

Welcome to Mt. Hebron

To see what is happening at Mt. Hebron UMC, check out our website at www.mthebrnumc.com.

Advent Bible Study – Today and December 21 at 3:30 PM in the Cornerstone Room with Pastor Ann.

Midweek Boost – Wednesday, December 17 at 5:30 PM in the FLC. Pizza & Subs \$5. Caroling to church members.

Longest Night Service of Comfort and Light – December 21 at 7:00 PM in the church sanctuary. For many, the Christmas season is filled not only with joy, but also with grief, stress, or memories that weigh heavily on the heart. Through scripture, prayer, reflective music, and candlelight, this service holds authentic space for lament, healing, and hope.

Family-Friendly Contemporary Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – December 24 at 7:00 PM in the FLC.

Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – December 24 at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary.

Acolyte Training – Sunday, January 11 at 4:30 PM in the Sanctuary for anyone (8 years old and up). If interested, email Erica Peake at mancala543@hotmail.com.

We are collecting non-perishable food items to help restock Mt. Herman Lutheran food pantry. Please consider “pop-top” canned goods as not all have access to can openers. Drop-off locations are the gathering area behind the sanctuary or in the gathering area near the office. If you prefer to make a donation to purchase needed items, please designate that on your donation to Mt. Hebron UMC.

Altar Flower Calendar – The 2026 altar flower calendar has been posted. Please sign up on the day you would like to put flowers in the church and leave a phone number. Any questions, please contact Betty Wise (803-360-0784).

Prayer Ministry: If you feel led to be part of a new prayer team (you can pray from anywhere), contact Pastor Ann at akovan@mthebrnumc.com

Minister: Reverend Dr. Ann Kovan; Director of Music: Dr. Becky Loar; Organist: Dr. Louis Playford; Ushers: Nicholas O'Connor & Ed. Harmon; Lay Reader: Pam Gowan; Altar Guild: Cathy Neeley; Greeters: Bonnie Cherry & Carolyn Jackson; Acolyte: Sadie Way

The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God and in honor of Stephanie Jeffcoat's brother, Brad Wilson, on his December 16 birthday by the Jeffcoat family.



Did you know: The J.W. Hendrix Educational Scholarship and the J.W. Hendrix Continuing Educational Scholarship funds have awarded nearly \$400,000 to 87 worthy students at Mt. Hebron since 2016.

To Give Online



Sunday School Attendance 12/7/2025 Children's & Youth - 95/Adult - 68 Worship Attendance - Total - 313 NewLife Online 20, In-person 90/Traditional Online 28, In person 175	
Year-to-Date 12/7/2025 Contributions: \$715,728.60 Expenses: \$850,816.83 Surplus/<Deficit>: (\$135,088.23)	Heritage Building Fund: Building Fund Balance to Date: \$1,974,487.12 Current Loan Balance: \$1,671,020.99

December 14, 2025 ~ 11:15 am

**Mt. Hebron United Methodist Church
3050 Leaphart Road
West Columbia, SC 29169**

Serving Christ for the Transformation of Lives

Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 559 Bach

- * Chimes
- * Call to Worship
 - Leader: Let us rejoice at the coming of the Lord.
 - People: Let us rejoice with joy and singing!
 - Leader: The Mighty One has done great things for us.
 - People: And holy is the Name of the Lord.
- * Hymn, UMH #213 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates TRURO
- * Affirmation of Faith (Apostles’ Creed) UMH #881
 - I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
 - And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 - Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
 - the third day he rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven,
 - and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
 - from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
 - I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic** church, the communion of saints,
 - the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.
- * Gloria Patri UMH #70
 - Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was
 - in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Advent Wreath Meditation: Joy The Allen Families

Congregational Response

- All: We choose to believe that the day is coming when “the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” (Isaiah 35:10)

Anthem O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Liebergen

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

- Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Children’s Moment: Children are dismissed to Wee Worship

Reception of New Member: Lisa Garrett UMH #38

Offertory Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 599 Bach

- * Doxology UMH #94
 - Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 - Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 - Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
 - Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

* Hymn, UMH #198 My Soul Gives Glory to My God MORNING SONG

Scripture Reading Isaiah 35:1-10 NRSV

- 35The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.’ ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Sermon Advent on the Corner of “Is” and “Shall” Rev. Dr. Ann Kovan

* Hymn, UMH #209 Blessed Be the God of Israel MERLE’S TUNE

* Benediction

* Postlude Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 661 Bach

* Congregation is invited to stand if able.

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