



Grace **ABOUNDS**

March 2026

A Center of Mission and Ministry - Celebrating and Sharing God's Grace!



Did you know just how many “special” days are observed in March? I was surprised to find out the number of different events we “celebrate” during the third month of the year.

March 8th marks both International Women’s Day and Daylight Savings Time. Later in the month, St. Patrick’s Day arrives on March 17th, followed closely by the First Day of Spring on March 20th. There are also some lesser-known observances coming up, such as National Plant a Flower Day, National Agriculture Day, and even National Learn

About Butterflies Day (yes, that is really a thing).

March 2nd is designated as National Banana Cream Pie Day, coinciding with Dr. Seuss Day. Additionally, National Cereal Day and National Oreo Day are recognized during this period. On March 3rd, National Cold Cuts Day is observed. And this is not the end to our fun; the month brings even more excitement, as college basketball fans enjoy March Madness, which satisfies our sports cravings after the NFL season concludes.



These unique days of celebration encompass all the occasions we might want to acknowledge throughout March—though perhaps they are not the only things worthy of our attention. Sharing moments with family and friends is bound to happen as we indulge in banana cream pie or Oreos, but it is equally important to simply spend quality time together, ensuring no one feels left out.

So, does this fully capture who and how we should spend time with during March? Perhaps not. March brings its own kind of madness—an aspect of life that is important not to overlook. The month includes much of Lent, leading up to Palm Sunday on March 29th this year. A week after waving palm branches, we celebrate Jesus’ Resurrection, which follows His crucifixion on Good Friday.

With all these special moments in March, how do we make space to grow closer to God? How can we not make time for God when everything we enjoy exists because of Him? Without God’s creation, there would be no Spring, butterflies, Oreos, or banana cream pie. Let us remember to thank and celebrate God for all we are and have, not just during Lent but throughout the year, for we are made in His image to experience His love every day.

Blessings always,
Pastor Dave

Contact Pastor Dave by cell phone at 219-707-9823 or by email at pastordaveadamsgrace@gmail.com.



Birthdays

- 6 - George Dawkins, Jr., Emmett Wicker
- 9 - Chop Cooper
- 18 - Michael Moates
- 21 - Jim Luther
- 23 - Kelly Whitlock
- 27 - Bob Harris
- 28 - Andy Metz
- 29 - Bob Dibble
- 30 - Heather Harris, Phil Ruff

Anniversaries

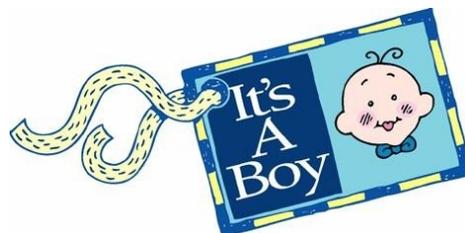
- 15 - Sharon & Collier Neel (56 years)

Baptism Anniversaries

- 11 - Lois Amick
- 22 - Chop Cooper
- 25 - Craig Metz, Allie Waters
- 27 - Luke Black, Lagina Harmon
- 29 - Meghan Hartman, Wayde Dominick, Helena Mewbourn
- 30 - Judy Bedenbaugh

Grace People in the News

Don't forget to share your "good news" about members of Grace with the church office by email, by phone, or with a note in the office box.



Congratulations to parents, Caleb & Savannah Harmon Guerry and grandparents, Tim & LaGina Harmon. Savannah gave birth to a baby boy, Hudson Boone, on January 21st. Hudson weighed 7'8 oz and was 20" long.



Memorials & Gifts

Memorials & Gifts for February 2026

Gifts to the General Fund

Nancy & James Derrick in memory of Diane Adams' siblings

Gifts to the Youth Ministry

Judy Bedenbaugh in honor of Jessica & Matthew Shealy

Gifts to the Maintenance Fund

Judy Bedenbaugh in memory of Carol Marrs, Rhonda Ackerman's mother.



Let's Go to Dempseys!

