

THE HERALD



March
2026

1838



1907



2025



HISTORY. HOPE. HEBRON.

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Ann Kovan
Senior Pastor

Matthew Chesnutt
Associate Director of Traditional Music
Matt Fink
Director of A/V

Quinette Jones
Office Administrator

Dr. Becky Loar
Director of Traditional Music

Michael Matthews
Environmental Services

Megan Phillips, MSW, LISW-CP, MAC, SC-LAC
Director of Mt. Hebron Counseling Service

Dr. Louis Playford
Organist

Katy Renfro
Director of Marketing & Communications

Tomi Rikkinen
Financial Secretary

Jodie Smith
Director of Hebron Day School

Ben Treaster
Director of Youth Ministries

Gena Turner
Director of Children's Ministries

CONTACT US >>

803.794.8273

communications@mthebrnumc.com

MtHebronUMC.com

FOLLOW US!

@MtHebronUMC

@Mt_Hebron_UMC

@MtHebronUMC

Message from Pastor Ann

Dear Church Family,

I once heard a story where a major hotel chain was hiring for a new location. They interviewed over 5,000 people for 500 positions. One of their major criteria was smiling. Anyone who smiled less than four times in their interview, regardless of their other qualifications, instantly eliminated them from consideration. The person who told me this story asked a room full of clergy, if this criteria were true for our churches, would they get the job?



A smile changes everything. Smiling, even when we don't feel like it, can trick our brain into happiness. Scientific studies prove that smiling lifts our mood, reduces anxiety and even improves our immune system, leading to longer life. When we smile, it sends a signal to the brain to release hormones like dopamine and serotonin that increase feelings of happiness and reduce stress. We can literally fake it 'til we make it. Reporting for NBC News, Nicole Spector writes, "the brain is a sucker for a grin."

We are praying for a more welcoming, more inclusive, more smiling, church. Be intentional to smile more on Sunday mornings, especially aiming it at others: your neighbor who may be someone hanging by a thread. Smiling isn't just good for you—it will open the hearts of those you don't even know. Let's be a church that gains by smiles.

In Christ,
Ann

Save
the
date

VBS
May 26-29

Easter Hop & Stop
March 25
5:30pm-7pm

Important Notice

Giving statements for 2025 were recently distributed to contributors via email or postal mail. Statements were sent to the addresses we have on file in our membership records. If your mailing address, email address, or phone number has changed, please notify us by emailing membership@mthebrnumc.com or calling the church office at 803.794.8273. If you did not receive your 2025 giving statement, please contact the church office as soon as possible.

Additionally, if you have experienced a significant life event—such as marriage, divorce, name change or the loss of a family member—we ask that you inform us so your membership record may be updated appropriately.

Chancel Choir Trip to Austria

Mt. Hebron UMC Chancel Choir has been invited to participate in the Salzburg Choral Festival Jubilate Mozart! The choir will travel to Salzburg, Austria (Mozart's birthplace) June 22-27, 2027 for a performance of Mozart's Coronation Mass as part of a mass choir with three other ensembles from the U.S.



If you would like to join the choir for this exciting performance or come along to see Austria and enjoy the performance from the audience, you may do so.

A \$250 deposit is due March 15, 2026. Make checks payable to Mt. Hebron UMC, and note in the memo line "music designated fund." For more information, please contact Dr. Becky Loar via email at rloar@mthebrnumc.com.



**Girl Scout Sunday
March 8th**

Cookie Season Sale Days:
March 7: 11am-1pm
March 8: Before/After Services
March 14: 11am-1pm

Hebron Day School Happenings

Registration was held at the end of January for the 2026-2027 school year. We still have limited availability in toddlers, threes and kindergarten. The other age levels are full and have a wait list.

Our Special Areas Celebration was held on February 12 where the students rotated through PE, art and music activities. Several parent volunteers participated in this fun day.

Community Helper Day was held on February 20. We had several vehicles and guests representing different occupations for the children to explore.

Muffins, Moms and Missions was held on February 24. We collected items for the Dickerson Children's Advocacy Center, so moms brought requested items for the center and enjoyed a muffin and juice with their child.

HDS Teacher In-Service was on February 19. We continually learn new techniques to meet all the needs of our students and parents.

Thank you for all the support and prayers you continue to give Hebron Day School!

Welcome Our New Member

Charlotte Nelson Owen joined Mt. Hebron on February 15th!



WELCOME
Charlotte!

**Confirmation Retreat
Hinton Center
March 13-15**



**4TH SUNDAY
MINISTRY FOCUS**

**MARCH 22, 2026
SCOUTING MINISTRY**

SPEAKERS
JIMMY BRISTOW, BOY SCOUTS
MARCI EADDY, GIRL SCOUTS

COMMEMORATIVE T-SHIRTS



Wear on
the 4th
Sunday
Each
Month!

