

SUNRISE CHURCH | JANUARY 2025

# The Beacon

HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR

## Happy New Year

Sunrise Church is excited to welcome 2025 as a year filled with hope and joy.

*New Year ~ 2025*

Last Sunday was Reece's final Sunday with us in her capacity as a Commissioned Lay Pastor. This is a huge change for all of us at Sunrise! She has been serving Sunrise for three decades, teaching Sunday school, leading Bible Studies, providing pastoral care, guiding mission trips, leading worship and preaching. Her gifts and service are incredible! Personally, I'm still trying to get my head and heart around this news and the change!

As many of you know, Reece has decided to begin volunteering Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings on the Pediatric Burn Unit at MUSC. You may not have known that Ernest was severely burned as a child and spent nine months in a burn unit. His mother was seldom able to visit him as she was caring for his many younger siblings. His experience inspired her to volunteer as a weekend visitor when the children are most alone. Her new schedule will preclude her from being at Sunrise on Sunday mornings.

On December 15, we recognized Reece's service to Sunrise. As part of that recognition, we are giving her a gift she can use daily. It is a handmade bag from the company Klum House. They design and provide kits for people that enjoy creating personalized bags. I will be sewing the bag for Reece and embossing a message on the leather strap. [I have made several of these kits before and can testify to the quality of the design and video instructions]. The message on the leather strap is from Reece's favorite scripture: "Do Justice . . . Love Kindness . . . Walk Humbly With Your God"

Here's a picture of the bag and the color selection Reece chose.



In January, the Family Service will begin being led by a team. Breezy and the Middle School Youth will conduct a Family Service once a month. Neila Cary and Michelle Page have enthusiastically volunteered to lead Family Services. For January, the theme of the services as well as the Sunday school lessons and crafts is Moses.

January 5	The Birth of Moses
January 12	The Burning Bush
January 19	Stories About Moses
January 26	The Ten Commandments

Since Growing Faith is largely a Middle School program, Breezy will begin leading it in January. This month, Growing Faith will meet on Sunday, January 26 because of the MLK holiday Weekend on the third Sunday of January. On Growing Faith Sundays, the Middle School Youth will be leading the Family Service.

As we head into the New Year, I am grateful for the incredible blessings of the last year and the amazing possibilities of the coming year.

In God's grace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vance".



## JOIN THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SO NO ONE GOES WITHOUT SOUP IN THEIR BOWL



Save the Date - February 9th

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## Flower Dedications

The 2025 Flower Dedication Calendar is posted in the Narthex. If you would like, please take this opportunity to volunteer to provide flowers in the Sanctuary dedicated *in honor of* or *in memory of* loved ones. You may also contact the church office at 843.883.3888 or [hello@oursunrise.org](mailto:hello@oursunrise.org) with your dedictaions.

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## Sunrise Columbarium and Memorial Garden

New Year's is a time when we make "resolutions" to complete plans and get things done. In the spring and summer of 2025, the Sunrise Columbarium and Memorial Garden will be built and dedicated. The columbarium will then be available for inurnment services and the dedication of memorial plaques. Eickhof Columbaria will be building the columbarium. They are one of the most respected companies in the U.S. in their field. If you would like to learn more about them, their website is [www.eickhofcolumbaria.com](http://www.eickhofcolumbaria.com).

Few people have complete plans for end-of-life. If you have been thinking about a final resting place for yourself and your loved ones, or if you feel you should be thinking about it, this may be the time to make a plan. This is especially important if a loved one has passed away and a permanent place of rest has not been determined. Pre-planning can ease the burden for loved ones and guarantee the opportunity to choose a final resting place. Also, there are times when someone dies without a plan. Vance and the Columbarium Committee are always available to begin these difficult but important conversations and to help you make a plan.

Pre-construction opportunities, including special pricing and the Pre-Construction Agreement, will be available for a few more months as we move into the Construction Phase of the project. Each Sunday in January, members of the Columbarium Committee will be in the fellowship hall after worship to provide information about the columbarium garden. Information is also available on the church website at [www.oursunrise.org](http://www.oursunrise.org) under Resources, at the church office, or by contacting Ida Havelka, Columbarium Committee Chair, at [ihavelka@comcast.net](mailto:ihavelka@comcast.net), 843- 412-1884. Wishing you and your loved ones the very best for the new year.

# January at Sunrise

**Growing Faith's** next meeting will be on January 26th at 9 am in the upstairs classroom. Any older elementary & middle school students (4th - 8th grade) are invited to join us!

**The Adult Sunday School** class will continue with its Bible study that connects the many familiar stories and people of the Bible. The class meets weekly in the Church Library at 9:00 a.m. There is a Zoom option. ~ Vance

**High School Youth Group** (9th-12th grade) meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm in the church library. Our evening includes a meet & greet, devotional time, dinner and fun activities such as a beach bonfires, a night at the fair, community service projects and many other fun activities. Come join us and feel free to bring a friend...or two. If there are any questions, please contact Victor Apat at [vapat6604@gmail.com](mailto:vapat6604@gmail.com) or 843-442-1177.

**Middle School Youth Group** (6th-8th grade) meets Sundays at 10:30 am and will also meet January 5th and 19th from 5:30 - 7:30 pm at Sunrise Church. This month's meetings will include working on decorating our new room, dinner, and a group devotional. If you have any questions, please reach out to Breezy at [breezy@oursunrise.org](mailto:breezy@oursunrise.org) or (843) 860-9581.

