

SUNRISE CHURCH | APRIL 2026

The Beacon

Join us for Easter Sunday

Sunrise Community Service - 6:45 AM on Breach Inlet
Sanctuary Easter Service - 10:00 AM at Sunrise Church

The Easter Season: A Change of Heart

Change. Now there's a word that raises all sorts of mixed emotions. You and I can probably tell half a dozen jokes about the problems people experience when facing change. By in large, we like the idea of it . . . in *theory*. We are reluctant about putting it into *practice*.

Change or *transformation* is an essential theme of the Lenten Season. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and leads us to the rollercoaster events of Holy Week. It is an important time to consider the changes we need to make in our lives.

Pursuing this theme of *change*, I *Googled* some famous quotations about change. 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 and comes to a dramatic culmination during Holy Week.

Palm Sunday is always celebratory! There are palm fronds that the children and choir waved as they entered the sanctuary on Sunday. While the Hosannas ring in our ears, we know what lies ahead. In many ways, Palm Sunday is an anticipation of the very nature of transformation. So often, the joys of our lives are set against the backdrop of life's challenges and struggles.

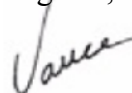
On **Maundy Thursday**, we gather in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. to share the Passover Seder meal and then The Lord's Supper in the Columbarium, following the Seder. This is a very special evening. The Last Supper that Jesus celebrated with his disciples in the Upper Room was the Passover Seder. It retells the story of God rescuing the people of Israel from Egypt. It was during the Last Supper that Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. This event makes that important connection as we first share the celebration of the Passover and then finish the evening with Communion.

On **Good Friday** at 7:30 p.m., we take the journey to the foot of the Cross. Our *Service of Shadows* is a profoundly moving service with the light in sanctuary slowly fading into darkness. As the bell tolls 33 times for each year of our savior's life, the Christ Window is the only light in the sanctuary.

Easter Morning dawns on the beach at Breach Inlet! This year, the Easter Sunrise Service will begin at 6:45 a.m., with the sun rising over the ocean at 7:03 a.m. Our *Celebration of the Resurrection* is at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. The choir, Matthew, and guest trumpeters will light our spirits in joyful celebration! Please bring flowers for *Flowering the Cross!*

Come and let us make this journey together as the Sunrise family, preparing our hearts for the transformational joy and glory of Easter morning!

In God's grace,





ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 12th

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.



Thank you for your generous contribution to the Remembrance Garden...

- In memory of Bob Draughn, Peggy Wolford, and Madge Walther given by Betty Jane Dillon

Sonrise Mission Project

This year, with the vision and help from Stephanie and Steve Heckart, we began a new service project, which we hope becomes an annual outreach to our local congregants who aren't able to come to church as often as they'd like, and also to the local community. Easter baskets were put together by our youngest youth filled with treats, plastic eggs, homemade cards, and a cross reminding them of God's constant presence and unfailing love. Many on our church prayer list and local nursing home residents will be blessed with these baskets to remind them we are thinking about them. We hope to see this project grow even larger next year!





Many thanks to the gardening group for getting the church grounds ready for the spring/summer season.



Youth Group Beach Bonfire on Sullivan's Island



Procession of the Palms

Holy Week Event Descriptions

Maundy Thursday: April 2nd at 6:00 p.m. - This year, we will be in the Fellowship Hall sharing the Passover Seder meal and the Lord's Supper. This is a very special evening. The Last Supper that Jesus celebrated with his disciples in the Upper Room was the Passover Seder. It retells the story of God rescuing the people of Israel from Egypt. It was during the Last Supper that Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. This event makes that important connection as we first share the celebration of the Passover and then finish the evening with Communion.

Good Friday Service of Shadows: April 3rd at 7:30 p.m. - This is a powerful service at 7:30 p.m. that takes us on our Lord's final journey from the Garden of Gethsemane to the Cross. The service is an adaptation of an early fourth-century worship service, traditional to Holy Week. The church is well lighted at the beginning of the service. The lights dim as it continues, until, at the end, the sanctuary is shrouded in deep shadows. The gradual extinguishing of the lights and candles is symbolic of the flight of the disciples and the resentment of the world leading to the final isolation of Jesus on the Cross. At the conclusion a bell is tolled thirty-three times, recalling each year of Christ's life.

Easter Morning: April 5th

6:45 a.m. Sunrise Service on the Beach at Breach Inlet

10:00 a.m. Celebration of the Resurrection



**Please bring flowers for the
Flowering of the Cross on
Easter Sunday!
Children may bring flowers to
decorate a cross during the
worship service.**

April at Sunrise

Growing Faith's next meeting will be on April 19th at 9 am in the Middle School Youth Group room. 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 library at 9:00 a.m. There is a video conference option via google meet. ~ Vance

Middle School Youth Group (6th-8th grade) meets Sundays at 10:30 am and will also meet April 12th and 26th from 4:30 - 6:30 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.

On Friday evenings at Sunrise Church college-age young people are gathering at 7:00 p.m. for Bible study, a meal, and then finishing the evening with a game like Uno. This youth group is a continuation of our Senior High group from last year. It's under the leadership of Harrison & Ritchie.

