

SUNRISE CHURCH | MAY 2026

# The Beacon

**Hello, Spring!**

"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land." -Song of Solomon 2:11-12

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)*

### *Hope*

On Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the theme of the worship service is *Hope*. This word has come to define how I choose to approach all of the fear and uncertainty swirling around us these days. It is also the *common ground* we share.

In a world that feels out of control, many wonder if there is any hope. As I consider this feeling of *hopelessness* the words of William Butler Yeats' 1919 poem stand out to me:

*Turning and turning in the widening gyre  
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;  
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;  
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,  
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere  
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;  
The best lack all conviction, while the worst  
Are full of passionate intensity.      (**The Second Coming**, Yeats)*

Yeats wrote this poem in the wake of World War I [at the time known as the *Great War*]. It describes the deep sense of despair that people were feeling after the horrific four years of bloodshed across Europe.

I have quoted this portion of his poem for two reasons. It captures in poetic imagery feelings of loss and overwhelming uncertainty, AND it comes from an historical period over 100 years ago. We have the benefit of hindsight to see what eventually emerged from those dark days, although it took a Second World War to set us on a far more hopeful path!

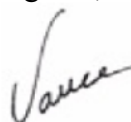
The opening hymn for the May 3<sup>rd</sup> worship service contains this verse:

*Does sadness fill my mind?  
A solace here I find,  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Or fades my earthly bliss?  
My comfort still is this,  
May Jesus Christ be praised!*

The hope and confidence expressed in these lines remind us that the great and very real uncertainties of life are embraced by the ever-present and loving arms of our savior. We are cared for and supported. The words of the Apostle Paul affirm this confidence:

<sup>37</sup> *No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us.* <sup>38</sup> *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,* <sup>39</sup> *nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:37-39)*

In God's grace,



# Calling all 2026 Sunrise Graduates!

If you know of a student who is graduating from high school or college this year in the Sunrise Church family, we'd like to hear from you. We want to congratulate them in the June Beacon. Please send us a photo with a brief summary of their background to [hello@oursunrise.org](mailto:hello@oursunrise.org) so that we can highlight their accomplishment. Thank you!

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## 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
  - In memory of Bobbie Mariam given by Neila Cary
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## Celebrating 31 Years with our beloved Pastor, Teacher, & Friend – Rev. Dr. Vance Polley

We continue to collect your personal notes and cards for Vance, as we create a memories album thanking Vance for 31 years of faithful service to Sunrise. You can share your memories, thoughts, or simply sign a thank you card. If you have not already done so, please forward your note or card to Michele Smith by **May 15** - via her mailbox in the church copy room, mailed to 2208 Dewees Creek Drive, Mt. Pleasant SC 29466, or to Hannah Webster.

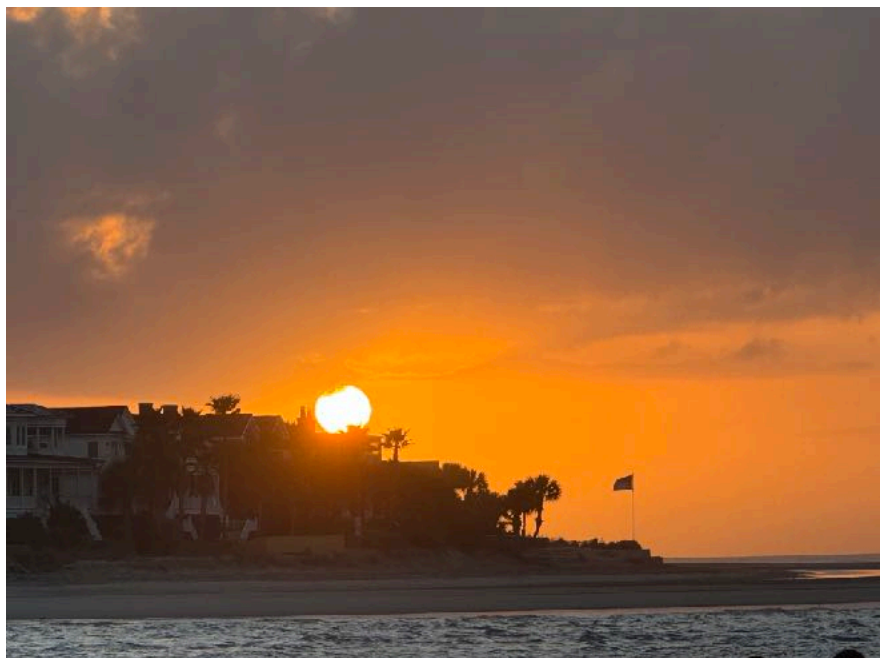
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*Mother's Day Offering*  
2026

