

Hold this spot!

No, Annah didn't forget to finish the cover page.

This space is where an article from our Pastor might go.

You are invited to hold this spot in your hearts and prayers as God prepares our future Pastor for us. We claim, with all the assurance of our faith, that our loving, wise, mighty Lord is at work via the Holy Spirit, placing a call on the heart of our Pastor-to-be!

May the Divine One grant us discernment and endurance to *run the race before us* in our search.





Dear Congregation of Seven Oaks,

The outpouring of your love has been such a blessing during this time of transition. Thank you for our final day together and the memories we made in worship and in reminiscing. Thank you to all who took precious time to prepare and make February 4th beautiful. Thank you for the beautiful "Shore Birds" painting by Kathy Morganelli. "The Christ in me sees the Christ in you." Thank you for the REI gift card-I will use this to prepare for my Spiritual pilgrimage to the El Camino Trail in Spain in September. Thank you for the overwhelming love offering that will be put to use in beginning a new life, with new dynamics and new love of family.

We have been through many good and challenging times over the years. The memories and history we have made constantly amaze me and will stay with me, along with all the learning therein. Most importantly, the friendships and love for the Lord you have displayed, especially over this past 2 years, will be mine to cherish for a lifetime.

My prayers will remain with you. May God be with you until we meet again.









Lenten Faith Practices 2024



MON TUES Rotate through the three pillars of Lent: prayer [P], fasting [F] and acts of service [S]. Peace to you this Lent!

February 19 [S] February 20 [F] Spend five Collect trash around your minutes in silence house or school. today.

February 26 [F] February 27 [P] Turn off the lights Gratitude prayer. during dinner and Make a list of the eat by candlelight. things you're thankful for.

March 5 [F]

Think of ways to

energy today...

March 12 [F]

meal today.

March 19 [F]

Try using only one

drinking glass for

the whole day.

March 26 [P]

Evening prayer

this day. Amen."

'God thank you for

Eat a vegetarian

conserve water or

March 4 [P] Walking prayer. Take a walk and notice the beauty of creation.

March II [S] Send a card to someone who could use some cheer...

March 18 [S] Be kind to a stranger today. Kindness can be as simple as a smile!

March 25 [F] Don't listen to music or the radio today.

February 14 [F] Let water be the only beverage you drink today.

WED

February 21 [P] Kindness prayer. Close your eyes and imagine someone you love.

February 28 [S] Bring a note or gift to a special teacher today.

March 6 [P] Psalm 23 prayer: "God is a shepherd who cares for the sheep."

March 13 [P] Psalm 139 prayer: "Even darkness is not dark to God."

March 20 [P] Coloring prayer. color or draw a picture of your prayers to Cod.

March 27 [F] Wear very plain clothes today:

THURS February 15 [P] "Cuide us on our Lenten path we pray. May it be

holy.

February 22 [S] Show gratitude to someone today by writing a note or making a call.

February 29 [F] Don't watch TV or movies or play video games today.

March 7 [F] Go to bed extra early today.

March 14 [S] Learn a word in a new language and appreciate the culture...

March 21 [S] Hold the door open for someone today. .

March 28 [P] Star prayer: look at the stars and count your blessings.

FRI February 16 [S] Decorate a food donation box to deliver on 3/30.

February 23 [F] Walk instead of drive somewhere today.

March 1 [P] Psalm 46 prayer. "God is slow to anger and rich in love. Amen."

March 8 (S) Call a relative and ask them about their day.

March 15 [F] Play only with toys that do not plug in or have batteries.

March 22 [F] Try not to complain about anything all day.

March 30 [F] Try a day with no sweets or desserts.

SAT February 17 [F] Go without screens of any kind for 4-8 hours.

February 24 [P] Say the Lord's Prayer together today.

March 2 [S] Make a treat for someone who serves others. Deliver tomorrow.

March 9 [F] Give something up so you can spend more time with family today.

