



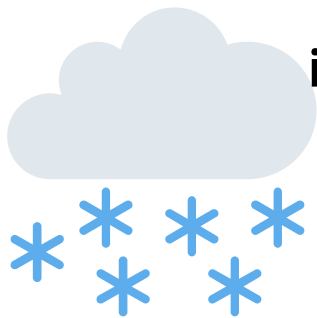
The Bi-Weekly Newsletter from Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church

## COMING HOME

Sermon Series:  
January 16 - February 20, 2022



**Due to the potential for inclement weather on Sunday, January 16, 2022, we will meet virtually for Worship and Roads to Faith Sunday School!**



(links at the end of this newsletter)



*Check your mailbox! You should receive a letter early next week regarding your pledge for 2022.*

<b>Banks Robinson</b>	<b>1/14</b>	<b>Barbara Fowler</b>	<b>1/23</b>
<b>Sydney Edwards</b>	<b>1/19</b>	<b>Janice Holbrook</b>	<b>1/23</b>
<b>Will Watkins</b>	<b>1/21</b>	<b>Jenny Fogle</b>	<b>1/24</b>
<b>Rachel Cheung</b>	<b>1/22</b>	<b>Aussie Noë Smith</b>	<b>1/25</b>

## Happy Birthday!!!

# SOPC NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

Our blessing box is blessing our community, but we can't do it without your help! Please bring non-perishable food items to continue the blessings! You may place items in the black baskets in the Narthex or you may drop off items in the church office.

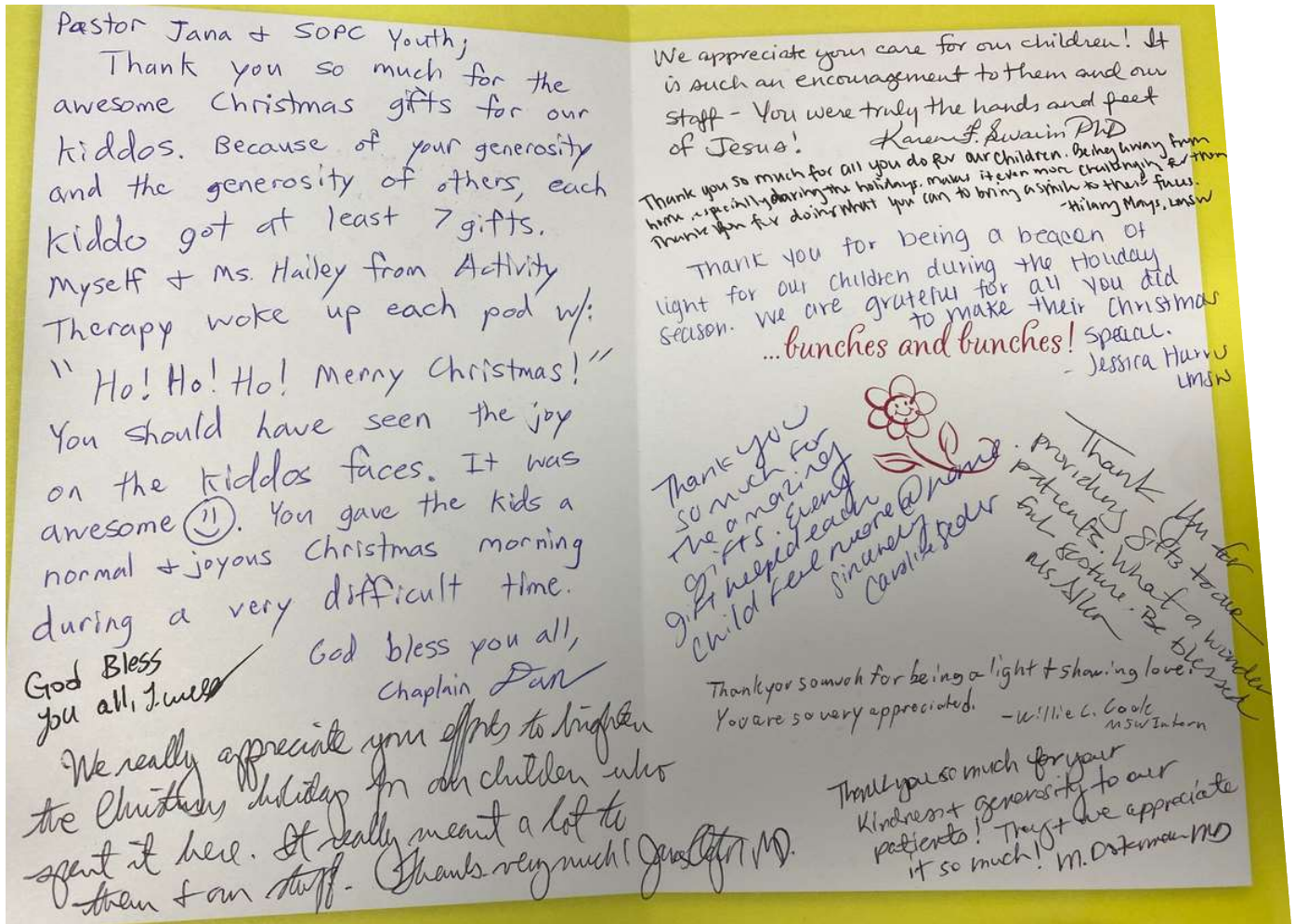


The Ladies Luncheon will be January 17, 2022 at Noon at the Olive Garden, 274 Harbison Blvd., Columbia. Please contact Margaret Royals at 803-957-0430 or mroyals052@ gmail.com if attending.

