

The Scroll

May 2026 Vol. 188 No. 5



Bishopville Presbyterian Church

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Look for us on Facebook

Email us to receive enews: bishopvillepc@gmail.com
Printed materials available, upon request, through office

Please contact office to make any corrections/changes
to your and/or your family's records

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Coffee Time- 10:30 a.m.
Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.

Business Office Hours

9:00 am – 5:00 pm (Monday - Wednesday)
unless otherwise noted

Adult Choir Practice

Thursday's @ 5:00 pm

Key Officers and Staff

Clerk: Reese Atkinson / Asst. Tim McElhenny
Treasurer: Gregg McCutchen / Asst. Billy Clyburn
Office Manager: Gwen Hayden Steinmeyer
Choir Director: Bo Dickinson / Asst. Lian Latimer

Pastor: Rev. Christopher Parnell



2026

From the Pastor "WHAT IF I asked, "What are the five cities MOST MENTIONED in the Bible (Old & New Testaments)?" Which cities would you list? Jerusalem? Nazareth? Bethlehem?"

I think I've mentioned before, as a pastor I do get strange questions, and though I wasn't specifically asked this one, I've answered similar. And just like those similar questions I've gotten, when I asked myself this one, I had to do some homework... and this is what I found out about the five cities MOST MENTIONED in the Bible:

#1 Jerusalem (763 times). No surprises there; after all, it's the capitol, it's the temple mount, it's where Jesus was crucified & raised.

#2 Babylon (255 times). Again, no real surprise. This is where the Exile happened, it's linked to the Tower of Babel, and it's that great evil city referenced in Revelation.

#3 Samaria (115 times). That's a little more interesting to me, but I'm not really surprised. It was built by the Northern Kingdom and becomes a symbol for rebellion & scattering.

#4 Jericho (59 times). Okay, this one surprised me, but it's an ancient city, the first conquered and rebuilt under a curse. Jesus met Zachaeus there, too (up that tree).

And then we get to #5 - a tie, 47 times each! And a tie between Bethlehem (city of David) and... Sodom. Yes, Sodom, of all places, is the 5th most mentioned city in the Bible. If you looked it up, you'd see Sodom referenced from Genesis 10 all the way up to Revelation 11. Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos, Zephaniah, Peter, Paul, & Jude all talk about Sodom... and so, too, does our Lord Jesus (5 times in Matthew, Mark, & Luke's Gospels). So I had to wonder, why in the world does the Bible talk about Sodom (and, by extension, Gomorrah and their sister cities Admah & Zeboiim) so frequently?

I think part of the reason is that, according to Philo, smoke was still rising from Sodom & Gomorrah's ashes as late as the 1st Century AD (nearly 2300 years after God destroyed them in Genesis 19)!! Who's Philo? He was a 1st Century Jewish historian & philosopher (born around 20 years before Jesus' birth) - not a Christian theologian, not even a resident of Judea, but a Jewish scholar living in Alexandria who wanted to reconcile Greek philosophy and Judaism.

Think about that: It would be as if we could look out the window and still see smoke from Pompeii's destruction in AD 79 - and people living 300 years later could see it, too. So that makes what Jesus tells Capernaum so much more profound, that if He had done in Sodom what He did near the Galilean Sea, Sodom would have repented and prevented a judgment from God that stretched across literal millennia!

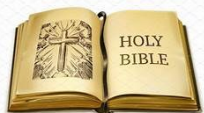
And, as a matter of fact (if trivial), the area where Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim once existed STILL retains evidence of God's judgment in the form of ash, balls of sulfur, and deserted-ness (in other words, even though the town of Zoar still exists today, none of the other four cities were ever rebuilt). That's incredible, lasting judgment - but if they had seen Jesus, He says, those cities that deserved that kind of judgment would have survived.

This must have struck a nerve with Peter, because in his second letter, he too references Sodom in the same context as God's judgment - and God's mercy in Christ Jesus. Peter writes, "If God didn't spare the angels who sinned but cast them into hell and delivered them in chains of utter darkness to be kept for judgment . . . and if he reduced the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes and condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is coming to the ungodly; and if he rescued righteous Lot . . . then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, especially those who follow the polluting desires of the flesh and despise authority." 2 Peter 2:4-10 (CSB)

What's Peter saying? That the same God who judged and destroyed Sodom is the same God who will judge and destroy ALL sin... and is the same God who will rescue His own because of Christ Jesus. And praise God! Lot - weak-willed, greedy, imperfect as he was - Lot is the example of God's mercy in this situation. Peter is telling us, essentially, "If God can save Lot from Sodom, God can save us and spare us from judgement, too."