March 14th we will be making a bus trip to **Dempsey's Pizza** in Clinton. Dempseys has an all-you-can-eat pizza bar, with lasagna and a salad bar. They also have pizza desserts. If you've never been it's quite an experience! The bus will leave the church at 5:15pm and should return between 8:00 & 8:30pm. For those that wish to take their own vehicle the address is: 910 South Broad St. Clinton, SC. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please sign up. Any questions see Johnny Merck (803-924-1945).

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Grace Family: Cissie & Bob Dibble; Evelyn Harmon; Bob Harris; Faye Hartman; Pastor Al Potter; Marysue Rivers.

Residential Care: Heather Harris;
Michael & Wendy Riley

College Students: Payton Metts (*Piedmont*); Camryn Shealy; Bailey Stewart; and Allie Waters (*Newberry College*)

Extended Family: Bishop Ginny Aebischer; Nancye Bailey (*the Dibble's daughter*); Kathy Buchanan (*Beverly Hawkins' cousin*); Jimmy Capo (*Sharon Neel's brother-in-law*); Terry Dickert (*Sheila Martin's brother*); Don Denton & Jeff Gonzales (*Diane Gonzales' brother-in-laws*); Pat Penland (*Johnny Merck's sister*).

Community: Marilyn Seymour; Mike Epps; Steve Culbertson

Military: Everett Crafts, V (*Air Force -Glenda Craft's grandson*); Walker Eldridge (*USCG/Seattle, WA*).

God's World: Global Concerns: Individuals affected by conflict, such as those in Israel, throughout the Middle East, Ukraine, and various African nations; Military families both domestically and internationally; People impacted by natural disasters including hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, floods, and earthquakes; Victims of gun violence; Those experiencing homelessness; Individuals who are unemployed or underemployed; Refugees worldwide; Those facing hardships due to unfavorable economic conditions; and our adversaries.

To add or remove a name from the Prayer List, please contact the office at 803-364-3331 or gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com or leave a written note in the office box.

Newsletter DEADLINE Deadline for the APRIL newsletter is **March 17th.**



March 29 Palm Sunday 10:30am

Our Holy Week observance begins with Palm Sunday, when we gather at 10:30am on the front lawn of the church for the Procession with Palms. As we enter the Sanctuary, our focus shifts to the reading of our Lord's Passion as we consider Christ's great sacrifice of love for us.

April 2 Maundy Thursday Service 7pm

On the night when Jesus is betrayed yet commands us to love and shares His body and blood in the sacrament of Holy Eucharist, we will gather at 7pm for our Upper Room Communion Service. While our congregation sings on this solemn night, ushers will escort groups of 12 into the Good Shepherd "Upper Room" for Holy Communion. This time of worship will guide us through the final hours of Jesus' life before he was crucified on the Cross.

April 3 Good Friday Service 7pm

On Good Friday, the Sanctuary opens for prayer and meditation at 9 am. Please bring your Bible and other favorite devotion material. We will also have several devotional resources in the Sanctuary for your prayer time with God. At 7pm please join us for a solemn time of prayer, scripture, and hymns as we remember the sacrifice fulfilled by Jesus as He dies for our sins on the Cross.



April 5 Easter Sunday

There will be a Community Easter Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. on Easter Sunday morning at the walking track across from Wightman Methodist Church. Grace will provide breakfast for the community after the service.

Sunday School at Grace will meet at 9:30 a.m. as usual. At 10:30 a.m. we will worship and celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord in the Sanctuary adorned with Easter lilies. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Serving in March

Assisting Ministers

- 1 Deborah Ruff
- 8 Jessica Shealy
- 15 Ronnie Cromer
- 22 Andy Hawkins
- 29 Johnny Merck

Altar Flowers

- 1—22 George Dawkins, Jr. (Ferns)
- 29 Emmett Wicker (Palms)

Live Stream Operators

- 1 Jessica Shealy
- 8 David Luther
- 15 Brad Waters
- 22 Jessica Shealy
- 29 Mike Whitlock

Acolytes

- 1 Thomas Mewbourn
- 8 Jonathan Shealy
- 15 Hannah Moates
- 22 Raelynn Wessinger
- 29 Allie Waters

