

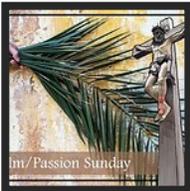


MONTHLY

March 2026

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCHUNITED METHODIST CHURCHUNITED METHODIST CHURCHUNITED METHODIST CHURCHUNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Holy Week [Worship Information](#)



Palm/Passion Sunday: March 29 at 10:30 AM

Celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and hear of his passion (suffering) that followed later that same week.



Holy Thursday: April 2 at 7:00 PM

We remember the event referred to as the "last supper" where Jesus gave us the meal we call Holy Communion, the New Commandment (that we love one another as he has loved us), and his betrayal thereafter.



Good Friday: April 3 at 7:00 PM

We reflect on the crucifixion and death of Jesus. This service includes a "Service of Tenebrae" in which the story of Jesus' death is read, and candles are extinguished as we recount Jesus' journey toward the cross.

Easter Sunday Worship



Sunrise Worship and Breakfast: April 5 at 6:30 AM

As the sun rises, we celebrate the triumphant resurrection of Jesus from the dead, embracing the promise of our resurrection and eternal life through communion with the Risen Lord.



Morning Worship: April 5 at 10:30 AM

We gather in the Sanctuary and via Facebook Live to continue our celebration of the Risen Christ's victory over Death which will conclude on the 50th day, Pentecost Sunday.

LENTEN LUNCHEONS



MARCH 2ND

REV. DANIEL MILES
THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE IN SOUTH CAROLINA



MARCH 9TH

THE SEEKERS CLASS PRESENTS:
ADAM AND EVE – READERS THEATRE



MARCH 16TH

REV. KEM THOMAS
GORDON MEMORIAL METHODIST

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR TICKETS!

secretary@manningumc.com

803-435-8115

Memorial Gifts:

Ben Osborne given by: Winston & Genie Hodge

Bud Johnson given by: Leo & Holly Eubanks, Keels & Laura Baker, Charlotte Bair, June Brailsford, Tim & Lu Anne Stokes, Jeri Phillips Santee Baptist Church, Brian & Kay Fox, Pam & Tommy Tidwell, Rachel Drose, Sondra Tank, Lamar Bevil, Barry & Amy Lee, Kyle & Leahann Doar, Karen Brown Felter, John Quattlebaum, Nancy Smoak, Becky Wilson, Marie & John Land, Annette Browder, Trent & Yvonne Powell, Harriet & Jimmy Holladay, Garson Taylor, Mary Jo Gamble, Charlie & Carol Gavin, Tommy & Jane Benton, Rock & Vicki Ouzts

Claire Eadon given by: Garson Taylor

Jake Buddin given by: Ken & Gloria Holladay, Cindy McInnis, Garson Taylor, Charlie & Carol Gavin, Ginny Flynt

Rosella Daniels given by: Garson Taylor, Bob & Susan Lybrand, Harry & Nancy Kirby, Tommy & Jane Benton, Rock & Vicki Ouzts

Rev. Debra Quilling Smith given by: Cindy McInnis, Charlie & Carol Gavin, Ann Kirven

Mary Barwick given by: Annete Browder, Garson Taylor

Dedee Clark given by: Cindy McInnis, Rock & Vicki Ouzts

Joe Brewer given by: Garson Taylor

Ethan Holladay given by: Garson Taylor

O'Neil Ward given by: Garson Taylor, Tommy & Jane Benton, Ginny Flynt, Rock & Vicki Ouzts

Jerry Robertson given by: Charlie & Carol Gavin, Ginny Flynt

Honorarium Gifts:

Happy 1st Birthday! **Isla Brielle Johnson Carlota** given by: Cona Tyson

From the Pastor

Dear ones,

Do you have a process? In your work or hobbies, is there an order you follow that helps you arrive at the preferred result? Often it is the process that gifts depth and meaning to the act of creating.

That question can be asked of anyone who creates. We can easily forget that artwork doesn't magically appear— even AI images like the ones that will be featured on the bulletins for the Sundays in Lent. There was a process involved in producing them. To get a result I like, I have to develop a concept and then describe what I hope the image will convey. For instance, to generate the image for the 1st Sunday in Lent, I uploaded the smaller, old piece of art and input the following prompt, "Perhaps you could reimagine this as more abstract and angular like stained glass."

Have you ever wondered how a pastor comes up with what she is going to say?

In a rather weird experience, after using it to edit something, I found myself "talking" with ChatGPT about my group of clergy mentees. For some reason it began asking me questions about how I work, how I prepare to preach. It asked me questions and I answered them. Type, click, question, respond, and then out of the blue it asked me a question that surprised me: "Would you like for me to create a document describing your process so that you can share it with your mentees?"

After the initial shock wore off, I said "yes." And it did. The program analyzed every answer I had given and created a document entitled *From Reading to Proclaiming: A Practical Flow for Sermon Preparation* (A guide for preachers who want their sermons to breathe—rooted in Scripture, informed by study, and alive with the Spirit). I was stunned.

My experience is that preachers all prepare a bit differently. There is no "one size fits all" approach. I enjoy occasionally translating some or all of the text from which I am preaching, others do not. I enjoy reading and handwriting notes while others avoid commentaries altogether. I hope that it is true that there is a process we all follow that allows the sermon to unfold under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Below is the description of my process that ChatGPT prepared for my mentees. I hope it will be interesting for you to know how I work.

1. Begin with Prayerful Reading

Before anything else, ask God to open your heart and imagination. Read the passage aloud slowly, more than once if possible. Pay attention to what stirs you: a word, an image, a feeling of discomfort, hope, or confusion. Don't rush to interpret; simply notice what stands out. "What is this text doing to me before I do anything to it?"

2. Mark What You Notice

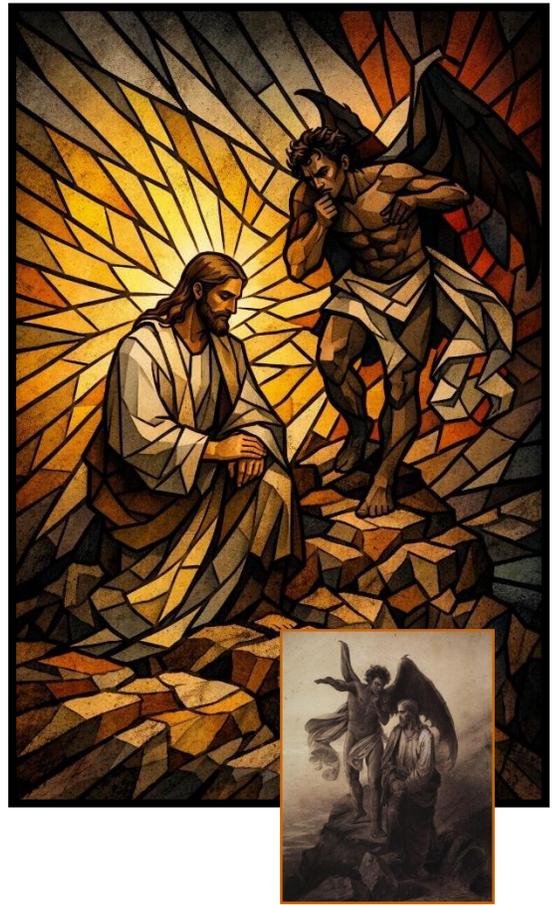
Write what you find interesting, troubling, or encouraging. Underline repeated words or phrases. Note tensions in the text—where God seems to surprise, reverse, or challenge expectations. Write freely; don't worry about order or polish. This becomes your raw material, your first conversation with the Word.

3. Listen for Personal Resonance

Ask: "Where does this speak into my own life right now?" What questions does it raise about your own discipleship? What does your heart need to hear in this text before your congregation does?

4. Study to Deepen, Not to Drown

Now bring in commentaries, word studies, or background sources. Look for historical or cultural insights that clarify what's happening. Find theological angles that affirm or challenge your initial impressions. Copy or highlight what feels alive—not just what sounds clever. Study is meant to deepen the encounter, not replace it.



5. Discern the Core Message

Step back and ask: “If this passage had one thing to say to my people this week, what would it be?” Look for verbs: What is God saying, doing, calling, promising, or warning? Boil that down into a single sentence. That becomes your sermon seed—everything else grows from it.

6. Shape the Flow

Arrange your thoughts around a natural movement:

1. Human condition or question. 2. God’s response in the text. 3. Invitation to transformation.

Add stories, examples, or humor that make the message recognizable in everyday life. Don’t worry about perfect wording yet—get the movement right first.

7. Write to Clarify, Not to Confine

Draft a manuscript or detailed notes so you can see your own thought flow clearly. Use it to test transitions, phrasing, and timing. But remember that you will preach through it, not from it. It’s a guide for clarity, not a cage for the Spirit.

8. Rehearse with Imagination

Read your sermon aloud while picturing your congregation—their faces, needs, and joys. Listen for where the Spirit’s nudge. Mark key phrases in bold or line breaks for natural eye contact. Let the manuscript become familiar enough that you could set it down and still tell the story.

9. Trust the Moment

On Sunday, bring all of it—study, prayer, notes, manuscript—and then release it. Preach with gratitude for what God has already shown you in the preparation. Remember: the sermon is not something you deliver; it’s something the Holy Spirit does through you.

10. Reflect and Give Thanks

After preaching, think on what felt alive, what seemed to connect, and what you learned. Thank God for the Word that spoke again—through you and to you. That reflection becomes the seed of next week’s sermon.

“Study the Word until it begins to study you. Preach the sermon until it begins to preach you. Then step aside and let the Word do its work.”

While this is not something I keep in front of me every week, I found that it was quite accurate in describing the stages of development that I go through before I stand before you in worship. I have not yet actually shared this with my mentees, but I am supposed to show them how I prepare at our next meeting in March. That is what prompted me to wonder if this would be meaningful for you to know.

Remember Christ!



March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 2nd Sunday of Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:00 pm Confirmation 4:30 Youth 7:30 Young Adult</p>	<p>2 12:00—1:00 Myrtle Strange Lenten Luncheon</p>	<p>3 9am-2pm AARP Tax Help</p>	<p>4 3:00 pm CIA</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Spring forward Don't forget to set clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday. </p>
<p>8 3rd Sunday of Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:00 pm Confirmation 4:30 Youth 7:30 Young Adult</p>	<p>9 8-12 pm MUMC Day School 12:00—1:00 Jane Craft Circle Lenten Luncheon 6:30 pm UMIM Supper</p>	<p>10 8-12 MUMC Day School 9am-2pm AARP Tax Help 10:00 am OCC Activity Day</p>	<p>11 8-12 MUMC Day School 3:00 pm CIA 6:00 pm Trustees 6:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>12 8-12 MUMC Day School 2:00 Jane Craft Circle</p>	<p>13 8-12 MUMC Day School</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 4th Sunday of Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 4:30 Youth 7:30 Young Adult</p>	<p>16 8-12 pm MUMC Day School 12:00—1:00 United Methodist Men Lenten Luncheon</p>	<p>17 St. Patrick's Day 8-12 MUMC Day School 9am-2pm AARP Tax Help</p>	<p>18 8-12 MUMC Day School 3:00 pm CIA 6:00 pm Finance 6:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>19 8-12 MUMC Day School</p>	<p>20 8-12 MUMC Day School</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 5th Sunday of Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:00 pm Confirmation 4:30 Youth 7:30 Young Adult</p>	<p>23 8-12 pm MUMC Day School</p>	<p>24 8-12 MUMC Day School 9am-2pm AARP Tax Help Butter Braid Pick Up</p>	<p>25 8-12 MUMC Day School 3:00 pm CIA 6:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>26 8-12 MUMC Day School</p>	<p>27 8-12 MUMC Day School</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Palm Sunday 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:00 pm Confirmation 4:30 Youth 7:30 Young Adult</p>	<p>30 8-12 MUMC Day School</p>	<p>31 8-12 MUMC Day School 9am-2pm AARP Tax Help</p>				

Happy Birthday

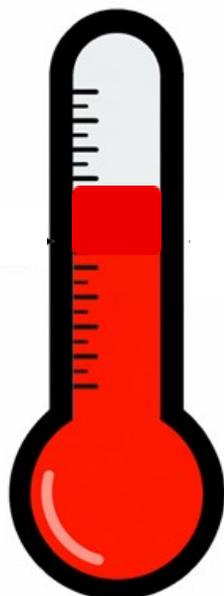
Mar. 1 Alice Jordan
 Mar. 3 Mary Brock, Dianne Sprott
 Mar. 4 Mary Jo Gamble, Stan Nickell
 Mar. 5 Sherrille Ward
 Mar.6 Carol Gavin
 Mar.9 Rhett Still
 Mar.11 Beverly Felder
 Mar.12 Billy Coffey, Jr., Traci Brunson
 Mar.18 Gene Barber
 Mar.19 Vann Page, Caroline Buddin Delmas
 Mar.24 Mark Lee
 Mar. 25 Garek Parker
 Mar.28 Pat Terry, Katie Richardson
 Mar.29 Fuzzy Furse

Happy Anniversary

Mar. 5 Mike & Lisa Burns
 Mar.14 Meg & Don Lee
 Mar.18 Louis & Dawn Griffith
 Mar.19 Johnny & Ruthie Odom
 Mar.25 Bruce & Jane Powell

**Amount Collected: \$22,019.00 Percentage
 toward \$38,000 goal: 57.94%**

GOAL: \$38,000



In addition to your regular giving, would you consider making a gift to offset the purchase of a new-to-us organ? If so, please mark your gift with the word "organ."

Date	Worship Attendance
February 1	9:30 am Sunday School— 46 Worship 10:30 am — 97
February 8	9:30 am Sunday School— 56 Worship 10:30 am — 102
February 15	9:30 am Sunday School—49 Worship 10:30 am — 98
February 22	9:30 am Sunday School— 40 Worship 10:30 am — 88

Flower Calendar for 2026!

The yellow days are available for Sign-up!
 Please add your name to the poster on the church bulletin board outside the church office.

March	1	8	15	22	29
April	5	12	19	26	
May	3	10	17	24	31
June	7	14	21	28	
July	5	12	19	26	
August	2	9	16	23	30
September	6	13	20	27	
October	4	11	18	25	
November	1	8	15	22	29
December	6	13	20	27	

Our Prayer List Please remember the people below in your prayers. **This list is in continuous rotation, if you do not see your loved one on this list please call the church office and update us on their health.**

Family of Joe Brewer	Ann Cutter	Ed Gamble	Karen Myers	Adam Salisbury
Horace Browder, Jr.	Jim Daniel, Jr.	Brandon Herlong	Family of Ben Osborne	Sally Wilson
Jackie Chalfant	Carol Gavin	Lou Holladay	Chris Polis	Kimberly Wyatt
Larry Cramer	Artie Felder	Laura Kelly	Tyler Roberts	

Please remember to Pray for our members who are living away from home, in the **military, or who have limited mobility:**

Betty Black	Cameron Dodge	Margaret Lee
Isabelle Brown	William (Artie) Gamble	Neal Mahoney
George Clark	Woody Haynes	Joan Odom
June Davis	Bo King	Helene Patnode
Liz Denny	Wilson Lepp	Margaret Robertson
		Cliff Toner

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As a response to God's love for us, the people of Manning UMC have a heart for giving and caring for others all year long. However, during Lent we especially think of God's gift to us of salvation and Christ's great sacrifice for us on the cross. Though unworthy, yet blessed by God's love, we are moved to respond. One way we do this is to contribute to a Lenten offering that helps support two of our Methodist missionaries in Ecuador, Sara Flores and her husband, Dakin Cook. Sara and Dakin told us about their work in Ecuador when they visited our congregation in 2024. They depend upon our Covenant Support to continue their work. When we hear of the struggles of the people in some of the South American countries, this mission becomes even more vital. As we prayerfully move through the 40 days of Lent leading toward Easter, please consider how you might respond to God's love through the Lenten Offering.

Helene Ellis, Mission Chairperson

Missions: As we conclude the Souper Bowl of Caring this February, Let's focus on March! The Missions Committee would like your help in collecting toilet paper for United Ministries. Canned foods are always needed, but adding a toilet paper drive during the month of March will help United Ministries greatly. Thank you in advance for being such a caring church. The Mission Committee.

Grief Support Group: This MUMC group meets in the library every other Thursday at 1:00 PM. Please call Pat Terry, 803-460-8106 if you have any questions.

TAX Prep: Free Tax Preparation through AARP in the fellowship hall 9am-2pm Tuesdays in February and March. See Kelly for details.

The Back Page March 2026

Pancake Dinner photos



Thanks to Hunter for his Tech Talks.



HELP SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISER



Butterbraid Fundraiser forms available in the church office.

Butter Braid Pick up March 24th just in time for EASTER

Thank you Ms. Greta for doing the play with us

