

“He who thinks that he is
finished is finished.

How true.

Those who think they have arrived,
have lost their way.

Those who think they have
reached their goal, have missed it.

Those who think they are saints,
are demons.”

Henri Nouwen

Edisto Island

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026
3RD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

PRELUDE "Where'er You Walk"

Handel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT #393 "Spirit of the Living God"

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

"He who thinks that he is finished is finished." Let us come to God as unfinished people, open to being formed and reformed.

We come to the One who calls us from the shoreline, who meets us in our ordinary work and sends us into the world.

Jesus said, "Follow me," and the call still comes to fishermen and to farmers, to students and to elders, to those who are certain and to those who are unsure.

We will leave our nets, our complacency, and our pride, and follow the One who makes us fishers of people.

Come, let us worship the God who is not done with us yet.

Let us worship with humility, hope, and obedience.

***OPENING PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you meet us on the shore of our ordinary days and call us into your extraordinary work. You know how quickly we settle into comfortable rhythms and how easily we imagine we have arrived. Break through our complacency. Give us ears to hear your voice, hands ready to leave the nets, and hearts willing to be shaped by your mercy. Send your Spirit to teach us and correct us, and send us out in love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN #128** "He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

Let us confess together the ways we have pretended to be finished when we are still becoming.

Merciful God, we confess that we have claimed victories that are not yet won. We have measured our faith by appearances, defended our comforts, and judged others while excusing our own faults. We have loved the praise of people more than the refining work of your Spirit. Forgive us for thinking we have arrived and for the harm our pride has caused.

(Let us confess our sins in silence.)

Hear the good news: God's grace is greater than our failures. In Christ we are forgiven, called again, and set free to follow. By the mercy of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven; go and live as one who is being made new.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy God, by your Spirit open our ears to hear, our minds to understand, and our hearts to receive your Word; illuminate these scriptures so that they convict, comfort, and call us into faithful obedience. As the light of Christ breaks into our ordinary days, shape us by what we hear, and send us forth to live what we learn. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 9: 1-4 (Pew Bible OT, p. 600)

THE PSALTER #758

Psalms 27: 1, 4-9

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Corinthians 1: 10-18 (NT, pp. 155, 156)

***GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 4: 12-23 (NT, p. 3)

SERMON "The Unfinished Call"

***HYMN #334 "Lord, You have Come to the Lakeshore"**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in God who calls us into a life of discipleship and formation. We believe in Jesus Christ, who leaves the shore, calls us by name, and shapes us for mission. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who convicts, comforts, and continues the work of sanctifying grace in us. We confess that holiness is a journey, not a finished state, and we commit ourselves to travel together toward the perfection of love. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

GOD'S GIFTS AND OUR TITHES

ANTHEM "Footsteps of Jesus"

***DOXOLOGY #95**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Generous God, you provide the nets, the sea, and the hands that labor. Receive these gifts we bring as signs of our willingness to be shaped and sent. Use them to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and form communities of grace. Keep us from thinking our giving completes us; let it instead be a practice that opens us to your ongoing work in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #571 "Go, Make of All Disciples"**

***SENDING FORTH & BLESSING**

Leave your nets of complacency and follow the One who calls you to love, to serve, and to be made new.

We go now as unfinished people, confident that God is not done with us.

May the grace of God the Father, the love of Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit go with you this week and always. Amen.

Participating in Worship Today:

Steve Strange and Johnelle Mishe

January 18 , 2026:

Worship Attendance: 20 Giving: \$2,000.06

Ann Bond, Lacey Reeves, Mike Wyndham, Kayne Gantt,
Bob Spratlin, Jane Loy, Loved Ones of 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

Tuesday, January 27

Church Council Meeting

Fellowship Hall 10:00am

Sunday, February 8

Fellowship Brunch following the service in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday, February 12

Godwin-Pate Circle Meeting

Fellowship Hall 9:30am Social Time, 10:00am Meeting

Thursday, February 19

1st Lenten Study

Fellowship Hall 2:00pm

CONTACT

INFORMATION

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WIFI Network:

EIUMCguest

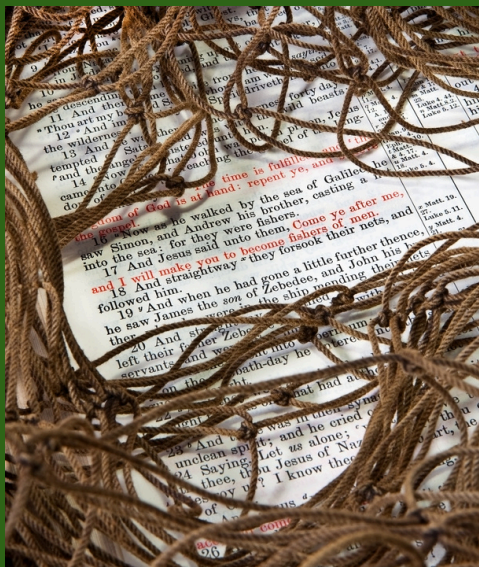
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Good Tide-ings

Edisto Island United Methodist Church

8193 Palmetto Road

3rd Sunday after The Epiphany

January 25, 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY MORNING
WORSHIP SERVICES – 10:00am

MONDAY, JANUARY 26
Nancie's Clothes Closet
10:00am-1:00pm & 2:00pm -5:00pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27
Church Council Meeting
Fellowship Hall 10:00am

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8
Fellowship Brunch
Fellowship Hall
(after service)

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19
1st Lenten Study
Fellowship Hall
2:00pm

Will we see you January 25, 2026 at 10:00 AM?

“The Unfinished Call”

Matthew 4:12–23

This Sunday, we gather around a truth that is both humbling and full of hope: we are unfinished people, and God is not done with us yet.

Henri Nouwen's piercing reminder—“He who thinks that he is finished is finished”—echoes through Matthew's story of Jesus calling fishermen from their boats. The call to “Follow me” is not a graduation certificate; it is an invitation into a lifelong apprenticeship with Christ. Peter and Andrew step away from their nets, not into perfection, but into a journey marked by stumbling, learning, repenting, and being restored.

John Wesley would call this the ongoing work of sanctifying grace—God shaping us, week by week, into people who reflect Christ's love. This shaping happens as we gather again and again, letting the gospel form us. We should attempt to hear the text not as a lecture but as a living experience. Why? It helps us see that Jesus' call is vocational: “I will make you fishers of people.” The making takes time. It takes community. It takes grace.

(continued on page 2)

("The Unfinished Call", continued from page 1)

We live in a world that prizes completion, certainty, and self-sufficiency. But Jesus calls us away from those nets—away from the illusion that we have arrived—and into a community where humility, perseverance, and mutual formation are the way of life.

This Sunday, we will step into that story again.

We will remember that the shoreline is still before us.

We will hear the call that still comes.

We will worship the One who is still forming us.

Whether you are a longtime member, a returning friend, or a seeker wondering where you belong, **this is a Sunday for you.** The unfinished, the curious, the weary, the hopeful—Christ calls all of us.

Come ready to lay down your nets.

Come ready to be shaped.

Come ready to follow again.

Because the good news is this: God is not finished with us—and that is our hope.

We look forward to worshiping with you.

Grace & Peace,

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.*

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

20th: Kayne Gantt

31st: Chip Burnett

**JANUARY
ANNIVERSARIES:**
25th: Al & Kayne Gantt

PRAYER REQUESTS

Lacey Reeves

Mike Wyndham

Kayne Gantt

Bob Spratlin

Jane Loy

Connie Strange

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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www.eiumc.org

Pastor Len:

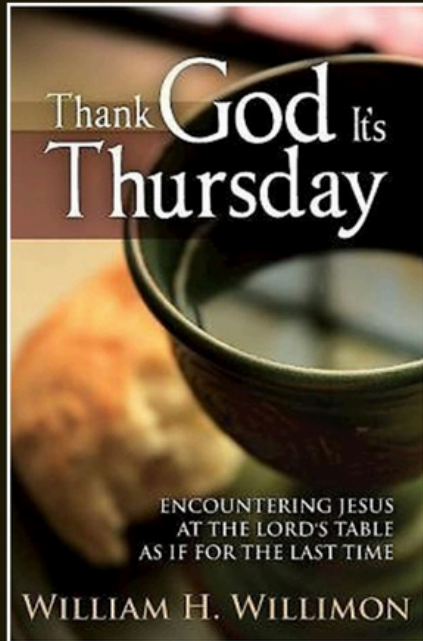
(843) 343-8794

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.

LENTEN STUDY BEGINS FEBRUARY 19

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 begins on Thursday, February 19, 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 the introduction and Chapter One prior to the study.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

IMPORTANT WEATHER REMINDER

Please continue to check your church email for updates regarding church schedule changes due to weather!