Crucifer 3/29 Lillie Waters

Torchbearers 3/29 Mollie Waters,
Jaxon Wessinger

Communion Assistant

Lynn Wessinger

Communion Preparation

Cayce & Michael Moates

Communion Clean Up

Diane Gonzales, Andrea Lewis

Ushers Wayde Dominick, Chop Cooper,
George Dawkins, Kelli & Len Fulmer

Greeters Dale & Julie Shealy

Offering Tabulators Chop & Teresa
Cooper, George Dawkins

Front Sign The Waters Family

Altar Guild Deborah Ruff

Pew Rack Helper Sharon Neel

**SANCTUARY
LAMP
SPONSORS**



During the month of March, the Sanctuary Lamp burns to the glory of God and in loving memory of Billy and Frances Dawkins during the month of their wedding anniversary by George W. Dawkins, Jr.

For honorary or memorial information to be included in the newsletter and bulletin, information and a \$30 donation should be received in the office by the last Sunday of the month prior to the month you sponsor.



The 2026 Altar Flower and Sanctuary Lamp Chart is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Sign up on the chart or contact the church office to reserve your special dates. **Many dates are open.**

WORSHIP
ATTENDANCE

Sunday	Sanctuary	* Online	Total
2/01	snow	30	30
2/08	67	12	79
2/15	72	16	88
2/18 <i>Ash Wed.</i>	34	20	54
2/22	71	16	87

* Total Online viewers = Facebook and YouTube



2/01	-
2/08	33
2/15	35
2/22	32



2026 Annual Yearbook

We hope to have the 2026 Yearbook available this month for each family to have a copy.

It serves as our congregation's annual report for 2025 and contains year-end information from ministry teams, groups, an treasurer's reports as well as information for 2026 about ministry assignments and tentative calendar dates.



Our Offerings for February
Through February 22
(Does Not Include February EFTs)

MINISTRY BUDGET Our Monthly Need:

\$15,784.33

Given during February	\$ 12,858.25
Given year-to-date	\$ 21,167.35
Goal through Feb. 22	\$ 31,568.66

MAINTENANCE/UPKEEP

Given during February.....	\$1,334.28
Given year-to-date.....	\$1,701.28

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Given during February.....	\$ 91.00
Given year-to-date	\$176.00

SCHOLARSHIP

Given during February.....	\$ 0.00
Given year-to-date	\$450.00

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND

Community Assistance	\$500.00
Bookbag Food Ministry	\$100.00

SPECIAL 2026 OFFERINGS YTD

Souper Bowl of Caring Offering	\$ 420.00
Youth Ministry	\$ 100.00
Parsonage Fund	\$24,931.21
Lenten Offering	\$ 78.00



Thank you for giving!

B U D G E T	MINISTRY BUDGET
Update	Needed Thru Feb. 22 : \$ 31,568.66
	Given Thru Feb. 22 : \$ 21,167.35
	Amount Behind Goal: \$10,401.31

Electronic Giving

Electronic Giving is an option at Grace through Vanco. Scan the QR Code at the right or go to our online giving page via graceluth.org to get started.



Easter Lilies

Our sanctuary will be adorned with Easter Lilies on Easter Sunday. Order forms will be available very soon on the narthex bulletin board.

Easter Gifts

Easter memorial gifts and honorariums for loved ones are welcome and will be published in the Easter bulletin. Please submit your memorials/honorariums no later than Sunday, March 29 and mark your donation "Easter Gift" if you would like it to be included in the special listing.

Manna House

In March we are collecting Canned Meat like tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc. Donations can be left in the Manna House box in the narthex. We are deeply grateful for your generosity — whether it be through food donations or gift cards to Food Lion or Walmart.

A **BIG thank you** to all Grace members who volunteered at Manna House in February.



We are now feeding 12 needy children at Prosperity-Rikard Elementary School. There are lists of needed items on the narthex bulletin board for your convenience. Please leave your food donations in the red wagon. Thank you!



Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 22

Easter Egg Hunt

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 26

Monthly GYM Time

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 23

GYM volunteering at Manna House

12:45—2:00 p.m.



And the winner of our 2026 Souper Bowl of Caring "friendly competition" is... the Angels! We also set a new congregational record for largest Souper Bowl collection to date by far, raising a total of \$420 for the GAAP Food Pantry at O'Neal Street UMC in Newberry! Thank you to everyone who contributed to the cause February 8th to help tackle hunger — everyone is a winner when we give to help others!



