

APRIL 2024

THE LEAF



530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, SC 29210
sopc@sopc.net
(803) 772-1761
www.sopc.net

The Monthly Newsletter from Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church



He is risen! Yes, He is risen, indeed!

During Lent, we potted tulips in faith-full assurance that even before “April showers” came, God would bring forth blossoms of new life at Easter. The Great Gardener did not disappoint!

“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?
The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law, but thanks be to God!
He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

I Corinthians 15:55-57



Maundy Thursday at SOPC

March 28, 2024





April

1st: Mary Lou Taylor

2nd: Blythe Tapler, Karl Thompson, & John Whitfield

3rd: Edith Blanchett

4th: Bruce Hurley

11th: Ed Keelen & Polly Robinson

12th: Molly Jackson

16th: Jack Noë

24th: Braeden Noë-Mellitz

27th: Jim Wilhide

29th: Kaiti Fuller

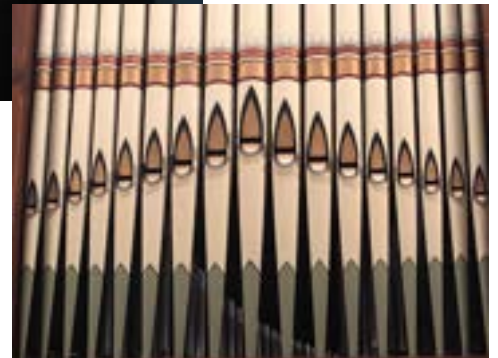
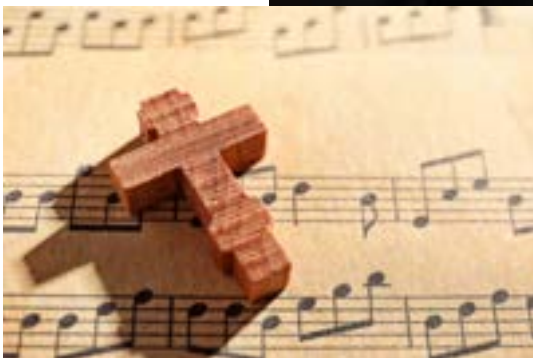
30th: Betty Shuler



If your birthday is missing or listed incorrectly, please contact Annah in the church office.



Welcome Back,
Dr. Lloyd Pilkington,
as Director of Music Ministry!





Sharing God's Love Crisis Ministry Irmo ***
SC

12 hours ago · 🌐

Thank you Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church for these wonderful donations!! We are so blessed to have your continued support!



To the SOPC Youth:
Thank you for the candy, book mark, and beads sent to Joe. He is now in heaven with Jesus. Joe always loved the youth group and worked with them when he was younger. I hope all of you grow up to be the good person he was.
Love to You,
Myrna Gause

Dear Beloved Church Family,
Greg and I so appreciate the many acts of kindness you have shown to us following the death of my beautiful mother. We received messages, cards, and gifts which provided much-needed comfort and care. We love you and we miss you.
Melanie and Greg Mixon

Dear Friends at SOPC,
Let me first apologize for the delay in thanking you for the meals, gifts, cards, phone calls, and visits I received after my heart attack. The love shown to me was overwhelming. I have not sent out thank you notes because it's difficult for me writing where you can read it, but I could not let any more time pass without thanking all of you. The last few months have not been the easiest for me, but I am thankful God has given me a second chance at life. Please know you are thought of often and prayed for, and I greatly appreciate having you in my life. My sincerest thanks again. May God bless each and everyone of you.
In Endless Love,
Donna Moore

YOU BAKE OUR DAY!

Samuel Miller
Advancement Officer
smiller@thornwell.org
803-312-2049

Thank you for being a sweet and faithful friend to Thornwell! Because you choose to love, pray, serve, and provide for children and families supported by Thornwell programs, they are EXPERIENCING the GOODNESS of God!

YOU are a reflection of His love, and your unwavering support of our ministry is turning trauma into triumph, despair into determination, and frustration into FAITH!

