



Good Tide-ings

Edisto Island United Methodist Church

8193 Palmetto Road

4th Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Salkehatchie Summer Service

Adults Meeting (18+)

Fellowship Hall

10:30am

MONDAY, APRIL 27

Nancie's Clothes Closet

10:00am-1:00pm & 2:00pm -5:00pm

Please Note:

*There will not be a Fellowship brunch
in May since the second Sunday
falls on Mothers Day.
Happy Mothers Day!*

“Through the Gate Into Abundant Life”

There is a rhythm to Easter that continues long after the lilies fade. Each Sunday of this season, we hear stories of people encountering the risen Christ in ways that surprise them, unsettle them, and ultimately change them. Mary Magdalene hears her name spoken in the garden. The disciples receive peace behind locked doors. Two weary travelers discover hope again at a table in Emmaus.

This week, Jesus gives us a new image—one drawn not from miracle or mystery, but from everyday life: a shepherd, a flock, and a gate. In John 10, Jesus says, “I am the gate... whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.” It is a simple picture, but not a small one. Biblical scholar Raymond Brown reminds us that this passage is part of the Easter proclamation itself—Jesus revealing what resurrection life looks like in the ordinary world of his followers. The risen Christ is not only the One who appears in glory; he is the One who opens the way to life. And that is good news for us on Edisto.

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We know what it means to stand at thresholds—between high tide and low, between seasons, between what has been and what might yet be. Jesus meets us at those thresholds and invites us to walk through the gate he opens: a gate of mercy, peace, community, and abundant life.

“Resurrection is not just an event to admire but a doorway to walk through.” Also, “Jesus’ claim to be the Good Shepherd is not sentimental—it is a declaration of relationship and authority.” Finally, “Easter is not a season of ideas but a season of practices—ways of living that embody the life Christ gives.”

This Sunday, we will explore what it means to follow the Shepherd who knows our name, to live as a community shaped by resurrection, and to step boldly through the gate into the life Jesus promises.

Whether you worship with us every week, join us seasonally, or haven’t been in a while, you are invited. Come and hear the Shepherd’s voice. Come and find pasture for your soul. Come and discover the abundant life Christ offers us—right here, right now.

Easter continues! We’ll save you a seat.

Peace be with you,

Rev. Len Ripley

*Find us on Facebook:
“Edisto Island United
Methodist Church”*

*Stream our Sunday services
LIVE on YouTube.
Subscribe to “Edisto United
Methodist Church” for free.*

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

14th Jane Loy
15th Sandra Polk
16th Cal Fosseen
20th Terry Dobson

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

2nd Steve & Connie Strange
17th Amanda & Carl Fosseen
20th Margaret Green &
Lorraine Bonura

PRAYER REQUESTS

Butch Evans
Tommy Keller
Beth Warshaw
Bob Foster
Bill Loy
Robyn Tindall
Dylan Rearden
Lacey Reeves
Bob Spratlin
Jane Loy
Evan McMillan
Donna Padgett
Laura & Jim Emory
Ethelynn Boozer & Family
Nancy Culclasure
Lauren (Donna’s niece)
Dale Steele
Margaret Steele
Thomas Tindall
Buff Yelton
Dawn & Berry Wren

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Pastor Len:

(843) 343-794

LCRipleyIII@umcsc.org

Please submit prayer requests and information to include in the weekly bulletin and newsletter via email to UMCEdisto@yahoo.com by noon on Wednesday of each week.

*Through the Gate
Into Abundant Life*



*I have come that they may have **Life**,
and have it **abundantly**. — John 10:10*

EDISTO ISLAND
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
APRIL 26, 2026 - 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #177** “He Is Lord”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

The Shepherd calls us by name and leads us through the gate of life.

We come to listen for his voice.

The One who opened the tomb, entered our locked rooms, and walked beside us on the road now gathers us in grace.

We come to follow where he leads.