**Easter Egg Hunt—March 22
12-1:30pm**

Grace Youth Ministry will sponsor our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, 3/22, from noon until 1:30p.m. Pizza, chips, and drinks will be served for lunch. Older youth are asked to help with hiding all the eggs. Invite your friends—all are welcome!

The Easter Egg Hunt is happening in lieu of GYM Time, but Grace Youth will meet briefly afterward to pack the food bags for the Backpack Ministry.



At Grace Youth Ministry's February GYM Time, the youth enjoyed a delicious taco lunch provided by some members of our congregation, packed weekly food bags for Grace's Backpack Ministry, played a game involving lots of trust, and had a meaningful devotion time.

During devotion time, we continued to work on answering the question "What was Jesus like?" by turning to Matthew 9:36-37 to discuss how Jesus, the Good Shepherd, leads us and shepherds us—and how we are called to have a Christ-like compassion for one another!

Thank you for supporting our Youth!

Thank you to Diane Adams, Donna Jacobs, and Melodie Waters for providing the taco meat; Lynn Wessinger for providing the taco shells and drinks; Mike Shealy for providing the tortillas and cheese; Deborah Ruff for providing the lettuce and Julie Shealy for providing the tomatoes for our February GYM Time meal!



February 10, 2026

Len Fulmer called the meeting to order with a reading of the Mission Statement. Kelli Fulmer shared devotions with a reading from Isaiah. God offers comfort to all who mourn and God restores ravaged places.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dave saw Bishop Jenny at a Lenten pre-gathering after her surgery last week. She is doing much better than expected. A member of the congregation has asked for help with her \$707.00 power bill. Kelli will check with Lutheran Services of SC to see if funds can be obtained for her. As a backup, Ronnie Cromer moved to pay the power company up to the \$300 limit from the Grace Community Service Fund, seconded by Robert Martin, and passed.

Adoption of Reports: Robert made a motion to accept the reports as presented, seconded by Chad Frick, and passed.

Discussion: Ministry Team assignments and chairs were approved with at least one council member on each team. Len will chair the Audit Committee and contact two other congregation members who have served in the past. Len thanked Congregational Secretary Julie Shealy for her help making phone calls and putting teams together while Len's mother was in a Greenwood rehab facility with a broken foot.

Edwina Wicker made a suggestion to add bright paint or reflective safety tape to the Ministry Center stairs as shadows make it hard to see the steps at times. Chop Cooper will talk with the pre-school about a request to paint the classroom walls. Andy Metz is checking with rental companies for a lift to replace the Sanctuary flood lights. Chop is looking at carpet cleaning companies for a quote to clean the Sanctuary and Ministry Center carpet.

Chop reported that new security cameras have been installed and are working and recording well. Discussions took place about having a laptop or tablet for ushers to watch all doors during service. Kelli will talk with church secretary Valerie Reed about computer security software needs and get her in contact with Len and Kelli's son who is majoring in Information Technology.

Len researched electronic signage options and found them to be in the \$25,000 range. Craig Metz will look into getting a new sign with better lighting as less expensive options are explored. Kelli spoke with a pastor in West Columbia who had some suggestions. Kelli will take pictures of the suggested signage and bring them to the next meeting for the council to see.

Pastor Dave and Len met with the Parsonage donor for about an hour. Stocks are in process of being liquidated for the donation. Once work begins the donor wishes to meet once a month to see progress. Craig reported that he will replace the old CPVC piping with PEX to mitigate chances of any future plumbing issues.

Ministry Team Updates: Julie noted that the Care and Fellowship Team will soon start Fifth Sunday Fellowship gatherings in addition to having the Collectibles and Crafts show fellowship opportunity. Suggestions were made to reach out with advertising in the future to expand the show and generate interest in Grace. Len reported that a Men's Group may start in March or April. Len will make an announcement during service to gauge interest. Johnny Merck offered a reminder about the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper next week.

Shepherding Concerns: Bishop Jenny is doing well following her surgery. Len's mother is back at home after rehab in Greenwood. Pastor Dave thanked Andy for repairing a water heater for a congregation member who had not had hot water for 4 or 5 days.

