

Welcome to Mt. Hebron

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

New Year Prayer Walk – Today at 3:00 PM. Gather at Columbia UMC, 1830 Main Street and walk to the State House steps. Christians come together downtown to lift up collaboration, connection and community! We will pray for our capitol city, the state of South Carolina, and all our churches to be neighbors and grow together in the new year! Keynote speaker is Bishop Leonard Fairley. Wear white and/or yellow!

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.

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).

A new Bible Study with Pastor Ann will start on January 14, 2026, from 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM. 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.

2026 Confirmation - Calling all 7th, 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@mthebrnumc.com. Informational meeting is January 11 at 4:30pm in the upstairs youth room.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study – Starts Wednesday, January 14 at 9:30 – 11:00 AM in the Cornerstone Room. *What Happens When Women Say Yes to God* by Lysa TerKeurst led by Susan Cline. Books are \$8. Please contact Susan to order (803-917-2014). Sign up in the Gathering Area.

Adult Fellowship Trip – A trip to tour the Governor’s Mansion is planned for Thursday, January 22. Plan to be at the church at 9:00 as we will leave promptly at 9:30 for the 10:00 AM tour. We will go to lunch after the tour. Sign up sheets will be on the table in the Gathering Area. We may have to carpool for some.

225 Commemorative T-shirts & 4th Sunday Celebrations – We’ll be celebrating different areas of the church during Sunday worship services starting on the 4th Sunday in January when we celebrate Sunday School. T-shirts are \$20 and can be ordered online or purchased from the church office. You are asked to wear them on the 4th Sunday of each month.

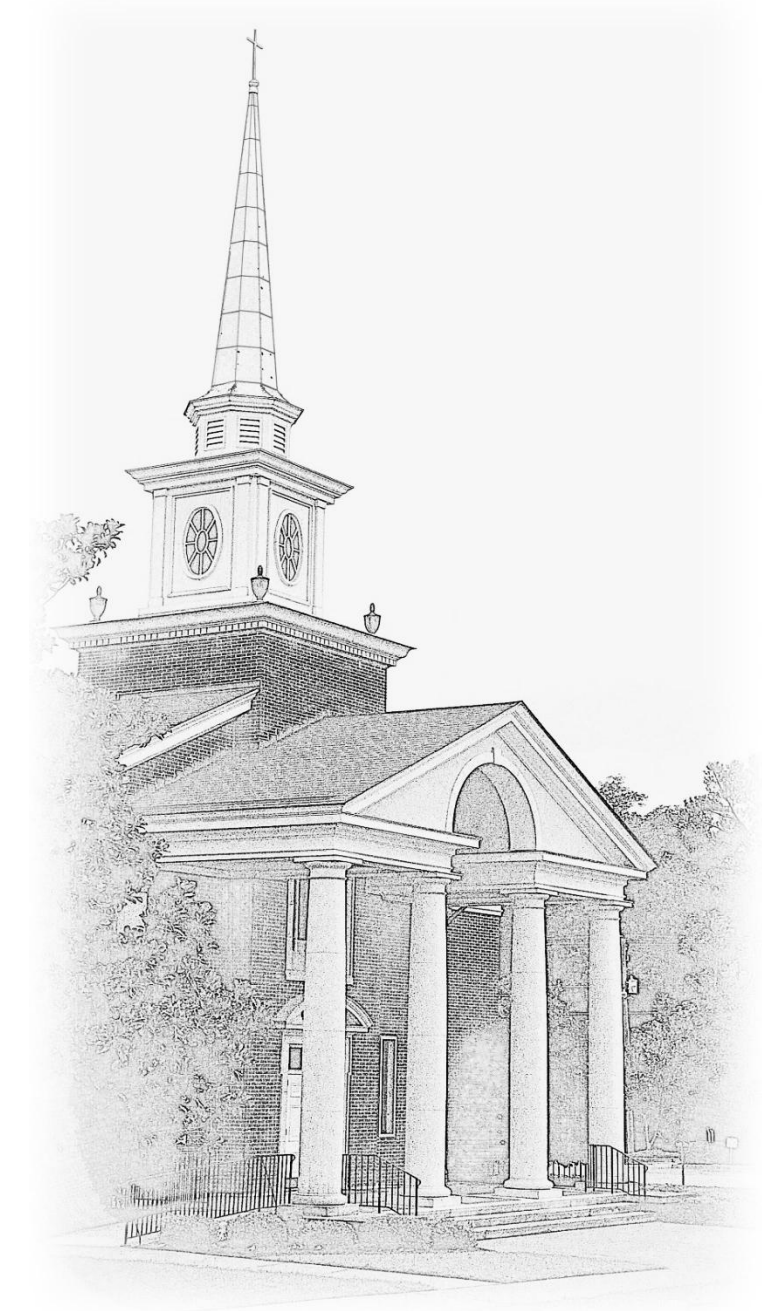
The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God by Jane and Kellum Allen.

Minister: Reverend Dr. Ann Kovan; *Director of Music:* Dr. Becky Loar; *Organist:* Dr. Louis Playford; *Ushers:* Ed Harmon & Keith Mathias; *Lay Reader:* Katy Renfroe; *Altar Guild:* Betty Wise & Joyce Wingate; *Greeters:* Elizabeth Burritt & Cathy Neeley; *Crucifer:* Ward Smith; *Communion Servers:* Rev. Ken Barwick, Ellen Smith & Sandy Chatten; *Acolytes:* Drew White & Rivers Alley

To Give Online



Sunday School Attendance 12/28/2025 Children & Youth – 81; Adult - 61 Worship Attendance: 12/28/2025 - 219 New Life Service 8:45 AM – Online 20, In-Person 93 Traditional Service 11:15 AM – Online 20, In-Person 86	
Year-to-Date: 12/28/25 Contributions: \$789,773.41 Expenses: \$871,476.99 Surplus/<Deficit>: <\$81,703.58>	Heritage Building Fund: Building Fund Balance to Date: \$1,975,207.12 Current Loan Balance: \$1,663,298.30



*HISTORY. HOPE. **HEBRON.***

January 4, 2026 ~ 11:15 am

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

Serving Christ for the Transformation of Lives

Epiphany of the Lord Sunday

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star, Chorale and Variations 1 - 5* Trenner

- * Chimes
- * Call to Worship:
Leader: Arise, shine, for our light has come,
People: And the glory of the Lord has risen on us!
Leader: Let us lift our eyes and look around;
People: That we may see God’s salvation!
- * Hymn, UMH #237 *Sing We Now of Christmas* FRENCH CAROL
- * 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.**

Offertory *Follow That Star* by Brian Lewis

- * 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!*

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-12 NRSV
2In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’ ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Homily The Birth Heard ‘Round the World’ Reverend Dr. Ann Kovan

The Invitation to Holy Communion

Confession and Pardon
**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
...We praise Your name and join their unending hymn:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**
...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
...glory is Yours, Almighty God, now and forever.
Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer UMH #895
**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.**

- * Giving the Bread and Cup (notify an usher if you are unable to walk and the elements will be brought to you)

Prayer after Receiving

- * Hymn, UMH #206 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* HOUSTON

- * Benediction

- * Postlude *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star, Variation 6* Trenner

- * *Congregation is invited to stand if able.*

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