March 16 [P] Pray for someone who lives very far

> March 23 [P] Joys and concerns prayer. Share one joy and one concern.

March 30 [P] Deliver food in vour decorated box to a food pantry.

SUN February 18 [P] Candle prayer. Light a candle and offer joys and concerns.

February 25 [S] Do a job or chore for someone else

March 3 [S] Deliver your special treat or gift and say thank you to the person.

March 10 [P] Breath prayer *I am breathing in love and breathing out

March 17 [S] Give away five things in your house today.

March 24 [S] Give away five things in your house today.

March 31 [S] Easter Prayer "God, thank you for new life all around us!"



The Liturgical Season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday on February 14th and will last until Easter Sunday on March 31st. How will you intentionally draw closer to God through subtracting a distraction or adding a spiritual discipline to grow in your relationship with Christ as we remember His journey to the cross?



March

1st: Kathy Locklair, Elizabeth Taylor

2nd: Lauren Finnegan

5th: Alene Rogers

8th: Shelagh Wirth

9th: Betty Anderson, Greg Mixon

10th: Brenda Turner

13th: Finn Creighton, Garrett Lane

15th: Troupe Cartee

16th: Sarah Bryan

18th: Loretta Demko

22nd: Beth Sellars

23rd: Annah Hiers

24th: Savannah Tapler

26th: Kirk Wirth

28th: Weston Pilkington

29th: Bev Elbert



Maundy Thursday

Please join us on Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 6 pm for a Come as You Are Maundy Thursday Communion Service & Simple Soup Supper in the church Fellowship Hall.

Please return this flyer to the church office or place it in the offering baskets by Thursday, March 21, 2024, so that we know how many to prepare for. If you forget to RSVP, call, or just come anyway!

Phone Number: ______

Number of People Attending: _____

Donations to defray the cost of the meal will be accepted at the event.



On Sunday, February 25th, we welcomed Bruce C Hurley into membership at SOPC. We are so very thankful for his many gifts, his willingness to help wherever needed, and his commitment to SOPC through membership! Be sure to reach out and let him know that you're glad he has joined our family of faith officially.





As you read in the last letter from the Session, we have entered into a contractual agreement with a church management group called "Church Fuel." For a reasonable monthly fee, (which can be canceled any time without penalty,) we will work with them to enhance our ability to attract new visitors as well as utilize their extensive training and coaching material to sharpen our leadership and communication skills. Church Fuel is a wellseasoned organization. They have worked with over 6000 churches and have trained over 70,000 leaders. While we are just beginning to work with them, we are impressed with their track record and the broad number of tools they offer to increase our visitor traffic. Please stay tuned as we put into practice their recommendations.

From: Ed Keelen







All women of the church are invited to a spring retreat on Friday, April 5th. This year, we will go to the USC campus for bistro lunch dining at McCutcheon House, followed by a tour of the Anne Frank Center. We will meet at the church at 10:30 am. Cost will be \$25.00 per person: \$15 for lunch and \$10 for admission. Please call or email Dallene Smith at 847-528-0379 or dallene611@gmail.com with any questions. Bring a friend!

Anne Frank Center:

The Anne Frank Center on the USC campus brings to life the story of the young Jewish girl who — in the pages of her world-renowned diary — documented two years of hiding in German-occupied Amsterdam during World War II. By sharing Anne's legacy with visitors, students, and teachers, USC's Anne Frank Center seeks to inspire our commitment to never be bystanders but instead to stand up together against antisemitism, bigotry, and inequality wherever it may exist today.

McCutchen House:

The McCutchen House is operated by the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management at USC. Under the supervision of the director and professional chefs, hospitality management students learn restaurant management skills through the preparation and service of a bistro lunch, which is open to the public during the fall and spring semesters. The McCutchen House also offers services for private or professional events.

Please return this form to Dallene Smith or to the church office by Sunday, March 31, 2024.