The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the Ministry Center.

Pastor Dave closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

David Luther
Council Secretary

Wednesday Evening Soup Suppers & Lenten Services

Our midweek Lenten Services will begin with a soup supper at 6:15PM with the prayer service starting at 7PM. The dates for the midweek services are 2/25; 3/4; 3/11; 3/18; and 3/25. Each service is based on the series by The Rev. Fred Niedner: *Dying His Death - Living His Life* and will include scripture and messages on our journey through Lent with Jesus.



Lenten Sunday School Series

In Sunday School, during Lent, we'll be combining information from Max Lucado's book, *"He Did This Just for You,"* and his video series *"He Chose The Nails."* Our Sunday School lessons will include scripture and discussion about why God sent Jesus to reconcile the world and be our salvation from sin.

Collector and Hobby Fair = Fun and Fellowship

Grace's fifth Collector and Hobby Fair on Sunday, Feb. 15 was filled with fun and fellowship in spite of a rainy afternoon. Twenty-three people of all ages shared their hobbies and collections. There were many good conversations among those who had displays and those who just came to look. Tasty refreshments were also enjoyed. Thank you to everyone who displayed their collections and hobbies; to those who provided refreshments; and to those who came out in the rain to view the exhibits and get to know our members better. This event was sponsored by the Care and Fellowship Team.



New Event! ⇨⇨⇨ Fifth Sunday Fellowship

Our first **Fifth Sunday Fellowship** will be a covered dish meal on Sunday, March 29 after worship. Bring a covered dish (or several) or pick up something from your favorite grocery store deli and join in this time of fellowship with our church family. The Care and Fellowship Team is sponsoring Fifth Sunday Fellowship each Fifth Sunday in 2026.

Big Yard Sale—May 2nd

Grace will sponsor a yard sale and tabling event on Saturday, May 2, in conjunction with the annual *Prosperity Hoppin'*. In addition to the yard sale, which will benefit the American Cancer Society, we are planning a tabling event where we will share information about Grace, including worship information and ministries.

Please start looking around your house for items to donate for the yard sale. If you plan to donate clothing, it should be clean and folded neatly with minimal wrinkles. Because we do not have room to store donations, please hold on to them for now. We will be able to accept donations beginning Sunday, April 26, after worship. Deadline to bring items for the sale will be Friday, May 1, at noon. More information will be coming in the weeks ahead on the yard sale and tabling event. There will be ways that everyone can participate in this event!



Mark your Calendars for Vacation Bible School — June 22-26



March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	2	3	4 6:15 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Prayer Service Choir Practice	5 6:00 *Confirmation Class *Joyful Noise	6	7 	
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	9	10 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting	11 6:15 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Prayer Service Choir Practice	12 6:00 *Confirmation Class *Joyful Noise	13	14 5:15 Trip to Dempsey's	
15 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	16	17 St. Patrick's Day  April Newsletter DEADLINE	18 5:00 Lifelong Ed. Team Mtg. 6:15 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Prayer Service Choir Practice	19 6:00 *Confirmation Class *Joyful Noise	20 	21	
22 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Easter Egg Hunt 	23 6:30 Worship Team Meeting	24	25 9:30 Newsletter Team 6:15 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Prayer Service Choir Practice	26 6:00 *Confirmation Class *Joyful Noise	27	28	
29 Palm Sunday  9:00 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday Schl. 10:30 Worship	30 Preschool out for Spring Break—April 6 						31



Grace Lutheran Church

210 Grace St.
P.O. Box 188 (Mailing Address)
Prosperity, SC 29127

www.graceluth.org

803-364-3331

gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com

Ministers: The People of Grace

Pastor: Rev. Dave Adams

pastordaveadamsgrace@gmail.com

Online Giving

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NONPROFIT
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Coming Up at Grace

Mid-Week Lenten Supper & Services

3/4; 3/11; 3/18; and, 3/25

Soup Supper-6:15, Lenten Service-7pm



Easter Egg Hunt

March 22
12-1:30 p.m.



Worship
March 29 10:30am



5th Sunday Fellowship
March 29 following worship