



January 2026

THE HERALD

Embrace God | Engage All People | Empower Disciples for Jesus Christ

Message from Pastor Ann

History. Hope. Hebron: A 225th Anniversary Celebration!

In January, Mt. Hebron United Methodist Church will begin an eight-month celebration marking 225 years of faithful ministry. Appropriately named “History. Hope. Hebron.”, this anniversary is more than a look back—it is a prayerful, joyful journey forward as we honor our roots and face the future with faithfulness.

From our earliest days to the present moment, God has been at work through this congregation. Over the coming months, we will intentionally remember that story while also leaning into God’s promised, preferred future for Mt. Hebron. Each fourth Sunday of the month, beginning in January, worship will highlight a different ministry area of the church celebrating how God has used—and continues to use—Mt. Hebron to serve, nurture and transform lives. These Sundays will help us see the full tapestry of our shared ministry, and imagine what God may yet do among us.



We invite everyone—longtime members, newer members, families and friends—to be part of this celebration. On each fourth Sunday, we encourage you to wear your 225th anniversary t-shirt as a visible sign of gratitude for our history and hope for what lies ahead (t-shirts are available for purchase; details can be found on the church website and on page 3), and give to a special “pocket change” collection taken up by the children.

The celebration will culminate in August with two significant events. On Saturday, August 22, we will live out our faith through a “Day of Service,” completing 225 acts of service in our community—putting hands and feet to the love of Christ. Then, on Sunday, August 23, we will gather for a combined worship service at 10:30 a.m., followed by a celebration luncheon. We are honored that Bishop Leonard Fairley will be preaching for this milestone worship service.

This is an exciting and sacred time in the life of Mt. Hebron United Methodist Church. As we live with the expectancy of Advent—watching, waiting and trusting—we do so with confidence in God’s faithfulness across generations. May this anniversary renew our gratitude for where we have been, deepen our commitment to who we are and strengthen our trust in the future God is unfolding among us.

History. Hope. Hebron. Join us as we celebrate 225 years—and step boldly into what comes next.

In Christ,
Pastor Ann

Special 225th Anniversary Logo



**Mt. Hebron United Methodist Church
1800-2025**

We created a special logo to use for the 8 months that we’ll be celebrating our anniversary. A 25th anniversary is silver, and since we have 200 extra years, we are calling it platinum. Look for this logo to start appearing everywhere this month!

2026 Confirmation

Calling all 7th and 8th Graders! Confirmation is an important step in a young person's faith formation—a season of learning, questioning and growing as they prepare to make their own profession of faith and claim the vows of baptism for themselves. If you have questions or want your youth to participate in 2026 Confirmation, please email Pastor Ann at akovan@mthebronumc.com. An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 11, 2026 at 4:30pm in Room 209.



New Bible Studies Start This Month

Join us Wednesday mornings from 9:30am-11am starting January 14th for a Bible Study led by Susan Cline! This study will be based on *What Happens When Women Say Yes to God* by Lysa TerKeurst. Books are \$8. If you'd like one, please contact Susan at 803.917.2014. Sign up in the Gathering Areas!

A new Bible Study with Pastor Ann will start on January 14, 2026 from 6:15pm-7:15pm each Wednesday evening. The study is based on the book *Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith*. Sign up sheets for the book order are in the Gathering Areas.



Hebron Day School Happenings

Hebron Day School has had a wonderful first semester! We have been teaching the kids about Jesus, worked on ABCs and 123s, as well as how to take care of ourselves and each other. We have had chapel several times and have had some wonderful guests join us. We will be closed for the Christmas holidays through January 5th.

When we return, we will be getting ready for the 2026-2027 school year registration. [All registration will be online this year](#). See the schedule below for registration dates:

- **January 23, 2026** - Church Members
- **January 26, 2026** - Currently enrolled students, their siblings and grandchildren of church members
- **January 29, 2026** - Public

REGISTER



Please do not register before your day. The office will be monitoring the sign up and will delete anyone who is registering before their day. Please feel free to call the office or visit the website for more information.

As always, thank you for all the support you give Hebron Day School!

2026 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 at 803.360.0784.



Welcome Our New Members

Dale and Andrea Sizemore joined on November 16th and **Lisa Garrett** joined Mt. Hebron on December 14th!



WELCOME
The Sizemores & Lisa!

Children & Youth Ministries' December Events Recap

The Advent season is always a busy and joy-filled time for our Children and Youth Ministries, and this year has been no exception! We started early as several of our children and teens came together the Tuesday before Thanksgiving to decorate the New Life worship space. Their creativity, excitement and willing hands helped transform the room beautifully and set a warm, festive tone for the season.



On the Sunday after Thanksgiving, our children and youth gathered again to assemble Blessing Bags and Blessing Baskets. The Blessing Bags were filled with toiletries, nonperishable foods and handwritten notes signed by the kids and youth for those in our community who may be struggling to meet basic needs. The Blessing Baskets—packed with snacks and candy—were delivered to local first responders, urgent cares and assisted living facilities to share encouragement and appreciation.

The first Sunday of December brought another joyful moment: Cooking with “Uncle Tyler” Jackson and friends. The group worked together to bake delicious homemade cookies and cinnamon rolls, play games and enjoy fellowship. It was a wonderful reminder of how we continue to grow as a true church family—laughing, learning, serving and creating together.

Then on Wednesday, December 10, we hosted a memorable Live Nativity Experience. This year’s gathering included beloved stable animals—a Highland cow, a donkey, and Franklin the camel—delighting visitors of all ages. Our children sang like angels, and our youth stepped up with leadership and enthusiasm serving as characters and helpers throughout the “Follow the Star Experience.” One member shared afterward, “Mt. Hebron was the beacon of a church that makes people want to be a part of the family.”

We are grateful for our children, our youth, all who support and walk with them and those who pour so much love and energy into this season. What a beautiful way to welcome the light and hope of Advent together!

225th Anniversary Commemorative T-shirt & 4th Sunday Schedule



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

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

- **January** - Sunday School
- **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)



From January 16th-19th, the youth will be traveling to Lake Junaluska for Encounter. They will participate in several large group sessions, go skiing and spend time growing together as a group.





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MtHebronUMC.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Office Closures:

January 1-5

HDS Closed

December 31-

January 1

Church Office
Closed

January 19

Church Office and
HDS Closed

Pastoral After Hours Number - 803.422.8136

Upcoming Meetings & Events

January 1 – New Year’s Day Holiday

January 5 – 225 Committee Meeting

January 6 – UMCSC Columbia District Clergy Meeting

January 7 – Midweek Boost Returns

January 8 – Habitat for Humanity Meeting

January 11 – Confirmation Informational Meeting

January 11 – Acolyte Training

January 14 – New Wednesday Morning Bible Study Begins

January 14 – New Wednesday Evening Bible Study Begins (Midweek Boost)

January 16-19 – Youth Trip to Lake Junaluska for Encounter and Skiing

January 19 – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

January 19 – SPRC Meeting

January 22 – Adult Fellowship Trip to the Governor’s Mansion

January 23 – HDS Registration for Church Members

January 26 – HDS Registration for Currently Enrolled Students, Their
Siblings and Grandchildren of Church Members

January 26 – Trustees Meeting

January 29 – HDS Registration for the Public

January 31 – Salkehatchie Meeting



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.

