

SUNRISE CHURCH | NOVEMBER 2026

The Beacon

Give back this season through service

See inside for additional details!

From the Pastor's Desk — Rev. Vance Polley

The Spirit of Sharing

In the familiar story of Charles Dickens' **A Christmas Carol**, we witness the transformation of Scrooge's spirit into one of generous sharing. The details of the story build until the dawning of Christmas morning, and Scrooge's newfound joy in sharing.

We are entering the season that focuses on giving and sharing. There are numerous opportunities through the ministries and outreach mission of Sunrise to give at this time of year. Our annual gifts include the Christmas at Sea boxes, the Angel Tree Christmas bags, and the special offerings to the Thornwell Program and the Joy Offering.

We share the joy of this season with the *Live Nativity*. It has become a cherished part of the life of our community. Reenacting the Christmas Story in costume with scripture read, Christmas carols sung, and live animals, brings the wonder of the birth of Christ to life! I love remembering a couple in their eighties sitting side-by-side, holding hands as they watched the Christmas pageant unfold and remembered decades of shared memories.

Each year, as Thanksgiving approaches, I reference our expectations and try to suggest realistic ways to prepare for such a heavily anticipated gathering. The illustration of these expectations is beautifully captured in the famous Norman Rockwell painting. Its idealized vision of the perfect Thanksgiving sets a standard we are unlikely to ever achieve.

In 2018, I began sharing some of the insights from Priya Parker's book, **The Art of Gathering:** *How We Meet and Why It Matters*. She offers some very practical advice in planning gatherings. Her fourth chapter is entitled, *Create a Temporary Alternative World*. She suggests that instead of bringing our everyday tensions and conversations to a special gathering, we should seek to enter a different time and space. To me, this means retelling the family stories about Thanksgivings past, inviting the future generations to relive family traditions. It creates a different atmosphere. I suggest there is a sacredness to stepping out of the present and taking that journey through time and memories.

Each year, we commemorate *All Saints* on the first Sunday in November. This year, *All Saints Day* is a Sunday. In this worship service, we recognize those that have *Entered the Church Triumphant* since last November. It is a wonderful service that includes tolling the bell in remembrance and gathering at the Communion Table.

In the familiar scripture passage from the Letter to the Hebrews we are reminded of a *great cloud of witnesses*. They are our foundation and surround us with their witness. I like the admonition for us to *run with perseverance the race that is set before us*. It is a reminder that in every age there are challenges. The witnesses surrounding us provide examples of how these challenges have been met and reassure us that we, too, can meet the challenges of our day.

This Sunday, my sermon is titled, *Deep Connections*. It emphasizes the sacredness of remembering loved ones that have gone before us. As you gather on Thanksgiving or for Christmas, I invite you to retell family stories that bring memories to life and fill the table with loved ones who are no longer physically present, but very much part of the gathering!

In God's grace,



ECCO Sunday Donations

Thank you for participating in ECCO Grocery Bag Sunday. Your generous donations totaled to 250 pounds!!! The food was shelved after receiving it so that clients could order much needed toileteries and food.



Legacy Society

Sunrise has launched a financial giving program called the Legacy Society. If you would like to learn more about this special opportunity to support Sunrise, there are informational folders in the Narthex

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Sunrise Columbarium & Memorial Garden



For some, choosing a permanent resting place is a decision made right away. For others, it's one that gets put off amid the many emotions and decisions that follow a loss.

Wherever a family finds itself on that journey, there is value in having a place to return to—a place to reflect, share stories, honor a life, and feel connected to someone who will always be remembered.

At Sunrise, everyone deserves a meaningful place to be remembered. Columbarium niches and other permanent memorial options give families a dedicated space to honor loved ones today and preserve their stories for generations to come. (Article courtesy of Eickhof Columbaria)

If you would like to know more about purchasing a niche or memorial plaque, information is available on the church website at www.oursunrise.org under Resources, at the church office or by contacting Ralph Byers at 917-273-6173 or at ralphbyers@gmail.com. Those who have a close relationship with Sunrise or its members may be deemed eligible to purchase a niche with the consent of the Session.

Donations to the Columbarium Fund may be made in memory or honor of someone, or for the perpetual care of the columbarium and garden. These donations are always appreciated and will be recognized in the Beacon.

the Angel Tree

The 2026 Angel Trees for East Cooper Meals on Wheels

The trees will be up and decorated in the Fellowship Hall on November 15th. If you would like to begin shopping early to get a start on the Christmas Season, Meals on Wheels has provided a list below of requested items. Gifts must be brought to the church in a gift bag by **Sunday, November 29th** in order for Meals on Wheels to arrange for distribution by Christmas.

