

# The Weekly Update

APRIL 24, 2026



## Rooted Sunday Makes a Joyful Noise!

This past Sunday, April 19, was a joyful and Spirit-filled Rooted Sunday as our children and youth explored the beauty and depth of the Psalms—discovering how these ancient songs give voice to every human emotion, from praise and joy to longing and trust in God.

What made the day especially meaningful was not just what they learned, but what they created. Our elementary students wrote a song, “When You’re Here,” capturing the simple joy of being in God’s presence. We are delighted that this song will be sung as our welcoming song during the 10:15 worship service, this Sunday April 26. Our middle and high school students composed a communion song, “Hunger for You,” expressing a deep longing for Christ and the grace we receive at the table. This song will be sung during communion at the 10:15 service throughout the Easter season.

There is something deeply moving about seeing our children and youth not only learn about worship, but lead it—offering their creativity and faith to glorify God and bless our whole community. We give thanks for this beautiful expression of discipleship and the ways our young people continue to inspire us all.

## TOWN HALL MEETING & POT LUCK- MAY 17 (Following Late Service)

On Sunday, May 17th following the late service, our congregation will gather for a special Town Hall meeting and pot luck—a meaningful time to share food, reflect together, and engage in conversation about the life and future of our church community.

We will begin with a brief overview of our current budget and a snapshot of where we stand with the special appeal. These updates are part of our ongoing commitment to transparency and stewardship, and we are grateful for the generosity and care that continue to sustain our shared ministry.

The heart of our time together, however, will center on a thoughtful conversation about the visual life of our sanctuary. As a space that holds so many of our most meaningful moments—prayer, celebration, mourning, and hope—it naturally invites us to reflect on how it speaks to who we are and who we are becoming.

We will begin exploring the possibility of incorporating a cross or another central symbol into the sanctuary space, alongside or in place of the dossels that have long been part of our worship environment. This is not a decision-making meeting, but rather the beginning of a careful and faithful conversation. It is an invitation to listen deeply—to one another, to our traditions, and to the Spirit’s gentle leading.

We recognize that our sanctuary is more than a physical space; it is a place layered with memory, meaning, and deep connection. Any conversation about its life and expression deserves to be approached with care, respect, and openness. Our hope is to create a space where every voice can be heard and honored.

As we gather on May 17th, we do so not with urgency, but with curiosity and trust—trust that God continues to guide us as we grow together in faith and community. We hope you will join us for this important and meaningful conversation.

Peace,  
Pastor Melody and Pastor Matt

*Since May 17th is also our Youth Bake Sale, we ask everyone to bring only a side dish to share and plan to purchase your “dessert” from the bake sale. It’s a sweet way to support our youth as they raise funds for their summer mission trip. We hope you’ll join us for this important conversation, good food, and fellowship!*



## Strawberry Picking!

**May 2nd**  
**10 am - 2 pm**

**RSVP LINK IN  
THE EBLAST**

**This event is open to ALL families!**

**HALL FAMILY FARM**  
**445 W. Rebound Rd., Lancaster, SC**





# SUMMER SERIES Sun, Soil & Soul: A Summer of Growing in Faith!

Registration  
Coming  
Soon!

## May 31: Dig in!

When we dig in together, something good begins to grow. Join us for a picnic-style meal, hands-on planting around the church, & the Parable of the Sower. We'll also support Common Heart through a food drive & hear from a special guest about the impact of serving others.

## Dig In Food Drive for Common Heart

As part of our service project, we'll be collecting food donations for Common Heart. Their greatest need right now is kid-friendly food items for the summer months, with plastic bottles preferred whenever possible. Donations such as juice, shelf-stable drinks, snacks, and easy meal items can make a big difference for local families while school is out.

**Let's DIG IN together and help care for our neighbors in need!**

## BEGINNER MAHJONG CLASSES

Did you miss the beginner Mahjong classes in February? Do not despair, Kathy Shepler has volunteered to teach another class on Monday, April 27th and Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at the church. Please rsvp to Kathy Shepler at [kathylovespete@gmail.com](mailto:kathylovespete@gmail.com).

## MAHJONG MEET-UP WEDNESDAYS!



Regular play has started on Wednesdays from 1-3 pm in the Fellowship Hall and we would love to have additional people play. Beginners welcome! Come join us! Questions? Reach out to Carole Stojetz at [cestojetz@carolina.rr.com](mailto:cestojetz@carolina.rr.com).

## Miriam Circle Yard Sale



The Miriam Circle Annual Yard Sale will be held August 1st. Donations are now being accepted and should be placed in the POD next to the shed in the lower parking lot. The POD key is on the welcome table in the narthex. It is clearly marked "POD Key" and **MUST** be returned after each use.

- Donations must be boxed, closed, and stackable.
- Please do not place donations in bags.
- No clothing.
- Do not place furniture in the POD. Donations of furniture may be dropped off the week prior to the sale.

Questions? Contact Jill Jurgensen at (954) 854-4590 or [jjjphoto2009@gmail.com](mailto:jjjphoto2009@gmail.com)

## Women & Wine Brunch

Ladies, join us for a fun brunch gathering on Saturday, May 2, from 10 AM to noon! Hosted by Kati Goode and Tammie Hersey, we'll enjoy a mimosa bar and juice—just bring a brunch item to share and any other beverages you'd like!

Use the link below to RSVP.