The Women's Morning Bible Study will meet on April 14th at 10 am in the library. This Bible study connects the many familiar stories and people of the Bible. New members are always welcome. ~ Vance

The Women's Evening Bible Study will meet April 21st at 5:30 pm using the book *Esther: Daring Faith for Such a Time as This*. In this 7-session study, author Kelly Minter invites you into the daring faith modeled by Esther and her cousin Mordecai—a faith developed over time, rooted in the goodness of God, lived out through extraordinary circumstances, and used to change the world. New members are always welcome. ~ Caroline

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.

Beacon April, 2026

Sunrise Columbarium and Memorial Garden First Anniversary

Dear Congregation and Families,

The first anniversary of the dedication of the Columbarium and Memorial Garden will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 2. It is a sacred place for the inurnment of loved ones, as well as a place for prayer, meditation, or simply to sit and enjoy the peace and beauty of the marsh and surroundings.

A beautiful rose bed has been added to the garden in celebration of the anniversary. You may dedicate rose bushes in honor or in memory of loved ones by filling out the attached form and returning it to the church along with your payment. If you are interested in purchasing a niche, a memorial plaque or making a donation, information is available on the church website at www.oursunrise.org under Resources, at the church office, or by contacting Ralph Byers at ralphbyers@gmail.com or at 917-273-6173.

The Columbarium Committee greatly appreciates the support of the congregation, our pastor Vance Polley, Hannah Webster, the Session and all those who have worked diligently to support the columbarium ministry. Special appreciation goes to those who have purchased niches and memorial plaques, and to those who have made donations.

As of April 1, the Columbarium Committee members are:

Ralph Byers, Niche & Plaque Purchases and Donations

Cal McRae, Finance

Faith Frink, Maintenance

Hannah Webster, Administration & Marketing

Most sincerely,

Ida Havelka, Chair

Ralph Byers, Niche & Plaque Purchases and Donations

Lamar Graves, Construction & Maintenance

Cal McRae, Finance

Lynn & Phil Riker, Rules & Regulations



Dedicate a Knock Out Rose Bush

Columbarium & Memorial Garden First Anniversary



In celebration of the first anniversary of the Columbarium Garden on Maundy Thursday, a beautiful bed of Knock Out Roses has been added to the garden. If you would like to participate in the ongoing ministry of the columbarium garden by dedicating a rose bush *in honor of or in memory of* a loved one, please complete the information below and attach a check (or cash) to this order form. You may also give online at <https://www.oursunrise.org/give/> with "Columbarium Rose" in the memo line and email your dedication to hello@oursunrise.org.

_____ # roses @ \$30.00 = \$ _____

Given by: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Dedications will appear in the bulletin Easter Sunday

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 10:30am - Easter Egg Hunt 10:40am - Middle School Youth	30 2:45pm - Music Lessons (Choir) 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6:45pm - Seaside Singers	31 8am - Men's Breakfast	1 10am - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Choir Practice	2 6pm - Maundy Thursday Seder	3 10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall 7:30pm - Good Friday ~ Service of	4
5 6:45am - Sunrise Easter Service 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Celebration of the 10:40am - Middle School Youth	6 2:45pm - Music Lessons (Choir) 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6:45pm - Seaside Singers	7 8am - Men's Breakfast	8 10am - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Choir Practice	9 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate	10 Nelson Wedding 10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall 7pm - College Youth Group	11
12 Cents-Ability 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 10:40am - Middle School Youth 4:30pm - Middle School Youth	13 2:45pm - Music Lessons (Choir) 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6:45pm - Seaside Singers	14 8am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Women's Morning Bible	15 10am - AA Meeting 1pm - Stephen Ministry Meeting 6:30pm - Choir Practice	16 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6pm - Battery Gadsden - Sanctuary	17 10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall 7pm - College Youth Group	18 1pm - Lisa Deakins Recital -
19 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 9am - Growing Faith - Family 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 10:40am - Middle School Youth	20 2:45pm - Music Lessons (Choir) 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6:45pm - Seaside Singers	21 8am - Men's Breakfast 5:30pm - Women's Evening Bible	22 10am - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Choir Practice	23 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate	24 10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall 7pm - College Youth Group	25
26 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 10:40am - Middle School Youth 4:30pm - Middle School Youth	27 2:45pm - Music Lessons (Choir) 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6:45pm - Seaside Singers	28 8am - Men's Breakfast	29 10am - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Choir Practice	30 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate	1 10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall 7pm - College Youth Group	2

April Birthdays

2 Keaton Murray

2 DiAn Kempf

2 Mallory Jeffers

4 Sabrina Fehon

4 Blake Belicka

6 Ken Russell

6 Donna Hainley

6 Tom Bigelow

6 Will Heffernan

7 Korri Locke

8 Gale Vancleave

9 Steve Heckart

9 Jon Mersereau

10 Jon Regan Walters

11 Marcy Fields

13 Courtney Hardwick

15 Kurt Nendorf

16 Barbara Raley

16 Susan Johnson

16 Davis Goforth

17 Dickey Dingle

22 Isabel Taylor

22 Tracy Barnhart

24 Kelly Hinton

25 Pete Page

26 Rebecca Hooper

26 Hunter Murph

28 Caden Boggs

29 Charlie Clark

29 Angie Fehon

29 Talia Holliday

29 Matt LaTorre

29 Katie LaTorre

Church Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Phone: (843) 883-3888

www.oursunrise.org

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