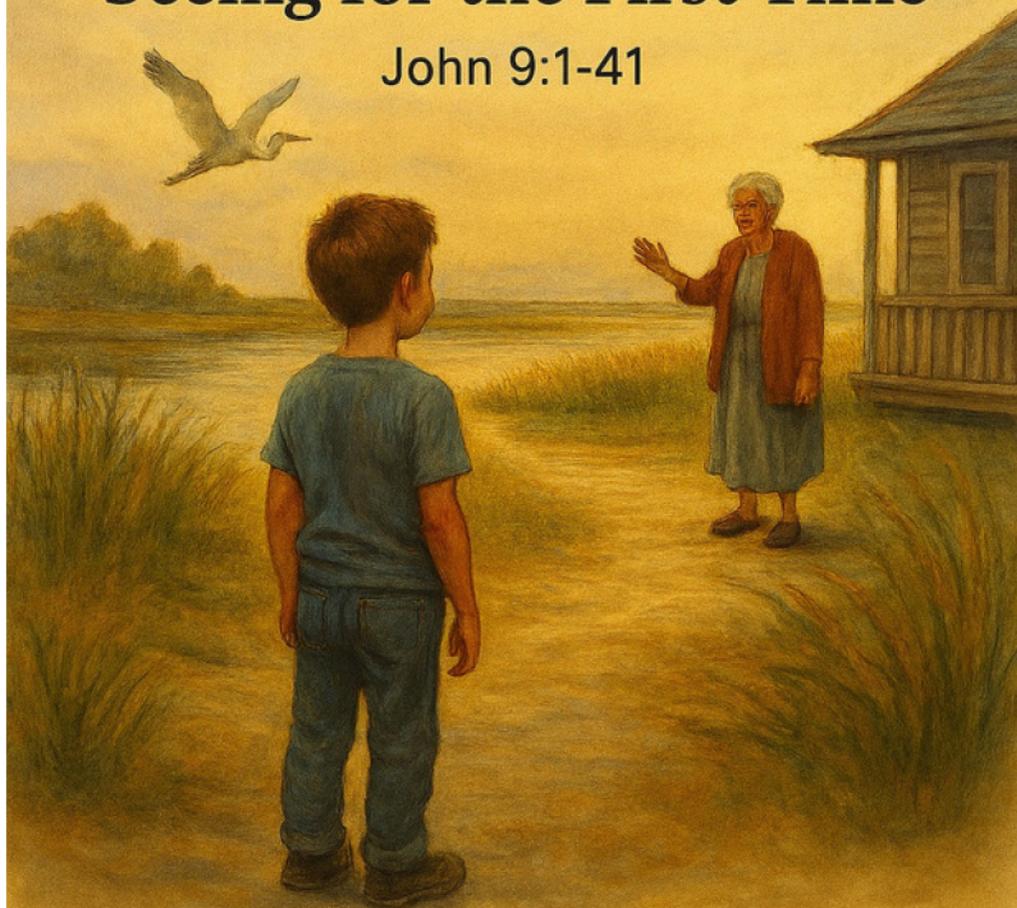


EDISTO ISLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
“Seeing for the First Time”

John 9:1-41



**“Most of us don’t see—
until Someone opens our eyes.”**

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

PRELUDE

“Christ the life of All the Living”

German Chorale Melody

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT #349

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

1st READING

Isaiah 35: 4-7a

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, you who are weary and fearful, for the Holy One speaks: “Be strong, do not fear! Your God will come and save you.”

We come trusting the God who opens blind eyes and makes the desert bloom with life.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God’s benefits—the One who forgives, who heals, who redeems, who crowns us with steadfast love.

We remember the God who restores our lives and renews our strength.

Today Christ stands among us as Light of the World, the One who gives sight to the blind and reveals the truth that sets us free.

Open our eyes, Lord, that we may see. Open our hearts, that we may believe. Open our lives, that we may follow.

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

With grateful hearts and awakened eyes, we worship the Lord.

*OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of light and mercy, draw us into your presence as we gather to worship. In the places where we feel blind, give us sight; in the places where we feel weary, give us strength; in the places where we feel lost, let the light of Christ lead us. Open our hearts to the grace that restores, renews, and sends us forward in faith. Amen.

