



# **BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

## **EDISTO ISLAND**

## **UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026**  
**BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**PRELUDE**    “O Morning Star”

Nicolae

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHORAL INTROIT #251** “Go Tell It on the Mountain” (chorus)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders.

**The Lord blesses the people with peace.**

Here is God's chosen servant, in whom God delights.

**Here is the Beloved Son, upon whom the Spirit rests.**

Come, all who have been named and claimed by grace.

**We come to remember our baptism and to renew our calling as God's beloved.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Faithful God, at the waters of the Jordan you revealed your Son, anointed by the Spirit, beloved and well-pleasing in your sight. As we gather this day, open the heavens again—not above us only, but within us. By your Spirit, remind us who we are: your children, marked by grace, called to serve, sent to bear your light to the nations. May this worship renew our trust, strengthen our witness, and send us forth in peace. Through Jesus Christ, who was baptized for us and with us. Amen.

**\*HYMN #604**    “Praise and Thanksgiving be to God Our Maker”

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Holy Spirit, who descended upon Jesus at the waters of the Jordan, descend upon us now. Open our hearts to hear your voice, our minds to receive your truth, and our lives to be shaped by your Word. As the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, remind us who we are—your beloved children, called by name, sent in love. May your Word wash over us, renew our faith, and lead us in the way of Christ. Amen.

|                             |                                      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>OLD TESTAMENT</b>        | Isaiah 42:1-9 (Pew Bible OT, p. 630) |
| <b>THE PSALTER #761</b>     | Psalm 29                             |
| <b>NEW TESTAMENT LESSON</b> | Acts 10: 34-43 (NT, p. 121)          |
| <b>*GOSPEL LESSON</b>       | Matthew 3: 13-17 (NT, p. 3)          |

**SERMON**      "Beloved at Home"

**\*HYMN #347**    "Spirit Song"

**CONGREGATIONAL REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT #50**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER #895**

**GOD'S GIFTS AND OUR TITHES**

**ANTHEM**      "I Was There to Hear Your Burning Cry"

**\*DOXOLOGY #95**

**\*Offering Prayer**

Gracious God, you have named us your beloved and entrusted us with the work of your kingdom. As we offer these gifts, we give thanks for the grace that has claimed us and the Spirit that sends us. Receive our offerings—our resources, our lives, our witness—and use them to bring justice, healing, and hope to all whom you love. May all that we give reflect the baptismal promise we renewed this day: to serve Christ faithfully and to share your love with the world. Amen.

**\*HYMN #608**    "This Is the Spirit's Entry Now"

**\*SENDING FORTH & BENEDICTION**

Go forth as God's beloved, sealed by the Spirit, washed in grace, and sent in peace.

We remember our baptism and live as Christ's body in the world—serving with humility, loving without fear, and bearing witness to God's justice and mercy.

The blessing of the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—be with you now and always.

**Amen.**

**Participating in Worship Today:**  
Steve Strange and Johnelle Mische

**Ushers:** Jim and Judy Whitesell

**January 4 , 2026:**  
Worship Attendance: 25    Giving: \$2,254.90

Marlow Winter Ripley, Lacey Reeves, Mike Wyndham,  
Kayne Gantt, Bob Spratlin, Jane Loy, Cheryl Van Metre,  
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



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

**Sunday, January 11**  
Fellowship Brunch following the service in the Fellowship Hall

**CONTACT**

**INFORMATION**

Church Office: (843) 869-3456

Church Email:

UMCEDisto@yahoo.com

Pastor Len: (843) 343-8794

Email: lcripleyiii@umcsc.org

Church Website: EIUMC.org

QR Code for Offering  
& Donations



OR Text EIUMCGIVE  
to 73256

**WIFI Network:**

**EIUMCguest**

**Password:**

**25!Happy**



# Good Tide-ings

Edisto Island United Methodist Church

8193 Palmetto Road

Baptism of the Lord

January 11, 2026

## UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY MORNING  
WORSHIP SERVICES – 10:00am

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8  
Godwin-Pate Circle Meeting  
Fellowship Hall  
9:30 Social Time, 10:00 Meeting

MONDAY, JANUARY 12  
Nancie's Clothes Closet  
10:00am-1:00pm & 2:00pm -5:00pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11  
Fellowship Brunch  
Fellowship Hall, after service

### Holy Baptism: A Gift of Grace

Holy Baptism is one of the two Sacraments practiced by the United Methodist Church, along with Holy Communion. In baptism, we celebrate God's gracious initiative—God reaching out to us in love before we are able to respond. Baptism is first and foremost God's act, not ours. Through water and the Holy Spirit, we are welcomed into the family of faith, marked as Christ's own, and incorporated into the Body of Christ.