Make plans to attend the annual congregational meeting Sunday, January 30, 2022 following worship service.



## Thank you!!!



# COMMUNITY PAGE

## *The Love Revolution*

**In the words of Disney's 'The Lion King', Can you feel the Love tonight?  
The love Revolution is serving a portion of our community with much needed food, fellowship  
and attire.**

**Those serving have provided meals, job connections, homes and placements,  
counseling/referrals, and haircuts. Your support and prayers for this grass roots ministry is  
needed and appreciated as we change our community in Saint Andrews one person at a time.**

**Do you have a gift to share? Contact the office and let's work together to meet the needs!**

### **The Clothes Closet**

**The clothes closet is currently serving the attendees of the Love Revolution with love and grace.  
Organization is largely thanks to Loretta Demko and her love for organization and God's people.  
All donations should be dropped off in the missions closet or in the office for sorting. As Reshape  
takes shape, we pray the clothes closet will serve more in our community, sharing the love of  
Christ one person at a time.**

---

## **MORE Justice**

**It's time for our More Justice network meeting gathering!**

**Things you need to know:**

**- January 23 and 30 after worship you will begin choosing who you will invite to the Nehemiah  
Action. Visit the table in the narthex these Sundays. Online worshippers, you may be  
contacted by phone or we can decide at the network meeting itself.**

**-All MJ network members are invited to your next scheduled network meeting  
February 8, 6:30 pm, via zoom (link coming soon).**

**- Please be preparing any financial commitment you will be willing to make to this life and  
community changing work.**

**- Mark your calendars for the following:**

**March 14 the Rally (in preparation for Nehemiah action, everyone is invited) at Reid Chapel  
AME (social distancing available)**

**April 4 Nehemiah action (bring 3 friends/fellow church members) at the  
Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center  
(Vaccinations and masks required for both events)**

# SOPC YOUTH



**Bible Study and Fellowship Information (no classes January 16th due to inclement weather, join us on January 23, 2022:**

**Confirmation class, Sundays in the youth room, 9:30 - 10:00 am**

**Youth Sunday School, for all youth, in the youth room 10:00 -10:40 am**

**Thursdays, 6:00 - 7:30 pm, Bible Study**

# SOPC KIDS

## **Godly Play (Children's Sunday School)**

**Sundays at 10:00 am in Building A**

# JAMA AND YOUTH

*Lions and Tigers and Bears!!!....*

Mark your calendars to come to the JAMA and Youth excursion to Riverbanks Zoo on January 23, 2022, 2:00 - 5:00 pm! Meet near the parking lot stairs in front of admissions on the animal side of the zoo.





# A message from your Pastor

*Churches across our world are challenged by the pandemic and volatile events. Our format, our membership, our finances, all have taken a hit. The following article is a resource shared by Trinity Presbytery that highlight what thriving churches during the pandemic are doing or adopting. Take a look at the list. Can you see how SOPC is doing these things right here and right now? I am so thankful to lead and serve among each of you, people of God. Lord, make us an instrument of your peace.*

## WHAT ARE CHURCHES THAT ARE DOING WELL DURING THE PANDEMIC DOING DIFFERENTLY THAN THOSE THAT ARE NOT?

According to Thom Rainer, founder and CEO of Church Answers, while some churches have incorporated a few of these 12 traits, churches doing well during the pandemic have incorporated all 12 traits into the life of their congregations.

**Trait 1. Faithfully preach and teach the Bible.** Of course, this seems obvious. However, these healthy churches give top priority to the preaching and teaching of the Bible. People need to listen to God more than ever in these days of unprecedented uncertainty.

**Trait 2. Intensify your evangelistic efforts.** There are two realities related to this second trait. First, most, if not almost all, churches lost their evangelical focus and priority before the pandemic. Second, in the transforming power of God, these healthy churches decided to renew their commitment to evangelism.

**Trait 3. Give hope and encouragement during the pandemic.** The leaders of these churches seem to know how to proclaim God's redemptive work in a way that gives believers encouragement and hope. Members of their churches continue to feel that God has not abandoned them, that God is working for their good in difficult times.

**Trait 4. Stay away from political struggles.** You will not find the leaders of these churches on Facebook discussing the latest hot topic. They stay focused on Christ and his work. "Most of the time, the members of your church will follow your example," says Rainer.