Adult S-3X \$20
Long-Sleeved \$25
Youth XS-XL \$16



T-shirts can also
be purchased in
the church office
M-Th 10am-4pm.

ORDER
Here

HOME GATHERINGS

Thursday, March 5
11am-12:30pm
Mt. Hebron UMC
Cornerstone Room

Thursday, March 12
6pm-7:30pm
Tyler & Carolyn Jackson's Home

Thursday, March 19
6pm-7:30pm
Teddy & Teresa Calcina's Home

REGISTER AT MTHEBRONUMC.COM!

Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday

8:45am Contemporary Service | FLC
11:15am Traditional Service | Sanctuary
Children will be participating in both services!

West Metro United Methodist Churches

Holy Week Services

Sunday, March 29, 6pm

Mt. Hebron UMC
Rev. Darlene Kelley

Monday, March 30, 6pm

Platt Springs UMC
Rev. Sandie Stillinger

Tuesday, March 31, 6pm

Trinity UMC
Rev. Dr. Ann Kovan

Wednesday, April 1, 6pm

Shiloh UMC
Rev. Debbie Miller

April 2, 7pm

Maunder Thursday
Sanctuary

Stripping of the Altar and Tenebrae

Sunday, April 5

Easter Sunday

7am Sunrise Service | Prayer Garden

8:45am Contemporary Service | FLC

10am Breakfast | FLC

11:15am Traditional Service | Sanctuary



Holy Vessels:
A Lenten Season of Healing
Sermon Series



Pastoral After Hours Number
803.422.8136

3050 Leaphart Road
West Columbia, SC 29169

803.794.8273
communications@mthebronumc.com
MtHebronUMC.com



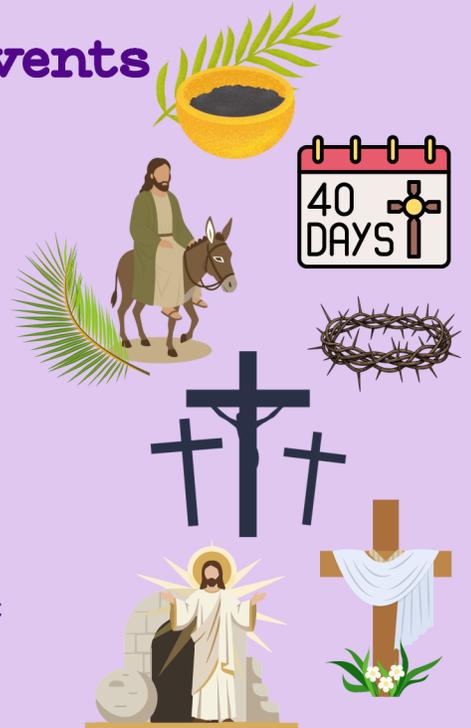
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Upcoming Meetings & Events

- March 1 - Baby Blessing Sunday
Scout CPR Training Class
Prayer Ministry Meeting
Confirmand Meeting
Burgers, Bibles & Besties Night (Youth)
- March 2 - 225 Committee Meeting
- March 3 - UWF Unit Meeting
HDS Committee Meeting
- March 5 - 225 Home Gathering
- March 7 - UWF Cola District Day Apart Retreat
- March 8 - UMM Breakfast Meeting
Pajama Sunday
Girl Scout Sunday
Confirmand Meeting
- March 9 - Worship Committee Meeting
New Life Committee Meeting
- March 12 - Memory Café
225 Home Gathering
- March 12-15 - Theotokos Confirmation Retreat
- March 16 - SPRC Committee Meeting
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day

- March 17 - Capital City Big Band Concert & UMM Shrimp & Grits Dinner
- March 19 - 225 Home Gathering
- March 20 - UMM Lunch for the Needy
- March 21 - Go Forth Ministries Yard Sale
- March 22 - Confirmand Meeting
- March 27 - Adult Fellowship Trip to The Real McCoy Museum
- March 28 - UMCSC Youth Basketball Tournament (MS Girls)
UMM Church Wide Cleaning
- March 29 - Palm Sunday**
- March 29 - Holy Week Service at Mt. Hebron UMC
- March 30 - Holy Week Service at Platt Springs UMC
- March 31 - Holy Week Service at Trinity UMC (Pastor Ann Preaching)
- April 1 - Holy Week Service at Shiloh UMC
- April 2 - Maundy Thursday Service
- April 5 - Easter Sunday



If you have news you would like to share in *The Herald*, please contact Ms. Jones in the church office. You can email her at qjones@mthebronumc.com or call the church office at 803.794.8273. Deadline is the 20th of each month.

To sign up for church emails, message communications@mthebronumc.com.
To see what's happening at Mt. Hebron UMC, please visit our social media and/or MtHebronUMC.com.