So have we put our faith in Christ Jesus? Have we left our sin - and the judgement connected to it - at His cross? Have we followed after the One who is God's mercy and love made manifest? And have we shared the hope against all judgment that comes from Him today? I pray we do!

-- Pastor Chris



May Sermons

5/03: A Call To be Brave

5/17: A Call To Repent

5/31: A Call To Ministry

5/10: A Call To be Faithful

5/24: A Call To Lead

NEWS FROM THE SESSION ...

The Session met on April 12th. The Property committee is working on several projects to maintain the grounds & buildings. We have a Building Fund set up for anyone that would like to contribute to the upcoming building projects, maintenance, etc...

The Session has begun the process of reviewing the membership rolls. If you have any updates to your record or know of someone, please email the Church office.

We are continuing our Elder Training, every 3rd Sunday.

If the Session can do anything for you, please contact the Church Office or send an email.

Love in Christ, Reese Atkinson, Clerk of Session

Next Session Meeting: May 17th @ 8:30 a.m.

MAY ELDERS-ON-CALL:

***Beth Grant & Steven Frazier**

**denotes Session devotional responsibilities*

April 2026 Statistics

Attendance Average's

Worship: 64 Sunday School: 24

Budgeted Income & Expenses (operating)

MTD Income received:	\$40,870.27
YTD Income received:	\$100,653.75
Budgeted YTD Income Needed:	\$75,976.00
MTD Expenses disbursed:	\$22,577.31
YTD Expenses disbursed:	\$79,563.17
Budgeted YTD Expenses:	\$79,248.00

Non-budgeted Income & Expenses (designated)
(Cemetery, Building & Playground Funds)

MTD Income received:	\$1,000.00
YTD Income received:	\$4,741.70
MTD Expenses disbursed:	\$0.00
YTD Expenses disbursed:	\$0.00

You may use your smart phone/device to give online by scanning this QR code or Zelle from your bank to:



bishopvillepc@gmail.com
Please leave your name and note where funds are to designated



Collins Wesley Drayton

son of Allison & Wesley Drayton will graduate Lee Academy on May 22nd. After graduation, Collins plans to attend Clemson University, majoring in AgriBusiness and return to Bishopville, as the 4th generation, to run the Family business "Drayton Nursery".

Remember our HOMEBOUND

- Doris Bell @ Skilled Care Manor, Florence**
- Karen Gentry @ Memory Care Manor, Florence**
- Kathryn Hart @ The Addison, Florence**
- BJ Kerr @ McCoy**
- Beth McCutchen @ McCoy**
- Hugh Tindal @ his home**
- Dotty G. Williamson @ Morrell's, Hartsville**

SANCTUARY FLOWER CALENDAR

MAY 2026

- 3rd: Kathryn Welch
- 10th: Lila Mae Welsh Family
- 17th: John & Karen Gentry
- 24th: Jimmy & Marsha McCutchen
- 31st: Don & Beth Grant

JUNE 2026

- 7th: William Welsh Family
- 14th: Dot & Buddy Wilson Family
- 21st: Renee Bell
- 28th: Gregg McCutchen III

JULY 2026

- 5th: Virginia & Charlie Ipock
- 12th: Harriett & Henry Watson Family
- 19th: William & Pat Monroe Fields
- 26th: Reese & Melinda Atkinson

AUGUST 2026

- 2nd: Bert Cousar
- 9th: Debbie & Bill Tindal
- 16th: Bill Welsh Family
- 23rd: Lena & Leila McCutchen
- 30th: John Latimer



SEPTEMBER 2026

- 6th: Renee Bell
- 13th: Ryan & Andrea McCutchen
- 20th: Jennifer & Perry McCutchen
- 27th: Reese & Melinda Atkinson

OCTOBER 2026

- 4th: Liz & Billy Simon
- 11th: John & Karen Gentry
- 18th: Christine Shirley Family
- 25th: Mike Monroe

