rutherford	Hayes Wingard	Hayden Eargle
	Chanler Coppens	Dylan Whitaker	Mackenzie Burns	Kirby Johnson
	Jerry Price	Marion Leaphart	Allison Swygert	Frankie Jackson
	Parker Boulware	Cyndi Leaphart	Terry Swygert	Melanie Jackson
	Cheri Coppens	Danni Martin	Kathy Cooper	Daryl Leigh Anthony
Audio	Brandon Donaldson	Arron Kinard	Blake Allen	Brandon Donaldson
Video	Marie Gardner	Quentin Kinard	Breanna Metze	Marie Gardner
Flowers	Sease Ann Bouknight	Bucknam	McKelvey	Marsh

SERVING IN JANUARY

LOCK UP & COUNCIL DEVOTIONS: Jennifer Miller

ALTAR GUILD: Jennifer Price

TABULATORS: Ronnie Fulmer, Mary Price

** If you are unable to serve, please ask someone to serve in your absence.*



- | | |
|--------|---|
| Feb 03 | Fran Bouknight, Sharon Keefe, Terry Swygert |
| Feb 04 | Tommy Mills |
| Feb 05 | Rick Anthony, Neal Taylor |
| | ♥ Feb 05 Earl & Mary Frances Sease |
| Feb 06 | Kay Bryant, Kathy Cooper, Breanna Metze |
| Feb 07 | Leah Rawl |
| Feb 09 | Ronnie Fulmer, Pastor Gina Metze |
| Feb 10 | Elaine Clawson, Spencer Price |
| | ♥ Feb 11 Arron & Elyse Kinard |
| Feb 16 | Elyse Kinard, Scottie Marsh, Taylor Taylor |
| | ♥ Feb 17 Jim & Kathy Whitaker |
| Feb 19 | Bryce Addy, Keith Morris, Brayden Morris |
| | ♥ Feb 20 David & Audrey Jennings |
| Feb 21 | Jacob Marsh |
| Feb 22 | Jeff Bucknam, Sam Cooper |
| Feb 23 | Marvin Bouknight |
| Feb 24 | Al Stevens |
| Feb 25 | Connor Eargle, Beth Jordan |
| Feb 26 | Sheila Eargle, Lawson Morris |
| | ♥ Feb 29 Marion & Cyndi Leaphart |

Please let the office know if your information is not printed in this listing.
office@WeAreMtHermon.com or 803.240-3143

MT HERMON PRAYS

Continual Prayer

Patricia Bachman, *Asbury Arms*
Lauvenia Butts, *Lakeside Place*
Doris Carver, *Presby Home*
Georgianna Gray, *home*
James Hallman, *Agape House*

Marie Kleckley, *Lex Ext Care*
Gloria Mathias, *home*
Jean Shealy, *Lakeside Place*
Cyndi Thurman, *home*
Linda Waters-Hamilton, *home*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Lauren Addy	Sarah Bryant	Scarlett Bryant	Chris Carroll
Debbie Duval	Renee Greenbaum	Joye Haygood	Frankie Jackson
Elyse Kinard	Doris Maddox	Skyler Miller	Amanda Robinette
Dennis Thurman	Jim Whitaker		

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Prayer

Billy Huckabee, *friend of Danny Scott*
Stetson Cooper, *grandson of Dan Cooper*
Paula Miller, *friend of Brittany Allen*
Dawn McIlwain-Merck,
friend of Robin Ellisor
John Catoe, *family of the Ellisors*
Mrs. William L. Coleman Jr (Carolyn),
friends of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart
Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*
Phil Dennis, *brother of Lavonne Roof*
Nancy Lail-Hulon & Family,
friends of Debra & Dave Butts
Sandra Watson,
aunt of Courtney Bucknam
Jaimie Womack,
friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price
Cynthia Rabon, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*
Blase Rhine,
grandson of Frank & Bonnie Bouknight
Jeslyn, *friend of Scarlett Bryant*
Faye McCartha, *mother of Debra Butts*
Robbie Rector, *friend Jennifer Miller*
Bill Geddings, *father of Allison Swygert*
Jane Baxley, *cousin of Michelle Gantt*
Joyce Davis, *grandmother of Jaquelyn Hawlik*
Will & Summer Satcher, *friend of Courtney Bucknam*
Sam Lockridge, *friend of Scottie Marsh*
Thelma Moyer, *mother of Diane Boulware*