Name(s):	
Phone Number(s): _	
Email Address(es): _	

Tulips, Ribbons, & Meditation, oh my!

Activities for EVERYONE during Lent!

Contact Kathy Keane for more information: 803-467-4224.



March 10 and 17 (after church):

Plant a tulip (re-pot) in provided pot as a family or an individual. Place it beneath the outside cross and water it each Sunday. They should be blooming by Easter, when you can take your flower home!! Optional small donations appreciated and accepted.



Ribbon Prayers: Types of prayers will be designated with colors. Pray, take a ribbon and tie it to the designated tree.

Ribbons will be left at the office and Narthex.



MARCH MEDITATIONS/LUNCH!! We will have a beginners' Christian meditation class during Lent on Fridays beginning March I, from II:30 am — 12:30ish pm.

Annie Moffatt will lead us. After, let's get to know each other and share a lunch!!

Contact Kathy Keane (803–467–4224)......or just come!! Meet in the church Library/Bride's Room in the Narthex—on the left as you're heading into the Sanctuary.

Meditations: 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29 Lunch provided for the first meeting on 3/1.

THANK YOU!

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church's 2024 Collection

raised:

\$1,517 and 1,055 food items

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.



February 11, 2024

Alison Reese Executive Director Fackle Hunger: Home of the Sourcer Browl of Carino



Several SOPC members visited Presbyterian Community on January 24th to enjoy Nancy Humphreys' beautiful collection of antique toys! Many of these are toys from her childhood and some belonged to family members, dating back to the 1800's. What a treasure! Thanks for sharing with us, Nancy!!

Dear SOPC,

Thank you for opening your doors for our community health screening in your area. It is because of your generosity that Life Line Screening is able to bring these health screenings into your community and for that, we are very appreciative.

Sincerely,
Kayleigh Bair, Life Line Screening

We look forward to working together again!



Sharing God's Love Crisis Ministry Irmo SC

6m . 0

We sincerely thank Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church for their donation of sidewalk chalk, bibles and other items that our families can put into their children's Easter baskets!

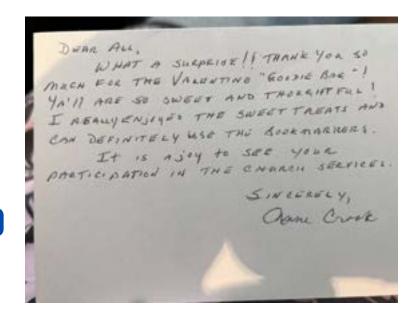


From Seven Oaks Elementary School:

"This is so late, but we wanted to thank you for the breakfast you provided to our staff when they came back from the winter holiday. It was a nice way to begin the day & catch up with each other before getting down to business. We always appreciate all the nice things that you do for us!"

From Mae Leviner to Our Youth:

"Bless all of you! It was all good. I ate all the candy. May the Lord always be a good friend to all. Thanks!"







Men's Lanterns Prayer
Group meets Friday
mornings at 6:45 am in the
church Fellowship Hall.
Join us for breakfast,
fellowship, and prayer.



Sunday, March 3rd, we will meet at 5:30 at the Labyrinth at McGregor Presbyterian Church and celebrate World Day of Prayer as we walk, pray and meditate. Terry Candee, a McGregor member, will make a short presentation about the labyrinth. Our meeting, including pizza dinner, will be outside if weather permits.

On March 10th, we're planning to meet with Westminster youth and roller skate or ice skate. Final plans tba.

March 17th, we will have youth at SOPC, and we'll work on our Easter skit for Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday.

No Youth on March 24 and March 31. Happy Spring Break!!

