



September
2026

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Ann Kovan

Senior Pastor

Matt Fink

Director of A/V

Quinette Jones

Office Administrator

Dr. Becky Loar

Director of Traditional Music

Michael Matthews

Environmental Services

Austin Means

Associate Director of Traditional Music

Megan Phillips, MSW, LISW-CP, MAC, SC-LAC

Director of Mt. Hebron Counseling Service

Dr. Louis Playford

Organist

Katy Renfroe

Director of Marketing & Communications

Jodie Smith

Director of Hebron Day School

Ben Treaster

Director of Youth Ministries

Gena Turner

Director of Children's Ministries

CONTACT US >>



803.794.8273



communications@mthebrnumc.com



MtHebronUMC.com

FOLLOW US!



@MtHebronUMC



@Mt_Hebron_UMC



@MtHebronUMC

Message from Pastor Ann

The Harding Icefield Trail climbs alongside Exit Glacier in Alaska's Kenai Fjords National Park. The out-and-back trail ascends roughly 4.1 miles to a breathtaking view of the Harding Icefield, gaining about 1,000 feet in elevation with every mile.

That is steep.

Andy, several friends, and I trudged, grunted, gasped and heaved ourselves up the trail, stopping often for water and rest. I should probably confess that I may have described the hike to the group as somewhat easier than it actually was. Otherwise, they might not have agreed to come with me.

Eventually, there we were, looking toward the summit from an overlook with a magnificent view of the blue-white icefield and the jagged mountains surrounding it. There was not a human-made structure in sight. The landscape was wild, vast and beautiful—and every ounce we carried made a difference in the grinding effort of the climb.

After surviving the descent and returning to our lodging, Andy unpacked his backpack and made a surprising discovery: he had unknowingly carried a heavy hardcover book all the way up and down the mountain.

As if the trail had not been difficult enough.

Life is like that sometimes. The path is already steep, and then we discover that we are carrying burdens we did not intend to pack. Grief, worry, illness, disappointment, family struggles, financial pressures and responsibilities accumulate until the load becomes more than one person should carry alone.

Galatians 6:2 tells us, "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."

During our hike, our friend Joey repeatedly offered to carry Andy's pack for a while. He did not know about the heavy book inside; he simply saw that his friend was carrying a load and offered to help. Andy declined because Joey already had a pack of his own. It was a natural exchange between two friends: "Let me help you." "No, you already have enough to carry."

Yet Scripture teaches us that sharing

Continued on Page 2



one another's burdens is precisely what life in Christ is meant to look like. We walk shoulder to shoulder, taking some of the weight when another person's load becomes too heavy and the path too steep. Sometimes we are called to carry. Sometimes we must have the humility to let ourselves be carried.

We cannot bear one another's burdens if we are not connected to one another. We cannot know that someone's backpack is weighted down unless we are walking closely enough to notice. And others cannot help us unless we are willing to admit that the load has become too much.

As summer turns toward fall, this is a wonderful time to step more deeply into the life of our church. Consider joining a Sunday School class, Bible study, Midweek Boost, service opportunity or another small group. Try something new. Introduce yourself to someone. Risk being vulnerable. Enter a space that may initially feel unfamiliar. When we allow someone to walk beside us—and perhaps, carry our pack for a while—the journey becomes lighter. Let us walk together, share the load and fulfill the law of Christ through love.

In Christ,
Pastor Ann



Midweek Boost Returns 9/16

Wednesdays are getting a BOOST this fall! Join us, starting September 16th, for an evening of food, fellowship, faith and fun for the whole family.

Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by children's activities at 6:00 p.m. Kids of all ages will enjoy a fun mix of music, movement and Bible study designed especially for them.

At 6:15 p.m., youth and adults will gather for Bible study on *The Miracles of Jesus*, Rose Visual Bible Studies, led by Ben Treaster. Please order the book in advance from Amazon. Together, we'll take a closer look at the amazing things Jesus did and what His miracles reveal about who He is—and what they mean for our lives today.

Make Midweek Boost part of your Wednesday routine; come recharge, reconnect and grow in faith together!

New Children's Choir on Sundays!

We're excited to add a new Sunday morning Children's Choir on September 13! Children in Grades 1-5 are invited to join us at 9:00 a.m., immediately following the Children's Moment in the New Life Service.

