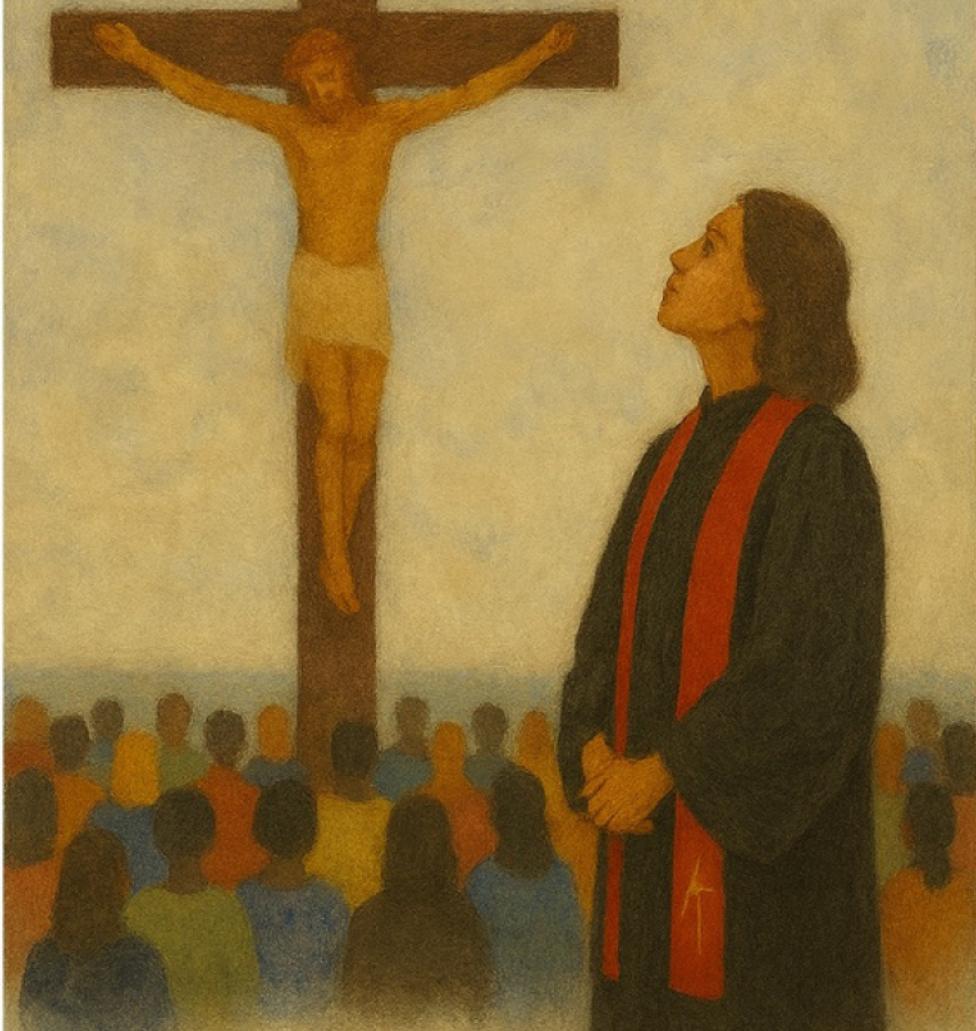


EDISTO ISLAND  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



For the message about  
the cross is foolishness to those  
who are perishing, but to us who  
are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026**  
**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHORAL INTROIT #393**    "Spirit of the Living God"

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

The world calls strength a sign of success.

**But God meets us in our weakness.**

The world prizes the wise, the powerful, the impressive.

**But Christ blesses the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful.**

The message of the cross seems like foolishness to many.

**But to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.**

Come, people of God—

**Let us worship the One who chooses the lowly, lifts up the humble, and blesses the world through love.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Holy God, you turn the wisdom of the world upside down.**

**You bless the poor in spirit and call the meek your children.**

**You reveal your power in the weakness of the cross and your glory in the lives of ordinary people. Open our hearts today to your surprising grace. Strip away our pride, our self-sufficiency, and our need to appear strong. Make us ready to receive your blessing and eager to walk in the way of Jesus—the way of mercy, humility, and peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #166**    "All Praise to Thee, for Though, O King Divine" (v. 1,2,3,5)

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON**

**God of the Cross and the Beatitudes, we confess that we have chased after the world's wisdom. We have admired strength more than compassion, achievement more than obedience, status more than service. We confess that we resist the way of the cross—the way that asks us to trust you, to let go of our pride, to love when it costs us something. Forgive us, Lord. Level our hearts again at the foot of the cross. Shape us into a people who hunger for righteousness, who practice mercy, who make peace, and who follow Jesus with humility and joy. Amen.**

(Let us confess our sins in silence.)

