

THE SANCTUARY

First Sunday in Lent • February 22, 2026 • 8:45 AM & 11 AM
Please note: the 8:45 AM service will be livestreamed.

GATHERING Sellers

CENTERING “How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place”

**How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord, my God!
How lovely is Your dwelling place, is Your dwelling place, O God!**

Words adapted from Psalm 84, music by Liam Lawton, arr. by Paul A. Tate
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* **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

* **GREETING** Malambri

Leader: Remember the long way that the Lord your God led us the forty years in the wilderness

People: testing us to know what was in our hearts, whether or not we would keep his commandments.

Leader: He humbled us by letting us hunger, then by feeding us with manna,

People: to make us understand that one does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Leader: Therefore, keep the commandments of the Lord your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him.

Adapted from Deuteronomy 8:2-6

* **HYMN** “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” No. 400

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Barber
“The Apostles’ Creed” No. 881

* **GLORIA PATRI** “Glory Be to the Father” No. 71

* **WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION No. 893

PARDON

LITANY OF DIMINISHING LIGHT

Loving God, as we journey through this holy season, open our hearts and minds to your steadfast presence so that you may continue your transforming work in each of us. Make our commitment to your mission even deeper. Protect us when we are tempted. Help us place our complete trust in you. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

SONG OF THE CROSS

“The Way of the Cross Leads Home”

“I must needs go home by the way of the cross. There’s no other way but this. I shall ne’er get sight of the gates of light if the way of the cross I miss. The way of the cross leads home, the way of the cross leads home. It is sweet to know as I onward go, the way of the cross leads home. I must needs to on in the blood-sprinkled way, the path that the Savior trod, if I ever climb to the heights sublime where the soul is at home with God. The way of the cross leads home, the way of the cross leads home. It is sweet to know as I onward go, the way of the cross leads home. Then I bid farewell to the way of the world, to walk in it nevermore. For my Lord says, ‘Come,’ and I seek my home, where He waits at the open door. The way of the cross leads home, the way of the cross leads home. It is sweet to know as I onward go, the way of the cross leads home. The way of the cross leads home, the way of the cross leads home. It is sweet to know as I onward go, the way of the cross leads home.”

Words by Jesse B. Pounds, music by Charles H. Gabriel, arr. by Dennis Allen
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PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

* **HYMN** “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” No. 269

* **GOSPEL LESSON** Matthew 4:1-11

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Famished” Malambri

OFFERTORY “The Power of the Cross” Kelly, Townsend/arr. Larson

* **DOXOLOGY** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” No. 95

* **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Holy God, you are generous to satisfy our hungers, both of body and soul. Help us appreciate the one without neglecting the other, that we may worship and serve you alone. Receive these gifts, a sign of our trust and worship, and put them to use as you will, we ask in name of your Son, our Lord, who shows us the way to life. Amen.

* **HYMN** “Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing” No. 671

* **BENEDICTION**

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE AND RECESSIONAL**

PLEASE remain in place and join in singing.

“Lift High the Cross”

**Lift high the cross,
the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.**

Words by George William Kitchin and Michael Robert Newbolt, music by Sydney Hugo Nicholson, tune CRUCIFER
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* **POSTLUDE** “HOLY MANNA” Moore

** Rise in body or spirit.*

THE HARBOR

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WELCOME Stevens Poirel

OPENING PRAYER

* **SONG** “YAHWEN (No One)”

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

* **SONG** “Love So Great”

LITURGY OF DIMINISHING LIGHT

Loving God, as we journey through this holy season, open our hearts and minds to your steadfast presence so that you may continue your transforming work in each of us. Make our commitment to your mission even deeper. Protect us when we are tempted. Help us place our complete trust in you. Amen.