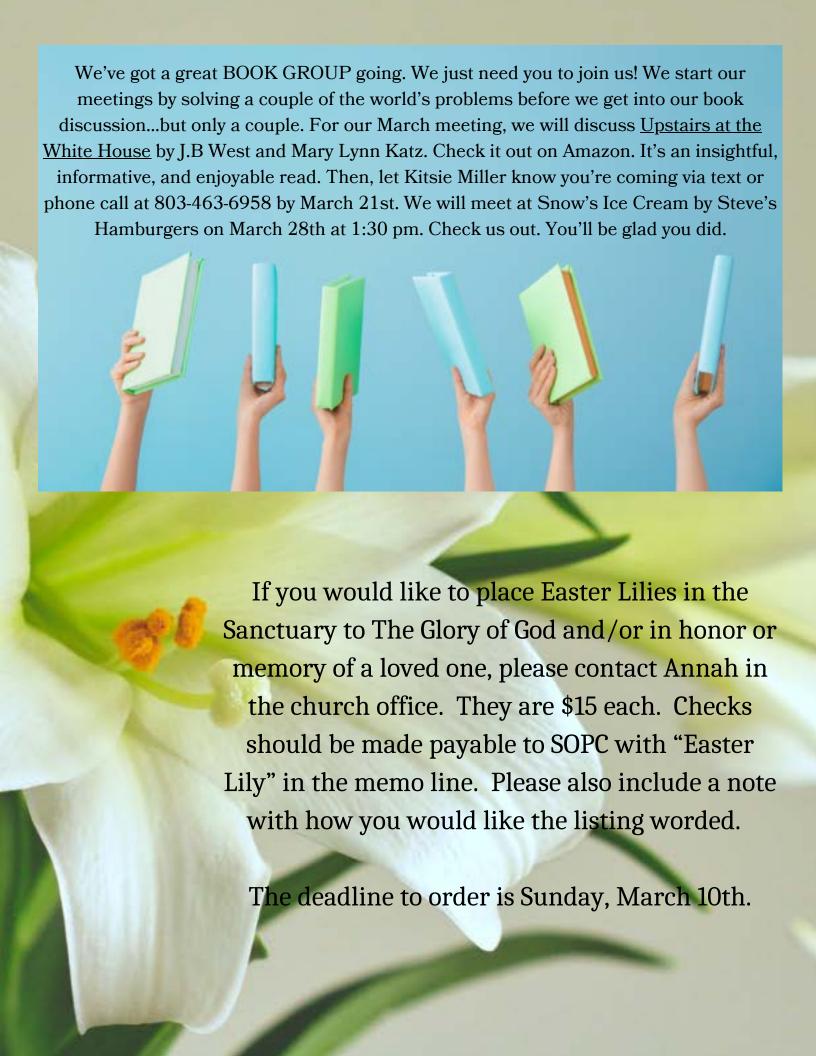


Youth should have received information about summer camp from Pastor Jana. If you didn't see it. contact the Bussells or Annah in the church office.



Our Youth and Advisors learning through doing with creative movement and expression.

2-4-2024





Our Neighbors and Siblings in Christ at McGregor PC Have Invited Us To Join Them on a Bus Trip to Visit the

INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

in Charleston, SC on Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

"Engage with history through transformative storytelling, remarkable artifacts and exhibitions, and a uniquely impactful power of place."

"We will depart from the McGregor's parking lot at 9:00 a.m. and arrive for our tour of the museum at 11:00 a.m. Following the two-hour tour, we will board the bus and travel to the Charleston City Market for lunch and a bit of shopping before returning home."

Adults under 62 - \$61.00 per person (includes bus and tour ticket)

Seniors 62+ - \$55.00 per person (includes bus and tour ticket)

An initial deposit of \$20.00 per person was requested by January 31st, but they may have spots left!

Final payment (\$41.00 for adults under 62 or \$35.00 for Seniors 62+) will be due no later than March 17th.

Initial deposit and final payment should be made payable to Zobel Travel LLC. Checks can be turned into the McGregor PC church office or given to Jayne Woodward.

