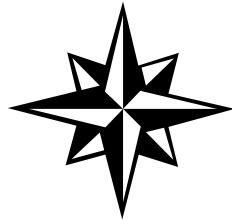


The Epiphany Star



EST. 1846



January 2026

The Light Shines in Darkness.

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany - 225 West Main Street – Laurens, SC 29360 - www.epiphanyoflaurens.org
PriestinCharge@epiphanyoflaurens.org Church – 864-984-7000

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School. 10 AM. Holy Eucharist. 11 AM



From Mother Kelly

Epiphany Beloveds,

I hope you had a great Christmas and will have a great year! I am so proud of what we have accomplished this year!

As we start this New Year, on behalf of the Vestry, I would like you to consider your stewardship. Every Sunday at the offering, I say: "Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God." *Ephesians 5:2*

This means two things. The first and most important is ourselves. We offer ourselves to God and recommit to Walk in love, as Christ loved us. The Eucharist is a communal exercise, and you are a valuable part of it. So the offering is reaffirming our commitment. Moreover, we

are called to discern whether we should take a leadership role in the church, whether that be Vestry member, Altar Guild, Choir, signing up for coffee hour, etc. God wants you to share your gifts of time and talent with us. There will be three openings on the Vestry. Please consider filling one of those spots.

Second, but not least, is our tithe. Giving is an integral part of a faithful and joyful Christian life, just as the Offertory is an essential aspect of the Eucharistic Action. Simply, the church has financial obligations every month, and we are not getting enough to cover our monthly expenses. In January, there will be pledge sheets available in the back of the church. Please consider filling that out as the Vestry prepares this year's budget for the annual meeting on Sunday, Jan 25th.

Important dates:

Vestry - Monday Jan 12 at 6pm

Theology on Tap - Tuesday Jan 20th.

Bingo in the parish hall Saturday 6pm - all are welcome, bring a friend, tell a neighbor.

ANNUAL MEETING - SUNDAY JAN 25 AFTER CHURCH

Feb 17 - Shrove Tuesday - Pancakes and Margaritas - 6pm

Feb 18 - Ash Wednesday - interfaith service at noon and Epiphany service at 6pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 1 - BISHOP IS COMING

SEMPER AMABERIS ([God says] You are loved, you will always be loved)

The Rev. Dr. Kelly Ayer+

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## ***~~ Prayer Requests ~~***

Pray for healing and comfort: Eddie Brouillete, Randy Davis, Hannah Deerman, Randy Frantz, Barbara Barbery Mann, Heidi Stephens, Susan Mitchell, Those Unemployed, and The Armed Forces of Our Country.

Prayer requests can be sent to the church in many ways: Our website at <http://epiphanyoflaurens.org/find-us> or by e-mail to [PriestinCharge@epiphanyoflaurens.org](mailto:PriestinCharge@epiphanyoflaurens.org) or by phone at 864.984.7000 (leave message) or drop a note in the basket at the church.



20 + C + M + B + 26

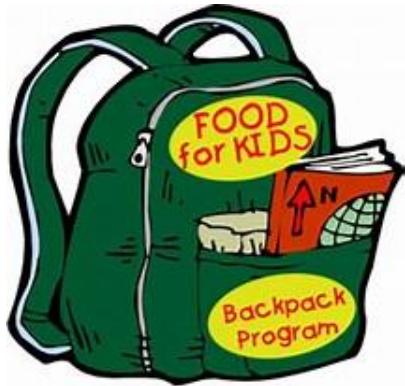
### The Blessing of the Chalk – Sunday, January 4, 2026

- **20 + C + M + B + 26**
- What the chalked letters on the door mean:
  - The 3 letters are the first Initial of each of the kings (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar).
  - The C, M, B also stands for the Latin blessing *Christius Mansionem Benedicat* which means “May Christ Bless this House”.



### *January Birthdays and Anniversaries*

|          |                           |
|----------|---------------------------|
| Jan. 4:  | Bill Ladd                 |
| Jan. 7:  | Hunter Power              |
| Jan. 11: | Hugh Brownlee             |
| Jan. 23: | Pontheolla Mack Abernathy |



## ***January 2026 Backpack Ministry Update***

We are now on Christmas break and will be back "in business" beginning January 7, 2026. Over the Christmas break, we had two Beta Club students spend some time learning about the Backpack Ministry at Ford Elementary School. They packed bags to cover two weeks of weekend food for 60 students at Ford Elementary School. They gained community service hours and said they had fun!

If you wish to donate to the Backpack Ministry, please make your check payable to the Church of the Epiphany and write "Backpacks" on the Memo line. Your check may be placed in the offering during Sunday services or mailed to the Church of the Epiphany's Treasurer: Harriett Barksdale, 225 West Main St., Laurens, SC 29360.

As always, don't hesitate to contact Connie Daniels, cdaniels1234@hotmail.com, with any questions, comments, or suggestions for the Backpack Ministry. Thank you for your donations and prayers for this ministry.

## *January and February Schedule*

|            |                    |
|------------|--------------------|
| <b>LEM</b> | <b>ALTAR GUILD</b> |
|------------|--------------------|

|          |                                 |                                  |
|----------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Jan. 4:  | Mark Adams                      | Harriet Barksdale and Base Smith |
| Jan. 11: | Lois Love                       | Harriet Barksdale and Base Smith |
| Jan. 18: | Donna Babineau<br>&Loren Taylor | Sarah Flynn and Loren Taylor     |
| Jan. 25: | Loren Taylor                    | Sarah Flynn and Loren Taylor     |
| Feb. 1:  | Mark Adams                      | Harriet Barksdale and Base Smith |
| Feb. 8:  | Lois Love                       | Harriet Barksdale and Base Smith |
| Feb. 15: | Donna Babineau<br>&Loren Taylor | Sarah Flynn and Loren Taylor     |
| Feb. 22: | Loren Taylor                    | Sarah Flynn and Loren Taylor     |

Want to learn how to set up the altar for communion? Then, the Altar Guild is looking for you! If you are unable to be a regular part of the guild, but you are willing to fill in for someone on an occasional basis, we also want you. We are in the process of making detailed notes for guild members to use for preparing for services. If you are interested, please contact a guild member. This is an important and rewarding way in which to serve God and his church.

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## ***Facebook***

If you have a Facebook account, please like Epiphany's page and posts and share them. Our Facebook page is updated regularly and can be found at [www.facebook.com/EpiphanyOfLaurens](https://www.facebook.com/EpiphanyOfLaurens)

Likewise, visit Epiphany's website, [www.EpiphanyOfLaurens.org](https://www.EpiphanyOfLaurens.org). It is updated weekly with service information and includes links to newsletters and other pieces of information about Epiphany and the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina.

## ***Miss Lucy's Garden***

Hugh Brownlee has an Instagram page for Miss Lucy's Garden. It is under the name gardenepiphany.

***Send Items for future editions of the Epiphany Star to Bill Cooper at [mthappy@prtcnet.com](mailto:mthappy@prtcnet.com), telephone 864-969-2707 or mail to PO Box 400, Enoree, SC 29335. Let me know of additions or changes to the birthday and anniversary list.***