United Methodists baptize people of all ages, including infants. This reflects our belief in prevenient grace—the grace of God that is already at work in our lives before we are aware of it. Just as God's love is not earned, baptism is not dependent on our understanding or decision, but on God's promise. The Book of Discipline affirms that baptism is "a sign of God's grace and our entrance into the church" and is rooted in God's covenant faithfulness rather than human action.

This understanding differs from traditions that practice Believers' Baptism, which reserve baptism for those old enough to make a personal profession of faith. While we honor and respect these traditions, United Methodists believe that baptism is not primarily a testimony of our faith, but a sign of God's covenant with us. Scripture reminds us that God's promises extend to households and generations. Our response of faith grows over time as we live into the promises made at baptism.

Because baptism is God's enduring act of grace, we do not re-baptize. The Book of Discipline teaches that baptism is "once and for all" and need not be repeated, even if a person's faith journey includes periods of doubt or distance from the church. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism." God's promise does not expire, even when our faith falters.

However, we regularly Reaffirm Our Baptism, especially on Baptism of the Lord Sunday. In reaffirmation, we remember God's claim on our lives, renew our commitment to Christ, and give thanks for the grace that continues to shape us. The Book of Discipline encourages reaffirmation as a meaningful way to renew our baptismal covenant without repeating the sacrament itself. At Edisto Island UMC, we celebrate baptism as a sacred gift—one that calls us to live each day as beloved children of God, growing in faith, hope, and love. Join us Sunday, December 11, 2026 at 10:00 AM as we celebrate Baptism of the Lord and reaffirm our Baptisms.

- Rev. Len Ripley

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

### JANUARY VACANCIES:

USHERS: 1/18, 1/25

FLOWERS: 1/18

## ANOTHER NEW RIPLEY!

Pastor Len and Debra welcomed a healthy great-grandchild, Marlow Winter RIPLEY, on December 29th. 7 pounds, 11 ounces and 20" long.



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

*Find us on Facebook:  
"Edisto Island United  
Methodist Church"*

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

20<sup>th</sup>: Kayne Gantt

31<sup>st</sup>: Chip Burnett

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

25<sup>th</sup>: Al & Kayne Gantt

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Lacey Reeves  
Mike Wyndham  
Kayne Gantt  
Bob Spratlin  
Jane Loy  
Connie Strange  
Cheryl Van Metre  
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

(843) 869-3456

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www.eiumc.org

Pastor Len:

(843) 343-8794

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.

## A word from our new Chair of Church Council...

Happy New Year, my friends! I want to thank you for your trust in me as your Chair of Church Council for 2026. I am personally both excited and nervous as I step outside of my normal comfort zone to lead our church in the coming year. But as Ray Lewis, the famous linebacker for the Baltimore Ravens, once said, “Before anything great is really achieved, your comfort zone must be disturbed.”

2025 was a hard year for our church, full of growing pains and valuable lessons learned. 2026 will be an exciting year as we continue to our journey together to improve upon our already strong cahurch family.

I extend my sincere thanks for all the work done by 2025’s leadership team. From the trustees to ministry; from Nancie’s Clothes Closet to the Godwin-Pate Circle; from lay leaders to the Worship Committee; from Church Council to... There really are too many to thank in this space. *To all of you, thank you!*

All of us are really excited to look at some forward-looking goals for the coming year--by researching ways to improve our digital communications in order to reach more people, strengthening our mission focus to help yet more people in our community, and continuing to foster and grow a church community that is respectful and supportive of each other.

That’s where each of us continues to come into play. I want to hear your suggestions, comments, concerns, and ideas. When we work productively together, the rising tide lifts all boats. If you have anything you would like to share with me, please email it to [LorraineBonura@gmail.com](mailto:LorraineBonura@gmail.com).

Let’s meet 2026 together in joy, peace, love, and understanding. Let’s find new ways and foster existing ones to serve both our community and each other. And by all means, let’s have some fun along our journey!

Yours in service to God, Church, and Community,

Lorraine Bonura



# Open House

Tour the grounds and buildings, share your ideas,  
and help shape what's next!

Bring your photographs and stories  
a dedicated station will be available to share  
memories and scan photos on site.  
*Complimentary light refreshments.*

Thursday, January 15, 2026

3:00 PM- 7: 00 Pm

Live Band

4:00 PM - 6:00PM