Each week, children will make music together through choir, percussive instruments and hand chimes as they learn, grow and use their gifts to praise God. Let's make a joyful noise together on Sunday mornings!



54th Annual UMM BBQ 10/3



Mark your calendars for a weekend of food, fun and fellowship! The 54th Annual UMM BBQ and UWF Bake Sale will be on Saturday, October 3, but the fun starts at Family Fun Night on Friday, October 2.

Bring your lawn chair, gather the family and enjoy a relaxed evening together featuring a live concert with The Blue Iguanas. A hamburger meal with chips and a drink will be available for \$6. Come hungry, find a spot on the lawn, enjoy great music and spend the evening with your church family, friends and the community.

Want to be part of the fun? Volunteers are always welcome. If you'd like to assist with preparations that weekend, please contact Troy Blalock at gtengr92@msn.com.



CUB SCOUTS PACK 331 POPCORN FUNDRAISER!

Sweet Popcorn		
12oz	Cinnamon Crunch Popcorn	\$20
12 Pkgs	Sweet & Salty Kettle Corn	\$20
9oz	Caramel Popcorn	\$15
5.5oz	Sea Salt & Dark Cacao Sunflower Seeds	\$20

Savory Popcorn		
12 Pkgs	Extra Butter Roasted Summer Corn Popcorn	\$20
18 Pkgs	Movie Theater Extra Butter Popcorn	\$30
30oz	Purple Popping Corn Jar	\$15
4.5oz	White Cheddar Cheese Popcorn	\$20

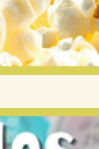
Miscellaneous Donations	
Hometown Heroes Donation	\$10
Military Donation	\$25
Military Donation	\$30
Military Donation	\$50
Military Donation	\$100
Food Bank Donation	\$25
Food Bank Donation	\$50



PURCHASE AUGUST 15-OCTOBER 3.
ORDERS ARRIVE EARLY NOVEMBER!

SHOP NOW 





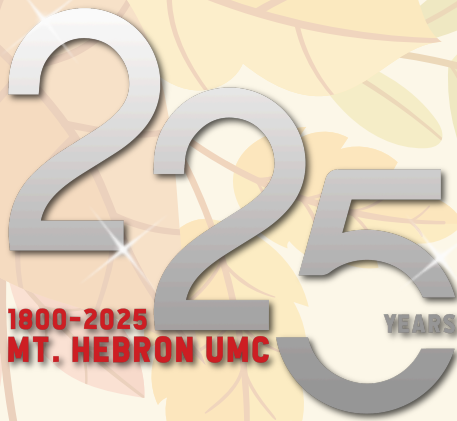


No Dusty Bibles

2026-2027 THEME

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP DINNER
& MEETING RESUMES SEPTEMBER 13TH!
6PM-7:30PM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL





225 ACTS OF SERVICE PICTURES



225 CELEBRATION PICTURES



225 HISTORY VIGNETTES

We culminated our 8-month long 225th Anniversary festivities on August 22 and 23, 2026, with performing 225 Acts of Service in the community on Saturday and welcoming UMCS Resident Bishop Leonard E. Fairley, Columbia District Superintendent Rev. Fran Elrod and several former ministers in one worship service on Sunday. We capped off the weekend with a stroll through our history vignettes featuring defining moments of our history and a luncheon where S.C. House Representative Micah Caskey presented a special resolution.

Our acts of service consisted of volunteering at local nonprofits Mission Lexington, Family Promise of the Midlands, Power in Changing; donating food and supplies to Blessing Boxes; donating

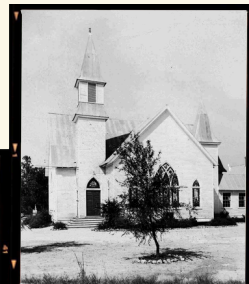
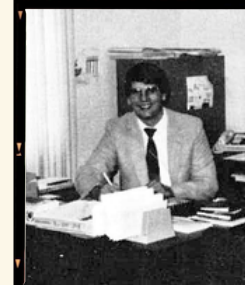


blood at the American Red Cross; bringing donations to the church for various nonprofits; exterior landscaping and interior cleaning of the church campus; the children and youth packed hygiene kits and 225 bags of dog food for Mission Lexington; choir members sang for the residents at National Health Center; members made cards and various pieces of yarn items for our cross in front of the prayer garden; members prayed; others visited with our homebound congregants and served communion; and a group prepared another "We Love You" lunch for Asbury Arms, Family Promise, Killingsworth and many other groups.