For questions or to reserve your spot, contact: Jayne Woodward, 803-730-5072, minniewoodward@aol.com.



MORE Justice is currently addressing 3 issues: Food Justice, Gun Violence, and Affordable Housing.

Last year we asked for a commitment to fund a mobile food market.

Columbia now has a mobile market and a local farm to supply it. Now we are asking the City Council to prioritize the market by committing to a budget line item for food insecurity. We hope to establish more mobile markets and/or create new food insecurity solutions.

Last year we asked that a problem analysis from an outside source be conducted for Gun Violence. Mayor Rickenmann established a new Office of Gun Violence funded with a \$800,00 budget. They plan to use the in-house assessment. We are asking that they use part of that budget to have a problem analysis by an organization like the National Network for Safe Communities.

Affordable Housing has made strides, and we celebrate those. \$4million has been set aside and we are advocating for it to be dedicated to an Affordable Housing Trust Fund and monies dedicated annually to the development of new affordable housing units.

Please join us at the Nehemiah Action and March 18th. We need your presence and your prayers to address these issues. It would be a great chance to check us out and learn more. Contact Polly Robinson for MORE Justice details.



FOOD INSECURITY WALK Saturday, March 2nd 2:00PM

More than 65,000 residents in Richland County lack the access, ability, or income to acquire healthy, safe, culturally-appropriate food. Join us **March 2nd**, as we walk through the Greenview Community and share the stories of those who are directly impacted by food insecurity.

The event will begin at the MORE Justice office (709 Gabriel Street) with testimonies given by community members, followed by a walk to the nearest grocery store (Piggly Wiggly, 6325 N Main Street). The event will conclude back at the MORE Justice office with a time of reflection.







MORE JUSTICE NEHEMBER HACTION &

MONDAY, MARCH 18TH
EAU CLAIRE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
[4800 MONTICELLO ROAD]

REGISTRATION BEGINS @ 5:00PM EVENT STARTS @ 6:00PM

Be a part of standing for justice and equality.

Join us for the 2024 Nehemiah Action, where hundreds of community members will gather and ask public officials to take measurable action steps to implement a solution to our community's most pressing problems.

WHO IS MORE JUSTICE?

Midlands Organized Response for Equity and Justice (MORE Justice), is an interfaith coalition of 27 racially, socio-economically and religiously diverse congregations dedicated to seeking justice for all residents of the Central Midlands area by holding systems accountable for fair practices and policies.

For more information visit: www.morejusticecolumbia.org

Have you met Scout? She is a symbolic representation of the amazing Troop 91 young ladies who meet here at SOPC! She lives in the church office and wears a sash with badges and patches and pins that represent some of the ways SOPC and Troop 91 have worked together in the past few years. Come say hello! Also, check out the Troop 91 folks fetaured in the Irmo News below!





Scouts deliver food to Sharing God's Love

Scout units from the Irmo area participated in the Scouting for Food drive to help restock the shelves of Sharing God's Love Food Bank in Irmo.

Sharing God's Love received more than 7000 pounds of food items and cash donations of almost \$500.

"The partnership with the Boy Scouts of America units in our area was very success-

ful in helping to fill-up our food pantry", said Richie Eisenman of Sharing God's Love. "We are thankful for the support of the Scouts over these many years."

Sharing God's Love helps with food, clothing and utility needs for more than 10,000 individuals in the St. Andrews, Irmo, and Ballentine areas and celebrated its 40th anniversary of operation this year.

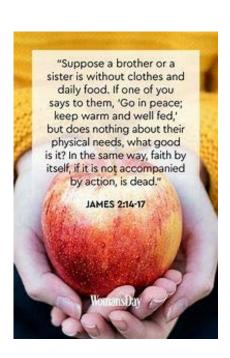
Scouts from Cub Scout Packs 95, 139 and 326, Scouts BSA Troops 91, 95 and 326 and Venturing Crew 312 collected donations from the St. Andrews and Irmo areas and them delivered the food to Sharing God's Love February 10. Private individuals and Costco contributed almost \$500 to help support the purchase of essential items needed See feed on Page 9

THE LOVE REVOLUTION

...FREE meals for anyone who's hungry in body or spirit on Sunday afternoons from 3:30 - 5 pm in the SOPC Pavilion.

