

WEEKLY STATISTICS

<u>Statistics</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Budget Received</u>
<i>Weekly Budget Requirements 2026:</i>			<i>\$6,462.00</i>
04/05/2026	58	127	\$7,372.00
04/12/2026	55	91	\$6,226.00
04/19/2026	63	91	\$3,500.00
04/26/2026	55	97	\$3,929.00

VBS 2026—Rome: Paul and the Underground Church

Help us bring Ancient Rome to life this summer! Volunteer registration for VBS 2026 is now open, and we need helpers of ALL ages to create our Roman marketplace! Whether you enjoy crafting, working with herbs and plants, woodworking, gaming, or any of our other activities, you will find as much fun and adventure in this VBS week as the kids who attend will. Sign up in the sanctuary foyer or office lobby or contact Jessica Garvin for more information. VBS will take place from **May 31 - June 4th**, from **5:30 PM - 8:00 PM**.

WANT TO PLAY THE BASS GUITAR?

Have you ever thought about playing the bass guitar. If so, we have good news for you. Our own resident bassist, Jerry Bloch, will be offering introductory lessons on the bass here at the church for one hour on 6/3, 6/10, 6/17, and 6/24 beginning at 9:00am. There is a limit of 5 people. If interested, please see Jerry Bloch, Pastor Kevin, or call the church office.



West Hartsville Baptist Church Staff

Dr. Kevin Walters, **Pastor**
Sarah Roberts, **Worship Leader**
Deb Hall, **Pianist**
Jessica Garvin, **Director of Children**
Lori Norton, **Ministry Assistant**
Tracie Brown, **Financial Secretary**
Ronald Brockington, **Custodian**



WEST HARTSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
1003 W CAROLINA AVE
HARTSVILLE, SC 29550
PHONE # 843-332-6221 ~ FAX # 843-878-9870
WWW.WESTHARTSVILLE.ORG

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE SPIRIT

The Mission of WHBC is to live by Faith, be a voice of Hope, and be known by Love...1 Corinthians 13:13

“The Purpose of History”

Several years ago, our Young at Heart group visited The Magnolia Plantation in Charleston. I have always enjoyed the preservation of history, and this trip was no different. It is an awesome experience to stand near a mighty oak tree and wonder what it must have been like to witness the British garrisons gathering before they attacked Charleston, the horror of Sherman’s troops marching through burning and pillaging everything in sight, and the joy of families celebrating life for many generations. We are indeed fortunate to be living so close to history.

Therefore, on the way home, I was noticing all the old churches that we passed along the way. They, too, bear a manifold witness to our history. Some of these churches date back long before the Civil War, and they too have celebrated life for many generations. Sadly, however, many of these churches are merely a shell of what they once were. Whereas they were once wonderful houses of God with a sparkling reputation in the community, now, they simply long for glories past, proud of their historicity, but neglecting their purpose.

What is the church’s purpose, but to be the heart of Jesus to our community? Our purpose is to live as disciples of Christ and make disciples for Christ, thereby obeying the mission He has given the church and His disciples, and also bringing glory to God, not our history. We need to be less like the “historical” church and more like Jesus, our Messiah. Otherwise, we fail to live out our purpose as Christians and we fail to live out our mission and our purpose as a church. This means building relationships with the ones living in this generation, those in our communities who are very young and naïve spiritually, or those who are unsaved and unchurched.

There are many old, historical churches in our nation who have closed their doors and sold off their property because they clung to their traditional roots, rested on their past laurels, and boasted in their historical value. Make no mistake, even the world respects the church for its historical value, but not for its purpose. The “little white church on the hill” is the image the world loves to see, not the one of a thriving church that is transforming the community by making disciples for Christ. The church of the present and the future must be the church who is willing to restructure itself, painful as that may be, and funnel its resources to living out its purpose. There is no other way. Jesus Christ founded the church to accomplish the mission of spreading the gospel to the world by making

disciples, baptizing in His name, and teaching people everything He commanded.

I ask that you be in deep and thoughtful prayer concerning how we, being West Hartsville Baptist Church, can live out our purpose for Jesus. Will it be a painful process? Yes, at first. Will it be exciting and rewarding to us spiritually? Yes, indeed! Will it glorify God? Absolutely!!

In the name of Jesus,



THURSDAY NIGHT WORSHIP

Join us in the old sanctuary every Thursday night at **7:00 pm** for *“The Well.”* In the Bible, wells represent a variety of concepts such as life and spiritual refreshment. They are often depicted as places where people gather, dive into God’s Word and experience a rejuvenation of faith together. This is exactly what we are praying will happen at this service. The worship is glorifying to God, the setting is unique, and the experience is meaningful. For more information, see Pastor Kevin.

HARTSVILLE COMMUNITY CHORUS

On **Saturday night, May 2nd** at 7:00 pm, the Hartsville Community Chorus will be performing a “Gospel and Spiritual” concert conducted by Dr. James Beaumier and accompanied by the Long Bay Symphony. The concert is free, but donations are greatly appreciated. For more information, please see Pastor Kevin or Sarah Roberts.

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP

On **May 4th, at 6:00 pm** all men are invited for a time of good food and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall. Come, enjoy, and bring a friend. For more information, please see Eric Hayes.

WOMENS MINISTRY

Ladies, mark your calendars for Tuesday, **May 12** at 11am as we continue exploring the lives and experiences of some of the women God called to help shape history and hopefully gain a better understanding of their struggles, sacrifices and accomplishments. This coming month, we will be learning about The Samaritan Woman. We'd love to see you there. Please see CaraLee Henley for more information.

LOCAL MISSIONS

We are asking for Donations for Durant Center for Children through **May**. Supply list and donation boxes are located in the front entrance and in the hallway near the office. Some examples needed: individual snacks, water bottles, Clorox wipes, hand sanitizer, boxes of Kleenex, paper towels, toilet tissue) . If you have questions, contact Judy Armstrong.

HARTSVILLE SOUP KITCHEN MINISTRY

Thursday, May 15th

9:00 AM-12:00 PM to volunteer for 6 slots that are available each month.

Please sign up in the Church Office.

BBQ FUNDRAISER

On **Thursday, May 7th from 11:00am-7:00pm**, we will have a BBQ fundraiser benefitting our children as they go to camp this summer. BBQ will be available by the plate or by the pound (Hot or Frozen) for only \$12. You can purchase tickets from a student or in the church office, but walk-ups are always welcome. Delivery is available for orders of 10 or more. **We need volunteers to make pound cakes.** For more information, please see Pastor Kevin, Jessica Garvin, Lane Lewis, or call the church office.