Come in and go out with joy; find pasture in the presence of the Risen Lord.

We worship the Shepherd who gives life abundantly.

***OPENING PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Risen Shepherd, you call us by name and lead us into the wide pasture of your grace. You open gates we cannot open, roll away stones we cannot move, and speak peace into places we have locked in fear. Gather us now as your flock—listening, trusting, and ready to follow. Lead us in paths of righteousness; restore our souls; and make this time of worship a doorway into abundant life. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN # 304**

“Easter People, Raise Your Voices”

CONFESSION OF SIN & PARDON

With confidence in God’s shepherding love, let us confess our sins.

Good Shepherd, we confess that we have wandered from your voice. We have closed doors in fear, held tight to what we should have shared, and ignored the cries of those who needed care. We have sought life in places that cannot give it and resisted the path that leads through your gate. Forgive us. Call us by name once more. Lead us back to your fold, that we may live as people of resurrection— open, generous, courageous, and full of hope. Amen.

(Let us confess our sins in silence)

Hear the good news: The Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. By his wounds we are healed; by his grace we are restored; by his love we are made whole. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, open the gate of your Word as Christ opens the gate of life. Call us by name through the Scriptures, that we may recognize the Shepherd’s voice, follow where he leads, and find pasture in your truth. Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 2: 42-47

PSALTER #137

Psalms 23

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2: 19-25

+++

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord!

***THE GOSPEL**

John 10: 1-10

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Risen Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN #381**

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in God, the Creator who opens gates we cannot open, who leads us beside still waters, and who calls us into life that is abundant and whole.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd and the Gate of Life. He calls us by name, walks through our locked doors, meets us on the road, and opens the Scriptures and our eyes. He lays down his life for the sheep, and by his wounds we are healed. He is risen, and he leads us into green pastures of His grace.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who gathers us into a community of prayer, teaching, fellowship, and shared life. The Spirit empowers us to welcome the lonely, feed the hungry, forgive one another, and live as people shaped by the Resurrection.

We believe that Christ calls us forward— through the gate he opens, into the world he loves, to live with courage, generosity, and joy.

This is the faith of the Church. This is the faith we affirm today. Thanks be to God. Amen.

RESPONSE #70

“Glory Be to the Father”

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER #895

THE OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY #95**

PRAYER FOLLOWING THE OFFERING

Generous God, you lead us into green pastures and provide all that we need. Receive these gifts—our tithes, our offerings, our lives— and use them to open gates of hope, to feed the hungry, to welcome the lonely, and to build a community shaped by resurrection life. In the name of the Shepherd who gives abundantly. Amen.

***HYMN #389**

“Freely, Freely”

***SENDING FORTH**

Go forth in the name of the Shepherd who calls you by name. Follow his voice into the world he loves. Walk through the gate he opens before you. Live the abundant life he gives.

We go in the peace, joy, and courage of the Risen Christ. Amen.



**THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE
GLORY OF GOD BY
JIM AND JUDY WHITESELL.**



**Participating in worship today are
Steve Strange and Johnelle Mische.**

LAST SUNDAY Attendance: 37 Offering: \$5,935.00



Tommy Keller, Donna Padgette, Brad Pressley, Susan Campbell Baumrind, Debra Evans-Ripley, Butch Evans, Beth Warshaw, Bob Foster, Bill Loy, Robyn Tindall, Dylan Rearden, Ann Bond, Lacey Reeves, Bob Spratlin, Evan McMillan, Laura & Jim Emory, Ethelynn Boozer, Nancy Culclasure, Lauren (Donna's niece), Dale Steele, Margaret Steele, Thomas Tidall, Buff Yelton, Dawn & Berry Wren



**Mondays 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
& 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**QR Code for Offering
& Donations**

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Church Website: EIUMC.org

WIFI NETWORK:

**EIUMCguest
Password:
25!Happy**



**OR Text EIUMCGIVE
to 73256**