Kaiden Howell,
friend of Jacquelynn Hawlik
Randy Stonehill, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer*
Linda Bennett, *mother of Beth Jordan*
Neice of *Abbey Carroll's teacher*
Singley & Parisano families,
friends of Sam & Kathy Cooper
Joy Jordan, *friend of Michelle Gantt*
Dorris Layton,
friend of Earl & Mary Frances Sease
Jody Harper, *friend of Kelli Goff*
Tressa Oswalt, *Angie Hydrick's sister*
Wayne LaBounty, *friend of Herb Bucknam*
Scarlett Redmon, *cousin of Kinard Family*
Joe & Billy Corder, *friends of Ryan Price*
Michael Williams,
son-in-law Georgianna Gray
Wayne & Kristen Watkins,
friends of Courtney Bucknam
Meredith Thorndike,
goddaughter of Wayne & Charlene Corley
Melissa, *niece of Ricky & Fran Bouknight*
Anne Piercy, *friend of Kathy Whitaker*
Addie, *granddaughter of Lavonne Roof*
Elizabeth McKee, *aunt of Bonnie Bouknight*
Frank Flinn, *friend of Ryan Price*
Jimmy Maddox, *husband of Doris Maddox*
Bishop Ginny Aebischer, *SC Synod*

FEBRUARY

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 1:30pm EW: Bible Study	2 Groundhog Day 5:30pm CR: Care Team 6:30pm CR: Team for Ministry 	3 5:00pm Executive Team 5:00pm EW: Scooter Scott Project-Driving Class 6:00pm GR: Grief Support	4 9:00am Food Pantry (Ann Bouknight, Angie Hydrick, Sherwood Garrett) 9:30am Staff Meeting 5:00pm EW: Driving Class 6:30 pm Choir	5 5:00pm EW: Scooter Scott Project-Driving Class	6	7 9:00am Food Pantry (Lynn Bouknight, Karen Nicholson)
8 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am Council Meets 1:30pm EW: Bible Study	9 6:30pm Lutheran Men & Women	10 6:30pm LIFE Group at Jackson's	11 9:00am Food Pantry (Ann Addy, Debra & Dave Butts, Sharon Keefe) 12:05pm OneBody	12 6:00pm CR: Travel Team	13	14 Valentine's Day 9:00am Adopt-A-Highway 9:00am Food Pantry (Diane & Parker Boulware, Marcia Wadford)
15 Transfiguration Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am EW: Teach Team 1:30pm CR: Worship Team 	16 Presidents' Day 6:00pm CR: Finance Team 	17 Shrove Tuesday 5:30pm Shrove Tuesday Meal 6:00pm GR: Grief Support 6:30pm Burning of Palms 7:00 EW: SACK	18 Ash Wednesday 9:00am Food Pantry (Diane Boulware, Mary Frances Sease, Mary Price) 12:00pm Worship 6:30pm Worship	19 6:00pm CR: Outreach Team	20	21 9:00am Food Pantry (Melanie & Frankie Jackson, Katie Donaldson)
22 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 1:30pm EW: Bible Study	23	24 6:30pm CR: Support Team 6:30pm LIFE Group at Jackson's	25 9:00am Food Pantry (Debbie & Rick Duval, Jamie & Nancy Addison) 12:05pm OneBody	26	27 FH: Cornerstone FunRaiser	28 FH: Cornerstone FunRaiser 9:00am Food Pantry (Laura & Al Stevens, Frank Bouknight)



Mt Hermon Lutheran Church
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 West Columbia, SC 29169

WeAreMtHermon

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