The need is great, but together we are transforming communities one family at a time. **THANK YOU!**

Would you like a minute for mission at your church?
Call 803-312-2049

Save the Date

- Child Abuse Prevention Month | April 2024
- Strawberry Festival | April 2024
- Foster Care Awareness Month | May 2024
- LashAcres Farm Fall Festival | October 2024
- Thornwell Emphasis Month | November 2024

Just Impact

- 3,219 sessions of mental health therapy and counseling for youth and families across Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina.
- 60% increase in trained and licensed foster families across South Carolina.
- 64 children placed in trained, licensed, and loving Thornwell foster families.
- 77 children found refuge in family style cottages on campus with safe, caring teaching parents.

Our Small Town Adventures Group had a blast in Walterboro, SC on 3-13-24.





Sunday Night Fellowship Supper: April 21 at 6 pm!





CHURCH FUEL

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 well-seasoned 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 asap.

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

Is your Check or Cash attached for \$25 per person?

Please make checks payable to SOPW with "2024 Spring Retreat" in the memo line.

April Ladies' Luncheon

The next Ladies' Luncheon will be on Monday, April 15th.

Time: noon

Place: Chapala Restaurant, 7001 St. Andrews Rd.

RSVP: Margaret Royals,

mroyals052@gmail.com, 803-957-0430, 803-608-1434



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

From the Administration Ministry:

Thank you for keeping your pledge up to date, as this helps us plan and fulfill the programs of the church! February's offering and the year-to-date financial information are shown below:

February: Giving - \$17,732; Budgeted - \$21,800; Difference - (\$4,068)
YTD 2024: Giving - \$35,833; Budgeted - \$43,600; Difference - (\$7,767)

Total revenue for the first 2 months of 2024, (including other income such as rent,) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through February: \$47,596
Total Expenses through February: \$56,582
Expenses are in excess of revenues by \$8,986.

On Monday, March 11, 2024, the Session:

- Discussed the need to review and possibly adjust the budget once we have an interim pastor; Security Cameras being installed; Security Lights being installed; sanctuary lights; spring/summer lawn maintenance; Building A Roof Replacement; continuing to pack backpack snacks for 25 children at SOES; hosting the Pastor & and Elder from our sister church in Cuba in September, along with 2 other churches; continuing to collect items for Sharing God's Love like Bibles and Easter Basket stuffers; providing sandwiches for Oliver Gospel Mission every other month; our Clothing closet is serving 12-15 folks / week, and Love Revolution is serving 20-25/week; Sunday Night Fellowship Supper on April 21 at 6 pm; the need for each ministry to submit an annual calendar to the Office Administrator in order to facilitate church-wide scheduling, planning, goal-setting, and annual reflection.
- Set the Interim Pastor search committee to work.
- Approved the Special Missions Offerings for 2024, including Souper Bowl of Caring on February 11, One Great Hour of Sharing on March 31, Mother's Day Offering for Presbyterian Communities on May 12, Father's Day Offering for Migrant Ministry on June 16, Peace & Global Witness Offering on October 6, Thornwell Offering on November 24, and the Christmas Joy Offering on December 22.
- Approved Rally Day to be held September 8 with a "Blessing of the Backpacks."
- Accepted the resignation of Dr. Stephen Simmons as Director of Music & approved hiring Dr. Lloyd Pilkington to serve in the position.
- Approved the re-instatement of the Good News Ministry, with Ed Keelen as chairman. The 1st priorities of the ministry are the church website and welcoming new souls into the church.
- Stated that their next meeting will be Monday, April 15, at 6:30 pm.



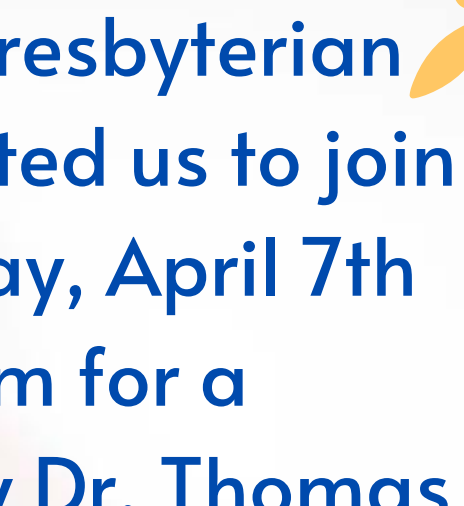
- Sunday, April 7th: Confirmation Class @ SOPC @ 4 pm; Youth Group @ SOPC @ 5:30 pm
- Sunday, April 14th: Youth Group @ SOPC @ 5:30 pm
- Sunday, April 21st: Earth Day Celebration @ Westminster PC - Time TBA
- Sunday, April 28th: Putt Putt @ Frankies Fun Park w/ Westminster PC - Time TBA

SUMMER
CAMP




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.

