

Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday in Easter

April 26, 2026 – 11:00 am



7620 Lanier Drive, Cumming, GA 30041
(770) 887-6801

office@deercreekpreschurch.org
www.deercreekpreschurch.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

** Please stand in body or in spirit*

(**Bold** = unison; **Bold Italics** = sung)

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Andante” by Grieg

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Passante

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hugh Walton, Liturgist

(John 10:11; Rev. 7:17)

Jesus said: I am the good shepherd.

Christ lays down his life for the sheep.

The Lamb of God will be our shepherd;

He will guide us to the water of life.

* **HYMN #475**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Passante

(Psalm 23:1, 3)

Friends, in as much as God is our shepherd, let us not fear, but confess our sin that God may restore our souls.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Passante

Almighty God, you sent Jesus to be our Good Shepherd – to gather us together, to seek us when we are lost, and to guide us into your green pastures. Yet we have wandered from his fold, and have turned away from his hand that offers us the bread and water of Life. Forgive us for seeking out our own places and means of provision, and rejecting the gifts of your Good Shepherd. Help us by your Spirit to trust ourselves fully into his hands, knowing that by him we will be abundantly fed and safely led, to your honor and glory forever.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Passante

(1 Peter 2: 19-25)

Friends, the promise of our faith is that if we entrust ourselves to the One who judges justly, we need not feel threatened, for we will be returned to righteousness. Having been brought back into the safety of God's fold, let us rejoice in the fact that we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

HYMN #581

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Passante

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Passante

ANTHEM

“He Lives!”

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Hugh Walton, Liturgist

Loving God, we pray that your Holy Spirit will strengthen us to be devoted to the teachings of your Word, that through it we may hear your voice and follow it into eternal life. Amen.

PSALM READING

Hugh Walton, Liturgist

Psalm 23

Holy Bible, OT p. 501

**HYMN #735*

I Need Thee Every Hour

(verses 1,2 & 4)

GOSPEL READING

Rev. Passante

John 10: 1-10

Holy Bible, NT p. 103

SERMON

“The Lord Is My Shepherd
But I Still Want”

Rev. Passante

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(adapted from *A Declaration of Faith*)

Jesus was dead and buried, but God raised Him from the dead. The risen Lord appeared to his followers. They recognized Him as their Master who had been crucified.

We are certain that Jesus still lives. He lives as God with us touching all of life with the presence of God. He lives as one of us with God. Because of his humanity and because of his love, we have a friend in God.

We declare that Jesus is Lord. His resurrection is a sure victory over the powers that deform and destroy life. Even though we cannot always see signs of Jesus' love and goodness in our troubled world we know Jesus is our Lord. We do not need to be afraid if we are loyal to Jesus for Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Passante

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

GIVING THANKS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Hugh Walton, Liturgist

Church, our God has prepared a table before us and our cup overflows. So let us give generously from our common wealth, as our way of praising God and giving to those in need.



*To make an offering online, scan this code or
visit www.deercreekpreschurch.org.
Thank you for your support.*

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

HYMN #606

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Hugh Walton, Liturgist

Holy and generous God, you have anointed us and we are yours.
Bless these tithes and offerings that they may become green pastures
and still waters for any and all who need your comfort and
restoration. **Amen.**

LEAVE TO SERVE

*HYMN #803

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Passante

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hymn #765

*May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives
with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us on
our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race. Praying,
let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all; working for
a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

POSTLUDE

IN MINISTRY TODAY – April 26, 2026

Liturgist: Hugh Walton

Greeters: Nancy & Jim Wilson

Counters: Linda Jackson & JoAnn Mulrey

Fellowship: Tims & Oliveira Families

Flowers: In honor of Lamar Bailey

SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, May 3, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter - 11:00am

Rev. Nikki Perrine Passante

Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Sermon: “A Home of Living Stones”

IN MINISTRY – May 3, 2026

Liturgist: Barbara Henry

Greeters: Linda Hardie & Nancy Tims

Counters: Linda Hardie & Rich Wilks

Fellowship: Emily Bouffard & Bailey McKenzie

Flowers: Emily Bouffard & Bailey McKenzie

If you would like to assist in any of the above capacities, please contact the church office or sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

Last Sunday, April 19

In Attendance: 35 Collection: \$7,593.48

Congregational contribution to One Great Hour of Sharing: \$230.00

THE SESSION

Charlotte Dewberry (2026) Jerry Scarborough (2026)

Ron Studd (2027) Linda Jackson (2027)

Barbara Henry (2028) Linda Oliveira (2028)

Nancy Tims, Clerk

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Interim Pastor: Rev. Nikki Perrine Passante
nikki@deercreekpreschurch.org
Church Administrator: Keith Tims
office@deercreekpreschurch.org
Preschool Director: Lauren McNamara
770-888-5101
deercreekpreschool@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN PRAYER

(Please review the prayer list and notify the office of updates.)