Hear the good news: God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong. God chose what is low and despised to reveal divine love. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**As the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, let the foolishness of the cross become our wisdom and the way of Christ become our way. Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT**

Micah 6: 1-8 (Pew Bible OT, p. 816)

**THE PSALTER #747**

Psalm 15

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

1 Corinthians 1: 18-31 (NT, p. 155, 156)

**\*GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 5: 1-12 (NT, p. 4)

**SERMON**     “The Wisdom of God’s Upside Down Kingdom”

**\*HYMN #451**     “Be Thou My Vision”

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**GOD’S GIFTS AND OUR TITHES**

**ANTHEM**

**\*DOXOLOGY #95**

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Generous God, take these gifts, and take our lives, and use them in ways that may look foolish to the world but reveal the wisdom of your love. Make us a blessing to those who hunger, to those who mourn, to those who long for peace. Amen.

**HOLY COMMUNION #15**

**\*HYMN #568**     “Christ for the World We Sing”

**\*SENDING FORTH & BENEDICTION**

May Christ go before you, the Spirit strengthen you, and the love of God surround you, this day and always. **Amen.**

*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward  
is great in heaven, for in the same way they  
persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

*Matthew 5:12*

**Participating in Worship Today:**  
Steve Strange, Harriett Tindall, and Al & Kayne Gantt

**January 25 , 2026:**

Worship Attendance: 29      Giving: \$2,235.00

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



Prayer Requests



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

**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

**Tuesday, February 17**

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Fellowship Hall 6:00pm

**Thursday, February 19**

1<sup>st</sup> Lenten Study

Fellowship Hall 2:00pm

## 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



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# Good Tide-ings

Edisto Island United Methodist Church  
8193 Palmetto Road

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after The Epiphany  
February 1, 2026

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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SUNDAY MORNING  
WORSHIP SERVICES – 10:00am

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

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17  
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner  
Fellowship Hall  
6:00pm

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19  
1<sup>st</sup> Lenten Study  
Fellowship Hall  
2:00pm

## The Wisdom of God's Upside-Down Kingdom

In worship this week, we will explore two powerful passages: Paul's teaching on the "foolishness of the cross" in 1 Corinthians 1:18–31 and Jesus' Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1–12. Though written in different contexts, these texts share a common message: *God's wisdom does not look like the world's wisdom.*

Paul reminds the Corinthians that God chose what is weak, lowly, and overlooked to reveal divine power. The cross—an instrument of shame—becomes the place where God's love is most clearly seen. Jesus, in the Beatitudes, blesses the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful, and the peacemakers. These are not the people the world celebrates, yet they are the ones through whom God's kingdom shines.

*(continued on page 2)*

*(The Wisdom of God's Upside-Down Kingdom,  
continued from page 1)*

For us on Edisto Island, this message is both comforting and challenging. It comforts us because it tells us that God meets us in our need, not our perfection. It challenges us because it calls us to embody the values of the kingdom—mercy, humility, justice, and peace—in a world that often rewards the opposite.

The good news is that God is already forming us into this kind of community. Every act of kindness, every moment of forgiveness, every effort to make peace is a sign that Christ is at work among us. The wisdom of the cross and the blessings of the Beatitudes are not abstract ideas; they are the shape of our life together.

May we continue to walk in this upside-down wisdom, trusting that God's power is made perfect in our weakness and that Christ's blessing rests on all who seek his way.

Grace and 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.*

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

8<sup>th</sup>: Patsy Ackerman  
25<sup>th</sup>: Lorraine Bonura

**FEBRUARY  
ANNIVERSARIES:**  
1<sup>st</sup>: Scott & Nina Epps

**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

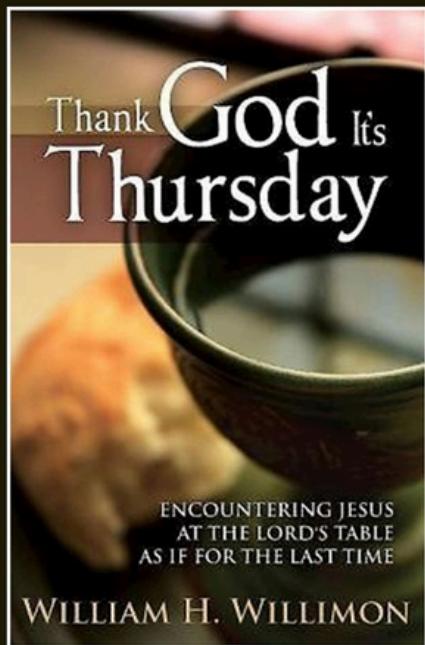
**CONTACT INFORMATION**

(843) 869-3456  
UMCEdisto@yahoo.com  
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

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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.

## IMPORTANT WEATHER REMINDER

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