

Message from Pastor Ann

20th Century mystic Howard Thurman wrote, "An Island of Peace Within One's Soul" (Meditations of the Heart, 2022 ed., pg. 3). In the meditation, he reflects that the only "possibility of stability" found "in the peculiar pressures" of our own life "is to establish an Island of Peace within one's own soul." At the center of that island is where God dwells, "the God of one's heart," where we come with all our problems.

Once a year, I retreat to Mepkin Abbey in the Lowcountry to reconnect with my own Island of Peace. There, on the banks of the Cooper River, moss-bearded oaks bob and stir with the air. Storm weary, they lean under the strain of decades of prevailing winds. A husk of an ancient tree, twisted and sheered, stands as a reminder of storm's last word. So feels my soul. As wonderful a time of year Advent is, its accompanying hurry can leave our soul storm-torn and shelled.

I have watched the river between tides, slack and still, shimmering glass, the moment between breaths—the state for which my soul longs—to be quiet and still inside while the world whirls. There is an inward peace where purpose becomes clear and God's call unmistakable again. My panting soul wrests me to the riverbank and is quenched. And there, in the Island of Peace, is the deep joy of God's presence regardless of circumstance. I pray this Christmas season you will connect with your own inward Island of Peace and find there the Bread of Life for your hungry soul.

In Christ,
Ann



Special Recognition of Service for Michael Ironhorse Matthews

Michael, do you realize you have been part of the Mt. Hebron Family for over 35 years? In that time, you have seen many changes and many kids come through the Day School.

You and Melinda have been married 44 years. Your son, daughter-in-law and grandson complete your family. During your tenure with Mt. Hebron, you and Melinda were involved with Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts as troop leaders.

Your Cherokee heritage has led you to learning about the culture. You attended pow-wows, learned the dances and joined a tribe. You have shared this with the Day School kids and with the Native American youth. As November is Native American Indian Heritage Month, it is the perfect time for us to let you know how much we appreciate you.

Your day begins in a special way with Sun Rise Prayer by giving thanks for the day that has passed and the beginning of a new day.

You are paid to care for our facilities, **BUT** you bring so much more—prayers, spirituality and the love of God.

And, for that, we say THANK YOU!



Acolyte Training

There will be training for anyone interested in becoming an acolyte, ages eight (8) years and up, on Sunday, January 11 at 4:30pm in the Sanctuary. If interested, please email Erica Peake at mancala543@hotmail.com.

Financial Secretary Position Open

We are hiring a part-time Financial Secretary to manage bookkeeping, reporting and accounting duties. A degree in accounting and 2-4 years' experience preferred. Contact Pat Lawter for more information at plawter@mthebrnumc.com or 803.413.6723.

Flower Calendar

Altar flowers are still needed for December 14, 21, and 28. 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. Questions? Contact Betty Wise at 803.360.0784.

UMM Christmas Dinner Fundraiser

The UMM will be hosting a Christmas Dinner Fundraiser with musical entertainment to benefit Oliver Gospel Mission. Choice of steak or salmon for \$15 per person. Please bring a wrapped gift to be auctioned after the meal. To purchase tickets, please visit our website.

UWF Christmas Banquet

All ladies of the church are invited to Mt. Hebron United Women of Faith's annual Christmas Banquet on Tuesday, December 2nd, from 6pm-8pm in the FLC! This year's theme is "Jesus is the Reason for the Season." Chicken tenders will be provided by the unit, but please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Dr. Becky Loar will provide the entertainment.

We would like to decorate with nativity scenes, so if you have one that you would like to share, please bring it to the banquet that night.

We will honor our Woman of the Year, Special Mission Recognition Recipients, new circle members, and the 2026 officers will be installed.

Please RSVP by Sunday, November 30th by one of the following:

- Sign up in either Gathering Area
- Contact your circle president
- Text Mary Nell Trussell at 803.609.4160



Service of the Longest Night

Join us on Sunday, December 21st at 7pm in the sanctuary for Longest Night: A Service of Comfort and Light. Christmas isn't jolly and jingle bells for everyone. For some, it is a time of struggling with grief, loneliness and anxiety. This service is a reflective time of comfort and light through Scripture, prayer, song and candlelight. God powerfully meets us where we genuinely are this Christmas season.



Welcome Our New Members

Rob Zeluff and **Nancy Penney** both joined Mt. Hebron on November 9th!



WELCOME

Rob & Nancy!



Hebron Day School Happenings

It has been a busy month at Hebron Day School! The Butter Braid Bread Fundraiser made a profit of over \$2,000, and this money will help pay for Brightwheel—a program used for billing and communicating with our families. Thank you for your support!

The Lexington County Library Bookmobile came, and the students checked out books. The Storytime Ladies had story time with the 2's – Kindergarten. The students always enjoy these activities.

We enjoyed the Thanksgiving Feast which was held on November 14, and we collected Thanksgiving bags of food for the Go Forth Mission House.

Mr. Mike shared his Bear, Buffalo and Round Dances with the students. They always love seeing him dressed up. Pastor Ann held chapel with the students on November 19, and the kids were excited to have a special guest for chapel.

The Christmas Program is scheduled for December 5, and we are excited for our parents to enjoy the songs the children have been learning. Four-year-olds and kindergarteners will have Polar Express Day on December 9, and the school wide Happy Birthday Jesus Party is on December 16.

HDS will be closed November 24-28 for Thanksgiving and December 19-January 4 for the Christmas holidays.

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



MT. HEBRON DAY OF SERVICE

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
9AM-NOON**

**SIGN UP IN SUNDAY SCHOOL
OR ON OUR WEBSITE!**



Youth and their families will have a Christmas Party on Sunday, December 14 from 6pm-7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up to bring a dish!

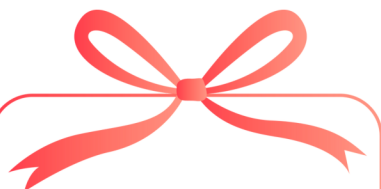




3050 Leaphart Road
West Columbia, SC 29169

803.794.8273
communications@mthebrnumc.com
MtHebronUMC.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Office Closures:

December 19-January 4

HDS Closed

December 24-25

Church Office Closed

January 1

Church Office Closed

Pastoral After Hours Number - 803.422.8136

Dates to Remember

November 30-December 21 (Sundays) – Advent Bible Study
December 2 – UWF Christmas Banquet
December 3 – Midweek Boost
December 5 – HDS Christmas Program
December 5 – UMM Christmas Dinner Fundraiser
December 6 – Go Forth Ministries Yard Sale
December 6 – Mt. Hebron Day of Service
December 7 – Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
December 7 – Children & Youth Christmas Baking Party
December 8 – New Life! Committee Meeting
December 9 – HDS Polar Express
December 10 – Live Nativity Experience
December 11 – Adult Fellowship Christmas
December 12 – HDS Gingerbread Celebration
December 14 – Youth and Family Christmas Party
December 15 – 225 Committee Meeting
December 15 – SPRC Committee Meeting
December 16 – HDS Happy Birthday Jesus Party
December 17 – Midweek Boost
December 21 – Longest Night: Service of Comfort and Light
December 24 – Family-Friendly Contemporary Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24 – Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



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 or call the church office at 803.794.8273. Deadline is the 20th of each month.

To sign up for church emails, message communications@mthebrnumc.com.

To see what's happening at Mt. Hebron UMC, please visit our social media and/or MtHebronUMC.com.