*HYMN #249

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God, we confess that we often move through the world without truly seeing—passing by your light, your people, and your invitations to grace. We cling To our own understanding and stumble in our own shadows. Forgive us. Restore our sight.

Restore our hearts. Lead us again into the light of Christ, who meets us with compassion and truth.

Let us confess our sins in silence.

Hear the good news: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy God, shine your light upon us as your Word is read and proclaimed. Clear our sight, quiet our hearts, and open us to the truth that restores and renews. Let the light of Christ lead us into deeper understanding and faithful living. Amen.

2nd READING

John 9: 1-12

THE PSALTER #824

Psalms 103: 1-5

3rd READING

John 9: 13-34

***GOSPEL LESSON**

John 9: 35-41

SERMON “Seeing for the First Time”

***HYMN #454** “Open My Eyes, That I May See”

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

GOD’S GIFTS AND OUR TITHES

ANTHEM

***DOXOLOGY #95**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of mercy and light, you open our eyes to your grace and restore our lives with compassion. Receive these gifts, and use them to bring healing, hope, and renewed sight to all who walk in darkness. Make us instruments of your love, that the world may see your goodness through all we offer and all we do. Amen.

***HYMN #581** “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service” (Tune: Beecher, p. 384)

***SENDING FORTH**

Go now as children of the light.

The One who opened the eyes of the blind goes before us, restoring what is broken and revealing the way of life.

May Christ’s light guide your steps, God’s mercy renew your strength, and the Spirit awaken your sight, that you may see and share the grace of God in all you do.

Amen.

This morning's flowers are given by Violet McKenney.

Participating in Worship Today:

Alex Cone

FEBRUARY 22 Attendance: 32 Offering: \$2,910.00

Robyn Tindall, Dylan Rearden, Ann Bond, Lacey Reeves,
Mike Wyndham, Kayne Gantt, Bob Spratlin, Jane Loy,
Evan McMillan, Donna Padgette, Laura & Jim Emory,
Ethelynn Boozer & Family, Nancy Culclasure, Lauren
(Donna's niece), Dale Steele, Margaret Steele, Thomas
Tindall, Buff Yelton, Dawn & Berry Wren



Nancie's Clothes Closet

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 8: Fellowship Brunch Fellowship Hall (after service)

THURSDAY, MARCH 12: Lenten Study Fellowship Hall 2:00pm

THURSDAY, MARCH 12: Godwin-Pate Circle Meeting
Fellowship Hall 9:30 Social Time 10:00am Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18: United Methodist Men Fellowship Hall 8:30am

TUESDAY, MARCH 24: Church Council Fellowship Hall 2:00pm

CONTACT

INFORMATION

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Church Website: EIUMC.org

WIFI Network:

EIUMCguest

Password:

25!Happy

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Good Tide-ings

Edisto Island United Methodist Church

8193 Palmetto Road

3rd Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY MORNING
WORSHIP SERVICES – 10:00am

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Fellowship Brunch
Fellowship Hall
(after service)

MONDAY, MARCH 9

Nancie's Clothes Closet
10:00am-1:00pm & 2:00pm -5:00pm

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

3rd Lenten Study
Fellowship Hall
2:00pm

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

Godwin-Pate Circle Meeting
Fellowship Hall
9:30 Social Time, 10:00 Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

United Methodist Men
Fellowship Hall
8:30am

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

Church Council
Fellowship Hall
2:00pm

“Seeing for the First Time”: John 9:1–41

This Sunday, we continue our Lenten journey using the readings from *Feasting on the Word: A Thematic Resource for Preaching and Worship*, Lenten Companion (Westminster John Knox Press). Departing from the Revised Common Lectionary, we follow a thematic arc that invites us to see Christ more clearly and walk with him more faithfully.

Our Gospel lesson from John 9:1–41 will be shared in three movements during worship, allowing the story to unfold gradually—like sight returning to someone who has never seen. It’s a story of healing, awakening, and transformation. And it begins not with understanding, but with being seen.

Jesus sees a man who has been blind from birth—not as a problem to be solved, but as a person to be healed. What follows is not just a miracle, but a journey: from physical sight to spiritual insight, from silence to testimony, from rejection to belonging. The man’s vision deepens as he speaks honestly about what God has done for him, even when others resist it.