Please don't forget your donations of non-perishable food, bottled water, travel size or individually wrapped hygiene items, gently used clothes/shoes, warm blankets, emergency mylar blankets available on Amazon, tents, sleeping bags, coats/gloves/hats, etc. for our **Blessing Box and Clothing Closet**. If you have questions about items for the Blessing Box, contact Sharon Staton. If you have questions about items for the Clothing Closet, contact Loretta Demko.







SOPC will collect these items to take to Sharing God's Love through Palm Sunday, Marcy 24, 2024. If you have items to donate, please place them in the large baskets leading into the Sanctuary or bring them by the church office.



Community Workshop Series at McGregor

Thursday, February 22: SC Gun Violence Statistics and Legislation

SC Law Enforcement Officers Association

and Police Chiefs Association

Thursday, February 29: Keeping Our Children Safe/Ways to

Advocate

Be SMART and Moms Demand Action

Thursday, April 18: Talk Saves Lives

American Foundation of Suicide Prevention

Thursday April 25: Alternatives to Violence

SC Chapter of the Alternatives to Violence

Project

Workshops will begin at 6:00 p.m. at McGregor Presbyterian Church 6505 St. Andrews Road, Columbia, SC

This workshop series is open to the public. There is no admission fee, but preregistration is required.

To register, send name, telephone/cell #, email address and dates of workshops you wish to attend to:

mcgpresadm@gmail.com.

You can also call the church office at (803) 781-2391.

THIS WORKSHOP SERIES IS BEING OFFERED BY MCGREGOR PRESBYTERIAN TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON TOPICS OF INTEREST TO OUR COMMUNITY.



Church Women United World Day of Prayer is Friday, March 8 @ 10:30. Join your sisters in Christ @ Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, downtown Columbia for worship & fellowship. Contact Shelagh Wirth for more information.



Scan this QR code or contact Tish Lowe for more information. Introducing the 2024–2025 PW/*Horizons* Bible study

Let Justice Roll Down

God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation

By Patricia K. Tull With Suggestions for Leaders by Rebecca Barnes

Patricia Tull, author of the 2024–2025 PW/Horizons Bible study Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation, describes her call for creation justice in this way: "When I first learned of the climate crisis, I wondered

how a biblical scholar with few practical skills could help and found my purpose in learning about ecology and teaching people of faith what I could. Such is not everyone's skillset or desire, but each of us has something to do with all our hearts."

We are called to care for neighbors and God's creation with all our hearts, with particular care for society's least powerful members who are disproportionately impacted by unjust systems. In God's first instructions to the nation of Israel we hear "you shall not pervert the justice due to the poor" (Exodus 23:6); in Moses' final speech at the promised land's border, he reiterated, "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20); and from Amos, the earliest recorded prophet, "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream" (Amos 5:24). Scripture reminds us that we are called to speak out to urge our society to act for just transitions in this fast-changing world.

We invite you to join Presbyterian Women as we explore, with all our hearts, God's call to care for our neighbors and for creation. Readers will learn about ecological systems, the challenges we face in this time of accelerated climate change, and the available to address or counter the impact of human-made stress on our environment. Further, readers will explore theological questions that point us to act and engage, in small and large ways.

Bible study, supplemental materials, and other helps!

Available in the spring and summer of 2024

- •Multiple editions of the Bible study: English, ecumenical, Spanish, large print, and audio
- •Resources to spread the word: Promotional poster/flier, eBlasts, Pendant/Charm
 - •Resources to learn more about the study: Workshop for Leaders, Companion DVD, blogs
- •Bible study resources in *Horizons* magazine: begin with the Summer 2024 issue
- •And more!



