

MARCH 15, 2026
4th Sunday of Lent

“Can These Bones Live?”



EDISTO ISLAND
United Methodist Church

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026
4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT #349 “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

O mortal, can these bones live?

Only the Lord God knows.

O people, hope in the Lord.

With the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to redeem.

***OPENING PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Living God, you meet us in our waiting, you stand with us in our grief, and you call us toward life even when the tomb feels near. Open our hearts this day to hear your voice, to trust your promise, and to step into the life you offer. Through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life. Amen.

***HYMN #467** “Trust and Obey”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Trusting in the Spirit of God, let us confess our sin.

O Lord, if you held our sin against us, who can live, who could stand? We seem to have more faith in death than hope in your promise of life. We seek peace through war and find security in weapons. We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying, and pursue wealth by making others poor. And even so, you love us; still there is forgiveness with you! Therefore, we worship you; for you alone, O Lord, can save us from death and redeem us from sin. Amen.

(Let us confess our sins in silence.)

O dry bones, here the word of the Lord! If Jesus Christ dwells in you, the Spirit of God will be your life and the grace of God will be your righteousness. And if the Holy Spirit dwells in you, then God, who raised Jesus from the dead, will also give life to your mortal bodies. Friends, this is the good news of the gospel. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

O Lord, we wait for you, and in your Word we trust. By the power of the Holy Spirit, set our hearts and minds on the source of life and peace: Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

THE PSALTER #848

Psalm 130

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 8: 6-11

***GOSPEL LESSON**

John 11: 1-45

SERMON "When God Speaks Life Into What We Thought Was Finished"

***HYMN #420** "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

GOD'S GIFTS AND OUR TITHES

ANTHEM

***DOXOLOGY #95**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Generous God, you have given us life in abundance. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust and gratitude. Use them to bring hope, healing, and new life to this community and beyond. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #261** "Lord of the Dance"

***SENDING FORTH**

May the Lord Jesus Christ, who is resurrection and the life, bless and keep you in this life and the life to come.

Amen.

This morning's flowers are given to the glory of God
by Henry & Harriett Tindall.

Participating in Worship Today:
Steve Strange and Alex Cone

LAST SUNDAY Attendance: 24 Offering: \$1,673.00

Bill Loy, Robyn Tindall, Dylan Rearden, Ann Bond,
Lacey Reeves, Mike Wyndham, Kayne Gantt, Bob
Spratlin, 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, MARCH 17: St. Patrick's Day Dinner Fellowship Hall 6:00p
(Please RSVP by today--March 15--on the signup sheet on the Narthex podium.)

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 19: Lenten Study Fellowship Hall 2:00pm

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 9: Women in Faith/Godwin-Pate Circle Meeting
Fellowship Hall 9:30 Social Time 10:00am Meeting

CONTACT

INFORMATION

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Email: lcripleyiii@umcsc.org

Church Website: EIUMC.org

WIFI Network:

EIUMCguest

Password:

25!Happy

QR Code for Offering
& Donations



OR Text EIUMCGIVE
to 73256



Good Tide-ings

Edisto Island United Methodist Church

8193 Palmetto Road

4th Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY MORNING
WORSHIP SERVICES – 10:00am

MONDAY, MARCH 16
Nancie's Clothes Closet
10:00am-1:00pm & 2:00pm -5:00pm

TUESDAY, MARCH 17
St. Patrick's Day Dinner
Fellowship Hall
6:00pm

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 19
4th Lenten Study
Fellowship Hall
2:00pm

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 9
Women in Faith/
Godwin-Pate Circle Meeting
Fellowship Hall
9:30 Social Time, 10:00 Meeting

“Even Now: When God Speaks Life into What We Thought Was Finished”

Lent is often described as a journey toward Easter—but before we get there, Scripture invites us to linger in places we would rather avoid.

This Sunday, we will listen to two powerful stories that meet us where life feels thin: Ezekiel standing in a valley of dry bones, and Jesus standing at the tomb of his friend Lazarus. Both scenes are honest about death, delay, and disappointment. Neither rushes toward resurrection.

In Ezekiel's vision, God does not deny the dryness of the bones. Instead, God asks a hard question: Can these bones live?

In John's Gospel, Jesus does not arrive in time to prevent death. He arrives after hope seems lost—and still speaks life.

(continued on page 2)

“Even Now: When God Speaks Life into What We Thought Was Finished”

(continued from page 1)

These stories remind us that Lent is not about pretending everything is fine. It is a season for telling the truth about what feels dry, delayed, or sealed shut in our lives. It is also a season for listening—listening for God’s voice that still speaks hope even now.

This Sunday’s sermon will explore what it means to trust God’s life-giving Spirit in the spaces between death and resurrection, and how we are called not only to witness new life, but to help one another live into it—loosening what still binds and making room for grace to breathe again.

If you are carrying questions, weariness, or quiet hope into this Lenten season, you are not alone. Come and listen for the God who is not finished with us yet.

Even now, God is speaking life.

Even now, resurrection is on the way.

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.*

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

Bill Loy
Robyn Tindall
Dylan Rearden
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

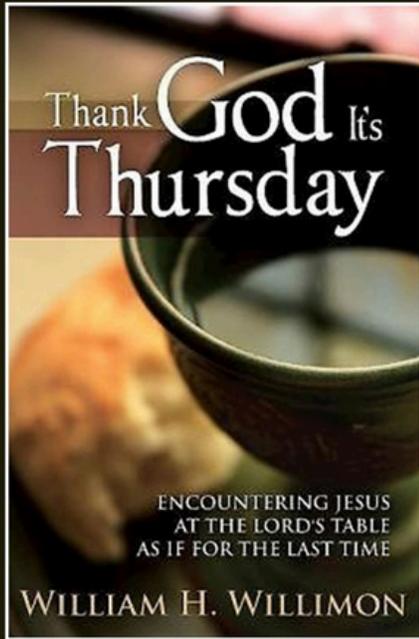
CONTACT INFORMATION

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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 19TH

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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

IMPORTANT CONTACT REMINDER

If using the fellowship hall, sanctuary, or clothes closet, please remember upon leaving to shut off all lights, close and lock all doors securely, and adjust the thermostats. (Thermostats should be set to 60 for heat and 80 for cooling.) This will help us control the church electric bills. Thank you!