The sermon opens with a quiet story—one that may feel familiar to those who know the rhythms of island life. It’s a story about the moment we lift our eyes and realize the world has always been beautiful... we just didn’t know how to look. That moment becomes a doorway into the Gospel, where Jesus invites us to see again.

Lent is not a season of perfect answers. It is a season of honest witness. This week, we are invited to let Jesus see us, reshape us, and lead us into the light. Sight, after all, is not a one-time event. It is a journey. A slow awakening. A step-by-step unfolding of grace. Come join us as we walk that path together.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Len Ripley

A Shared Thought

I came across a story online yesterday, and I thought I would share it:

“To a very special African American woman that was in the Asheville airport the night of Thursday February 26 around 6pm: You were either coming off or about to board Delta flight 3101 to Atlanta. You saw me in the airport, alone and sobbing, while I was on the phone with my best friend. You came up to me, a stranger, and gave me the most loving hug and offered up a small prayer for me. I want to send you the most heartfelt thank you. You will never know how much that hug meant. What you didn’t know is that I was trying desperately to get to my hometown because that morning I received a phone call that my dad was in the hospital, and he wasn’t doing well. The moment before you offered me that hug, I had just received another call telling me that he may not make it through the night. I wasn’t sure I was going to make it home to hold my dad’s hand for the last time and/or tell him goodbye. I was barely holding it together, begging God to allow me to make it home in time, and your loving hug was the very thing I needed in that moment. So to you, I am eternally grateful for your kindness to this stranger. You will forever be a part of my story. And I would like you to know I made it home in time.”

Mission work does not always show up with us wearing white hats and roaring into the lives of others with commotion. While the financial aspect is important, mission work doesn’t always involve a checkbook.

Sometimes, it’s just neighbor showing love to neighbor, stranger sharing hope with stranger. Let us not forget that the small things can turn out to be incredibly important sharing of our work and our faith with others.

- Alex

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

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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1st: Margaret Green, Violet
McKenney, Debra Ripley
2nd: Spence Wise
6th: Connie Strange
9th: Scott Wylie
16th: Beverly Wylie
22nd: Steve Strange
27th: Brad Pressley

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES:

23rd: Wayne & Ann Bond

PRAYER REQUESTS

Robyn Tindall
Dylan Rearden
Lacey Reeves
Mike Wyndham
Kayne Gantt
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

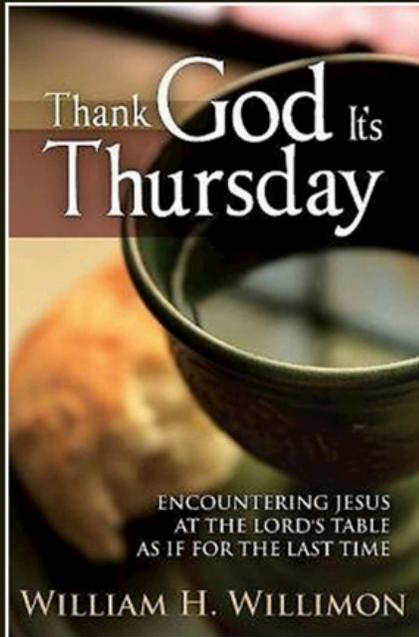
CONTACT INFORMATION

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Pastor Len:
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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.

LENTEN STUDY CONTINUES MARCH 12

EDISTO ISLAND United Methodist Church Lenten Study



Dates and Time
Thursdays at 2:00 PM
February 19, 26
March 5, 12, 19

Our Lenten study continues on Thursday, March 12, at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be reading from *Thank God It's Thursday* by Will Willimon.

He is the Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry at Duke University Divinity School, retired bishop of the North Alabama Conference of The United Methodist Church, and former Dean of the Chapel at Duke University.

Copies are available for pickup in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend. If you plan to attend, please read Chapter Three prior to the study.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Usher/Greeter/Acolyte
- Weekly flowers for the sanctuary
- Monthly fellowship brunch
- Monthly Communion server
- Monthly Scripture reader

IMPORTANT CONTACT REMINDER

The church office is open Mondays and Thursdays from 10:00am until 2:00pm. Phone calls, voicemails, and emails to the church are handled during that time. Should you have a time-sensitive need at any other time, you can always reach Pastor Len directly via phone call, text, or email.

Thanks!