



Adult Sunday School

Edisto Island United Methodist Church

Sunday's @ 8:40 AM



Monday's 10:00 AM-1:00 PM;
2:00 PM-5:00 PM



Given By: Violet McKenney

Contact Information:

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Wi-Fi Network: Last Sunday:

EIUMCguest

Password:

25!Happy

October 18, 2026

Attendance: 57

(in person & online)

Offering: **\$4,883**

QR Code for Offering
& Donations



OR Text EIUMC GIVE
to 73256

Prayer Requests

The Steele Family, Bob Spratlin, Patti Smyer, Haley Davis, Violet McKenney, The Loy Family, Duncan Bunch, Reynolds Hayden, Alex Cone, Tommy Keller, Donna Padgett, Butch Evans, Beth Warshaw, Bob Foster, Dylan Rearden, Ann Bond, Lacey Reeves, Laura & Jim Emory, Ethelynn Booser, Nancy Culclasure, Lauren (Donna's niece), Thomas Tindall, Buff Yelton, Dawn & Berry Wren

Worship Participants:

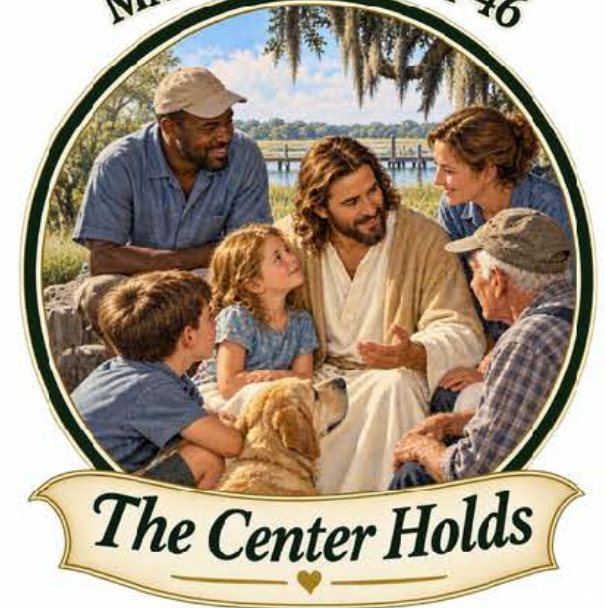
Steve Strange, Donna Padgett, Johnelle Mische



Change of Date and Time



MATTHEW 22:34-46



To all who are weary and need rest; To all who are burdened and need relief; To all who are lonely and need friends; To all who are looking for something that only God can provide; To all who sin and need a Savior; To whosoever will come, this church opens its doors, and in the name of Jesus Christ says, "Welcome!"



PRELUDE
GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #328 “Surely the Presence”
CALL TO WORSHIP
From generation to generation, God has been our dwelling place.
Before the mountains were brought forth, God was God.
Moses stood upon the mountain and saw the faithfulness of God.
God’s promises endure beyond every lifetime.
Jesus calls us to the heart of faithful living:
To love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind.
And to love our neighbors as ourselves.
On these commandments hangs all the law and the prophets.
The Holy Spirit falls upon all who are gathered in God’s grace.
God’s love reaches beyond every boundary and barrier.
Come, let us worship the Lord who is our dwelling place, our hope, and our center.
We come to love God, love neighbor, and glorify Christ our Lord. Amen.

*OPENING PRAYER
The Lord be with you.
And also, with you.
Let us pray
Loving God, you have been our dwelling place in every generation. Gather us now in Your presence and center our hearts on Your love. Open us to Your Spirit, that we may worship You fully, love one another faithfully, and follow Jesus Christ more closely.
In His holy name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN # 158 “Come, Christians, Join to Sing”
PRAYER OF CONFESSION & PARDON
With confidence in God’s Grace, let us now confess our sins.
Gracious God, you call us to love you with all our heart, soul, and mind, yet our devotion is often divided. We give you our leftovers instead of our best.
You call us to love our neighbors as ourselves, yet we withhold compassion, cling to resentment, and place our interests above the needs of others.
When your Spirit moves beyond our expectations, we resist. When love requires sacrifice, we hesitate. When faith calls for courage, we settle for comfort.
Forgive us for the times we have made religion more complicated than discipleship. Forgive us for trading love for judgment, mercy for criticism, and service for self-interest.
Renew us by your grace. Redirect our hearts toward Christ, that love may once again be the center of all we say and do. Amen.
(Let us confess our sins in silence)
Hear the good news. While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the message. God’s grace is not limited by our failures, our fears, or our boundaries. 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, you spoke through Moses, inspired the psalmists, fell upon the household of Cornelius, and revealed truth through Jesus Christ.
Open our ears that we may hear your Word. Open our minds that we may understand. Open our hearts that we may be transformed.
As the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, help us recognize the center that holds all things together: love for God and love for neighbor. May Your Word not simply inform us, but shape us into faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON	Deuteronomy 34: 1-12
PSALTER #809	Psalms 90: 1-6, 13-17
NEW TESTAMENT	Acts 10:44-48
*GOSPEL LESSON	Matthew 22: 34-46

SERMON “The Center Holds”

*HYMN #453 “More Love to Thee, O Christ”
AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
What is the center of our faith?
We believe in the one true God, who has been our dwelling place in every generation.
Whom do we follow?
We follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who teaches us to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.
How does God remain present with us?
Through the Holy Spirit, poured out upon all people, empowering the Church for faithful witness and service.
What is the mission of the Church?
To worship God, make disciples of Jesus Christ, and share God’s love with the world.
What gives us hope?
Christ is the center that holds us together. His love guides our lives, shapes our community, and leads us into God’s future. Thanks be to God.
Amen.

GLORIA PATRI #70 “Glory Be to the Father”

PASTORAL PRAYER
THE LORD’S PRAYER #895
OFFERING
*DOXOLOGY #95 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”
ANTHEM
OFFERING PRAYER
Gracious God, all that we have comes from You. Receive these gifts and use them for the work of Your kingdom, that others may know Your love and grace through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

HYMN #547 “O Church of God, United”

*BENEDICTION
Go forth in the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. Love God and love your neighbor. And may the love of Christ remain the center that holds your life together, now and always.
Amen.
Amen.



Matthew 22:34–46 — “The Center Holds”

When asked to name the greatest commandment, Jesus answers with breathtaking clarity: **Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. Love your neighbor as yourself.** Everything else in Scripture hangs on these two commands.
Jesus refuses to let faith become complicated. He brings us back to the center:

- Love for God that shapes our desires, decisions, and priorities.
- Love for neighbor that mirrors the dignity we desire for ourselves.

This is not sentimental love — it is courageous, costly, and transformative.
The Pharisees wanted a debate. Jesus offered a way of life. Love becomes the measure of holiness, the test of discipleship, and the sign of God’s kingdom.
When Jesus asks his own question about the Messiah, he shows that God’s reign is not built on power or fear but on love that restores, heals, and reconciles.
Where is God inviting you to let love be the center — in your relationships, your decisions, your habits, or your prayers?
Choose one neighbor — someone close, someone difficult, or someone overlooked — and practice one intentional act of love. A prayer. A call. A kindness. A forgiveness. Let love become your witness.

Prayer: Lord, center my life in your love. Teach me to love you fully and my neighbor faithfully. Let everything I do hang on these two commandments. Amen.