**The Women's Morning Bible Study** will meet Tuesday, January 14th at 10:00 a.m. in the Church Library. 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 continue their study January 21st at 5:30 pm using *Journaling the Psalms: A Guide for Reflection and Prayer* by Paula Gooder. New participants are always welcome.

**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. Enjoy great food, fellowship, and a devotion.



## Thank You

Men's Breakfast pals Bill Casey and Tommy Bulwinkle team up to patch and repaint church steps on a hot day! Thank you so much for your contribution!



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## Meals on Wheels Christmas Donation

A huge thank you to the outpouring of donations for the 2024 Meals on Wheels Angel Tree. The recipients were so thankful and appreciative of your generosity and love you showed them.



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## Live Nativity Photos

Sunrise's annual Live Nativity was a huge success this year. Thank you to everyone who helped make this evening so special.





## Thank you for your generous contribution to the Remembrance Garden...

- In memory of Dick Blanchard, Betty Imsande, Ernest Thomas, Bill Dawson, and Tim Kane given by Roberta Blanchard and René Severns

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## The Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain is looking for additional participants. This important Sunrise Ministry requires very little time and effort. When you receive a call saying that someone is in need immediate prayers, in addition to praying, you call the next person on the Prayer Chain List and pass along the prayer need. You can be on the Morning Prayer Chain (no calls before 9am) or the Evening Prayer Chain (no calls after 10pm). If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact Patsy Hindman (843) 906-8653 or [pbhindman@bellsouth.net](mailto:pbhindman@bellsouth.net).

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## TV Donation Requested

The Middle School Youth Group will be making the room across from the library their new space. They'd love to equip the room with a tv and are looking for a donation if anyone in the congregation has one they'd like to donate. Please contact Hannah at the church office for more info ([hannah@oursunrise.org](mailto:hannah@oursunrise.org)).

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## Christmas Eve 2024

We had a wonderful turnout for both Christmas Eve services. Thank you for making the Sanctuary look so beautiful for the celebration.



# January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 10:40am - Middle School Youth	30	31	1 10am - AA Meeting	2	3 4pm - Rehearsal Dinner -	4 4:30pm - Jeffrey Smith Reception
5 Communion 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 10:40am - Middle School Youth 5:30pm - Middle School Youth	6 9am - Veritas 2:45pm - Music Lessons 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate	7 7:30am - Men's Breakfast 7pm - High School Youth Group	8 10am - AA Meeting	9 9am - Veritas 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6:15pm - Choir Practice	10 10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall	11 8am - Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian
12 Certs-Ability 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 10:40am - Middle School Youth 2pm - Cub Scouts (Fellowship	13 9am - Veritas 2:45pm - Music Lessons 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate	14 7:30am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Women's Morning Bible 7pm - High School Youth Group	15 10am - AA Meeting 11am - Sunrise Presbyterian	16 9am - Veritas 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6pm - Battery Gadsden - 6:15pm - Choir Practice	17 10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall	18
19 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 10:40am - Middle School Youth 5:30pm - Middle School Youth	20 9am - Veritas 2:45pm - Music Lessons 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6pm - Seaside Singers - Sanctuary	21 7:30am - Men's Breakfast 5:30pm - Women's Evening Bible 7pm - High School Youth Group	22 10am - AA Meeting	23 9am - Veritas 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6:15pm - Choir Practice	24 10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall	25 9am - Karate Testing - Fellowship
26 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 9am - Growing Faith - Family 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 10:40am - Middle School Youth	27 9am - Veritas 2:45pm - Music Lessons 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6pm - Seaside Singers - Sanctuary	28 7:30am - Men's Breakfast 7pm - High School Youth Group	29 10am - AA Meeting	30 9am - Veritas 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6:15pm - Choir Practice	31 10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall	1

# January Birthdays

1 Danielle Feerst	18 John Wertz
1 Jeff Panitt	18 Leslie Belicka
1 Lucy Williams	18 Hallie Tinker
1 Lia McKee	19 Madge Walther
2 Adlai Allard	19 Ross Wilson
3 John Clarke	19 Dolores Russell
3 Victoria Kern	20 Betty Milner
4 Carolyn Rhyne	22 Diane Schmidt
5 Dave Shrader	24 Gene McClary
6 Lauren Nelson	25 Reid Jeffers
7 Lamar Graves	26 Pat Fields
9 Carlin Timmons	27 Vance Polley
10 Ralph Byers	28 Georgia Stewart
11 Bill McClary	28 Amy Major
11 Charles Guss	29 Rusty Reaser
11 Brian Fehon	29 Ray Dickinson
12 Brady Long	30 Julie Milly
13 Brendan Jeffers	30 John Hardwick
17 Dan Floyd	



**Church Office Hours:**

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Phone: (843) 883-3888

[www.oursunrise.org](http://www.oursunrise.org)

## Sunrise Staff

**The Rev. Dr. Vance E. Polley, D. Min.**

*Pastor*

*VancePolley@me.com*

**Matthew Parker, M.M.**

*Director of Music Ministries*

*mthwprkr5617@icloud.com*

**Breezy Baxley**

*Middle School Youth Leader*

*breezy@oursunrise.org*

**Hannah Webster, MBA**

*Church Administrator*

*hannah@oursunrise.org*



Sunrise Presbyterian Church  
3222 Middle Street  
PO Box 517  
Sullivan's Island, SC 29482