Now, I must admit that this trait of Rainer's leaves me a little perplexed because the role of Prophet is definitely the work of Christ. I believe there are times when we have to perform the Prophet's role and prophetically speak truth to power. The reluctance and outright unwillingness to focus on Christ and this aspect of his work, in my opinion, is a contributing factor that has made the Church complicit in the racial inequalities and systemic racism that exist in America today.

**Trait 5. Re-evaluate your staff structure.** Churches across our country are at the start of a massive staff realignment. These healthy churches have leaders who recognize that they are on the verge of a mass movement. They want to understand it so that they are ready to make the right changes.

**Trait 6. Support or adopt churches.** These churches actively try to help other churches. Sometimes the kind of help is providing resources and people for a season. This is fostering church support. Other times, these churches become multisite congregations by formally adopting a church into their family and making it an offsite campus of their congregation.

**Trait 7. Do more to become a welcoming church.** The leaders of these churches recognize that many members and guests return to in-person worship with a sense of hesitation and uncertainty. They understand that whoever greets them when they arrive is more important than ever.

**Trait 8. Pay close attention to your groups and the structure of your small groups.** A church with healthy groups is likely to be healthier in evangelism, service, assimilation, and administration. The importance of caring relationships to the health of the church only increased during the pandemic.

**Trait 9. Raise the bar of expectations.** This trait seems contradictory. If people are less engaged in church, today, why not adjust to the lower level of engagement. Conversely, healthy churches see the pandemic as an opportunity to raise the bar in a culture of low expectations.

**Trait 10. Become a friend of your community.** Although the communities in which they live may not be respectful of Christian values, these churches still see a great opportunity to demonstrate the love of Christ in a meaningful and tangible way. They continue to maintain an outward incarnational focus as they seek to find a wound and heal it or find a need and satisfy it. As a result, some of these churches are winning over their communities.

**Trait 11. Form mini prayer groups.** The leaders of these churches are not too busy organizing large prayer meetings. Yes, it is great when many church members come together to pray. However, these leaders celebrate when only a few members get together to pray. Mighty prayer can come from a few.

**Trait 12. Stay persistent.** The frustration and confusion are as real to these church leaders as it is to any other leader in the midst of these troubled times. Nevertheless, the leaders of these churches are not giving up. They really feel that God will see them through the uncertainty and confusion. They may not understand what is going on, but they know God is still in control.

Read the full article at: <https://www.trinity-presbytery.org/general-presbyters-blog/12-traits-of-churches-doing-well-during-the-pandemic>

Contact information for Pastor Jana Creighton:  
For church business and pastoral needs:  
Office: 803-772-1761  
Email: jana@sopc.net

If you use the church facilities for any reason please remember to turn off lights, turn the air off and lock the doors. Please also let Karl know when you leave by calling or texting 803-237-4519 so we can keep the facilities clean and sanitized. Thank you!

If you have information to be included in the weekly bulletin or newsletter, please have your information to the church office (sopc@sopc.net) no later than 10:00 am Tuesday the week of publication. Thank you!

Office Hours: Monday—Wednesday, 9:00-2:00  
Thursday 9:00-4:30

Sunday Service at 11:00 a.m.  
[https://zoom.us/j/743754044?](https://zoom.us/j/743754044?pwd=bWlHWWJWOFr4UG1zQkZuRVRIAeE41dz09)

[pwd=bWlHWWJWOFr4UG1zQkZuRVRIAeE41dz09](https://zoom.us/j/743754044?pwd=bWlHWWJWOFr4UG1zQkZuRVRIAeE41dz09)  
Meeting ID: 743 754 044 Password: 072863  
By Phone: 1(646)558-8656, 743754044 #

Chair Yoga: Monday at 12:15

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7734180282?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7734180282?pwd=WnBRRVB3bGVodm94a1E0SEVub3gvQT09)  
[pwd=WnBRRVB3bGVodm94a1E0SEVub3gvQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7734180282?pwd=WnBRRVB3bGVodm94a1E0SEVub3gvQT09)  
Meeting ID: 773 418 0282 Password: Namaste

Adult Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

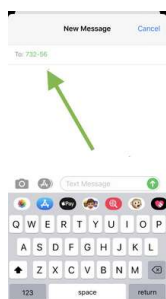
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85010780625?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85010780625?pwd=YU1jd2dKZzExQ1J4RVpadUVDeVg1Zz09)  
[pwd=YU1jd2dKZzExQ1J4RVpadUVDeVg1Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85010780625?pwd=YU1jd2dKZzExQ1J4RVpadUVDeVg1Zz09)  
Meeting ID: 313 051 5159 Passcode: 201777  
By phone:1(301)715-8592, 3130515159#

## Ways to Give to Seven Oaks

To give via text:

Step 1

Enter 732-56 after To:



Step 2

Type Sevenoaks as your message and hit send



Step 3

You will be prompted to click a link in order to complete your gift.



To Give via mail:

530 St. Andrews Rd.  
Columbia, SC 29210

To give via our website:

Step 1

go to [sopc.net](http://sopc.net) Click on "Give" at the top right. A window will open that will guide you through the process.

Step 2

