



# THE HERALD

February  
2026

1838



1907



2025



## HISTORY. HOPE. HEBRON.

### STAFF

**Rev. Dr. Ann Kovan**

Senior Pastor

**Cal Atwood**

Financial Administrator

**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 Renfroe**

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 >>**



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### Message from Pastor Ann

"Wateryougivinupferlent?" This was a question I heard every year as a child. It ranks up there with "Verge and Mary" and "but deliver us some email" with religious phrases that run together in the ears of children. And maybe even into adulthood. I recognized the codephrase and how to answer it: soft drinks, or candy, or ice cream. Always sweets. Which, ironically, were rarely found in the deRosset household, except for Daddy's stash of Pepsi.



We attended church irregularly, but the Episcopal and Methodist roots were there with my parents, so they annually posed the question. I know now that what we practice during Lent is a deep rooting out and letting go of those things that obstruct our relationship with God. That's a very simple way of defining penitence, because the things that hinder our walk with Jesus are sin, even things society calls "good." Cravings, compulsions, our schedule, anything that robs us of our time with God and diverts us from those spiritual practices—or Means of Grace—Christ has given to draw us closer to God.

It's not always about giving up something. Sometimes we clear our path to God by adding spiritual practices and time with God: get up earlier for daily Bible reading and prayer; join a Bible study; attend Lenten services; join a Sunday School class; keep a gratitude list; serve on an outreach ministry; smile at strangers; attend Ash Wednesday and all Holy Week services. These are just a few. Pray for discernment and feel God's Spirit leading you to your Lenten commitment. Maybe the best thing for you is to give up sweets.

In Christ,  
Pastor Ann

**Pastoral After Hours Number**  
**803.422.8136**

## Finance Committee Update

The Finance Committee wishes to thank you for dedication and faithfulness to Mount Hebron United Methodist Church. We had a significant deficit in August of 2025. Because of your effort and commitment, we closed the gap to an approximate short fall of \$93,000 for 2025. While a budgetary short fall is never easy to accept, the Finance Committee will continue to be good financial stewards of the funds that you contribute to our church. Please continue your prayers for our church budget, congregation and leadership. When you read this, we will have already met in January to finalize the 2026 budget. We will provide the new budget information in all the notifications you receive once it is approved by the Finance Committee and Church Council.



## J.W. Hendrix Scholarship

The Mt. Hebron Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for the J.W. Hendrix Educational Scholarship and the J.W. Hendrix Continuing Educational Scholarship for the 2026-2027 school year. Applications are online or in the church office.



## Hebron Day School Happenings

Hebron Day School is back in session, and students are back in their regular routine after the Christmas break with chapel and the book mobile. Registration for the 2026-2027 school year was completed at the end of January.

February is a busy month! The Special Areas Celebration Day on February 12 will be held in the Family Life Center. Classes will rotate through art, P.E. and music activities. It is a fantastic opportunity for us to recognize these areas of our program. Community Helper Day is February 20. Vehicles such as a big rig truck, a police car and a fire truck will be on display in the parking lot for the children to explore. There will also be a firefighter and a dentist available in the Family Life Center to tell the children about their occupations.

HDS will be collecting items for the Dickerson Children's Advocacy Center during February. Muffins, Moms and Missions Day is February 24. Families are asked to bring supplies to donate while our kids enjoy a muffin and juice with their moms.

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

## Welcome Our New Members

**David Burton and Ainsley Daley and Cole Thornton** joined Mt. Hebron on January 18th!



**WELCOME**  
*David, Ainsley & Cole!*



**1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails...



## FEBRUARY'S MINISTRY FOCUS AREA - MISSIONS

Join us each month on the 4th Sunday—during both services—for a special anniversary moment featuring a different ministry area of focus. For February, Ward Smith will speak about Salkehatchie, and Rev. John Wesley Culp Sr., former minister of Mt. Hebron, will preach.

***Don't Forget - Wear your commemorative anniversary t-shirt each 4th Sunday!***



## HOME GATHERINGS

The 225 Celebration Home Gatherings are an opportunity to connect more deeply with fellow disciples of Mt. Hebron as we celebrate 225 years of faithful ministry. In these small, welcoming gatherings, we will share stories and memories from our past, listen to one another's experiences, and reflect together on our hopes and dreams for the future of the church.

These gatherings also provide a relaxed setting to get to know one another—and Pastor Ann—better. Over desserts, Pastor Ann will guide meaningful conversation, honoring where we have been and imagining where God is leading us next.

Home Gatherings will begin in February.

If you would like to host a Home Gathering, please email Pat Lawter at [plawter@mthebrnumc.com](mailto:plawter@mthebrnumc.com).



## 4TH SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**We'll be celebrating the following areas of the church during Sunday worship services starting this month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday:**

- **February** - Missions
- **March** - Scouts
- **April** - UMM and UWF
- **May** - Music Ministry
- **June** - Counseling Service
- **July** - Hebron Day School
- **August** - 225 Celebration

**August 22** - 225 Acts of Service  
**August 23** - Bishop Fairley Preaching & Shealy's Lunch (One Worship Service)



## SPECIAL DONATION COLLECTION

Our children will be collecting pocket change in aluminum/metal buckets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, so bring your spare change!



## SEND US YOUR MEMORIES!

We are looking for your pictures, documents, artifacts, videos, etc. to feature each month!

Please share your memories of Mt. Hebron with us via either [communications@mthebrnumc.com](mailto:communications@mthebrnumc.com) or leave in the Communications Box in the Workroom (behind the Church Office) for us to scan and return to you.

## COMMEMORATIVE T-SHIRTS



Wear on  
the 4<sup>th</sup>  
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.





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## Upcoming Meetings & Events

February 1 – UMM Breakfast Meeting  
February 3 – UWF Day Apart Committee Planning Meeting  
February 9 – New Life Committee Meeting  
February 12 – HDS Special Areas Celebration  
**February 14 – Valentine's Day**  
**February 16 – President's Day**  
February 16 – SPRC Committee Meeting  
February 17 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper  
February 17 – HDS Committee Meeting  
February 18 – Ash Wednesday Services/Lent Begins  
February 20 – HDS Community Helper Day  
February 24 – HDS Muffins with Mom  
February 27 – Adult Fellowship Trip  
February 27 – Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby  
February 28 – Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby  
February 28 – UMM Boston Butt Fundraiser



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@mthebrnumc.com](mailto:qjones@mthebrnumc.com) or call the church office at 803.794.8273. Deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

To sign up for church emails, message [communications@mthebrnumc.com](mailto:communications@mthebrnumc.com).

To see what's happening at Mt. Hebron UMC, please visit our social media and/or [MtHebronUMC.com](http://MtHebronUMC.com).