**MAY 10TH**

Since 1954, Presbyterian churches in South Carolina have marked Mother's Day with an offering to support the ministry of Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina to older adults. The Mother's Day Offering is used solely to provide charitable care for residents who can no longer pay for the full cost of their care. Giving envelopes will be available in the Narthex on May 10th. Thank you in advance for giving generously.

# Easter Sunday 2026 in Photos



# May at Sunrise

**Growing Faith's** next meeting will be on May 17th 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 May 10th and 24th 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](mailto: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 May 5th 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 May 19th 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.

# May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service	27 2:45pm - Music Lessons (Choir) 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6:45pm - Seaside Singers	28 8am - Men's Breakfast 5:30pm - Women's Evening Bible 6:30pm - Sullivan's Island Youth	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
3 Communion & Family Service 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service	4 2:45pm - Music Lessons (Choir) 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate	5 8am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Women's Morning Bible	6 10am - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Choir Practice	7 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate	8 10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall 7pm - College Youth Group	9
10 Cents-Ability 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service	11 2:45pm - Music Lessons (Choir) 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate	12 Presbytery Meeting 8am - Men's Breakfast	13 10am - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Choir Practice	14 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate	15 10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall 7pm - College Youth Group	16
17 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 9am - Growing Faith - Family 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service	18 2:45pm - Music Lessons (Choir) 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate	19 8am - Men's Breakfast 5:30pm - Women's Evening Bible	20 10am - AA Meeting 1pm - Stephen Ministry Meeting 6:30pm - Choir Practice	21 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6pm - Battery Gadsden - Sanctuary	22 10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall 7pm - College Youth Group	23
24 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 10:40am - Middle School Youth	25 Memorial Day 2:45pm - Music Lessons (Choir) 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate	26 8am - Men's Breakfast	27 10am - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Choir Practice	28 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate	29 10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall 7pm - College Youth Group	30
31 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 10:40am - Middle School Youth	1 2:45pm - Music Lessons (Choir) 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate	2 8am - Men's Breakfast	3 10am - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Choir Practice	4 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate	5 10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall 7pm - College Youth Group	6

# May Birthdays

5/3 Brandon Clark

5/4 Nancy Dean

5/6 Korey McDavid

5/8 Cydne Abernathy

5/9 Matt Norton

5/10 Cyndi Kunkle

5/11 Chris McKee

5/12 Susanne Marshall

5/13 Jean Campbell

5/14 Bill Casey

5/14 Malin Allard

5/15 Karen Schmelter

5/16 John Petzold

5/18 Bonnie Burton

5/19 Mattie Smith

5/21 Debbie Croxton

5/24 Shelly White

5/26 Ross Heaton

5/26 Nicole McKee

5/27 Neila Cary

5/28 Carol Dawson

5/28 Bob Hooper

5/29 Jackson Naylor

5/30 Chris Hardwick

5/31 Kathy Jordan

**Church Office Hours:**

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

Monday through Friday

Phone: (843) 883-3888

[www.oursunrise.org](http://www.oursunrise.org)

## Sunrise Staff

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