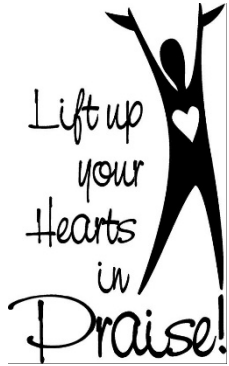


Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Closing Song *God be the Glory* Praise Team



District Wide Revival This Thursday

The Columbia District United Methodist Churches are hosting a revival of praise and purpose this Thursday, March 27 at 6:00 pm at Francis Burns UMC at 5616 Farrow Rd Columbia. Rev. Scott Smoak, pastor of Trinity Blythewood is the preacher. Congregants from all of Columbia District are invited to a time of praise and worship.

Easter Lilies Are Coming!

To celebrate the joy of Easter, lilies will decorate our sanctuary. We invite you to sponsor lilies for \$18 each. Order forms are available today.



Committee of the Week

Our **Staff Parish Relations Committee** fosters a healthy relationship between staff and congregation. They conduct an annual evaluation of the pastor and make recommendations for ministerial appointments. Many thanks to Brenda, Gaye, Joe, Karen, Monica, and Sandy for gifting their time and expertise to this committee.



Lenten Devotionals and Gift Bag

Enclosed in the bulletin is a weekly devotional for Lent, adapted from *The Hardest Part* by Bowler et al. To enhance the weekly practice in the devotional, please pick up a gift bag from the table.



HEYWARD STREET UMC

March 23, 2025

The Third Sunday of Lent

Welcome

Call to Worship

based on Psalm 84

With ashes marked on our foreheads, we start this journey of a hundred (or so) small steps.

We glimpse the joys and sorrows of this world.

With hurts balanced on weary shoulders and worries creasing our faces, we walk this journey step by step.

We carry the sorrows of this world.

With hope tucked into pockets and sheltered within sacred places, we walk this journey step by step.

We cradle the joys of this world.

Blessed are we who put our strength in God,
who choose to share the joys and sorrows of this world. We bless the world.

Song *My Feet Are On the Rock* Praise Team

Scripture Luke 13:1-9 Pew Bible p 76

Receiving of the Offering

Sermon When Life Doesn't Make Sense

Song *I Can Only Imagine* Praise Team

Devotional for Third Week of Lent

The Hardest Part: hurt we carry, hope we find (adapted)
K. Bowler, B. Thompson, A. Taylor, H. Durrett

“Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.”

—PSALM 27:14 (NIV)

Reflect

It’s quite appropriate, I think, that the psalmist says it twice: “Wait for the Lord.” Some of us need to be told more than once. Because honestly, waiting is so hard, but what else can we do? We wait for that surgery date, for graduation to finally roll around, for that job opportunity or for the first check to come in. For that baby to come, or for when you can finally get a full night’s sleep. For the phone call you long for, or the one you dread. But what do we do in the meantime? Maybe waiting isn’t passive. I once saw a video of a duck floating on a pond. From the surface it looked quite chill, until you saw it from below. The duck’s webbed feet were wildly moving. Perhaps that’s what waiting is like. It is a practice of strengthening our hope muscles. To laugh when we can, and pray when we can, and act when we can, trusting that God is up to something good.

Respond

Today, you have full permission to do something ridiculous or absurd with the only justification being to make yourself smile or laugh.



Practice ~ wait in the light

From your Lenten bag, remove the battery operated candle. Place it where you eat breakfast. As you prepare for the day, light the candle and ponder, “What am I waiting on today? Can I feel God waiting with me?”

Blessing

*Blessed are we; waiting with bated breath,
waiting for something new to be born
—for new hope, new joy, new life.*

*Blessed are we whose
patience grows thinner
by the day.*

*We, tired of the world
as it is—in all of its
heartache and loss
and hopelessness.*

*We who want more.
More hope. More life.*

*Blessed are we
who sit here, waiting
between desire and
expectation.*

*We who are making room
for more this Lent.*

*May we be surprised
with joy in the midst of
sorrow, with abundance in
the midst of pain, and with peace and presence in
the chaos. As we hope, it gets better.*



Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Adapted from “For the Third Sunday of Advent – Joy” in *The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days*. (New York: Convergent Books, 2023). 218-219.