- puzzles
- playing cards
- card games
- crossword puzzles
- brain games for seniors
- hand soap
- shampoo/conditioner
- body wash
- small sewing kits
- flashlights w/ batteries
- notepads
- pens
- slippers
- socks (grippy, fuzzy, etc.)
- eyeglasses strap
- Grippy mats for shower
- hand cream
- Chapstick
- Exercise bands
- Heating pads
- Back scratcher
- toothbrushes/ toothpaste
- Kleenex
- Luffas
- small first aid kits
- unscented lotion

All Saints Sunday

November 1st

Family & Communion Sunday at 10:00 am

- ❖ Traditional tolling of the bell
- ❖ Recognition of those who entered *The Church Triumphant*

Save the Date: Live Nativity & Bethlehem Village

We have a special tradition at Sunrise to put on the Christmas Story for our community and beyond and it's never too early to start planning. There are many ways you can contribute to the Live Nativity and Bethlehem Village on Saturday, December 12th from 5-7 pm: assisting with parking, bringing in cookies, performing in the Live Nativity (you may take part in all or just some of the presentations), helping with the Bethlhem Village tables (crafts, bread making, and pottery making). We will have signup sheets in the months to come. Please be in thoughtful prayer for ways that you can use your time & talents to help share the birth of our Savior.

Thornwell Special Offering Nov. 9th

Thornwell's foster care program, residential program, and family & educational support programs offer homes that are safe and loving, hope for a brighter future, and wholeness & healing. Thornwell serves children and families throughout Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. Thank you in advance for your support!

Thank You!

Many thanks and gratitude to Michele Smith, Julie Milly, Brent & Nancy Havens, Rick Wagner, Steve & Stephanie Heckart, and Faith & James Frink, who all took some part in the rebuilding of the retaining wall, repainting the sign, and purchasing, planting & maintainig the plants. It looks amazing!!!







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

- In memory of loved ones, gone but not forgotten, given by Roberta Blanchard
- In memory of Betty Jane Dillon given by Roberta Blanchard
- In memory of John Petzold given by Roberta Blanchard

November at Sunrise

Growing Faith's meets monthly in the youth group room. Any older elementary & middle school students (4th - 8th grade) are invited to join us! - Breezy

The Adult Sunday School class is using the book *Out of the Depths: The Psalms Speak for us Today* for their current Bible study. This book offers a fresh reading of the Psalms and examines their enduring relevance to today's theological issues. The class meets weekly in the library at 9:00 a.m. There is a video conference option via google meet. ~ Vance

Youth Group (6th-12th grade) meets Sundays at 10:30 am and also twice a month in the evenings from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. This month's evening meet up dates are November 10 & 24 and 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.

Our college-age group meets on Thursday evenings at 75 Society Street, Apt 8 in Charleston 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 under the leadership of Harrison & Ritchie.

The Women's Morning Bible Study will meet Tuesday, November 17th at 10 am in the library. This Bible study connects the many familiar stories and people of the Bible. New members are always welcome.

The Women's Evening Bible Study will meet Tuesday, November 17th at 5:30 pm using the book *The Gospel of John* by Melissa Spoelstra. We hope to see you there! 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.

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion & Family Service 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 10:40am - Middle School Youth	2 6:45pm - Seaside Singers	3 No Men's Breakfast Poling Station	4 10am - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Choir Practice	5 3pm - Neighbor Parking 7pm - College Youth Group	6 10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall	7 7am - Lowvelo
8 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 11:30am - Art on the Beach	9 6:45pm - Seaside Singers	10 8am - Men's Breakfast 4:30pm - Middle/High Youth Group	11 Veterans Day 10am - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Choir Practice	12 6pm - Battery Gadsden - Sanctuary 7pm - College Youth Group	13 10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall	14
15 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 10:40am - Middle School Youth 11am - Growing Faith - Family	16 6:45pm - Seaside Singers 7pm - Session Meeting	17 8am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Women's Morning Bible 5:30pm - Women's Evening Bible	18 10am - AA Meeting 1pm - Stephen Ministry Meeting 6:30pm - Choir Practice	19 7pm - College Youth Group	20 10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall	21
22 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 10:40am - Middle School Youth	23 6:45pm - Seaside Singers	24 8am - Men's Breakfast 4:30pm - Middle/High Youth Group	25 10am - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Choir Practice	26 Thanksgiving Day 7pm - College Youth Group	27 10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall	28
29 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 10:40am - Middle School Youth	30 6:45pm - Seaside Singers	1 8am - Men's Breakfast	2 10am - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Choir Practice	3 7pm - College Youth Group	4 10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall	5

November Birthdays

3 Mary Alice Day

3 Trae Borden

4 Dick Glave

4 Ethel Swartz

5 Nita Casey

6 David Brown

7 Brent Havens

8 Pat Bigelow

9 Helen Dierdorf

9 Rodger Tully

9 Brooke Rowland

10 Ron Connelly

11 Betty McClary

12 Wesley Neese

12 Maddie Hassold

15 Briggs Murray

17 Nancy Waller

17 Jenn Terry

17 Hart Hiers

18 Dan Feerst

18 Daniel Casey

18 Graham Parker

18 Lee Rowland

20 Ron Denton

21 Vickie Baker

22 Hayden Clarke

23 Victor Smith

23 Willow Frazier

25 Kathy Plecity

Church Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

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