# PRAYER list...

## MEMBERS:

JEANETTE ABBOTT KATHI & FRANK MACARINE  
 JENNY BOOTH LORI MEATH  
 JIM BURNS TILLER FAMILY  
 DENNIS DOWNEY JOE & CRISS UCMAN  
 LINDA FARIES JD WINFREY

## FAMILY & FRIENDS:

Kenneth Ackerman, Larry Pool's brother-in-law  
 Kristi Alary, Julie Moffat's sister  
 Sidney Ames, Susan Arcuri's sister  
 Scott Anderson, friend of the Ucmans  
 John Bailey, Russ Bailey's father  
 Andrew Bernauer, son of Wayne & Rosemary Bernauer  
 Larry Black, Roger Black's brother  
 Jim Carty, Suzy Wlezniak's brother  
 Joann Church, Behzad Vaqar's mother  
 Drude Corbet, Angelina Corbet's brother  
**Family of Emily Dodson, friends of Kati Goode**  
 Rick, Debbie & Jason Eldridge, friends of Vivian Farland  
 Reid Evans, friend of Barbara Maillet  
 Brad Faries, Barry & Linda Faries' son  
 Owen Farr, Julie Wright's grandson  
 Dorothy Henke, Lisa Roth's mother  
 Will Jacobs, friend of the Macarines being deployed  
 Jim Kozlinski, Cathy Kozlinski's husband  
 Jan Knutson, Jerry Putnam's sister  
 Mark & Ellen Kramm, friends of Jill Jurgensen  
 Helen Laatz, sister-in-law of Leslie Laatz  
 Randy LaMere, Jennifer LaMere's father  
 John Lawler, Cathy Rudolph's father  
 Madsen family, friends of Joe & Criss Ucmans  
 Marylou, friend of Annette Downey  
 Jeanne Maylor, Denise Bratschie's friend  
 Ted Meiss, Christine Meiss' husband  
 Alice Louise (Lou) Miller, Criss Ucmans' cousin  
 Kimberly Bell O'Day, friend of Claudia Eybl  
 Fred Olafson, friend of the congregation  
 Brian Orton  
 Nga Pace, Yen Forsblom's sister  
 Jonathan Pierce, Debra Cox's brother  
 Olivia Reardon, daughter of Barry & Linda Faries' friends  
**Michel Roberge, Jason Roberge's father**  
 Ray Sipe, friend of Joe & Criss Ucmans  
 Beverly Schaap, Vivian Farland's sister  
 Donald Schaap, Vivian Farland's nephew  
 Sameer Saproo, Teri Strom's nephew-in-law  
 Nancy Scholhammer, friend of Susan Arcuri  
 Derek & Smith & family, Roger & Debbie Black's daughter & son-in-law  
 Sherrill & Patricia Tucker, Donna Tucker's parents  
 Mindy Sopher, friend of David & Debra Cox  
 Joanne Varnum, friend of Joe & Criss Ucmans  
 Haley White, Barbara Maillet's granddaughter  
 Lucas White, Barbara Maillet's grandson

# Happy Birthday

Eli Carter APRIL 26  
 Cathy Rudolph APRIL 27  
 Brian Deppe APRIL 28  
 Laura Schwager APRIL 30



**Wednesday Night Happenings**

April 29

*Good food, good conversation, & community!*



**Baked Ham**  
 Slow-cooked, sliced ham with a hint of sweetness and a rich, savory flavor in every bite.

Sides: Corn Bread, Garden Salad, Rolls & Dessert

Single \$7  
 Kids (ages 4-10) \$3  
 Families \$25  
 (AGES 0-3) FREE!



**Youth BAKE SALE**

FUNDRAISER

**MAY 17**

**CROSS & CROWN Youth CROSS & CROWN**

Join us for our Youth Bake Sale on Sunday, May 17th, happening during the Town Hall & Potluck! The youth will be offering a delicious variety of muffins, cookies, cupcakes, bars, cake pops, breakfast sandwiches, and more, with all proceeds going toward their summer mission trip. Since the bake sale will provide plenty of sweet treats, we ask that everyone bring only side dishes for the potluck—then plan to purchase your “dessert” from the youth bake sale! It's a fun and tasty way to support our youth as they prepare to serve and share God's love this summer.

# GRADUATION BLESSING



High School seniors, mark your calendars for June 7! We'll be lifting you up in worship and sending on the next stage of your life with a blessing. Parents, please prepare and blanket or quilt to bless your child. See Pastor Melody for more details.

# Coming up this week...

Monday, April 27th- 7:30 pm- Women's Bible Study  
 Tuesday, April 28th -12 pm- Staff Meeting  
 1 pm- Congregational Care Team Meeting  
 2 pm- Community Care Team Meeting  
 6:30 pm- Table Talk  
 Wednesday, April 29th- 6 pm- Dinner  
 6:30 pm- Council Meeting  
 6:45 pm- Handbells, 7:15 Choir  
 Friday, May 1st- 4:25 pm- Walking Club

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 8:30 am - 2 pm Thursday: 8:30 am - 2 pm  
 Tuesday: 8:30 am - 2 pm Friday: 8:30 am - 2 pm  
 Wednesday: Church Office closed, phone lines & office email is open & replied to between 8:30 am - 5 pm.

## 2025 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Felicia Eybl- President Todd Atwood  
 Chris Frisina- Vice President Katie Goode  
 Jason Roberge- Secretary Jerry Putnam  
 Ann Whitener