We've got a great BOOK GROUP going. We just need you to join us! We start our meetings by solving a couple of the world's problems before we get into our book discussion...but only a couple. Contact Kitsie Miller 803-463-6958 for April's book selection and meeting place/time. Check us out. You'll be glad you did!

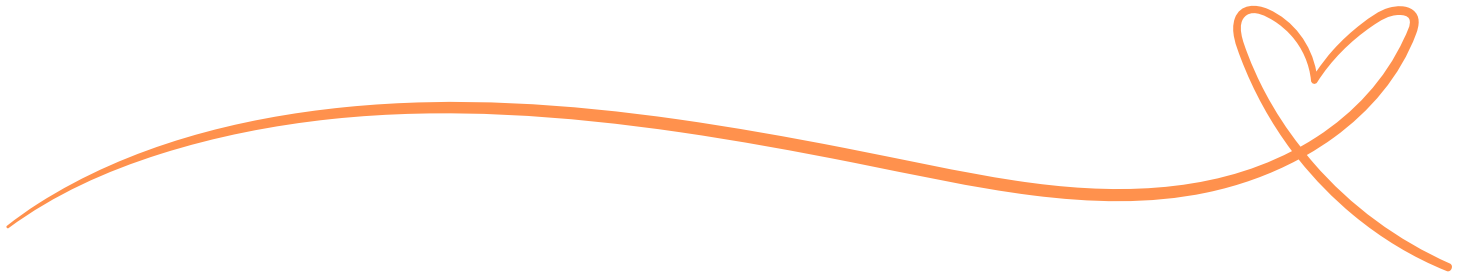


Cornerstone Presbyterian Church has invited us to join them on Sunday, April 7th at 6:30 pm for a presentation by Dr. Thomas Kidd titled, "A Christian America? Popular Myths & Historical Realities."

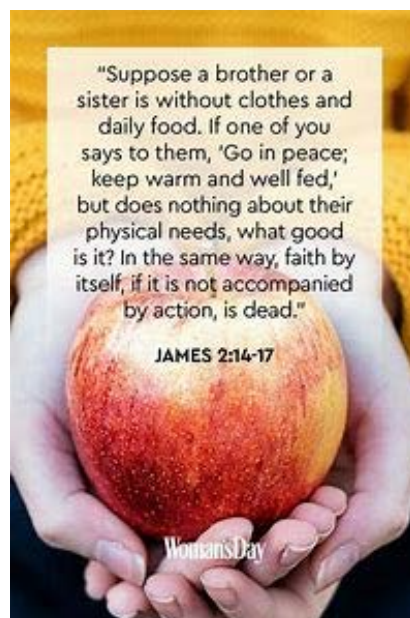


THE LOVE REVOLUTION

...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.





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Your mission, should you choose to accept it:

Gathering attendees are encouraged to bring some extra items to the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women this summer.

Gift Cards - please bring a gift card(s) to SOPC before July 30, 2024, marked for the 2024 Gathering. There will be a box in the narthex for the Gift Cards. Gift cards in any amount (\$10 + up) for Lowe's, Amazon, Target or Walmart will be given to Bethel Hills and Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services. Bethel Hills is a residential community in Missouri that provides supportive housing, social and educational opportunities for adults with and without developmental disabilities. Operating in Texas, Missouri and Louisiana, Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services offers programming that helps vulnerable children, strengthens families and builds communities.

Feminine Hygiene Products - Of the roughly 800,000,000 people menstruating on a given day, 500,000,000 do not have the basic supplies, information or support to manage their period. LifeWise STL - a St. Louis organization that helps individuals achieve well being by addressing system barriers will receive period products donated during the Gathering and provide them to people who need them. If you would like to donate these items, please bring them to the church office labeled "2024 Gathering" before 7/30/24.

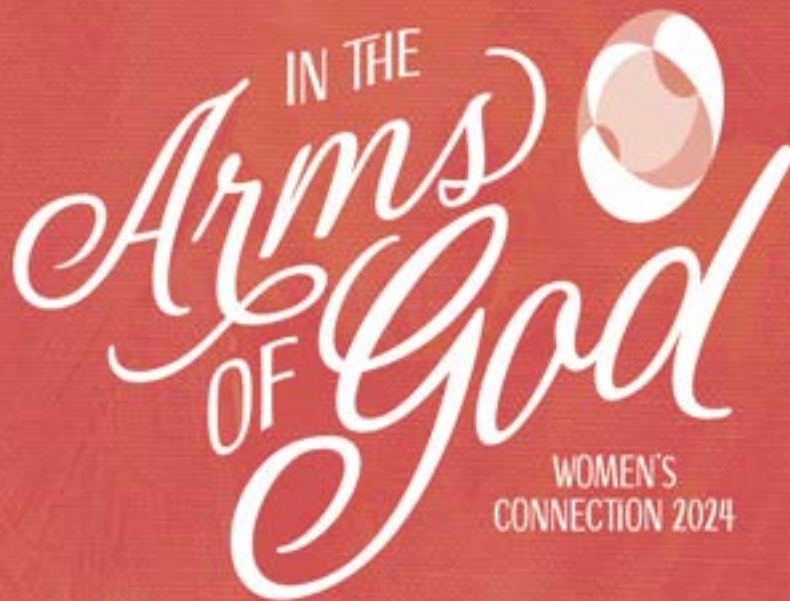
Thank you for your caring & support!



Ladies of SOPC are invited to the Church Women United May Friendship Day @ SOPC on Friday, May 3, 2024 @ 10:30 am. Come to the fellowship hall to enjoy coffee, juice, snacks & fellowship @ 10:30 am, before the 11 am worship service in the sanctuary. The offering will go towards the different charities (per their request) that CWU supports in place of the Health Kits we all used to put together. No sign up is required, just show up. Contact Shelagh Wirth for more information.



Scan this QR code for more information.
Contact Polly Robinson if you'd like to
share a table. 803-240-1853



August 9–11, 2024

...at...



MONTREAT[®]
CONFERENCE CENTER

<https://montreat.org/events/wc-2024>

Do you remember what it was like to be scooped up into a caregiver's lap and held tight with love? Our God holds us tight, even in the midst of all that life throws at us. "In the Arms of God," you'll have the chance to retreat from the day-to-day, take a deep breath of the Spirit, gather in community with other women of faith, and leave with a heart full of hope. Women's Connection 2024 will be a time for women to connect with old and new friends, a time to care for yourself; a time for space and Sabbath. As in years past, we will do this together through powerful and authentic worship led by women, space for honest and faithful conversation, and allowing time for discernment and renewing rest. Our hope is you will experience spiritual nourishment, inspiration, and discernment.



Kairos Prison Ministry International

We are hosting Kairos Prison Ministry again this year as they package cookies and salty snacks to take to local prisons to share the transformative Good News of Jesus Christ.

If you would like to donate individually wrapped, single serving size cookies or salty snacks, please bring them by the church office or place them in the large baskets in the Narthex by April 10th.

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. SOPC groups, please disregard the \$ section. Thanks!

**SEVEN OAKS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FACILITY RENTAL AGREEMENT**

This Facility Rental Agreement executed by the undersigned parties on this ____ day of _____, 20____, constitutes an agreement for the use of facilities of Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church, 530 St. Andrews Rd, Columbia, SC 29210 subject to attached general guidelines/terms and conditions.

Renter: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Primary Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____ Alt Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

GENERAL RENTAL INFORMATION

- a. Date of Event: _____
- b. Event Start Time: _____ Event End Time: _____
- c. Type of Event: _____ Number of Guests Attending: _____
- d. Venue space requested: (circle as many as required)
Church Fellowship Hall Classroom Church Pavilion
- e. Requested Items/Services (based on availability and feasibility):

ESTIMATED CHARGES

Rental Fee	\$ _____
Deposit Fee	\$ _____
Key Deposit	\$ _____
Damage/Cleanup Fee	\$ _____
Total Upfront Deposit	\$ _____
Total Estimated Rental	\$ _____

CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE:

