

SUNRISE CHURCH | MARCH 2025

The Beacon



Welcoming Lent

"Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes." -Daniel 9:3

Lent: A Change of Heart

Change or *transformation* is an essential theme of the Lenten Season. Lent begins this year with Ash Wednesday on March 5th. It is an important time to consider the changes we need to make in our own lives. Leo Tolstoy once observed, *everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself*. We really do have a tendency of looking around ourselves and identifying those things that need changing, instead of beginning inside with the décor of our own hearts and doing some *interior renovations!*

Take a moment to consider your heart as room. How is it decorated? What types of pictures are hanging on its walls? What memories are kept there? If your experience is anything like mine, there are some wonderfully cherished images that evoke good people and great times. There are also images that keep the fires of old hurt feelings burning bright. Looking around the room that is our heart, what renovations need to be made?

Doing the work of this *interior renovation* is the purpose of Lent. Please take careful note of the many opportunities between now and Easter to worship, learn, and serve. You will also notice that there are great fellowship events planned. In sharing our lives, we support, inspire, and encourage each other.

Speaking of change, have you noticed the many wonderful changes taking place around the church?

- The columbarium is under construction with its dedication anticipated on Maundy Thursday!
- The islands in our parking lots are being transformed with the installation of gravel to eliminate weeds. The team of volunteers is hard at work, led by our Building and Grounds Elder Lamar Graves. Thank you to those that have volunteered at this writing: Sheila Graves, Jim Graves, Ann Brown, Patrick McDavid, Faith Frink, Bill Rayburn, Brantly Cox, and Rick Wagner.
- The Middle School Youth Room across from the church library. Under the leadership of Breezy Baxley, the room has been transformed. It is now a warm inviting space. Breezy has remarkable talents that transcend her personal connection with the youth. She is highly skilled as a painter, and Sunrise owes her a big thank you for the new appearance of the room. A special shout out to Charlotte Webster for her wonderful eye for design suggestions and ideas!

In God's grace,



Ash Wednesday

March 5th at 6:30 p.m.

Communion and the Receiving of Ashes

March at Sunrise

Growing Faith's next meeting will be on March 16th 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 video conference option via google meet. ~ 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 bonfire, 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 or 843-442-1177.

Middle School Youth Group (6th-8th grade) meets Sundays at 10:30 am and will also meet March 2nd and 23rd from 5:30 - 7:30 pm at Sunrise Church. This month's meetings will include dinner, games, and a group devotional. If you have any questions, please reach out to Breezy at breezy@oursunrise.org or (843) 860-9581.

The Women's Morning Bible Study will meet Tuesday, March 18th 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 March 18th 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 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy great food, fellowship, and a devotion.



Thank you for being so supportive of East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO) in 2024. This past year, Sunrise Church generously donated \$6,727.00 and over 800 pounds of donations to support ECCO's mission, allowing us to continue making a difference in the local community by providing assistance, guidance, and resources to help our neighbor navigate through life's challenges. Please know how thankful we are to count you in our circle of support.

Grocery Bag Sunday is March 23rd. Grocery bags with shopping lists attached will be available in the Narthex and in the bin outside the Fellowship Hall doors beginning Sunday, March 16th. All filled grocery bags need to be returned by Sunday, March 23rd.

Preparing for Lent

Lent devotionals are available in the Narthex and will be distributed to Growing Faith & Family Chapel families. We have two options this year: an adult devotional designed to help us discover a deeper and richer relationship with God and a children's Lent calendar which features a door to open for each Sunday in Lent. Behind each door, there is a theme to focus on, an activity, and suggested scripture reading.

Ash Wednesday Service

The Ash Wednesday Service is Wednesday, March 5th at 6:30 p.m. To begin the Lenten Season, join us for this very special service. Through music, prayer and scripture, we'll reorient our spiritual lives. Communion will be served as well as the receiving of ashes.



Valentine's Day Breakfast





Reece was given her parting gift from Sunrise which was made by Vance this week. She loved it and it will always keep her Sunrise memories close to her heart.

Sunrise Columbarium & Memorial Garden

Good news! The columbarium is scheduled to be completed in March, and the dedication is targeted for Maundy Thursday, April 17. The columbarium will provide a sacred and beautiful final resting place for our members, our families and our descendants for generations to come.

Additionally, the garden will be a serene space available to all for remembering loved ones, praying, mediating or just enjoying the sunset over the marsh. Pre-construction opportunities, including special pricing and the Pre-Construction Agreement, will be available through March 2. The agreement offers the purchase of a niche with a deposit of \$2,000 and the balance paid within six months. If you have been thinking about purchasing a niche, you may want to take advantage of these pre-construction opportunities while they are still available. Regular prices will begin March 3.

There are niche options for different situations. Often couples don't have the same desire for their final resting place. One person wants to be cremated and have a niche in the columbarium. The other person may want their remains to be buried, scattered or inurned somewhere else. That's okay. Let us help you make a plan.

Memorial Plaques may be purchase for loved ones who are inurned or interred elsewhere.

Additionally, memorial gifts and donations may be made to the Columbarium Fund to help support the construction and maintenance of the columbarium garden. Sunday, March 2, Columbarium Committee members 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 under Resources, at the church office, or by contacting Ida Havelka, Columbarium Committee Chair, at ihavelka@comcast.net, 843-412-1884.

Click on the [HERE](#) to see a video of the Columbarium and Memorial Garden.



March 2025

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



Campfire Night

The high-school youth group at Sunrise enjoyed a campfire night on the beach on February 7th, 2025. The night was filled with fun, laughter, and fellowship.

The Souper Bowl of Caring

This year on Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, Sunrise Church donated \$158 and 220 food items which will be donated to the College of Charleston Food Pantry and ECCO. Thank you for your generosity!

A blue graphic with white and yellow text. At the top, it says "THANK YOU!" in large white letters. Below that, "Sunrise Presbyterian Church" is written in white. In the center, "2025" is written in large, semi-transparent white numbers. Below the year, "\$158 and 220 items" is written in white. A paragraph of text follows: "Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed, and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving." At the bottom left is the "TACKLE HUNGER" logo, which features a white 'S' inside a blue circle. At the bottom right is a signature of Alison Reese, followed by her name and title: "Alison Reese, Executive Director, Tackle Hunger: Home of the Souper Bowl of Caring". The date "February 9, 2025" is written in white in the bottom center.



New Youth Space

The nursery room was recently transformed into an incredible refreshed and usable space for the Middle School Youth Group. This room will give the youth a space of their own to spend time together, allowing them to continue developing strong relationships with each other and in their walk with God.

March Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Roberta Blanchard | 17 | Mark George |
| 2 | Linda Nettles | 18 | Lila Terry |
| 4 | Mikayla Locke | 22 | Joe Hager |
| 5. | Amanda Holliday | 23 | Dan Hancock |
| 6 | Devin McDavid Jones | 24 | Gayle Nixon |
| 8 | Robin Feerst | 24 | James Hunt |
| 8 | Mary Anne Lake | 25 | Charlie Evans |
| 10 | Barbara Dingle | 27 | Walker Chalmers |
| 11 | Carly McDavid | 28 | Hope Murph |
| 14 | Chuck Lockhart | 31 | Pat Latham |
| 14 | Brianna Hill | 31 | Bob Waller |
| 15 | Elinor Varndell | 31 | Emily Fairchild |
| 15 | Sarah Hooper | | |

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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