Author Patricia K. Tull

About the Author

The Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull is A. B. Rhodes Professor Emerita of Hebrew Bible at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Among other publications, she is author of the 2001–2002 PW/Horizons Bible Study Esther's Feast and of Inhabiting Eden: Christians, the Bible, and the Ecological Crisis (Westminster John Knox, 2013). A Climate Reality presenter, GreenFaith Fellow, and former program director of Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light, Trisha lives on 50 acres outside of Henryville, Indiana, with her spouse, the Rev. Don Summerfield, in a Net-Zero home. They have six children and seven grandchildren.

To preorder, order, or learn more, visit presbyterianwomen.org/shop or call 800/533-4371 (Monday-Friday, 9AM to 5PM, EST).



Horizons isn't just a Bible study, *Horizons* is a magazine too!

In fact, current *Horizons* magazine subscribers receive the 2024—2025 PW/*Horizons* Bible study in March 2024 (and Bible study helps begin with the Summer 2024 issue). Subscribe by April 1, 2024, and you will too!

Call toll-free 866/802-3635 or visit presbyterianwomen.org/subscribe!

Whenever you need to reserve a room for a new church function or other group function, PLEASE do Annah, Karl, and Admin. Ministry a favor and fill out one of these forms. It helps us tremendously as we seek to keep thorough records and to be good stewards of our facilities at SOPC. If the room needs to be set up a certain way, please also fill out a Room Set Up form. They are available in the church office. Thanks!

SEVEN OAKS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FACILITY RENTAL AGREEMENT

05	, constitutes an agreement for the ews Rd, Columbia, SC 29210 subject	use of facilities of	serties on this day of Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church, 530 St I guidelines/terms and conditions.		
	Renter:				
	Address:City/State/Zip:				
	Primary Contact Name:				
	Phone:A	lt Phone:	Cell:		
	Email:				
GEN	ERAL RENTAL INFORMATION				
a.	Date of Event:		_		
	Event Start Time:				
c.	Type of Event:	Number of Guests Attending:			
d.	Venue space requested: (circle as m Church Fellowship Hall		Church Pavilion		
e.	Requested Items/Services (based on	availability and fe	asibility:		
ESTI	MATED CHARGES				
	Rental Fee	\$			
	Deposit Fee	\$			
	Key Deposit	\$			
	Damage/Cleanup Fee	\$			
	Total Upfront Deposit	\$			
	Total Estimated Rental	\$			
	RCH REPRESENTATIVE:	hate:			
rint:					
REN'		late:			
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Staff:

Office Administrator: Mrs. Annah G. Hiers -- sopc@sopc.net
Volunteer Financial Administrator: Mrs. Sharon Staton -- sharon@sopc.net
Director of Music Ministry: Dr. Stephen Simmons -- stephen@sopc.net

Accompanist: Mrs. Sharon Watkins

Buildings & Grounds Superintendent: Mr. Karl Thompson

Nursery Coordinator: Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Office Help As Needed: Ms. Haley Thompson

Session:

* indicates chair

Clerk of Session: Polly Robinson

Class of 2024:

Hal Bowman - Administration
John Carter - Buildings & Grounds*

Class of 2025:

Fred Holbrook - Administration*

Ed Keelen - Reshape*

Sharon Staton - Missions*

Sharon Watkins - Worship*

Class of 2026:

Liz Harris - Fellowship

Kathy Keane - Christian Ed*

Banks Robinson - Fellowship*

<u> Frustees: Sue Kes</u>terson, Frank Sheppard, Carol Griffith

Treasurer: Hal Bowman

Presbyterian Women Moderator (SOPW): Mary Johnson



Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church



@seveoakspc



@sevenoakspresbyterianchurch6292



Worship Zoom Link:

