

# Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church

**Easter Sunday**

**April 5, 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

*Come, Thou Almighty King*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Passante

CALL TO WORSHIP

Nancy Tims, Liturgist

Lord, you left the grave,

**walked in the garden, revealed yourself to Mary, came to your disciples.**

Death could not hold you;

**Evil was overcome, the prince of darkness defeated.**

Generation upon Generation know you never change.

**Jesus, Lord, you are alive! You are alive!**

Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!

**Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! Amen.**

**\* HYMN #248**

***Christ is Risen! Shout Hosannah!***

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Passante

(Ps. 118:19)

God has opened to us the gates of righteousness that we may enter through them. Confident in God's love, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Passante

(Joe Seremane, South Africa)

**Jesus Christ, you asked for our hands that you might use them for your purposes. We gave them for a moment then withdrew them for the work was hard. You asked for our mouths to speak out against injustice. We gave you whispers that we might not be accused. You asked for our eyes to see the pain of poverty. We**

**closed them. You asked for our lives that you might work through us. We gave a small part that we might not get too involved. Lord, forgive our calculated efforts to serve you, only when it is convenient for us to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so. Father, forgive us. Renew us. Send us out as usable instruments that we might take seriously the meaning of your cross. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Passante

(adapted from 1 Peter 1:3-9)

By God's great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through Christ's resurrection from the dead.

**This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.**

We have an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

**This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.**

By God's power we are guarded through faith for a salvation to be revealed at the end of all things.

**This Jesus God raised up and of that we all are witnesses.**

The trials you may suffer are so that your faith may prove itself worthy of all praise, glory, and honor when Christ is revealed.

**This Jesus God raised up and of that we all are witnesses.**

As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls.

**This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.**

\*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

*Rejoice! Jesus Reigns!*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Nancy Tims, Liturgist

Almighty God, by the power of your Spirit roll away the stone and reveal to us the Word of Life. **Amen.**

*\*HYMN #263*

*All Hail the Power of Jesus Name!*

GOSPEL READING

Nancy Tims, Liturgist

John 20: 1-18

*Holy Bible, NT p. 114*

SERMON

“Roll Back the Stone”

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.**

## GIVING THANKS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Nancy Tims, Liturgist

God has given us life in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. In gratitude, let us offer our hearts and the fruit of our labor to God's service.



*To make an offering online, scan this code or visit [www.deercreekpreschurch.org](http://www.deercreekpreschurch.org).*

*Thank you for your support.*

OFFERTORY

*O Lord Most Holy*

\*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

Nancy Tims, Liturgist

Almighty God, by your grace, accept the fruit of our labor and the offering of our lives in union with our risen Lord who lives and reigns with you forever. **Amen.**

## THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Rev. Passante

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Passante

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise...

... Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Rev. Passante

LEAVE TO SERVE

**\*HYMN #268**

***Crown Him with Many Crowns***

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Rev. Passante

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Where Christ walks,

**We will follow.**

Where Christ stumbles,

**We will stop.**

Where Christ cries,

**We will listen.**

Where Christ suffers,

**We will hurt.**

When Christ dies,

**We bow our heads in sorrow.**

When Christ rises again in glory,  
**We will share his endless joy.**  
There is no other way.  
**He is the only Way.**

POSTLUDE

*Christ the Lord is Risen*

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We extend a warm welcome to our guest musician **Tricia Wester**. She is a graduate of UGA in Music Education and played French horn in the Red Coat Band. She is Music Director for the public schools of Forsyth County. She is an accomplished accompanist, playing for the Cumming Chorale, Cumming Playhouse, and Methodist and Baptist Churches. Currently she plays at the Lake Chapel at Bald Ridge during the summer season.

**IN MINISTRY TODAY – April 5, 2026**

*Liturgist:* Nancy Tims

*Greeters:* Linda Hardie

*Counters:* Linda Hardie & Rich Wilks

*Fellowship:* JoAnn Mulray

*Flowers:* Dedicated Easter Lilies

**SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, April 12, 2026**

**Second Sunday of Easter - 11:00am**

**Rev. Nikki Perrine Passante**

*Reading:* John 20: 19-31

*Sermon:* “Doubting Thomas”

**IN MINISTRY – April 12, 2026**

*Liturgist:* Linda Hardie

*Greeters:* Gail & Mel Smith

*Counters:* Barbara Henry & Mel Smith

*Fellowship:* OPEN

*Flowers:* OPEN

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, March 29

In Attendance: 49    Collection: \$2,450

**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, Harriette Cady, 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

**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.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** will meet on Thursday, April 9, at 10:30 a.m. in the church Fellowship Hall. The study for this month is lesson 9 of our study guide, "When You are Walking with Jesus: The Road to Emmaus". All women are invited to attend. Susan Jones will be hostess, and those attending are invited to bring a sandwich to share. (The coordinating team will meet at 9:45, prior to the study session). Please contact Linda Hardie for any further information.

**SHADY GROVE RV PARK** - Thank you for your monthly contributions! *Items especially needed for April are instant coffee (individual packets), hamburger or tuna helper, canned meat (chicken, beef stew, or chili), canned vegetables, and toilet paper.* Additional items needed are cleaning supplies such as Spic & Span, multi-surface cleaner, sponges, paper towels, Pine Sol, Palmolive, laundry detergent, disinfectant wipes, tall trash bags; personal care items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, band aids, Neosporin and Bactine spray. Please leave your donation in the Fellowship Hall by *Sunday, April 5th*. Questions? Contact Linda Jackson at [linda.s.jackson25@gmail.com](mailto:linda.s.jackson25@gmail.com).

**TREAT THE TROOPS - THURSDAY, APRIL 16th** - Please join us at the VFW Post at 1045 Dahlonga Highway to pack for Treat the Troops. Plan to arrive around 6:40 pm so that you are ready to start packing at 7:00 pm. The event usually lasts about an hour and we ask that you wear your Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church name tag. If you would like to contribute homemade cookies, please bring those to the church on **April 12th**. Store bought cookies are not acceptable. Homemade cookies should be packaged in a fold top plastic bag, six cookies per bag, and closed with a twist tie or yarn. If using a zip lock bag, do not zip the top but do close it with a twist tie or yarn. **Other snack items needed are microwave popcorn, lunch size bags of chips, powdered drink mix for a single bottle of water, Slim Jims, small bags of trail mix, Lance crackers, and small cans of Pringles.** Donations should be placed in the Treat the Troops box in the Fellowship Hall by **Sunday, April 12th**. Questions? Contact Linda Jackson at [linda.s.jackson25@gmail.com](mailto:linda.s.jackson25@gmail.com) or Nancy Tims at [teachtims@gmail.com](mailto:teachtims@gmail.com).

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS** — Dave Horton (6<sup>th</sup>), Will Tims (19<sup>th</sup>), Rich Wilks (24<sup>th</sup>).

**APRIL ANNIVERSARIES** – Don & Pat Wagner (26<sup>th</sup>).

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**Join us LIVE on Facebook Sunday at 11am.**

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

**[facebook.com/Deercreekshorespresbyterianchurch](https://facebook.com/Deercreekshorespresbyterianchurch)  
[youtube.com/@deercreekpreschurch](https://youtube.com/@deercreekpreschurch)**

## **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.*



[www.deercreekpreschurch.org](http://www.deercreekpreschurch.org)

**7620 Lanier Dr  
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!***



HELLO DEER CREEK FAMILIES,  
APRIL IS HERE, AND WE ARE SOAKING UP ALL THE SWEET MOMENTS THIS SPRING SEASON IS BRINGING! WE KICKED OFF THE MONTH WITH A VERY SUCCESSFUL EASTER CELEBRATION ON APRIL 1ST. IT TRULY WAS SUCH A FUN AND SPECIAL DAY FOR OUR SCHOOL FAMILY!

#### APRIL HAPPENINGS

SPRING BREAK | APRIL 6-10

WE HOPE YOUR FAMILIES ENJOY A RESTFUL AND REFRESHING BREAK!

SCHOLASTIC BOGO BOOK FAIR | APRIL 20-23

WE ARE SO EXCITED TO HOST OUR BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE BOOK FAIR! THIS IS SUCH A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO STOCK UP ON BOOKS FOR YOUR LITTLE ONES WHILE ENCOURAGING A LOVE FOR READING.

STRAWBERRY PICKING FIELD TRIP | APRIL 22

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A FUN DAY AT THE FARM PICKING STRAWBERRIES! MORE DETAILS WILL BE SHARED WITH PARTICIPATING FAMILIES.

#### LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY

OUR PRE-K STUDENTS ARE BEGINNING TO PREPARE AND PRACTICE FOR THEIR UPCOMING GRADUATION AND PRE-K PROM IN MAY. THIS IS ALWAYS SUCH A SPECIAL TIME AS WE CELEBRATE HOW MUCH THEY'VE GROWN THIS YEAR-WE CANNOT WAIT!

#### ENROLLMENT UPDATE

WE ARE CONTINUING TO ACCEPT REGISTRATION FOR THE 2026-2027 PRESCHOOL YEAR. IF YOU KNOW A FAMILY LOOKING FOR A LOVING, FAITH-BASED PRESCHOOL, WE WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO SHARE ABOUT DEER CREEK!

THANK YOU FOR BEING SUCH A SPECIAL PART OF OUR PRESCHOOL FAMILY. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A BEAUTIFUL MONTH FILLED WITH LEARNING, LAUGHTER, AND LOTS OF SPRINGTIME FUN!