Our worship service featured many of Mt. Hebron's former ministers—Rev. Dr. John Culp Sr., Rev. Emily Scales Sutton, Rev. Cynthia Taylor, Rev. George Riser, Rev. Larry Hays Jr. and Rev. Ken Barwick—that participated in various parts of the service, and Bishop Fairley delivered an uplifting sermon propelling us forward for the next 225 years.

We had a brass ensemble perform with the Chancel Choir and the New Life Band and featured both groups throughout the service. Rev. Linda McDaniel, Rev. Dave DeDonato and Rev. Wayne Horne were also in attendance.

We had a delicious BBQ lunch from local favorite, Shealy's BBQ, and sheet cakes depicting our different church buildings for dessert. Our Youth Director Ben Treaster drew door prizes for attendees that featured gift certificates to the UMM BBQ and Christmas Dinner, UWF Bake Sale, the BBQ Family Fun Night, Ken Barwick's honey and some 225-branded travel mugs and ornaments. Attendees were also treated to a complimentary photo booth where they could take home a commemorative photo strip.



As we celebrated this quasquibicentennial, we honored our rich history, gave thanks for God's faithfulness in the present and, now, look with hope toward the future. Together, we celebrate **"History. Hope. Hebron."**

Want to see photos from all the events? Scan the QR codes above!



3050 Leaphart Road
West Columbia, SC 29169

803.794.8273
communications@mthebronumc.com
MtHebronUMC.com



Pastoral After Hours Number
803.422.8136



September Meetings & Events

September 1 - UWF Unit Meeting
September 2 - Nar-Anon Family Group Meeting
September 4 - UMM Meal Prep for BCHS Football
September 5 - Cubs Scouts In-Person Popcorn Sale
September 7 - Labor Day
September 7 - Church Office Closed
September 8 - HOPE Circle Meeting
September 8 - Clyde Hendrix Circle Meeting
September 8 - S.O.N. Circle Meeting
September 8 - UMCSC Board of Ordained Ministry Mtg
September 9 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
September 9 - UMCSC Board of Ordained Ministry Mtg
September 10 - UMCSC Board of Ordained Ministry Mtg
September 11 - HDS Chapel
September 12 - Go Forth Yard Sale
September 12 - Cubs Scouts In-Person Popcorn Sale
September 12 - Jeffcoat Birthday Party (private event)
September 13 - UMM Breakfast Meeting
September 13 - New Weekly Children's Choir Starts
September 13 - Safe Sanctuary Training
September 13 - Weekly Youth Group Meetings Resume
September 14 - Minnie Shull-Pat Morrow Circle Meeting
September 14 - Worship Committee Meeting
September 14 - Finance Committee Meeting
September 14 - Cub Scouts Meeting
September 14 - Boy Scout Meetings



September 14 - Girl Scout Meetings
September 15 - SPRC Meeting
September 16 - Wednesday Morning Bible Study Resumes
September 16 - Nar-Anon Family Group Meeting
September 16 - Midweek Boost Resumes
September 18 - UMM Wood Splitting/Pit Building
September 18 - Adult Fellowship Trip to Redcliffe Plantation
September 19 - UMM Wood Splitting/Pit Building
September 19 - Cubs Scouts In-Person Popcorn Sale
September 20 - New Weekly Children's Choir
September 21 - UMM Wood Splitting/Pit Building
September 21 - New Life Committee Meeting
September 21 - Cub Scouts Meeting
September 21 - Boy Scout Meetings
September 21 - Girl Scout Meetings
September 25 - HDS Chapel
September 25 - UMM Wood Splitting/Pit Building
September 26 - UMM Wood Splitting/Pit Building
September 26 - Cubs Scouts In-Person Popcorn Sale
September 27 - New Weekly Children's Choir
September 27 - Jumper Family Reunion (private event)
September 28 - Cub Scouts Meeting
September 28 - Boy Scout Meetings
September 28 - Girl Scout Meetings
September 28 - Church Council Meeting
September 30 - Midweek Boost



If you have news you would like to share in *The Herald*, please contact the Church Office at 803.794.8273 or office@mthebronumc.com. Deadline is the 20th each month.