Leslie Etherton, George Marks, Loretta Marks, Chantel Druivenga, Sudie LaPlue, Don and Betty Shuman, Jerry and Linda Snowden, Reverend Sid Gunter, Isaac Bucks, Jim Wilson, Bobbye Wright, The family of Jim Byrd, Glenn Simpson, Jackson Jebcoat, Chip Jabaley, Milly Whatley, Brenda Gossett, Sharon Gossett, Penny & Don Irwin

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – SUNDAYS at 10am – Grace Cox Room. Led by Ken Terry. We are currently studying the books of the Bible starting with the Old Testament. Come join us for interesting discussion and learning. All are welcome.

SHADY GROVE RV PARK - Thank you for your monthly contributions! *Items especially needed for May are instant coffee (individual packets), hamburger or tuna helper, canned meat (chicken, beef stew, or chili), small jars of mayonnaise, laundry detergent, and tall kitchen trash bags.* Additional items needed are cleaning supplies such as Spic & Span, multi-surface cleaner, sponges, paper towels, Pine Sol, Palmolive, disinfectant wipes; personal care items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, band aids, Neosporin and Bactine spray. Please leave your donation in the Fellowship Hall by *Sunday, May 3rd*. Questions? Contact Linda Jackson at linda.s.jackson25@gmail.com.

GUEST PREACHERS - Rev. Nikki will be out of the country from May 7th-May 22nd, and will return to worship on May 24th, Pentecost Sunday. Your guest preachers for those Sundays are:
May 10th: Therese Howell - Stated Clerk for Cherokee Presbytery
May 17th: Paulo Mendez - Lead Pastor for Care and Share Ministries, supporting missionaries and children's homes in India, North East Brazil, Cuba, and South Africa. The message for that morning: "Be Prepared for Pentecost"
Please join us on these special Sundays!

MASTER CALENDAR COORDINATION - To ensure smooth coordination of all church events and activities, we kindly ask that all members run their planned activities through the office administrator, Keith Tims. (office@deercreekpreschurch.org) This allows us to maintain a comprehensive master calendar and avoid scheduling conflicts. Please contact Keith with the details of your event prior to making any arrangements. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us stay organized and connected!

NEW MEMBERS CLASSES ARE COMING! - Please e-mail Rev. Nikki if you are interested in joining or have questions. (nikki@deercreekpreschurch.org)

APRIL BIRTHDAYS — Dave Horton (6th), Will Tims (19th), Rich Wilks (24th).

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES – Don & Pat Wagner (26th).

SANCTUARY FLOWERS – Flowers beautify the Sanctuary of our church and are a gift to God and those who attend our worship service. Giving flowers is a lovely way to remember someone or commemorate a special occasion. If you would like to sign up for a date to place flowers in the sanctuary during our service, please see the registration book in the fellowship hall. Thank you for your contribution toward enriching our worship services.

– The Worship Committee

PRAYER REQUESTS & OTHER NEEDS - Please send all prayer requests to office@deercreekpreschurch.org. If you have any need or concern, please do not hesitate to contact any Elder or the church office.

Bulletin announcements due by Noon on Wednesday.
office@deercreekshorespreschurch.org
(770)-887-6801

Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church – Priorities for 2026

1. Increase membership and participation through connecting with and serving those who reside in our community through enhanced community outreach. To include Youth and Preschool.
2. Revitalize the Congregational Care Ministry within our church and congregation.
3. Increase regular opportunities for the congregation to gather outside of worship for fellowship.
4. *Completed.* Create policies including Child Protection, Sexual Harassment, Anti-Racism, as required by the Book of Order.
5. Improve and develop leadership and communication skills for this church.

These four priorities for the life of the congregation in 2025 were identified by the Session at its recent Leadership Retreat. Look out for the important action steps that are being identified towards expressing these priorities. Pray that these priorities and the action steps identified will help lead the congregation forward in its life and witness. Be considering ways you can participate in expressing these priorities.

Membership at Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church

If you are reading this information in our Worship Bulletin, you already belong here at Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church. Here, all are welcome, and membership in the congregation is not required to participate in any of our activities and ministries. By becoming a member, you will have voice and vote in congregational meetings and can better express your commitment to Jesus Christ through this church. Welcoming people as members helps us to get to know them better and to support you more fully – letting all of us stay engaged and grow in faith together. Individuals may join the church by Profession of Faith and Baptism (for those who have never been baptized), by Reaffirmation of Faith (for those who are not currently active members of another Christian church), or by Transfer of Church Letter (for those on the active role of another church.) Contact the office to find out more.



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Cumming, GA 30041**



Welcome to Deer Creek Shores!

We would love to connect with you! Consider signing the Friendship Pad found in the Pews, or checking in digitally this morning so we can follow up with you!

Join us LIVE on Facebook Sunday at 11am.

**Connect and catch up with us at any time on
Facebook and YouTube!**

**facebook.com/Deercreekshorespresbyterianchurch
youtube.com/@deercreekpreschurch**