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

“The Apostles’ Creed”

CELEBRATION OF GIFTS

SONG “God of Wonders”

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 4:1-11

MESSAGE “If you are ...” Stevens Poirel

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

* **SONG** “Lord I Need You”

* **BENEDICTION**

- Sermon Notes -

BELIN MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Stephen Ministry Church

Clergy: Will Malambri, Sandra Stevens Poirel

Ministers: Belin Congregation Minister Emeritus: Harold Lewis

Pastoral Cabinet: Mark Ale, Mike Alexander, Bill Barber, Becky Forrest, Sam Hale, George Howle, Jonathan Nettles, Connie Stinson

Announcements

■ **Deepest sympathy** is extended to Rachel Zaionz, family and friends, following the death of her husband, Chuck Zaionz (Surfside Beach, SC).

■ **Daddy-Daughter Dance** is this Friday, February 27 from 6:30 PM – 9 PM. Tickets are available in the church office, Family Life Center (FLC), and Lee's Inlet Apothecary. Tickets are \$20/couple or \$30 for those bringing more than one daughter or granddaughter. Proceeds support the Guatemala Mission trip. For more information, contact Sherri Henderson (sherrih@belinumc.org; 843.357.5172).

■ **Thursday Morning Lenten Study: "Why Did Jesus Have to Die?"** by Adam Hamilton, begins this Thursday, February 26 at 10 AM in the FLC facilitated by Becky Forrest.

■ **Belin Memorial Ministry Fair** will be Sunday, March 8 from 2 PM until 3:30 PM in the FLC. Discover the many ways to get involved in the life of the church. Areas of service will be represented highlighting opportunities for potential, new, and current members to learn more about what is happening at Belin Memorial to connect and settle in. Contact Mary Mallick for more information (marym@belinumc.org; 843.357.5185).

~~~~ Belin Wednesday Lenten Service Schedule ~~~~

February 25:

Lenten Wednesday Services

Rev. Dr. Kim Strong - "The Heart Can Deceive Us" Jeremiah 17:9-10
(12 NOON in the sanctuary and lunch available after the service)

March 4 Rev. Tony Adams - Little River UMC
March 11 Rev. Emily Kirby - First UMC, Conway
March 18 Rev. Gene Aiken - Trinity UMC, North Myrtle Beach
March 25 Rev. Jonathan Nettles - Belin Memorial UMC Pastoral Cabinet

Dates to Remember

- February 22 MS/HS 5 PM: Belin Youth Group (FLC)
- February 23 11 AM: Diane "Dee" Orr Celebration of Life Service
- February 24 7 AM: Belin Youth Prayer Breakfast (Chick-fil-A)
- February 25 7:45 AM: Man 2 Man (FLC)
- February 25 12 Noon: Lenten Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- February 26 10 AM: Morning Lenten Bible Study (FLC)
- February 27 6:30 PM: Daddy-Daughter Dance (FLC)

In Worship Together

Our Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our Vision: To be a place for you to discover love, find purpose, and make a difference.

Our Journey: To connect, grow, and serve.

You're invited to GIVE
your weekly offerings
by scanning this QR Code.



Worship Attendance 2.15.26

The Sanctuary: 690

The Harbor: 500

Giving Week of 2.15.26

Envelopes/Checks	\$ 43,607
Cash	\$ 1,060
Online Giving	\$ 11,723
Total	\$ 56,390

The Observance of the Lenten Candles "Diminishing Light" of Lent 2026 – "The Heart of the Matter"

Candles serve as one of the most prominent and powerful symbols to represent the presence of God and the working of the Holy Spirit. During Lent, the Christian Church prepares to observe the Lord's passion and resurrection.

Each week as a candle is extinguished and the smoke rises, the light gradually diminishes, drawing us closer to the events that led to Christ's crucifixion when "darkness came over the whole land." (Matthew 27:45, NRSV) While the darkness seems all-consuming at the extinguishing of the last candle, that is not the end of the story. The Observance of the Lenten Candles serves as a sensory reminder of the truth, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5) Every Sunday is The Lord's Day – "a little Easter;" and we are always moving toward "The Light."

Welcome to the Lenten Season as we journey together to Easter Day when we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death.



BELIN MEMORIAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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FIRST SUNDAY
IN
LENT

FEBRUARY 22, 2026



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