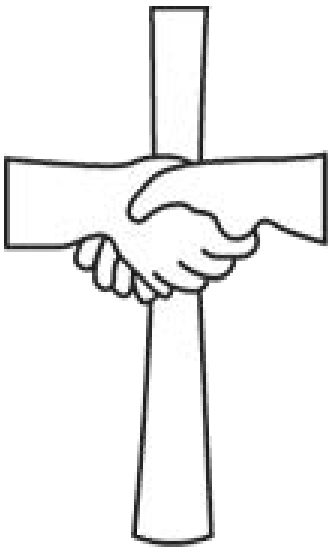
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print: _____

RENTER:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print: _____



Sharing God's Love



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE ITEMS, (THAT WILL FIT IN ANNAH'S CAR,) TO SGL'S SPRING YARD SALE, YOU MAY BRING THEM BY THE CHURCH OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH.

**LEARN ABOUT:
WASTE REDUCTION
INVASIVE SPECIES
COMPOSTING
WATER CONSERVATION**

**PURCHASE:
EARTH DAY T-SHIRTS
NATURAL SOAPS
BIRD AND BUTTERFLY
HOUSES
FOOD AND MORE!**

MCGREGOR PRESBYTERIAN EARTH DAY

CELEBRATION

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13
10AM-2PM**

**BRING:
INDOOR/OUTDOOR
PLANTS TO SWAP
AND/OR
GENTLY USED
SHOES TO DONATE**

**MAKE:
SEED BALLS
NATIVE BEE HOUSES
SOLAR BRACELETS
AND MORE!**



Shepherd's Center of St. Andrews

Interested in stretching your mind and body? Making new friends? Join the Shepherd's Center of St. Andrews Spring Session of Adventures in Learning, April 16 - June 6. Onsite classes and Zoom classes range from chair yoga to outer space exploration. You can find out the latest events around town, including how those flyovers at the old Malfunction Junction will work. Get ready for the Summer Olympics with insider info from a former SC state champion gymnast. Be surprised by the connection between Willie Mays and what we know about vision. Our church is a proud sponsor of this learning program for folks over 50. The Center is located at Ashland UMC, 2600 Ashland Road, and Spring Session costs \$45 for as many classes and activities as you want to take. For more information and registration details, go to the website: shepherdscenterofstandrews.org.

You are invited...

...to Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church!

Worship: Sundays at 11 am

Sunday School for All Ages: Sundays at 9:45 am

Church Office Hours:

M-Th: 10 am - 2 pm

803-772-1761

530 St. Andrews Road, Columbia, SC 29210

www.sopc.net

Email: sopc@sopc.net



Staff:

Interim Pastor: God is calling & equipping a candidate for us!

Office Administrator: Mrs. Annah G. Hiers -- sopc@sopc.net

Director of Music Ministry: Dr. Lloyd Pilkington

Accompanist: Mrs. Sharon Watkins

Buildings & Grounds Superintendent: Mr. Karl Thompson

Volunteer Financial Administrator: Mrs. Sharon Staton -- sharon@sopc.net

Nursery Coordinator: Mrs. Amy Schwartz

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 - Good News*

Sharon Staton - Missions*

Sharon Watkins - Worship*

Class of 2026:

Liz Harris - Fellowship

Kathy Keane - Christian Ed*

Banks Robinson - Fellowship*

Trustees: Sue Kesterson, Frank Sheppard, Carol Griffith

Treasurer: Hal Bowman

Presbyterian Women Moderator (SOPW): Mary Johnson



Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church



@seveoakspc



@sevenoakspresbyterianchurch6292



@sevenoakspc



@sevenoakspc



Worship Zoom Link:

[https://zoom.us/j/743754044?](https://zoom.us/j/743754044?pwd=bWIHWWJWOFR4UGIzQkZuRVRIaE4ldz09)

[pwd=bWIHWWJWOFR4UGIzQkZuRVRIaE4ldz09](https://zoom.us/j/743754044?pwd=bWIHWWJWOFR4UGIzQkZuRVRIaE4ldz09)

Meeting ID: 743 754 044

Roads to Faith Sunday School Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/508111743>

Meeting ID: 508 111 743

4 WAYS TO GIVE!



PERSON



BY MAIL



ONLINE



BY TEXT