NOVEMBER 2026

- 1st: Renee Bell
- 8th: Wendy & Benny Welch
- 15th: Ray & Jackie Drayton
- 22nd: Jim & Barbara Latimer
- 25th: Hanging of the Greens

DECEMBER 2026

- 6th: Poinsettia Array
- 13th: Poinsettia Array
- 20th: Poinsettia Array
- 27th: John & Karen Gentry

Please contact the Church Business Office (preferably by email) to change a date or to be added/removed from the running Flower Calendar



- Madison Bramlett 7
- Zeke Gaskins 7
- Jimmy McCutchen 3
- Terri Ann T. Belk 13
- Beth Grant 15
- Beth McCutchen 17
- Ricky McCutchen 23
- Virginia Kerr Beard 28
- Debbie Tindal 28
- Tim Kirven 31



- Harrison Blake Smith 4
- Stephen Latimer Welch 6
- Ray Drayton 8
- Cameron McElveen 10
- Conner Welch 13
- Lacie McElveen 14
- Rev. Chris Parnell 14
- Marsha McCutchen 16
- Hugh Tindal III 16
- Katherine Dickinson 17
- Liz Simon 25
- Annie McIlhenny 27
- Isaac Bailey 29

FROM CHURCH BUSINESS OFFICE
 Email & Postal mail, is checked and acted on, daily as applicable. Please mail donations to:
Bishopville PC @ POB 66
Bishopville, SC 29010

NOTE: Post Office returns all street mail

OFFICE HOURS

Business Office Hours
 Monday - Wednesday
 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Unless otherwise noted below

2026 Business Office vacation/holiday closings:
 May 19th - 26th; July 6th;
 September 7th; October 6th - 12th;
 November 3rd & 24th - 30th;
 December 1st & 22nd - 29th

Please contact office to update records (via email)

Coffee Time: Sunday's @ 10:30 am
 between Sunday School & Church.
 Anyone who wishes to host, please sign up on the kitchen calendar.
 Everyone is welcome to join us

Missionary News: Dear friends at Bishopville, Just a note to say how much I appreciate your faithful support over so many years of the ministry here and Yucatán. We have just concluded a wonderful celebration of the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord. My daughter led an evangelistic youth camp of 80 youth in a different campsite on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico. The youth pastor and a team of 3 from a Detroit Church led the Bible studies. We're still unable to enter our camp and our house since it was been taken over by a civil association. There's a lawsuit against what they've done which we are waiting to come up before a judge. We know God's justice will have the final word. We'll be holding a children's camp at the seminary in July unless we are able to use the campsite that my in-laws began in 1967. Thank you so much for all your help. I am praying for you there as you bare witness to the light of Jesus in the town of Bishopville. - Blessings, Jean Legters

Vacation Bible School "Illumination Station"
Sunday July 26th: 5:30 – 8:00 (w/registration)
Monday, 27th & Tuesday, 28th from 6:00 – 8:00. pm, Wednesday, 29th @ 6:00 pm we will have a Fun Day. Supper will be served each night and everyone is welcome to attend

Jewish Voice Coin Collection

Thanks to your support, Jewish Voice was able to help meet people's basic need for dental services in war-torn Ukraine. Your generosity shares the hope of Yeshua (Jesus) while providing tangible help to meet real needs – sometimes in desperate situations, like Ukraine. Coin banks are in the Bell Tower room and you can pick up and drop off any time of the year, in the office.

Thanks to all who participate!
Next Coin Collection Date: May 17, 2026

“Blessing Box” Ministry

These boxes are stocked/maintained with food, necessities, Devotionals & Bibles. Our children are stocking, maintaining, and updating the Church on the progress. **Collection dates: 1st Sunday of each month.** We are receiving food & cash gifts

We are cleaning stones in our cemetery.

Anyone with any objections or interest, please contact the Church office via email or contact Wendy Welch

Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry

Thank you to everyone who helps pack or donates funds and/or items for the shoeboxes. We collect all year & mail in November

All 5th Sunday undesignated gifts are placed into the Kids for Christ Mission Fund.

Please note “Kids4Christ” on gifts outside this timeframe. Make checks payable to BPC. If it is for a specific need or project, please indicate that on your check or correspondence.

Next collection date: May 31, 2026