

Open Hearts

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2703 Augusta Street
Greenville, SC 29605



Ministry Newsletter

April 2024

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN MINDS

OPEN DOORS

Beloved Church,

This Lenten season I introduced a new sermon series, called “A Walk with the Gardener”, to help us more deeply understand the resurrection story that decentralizes our individual sin and centralizes the goodness of God. We have watched the garden arrangement at the altar bloom and grow as a reminder that God can turn graves into gardens, and our sorrow into joy. I invite you to join us this Easter to hear the resurrection story in a way that connects our living, dying, and being raised to walk with God the Gardener once again in paradise.

Your ministry partner,
Rev Karen Jones
Lead Pastor



Jane Johnson decorates the altar to bloom throughout Lent.
Join us on Easter to see it in full bloom.

Holy Week:

Palm Sunday: March 24 at 10:40 am. Youth and children with their parents can participate by meeting in the Narthex to receive palms and then walk down the aisle during the opening hymn.

Maundy Thursday: March 28 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Good Friday: Prayer Vigil on Friday March 29 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm (drop-in) in the Sanctuary.

Easter Sunday, March 31

CommUNITY Coffee
9:45 am in Trinity Hall
Refreshments, crafts, and fellowship for all ages

Easter Worship
11:00 am Sanctuary
Participate in flowering the cross by bringing flowers to worship.

“Can You Speak Another Language?”

In preparation for Pentecost Sunday on May 19th we are looking for people who are able to speak a foreign language and would be willing to read Acts 2:1-11 in that language during worship. Please contact Rev. Karen Jones if you are interested in participating.

SPOTLIGHT

Creating a Community of Care and Prevention

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Since 2007, churches in the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church have sought to provide and implement Safe Sanctuary practices for the protection of children, youth, vulnerable adults and volunteers. The UMC requires each church to be Safe Sanctuary certified. Each local church must maintain a Safe Sanctuary policy and review it annually.

Open Hearts UMC will host our first Safe Sanctuary training on April 14th at 12:15 in Trinity Hall following morning worship. Congregants who volunteer with children, youth and vulnerable adults are required to participate in Safe Sanctuary training, but everyone in the congregation is encouraged to attend. Your participation in this training shows a commitment to having open hearts for victims and proactively providing a safe environment for everyone to grow their faith.

If you are unable to attend on this date, please contact Sarah Moseley to discuss alternate options to procure this training.

Please register ahead of time [Here](#)

SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING

Sunday, April 14th

12:15pm-1:30pm
Trinity Hall



April is also a perfect time to help the Julie Valentine Center (JVC) support child abuse and sexual assault survivors. During the month of April, Open Hearts would like to collect the following for JVC:

- New T-shirts, lightweight pants, shorts, socks and women's underwear in sizes from small to 3X for those who go to the hospital and have their clothes taken as evidence. Choose loose and comfortable items.
- Individually wrapped snacks (pretzels, goldfish crackers, graham cracker cookies, fruit chews, baked chips, candy, cookies, chewy granola bars, nutritious bars, trail mix, etc.)
- Juice boxes, bottled water
- Hygiene supplies (small bars of soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes)

You can place items in the large barrels at the Narthex and Welcome Center entrances.

[Click Here](#) to learn more about the work of the JVC in our community.



LOOKING AHEAD

SALKEHATCHIE SUMMER SERVICE

Salkehatchie Summer Service is a United Methodist Church servant ministry throughout locations in South Carolina where youth (ages 14 & up) and adults come together to serve the community. For a whole week, these volunteers work on homes within the community that need



improvement. These projects include painting walls, repairing leaky roofs, repairing broken windows and doors, rebuilding bathrooms, rebuilding porches, stabilizing floors and walls, and more. Each summer over 200 families in South Carolina are served by volunteers across the state to bring life-changing improvements to their homes.

This year we hope to send a group of youth and adults from Open Hearts to the Newberry Salkehatchie camp, July 14th–19th. If you are interested in learning more about Salkehatchie and attending camp with us, join us for an informational meeting on March 24th at 9:45 am in Trinity Hall. Coffee will be provided. We'd love to have you join us to learn more about this opportunity.

FIFTH SUNDAY commUNITY COFFEE

Join us each 5th Sunday for coffee and snacks in Trinity Hall in lieu of Sunday school. There will be crafts available for children during this time of churchwide fellowship.



Our first 5th Sunday falls on Easter Sunday and we hope to see you there! (Please note, some Sunday school classes may choose to continue with regularly scheduled meetings during this time.)



On Saturday, March 30th, we will host a Community Easter Egg Hunt. Below is the link to sign up to volunteer the day of the event. In

addition to helping the day of the egg hunt, we are aiming to have 5,000 pre-stuffed eggs for the event. \$150 covers the cost of 1,000 eggs. If you would like to donate towards purchasing eggs, please use cash or check and mark "Easter Egg donation" and drop in the offering plate or in the church during office hours.

We are still in need of several volunteers for March 30th. If you have any questions or for any more information, contact Sarah Moseley at sarah.moseley@openheartsumcsc.org.

Sign-Up to volunteer

WOMEN'S MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

This spring, the women of Open Hearts UMC are focusing on friendship. Join us for any (or all!) of these events as we grow in friendship with one another and with Christ.

First Friday Coffee

10 a.m. on April 5th, and May 3rd

Inspire Coffee (1433 Cleveland Street, Greenville)

Open Hearts women—and their friends—are invited to drop by Inspire Coffee to connect and grab a drink together. No RSVP or commitment is required!

Women's Bible Study

The Belonging Project- Finding Your Tribe and Learning to Thrive

10 to 11:30 a.m. Mondays, April 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th

Room C10 (The TAG Room)

Dottie Pittman and Jane Johnson will lead this four-week Bible study by Amberly Neese. The study provides biblical and practical help for cultivating meaningful relationships that glorify God through an exploration of four "one another" sayings in the New Testament:

- Love one another
- Serve one another
- Build up and strengthen one another
- Forgive one another

Participants are responsible for purchasing their own study guide, which is available on Amazon for \$10.97 [Link](#). The study is open to all, including nonmembers and friends. Please RSVP to Sarah Moseley at sarah.moseley@openheartsumcsc.org by March 25th.

Email sarah.moseley@openheartsumcsc.org with questions about any of these activities.

Upcoming nominations, please share your interests

The Leadership Team will be meeting for a retreat on April 13th and will complete nominations for unfilled committee and team roles. If you have

not already expressed your interest through the "Invitation to Stewardship" form that circulated in February, please fill out this electronic form or the paper form found near the Sanctuary exits by April 7th.



UMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Open Hearts UMC members, we have a wonderful opportunity to participate in the United Methodist Annual Conference, which will be held at the Greenville Convention Center June 9–12.

Pastor Karen is on the Annual Conference committee and would be delighted to have representation from OHUMC there. Because we are not a chartered church, we do not have delegates to vote on Annual Conference business, so helping with greeting, ushering, registration, set up and break down, and driving guests from the parking lot to the convention center will allow us to participate and be present while offering a very helpful service. Click here to: [Sign-Up](#)

Open Hearts UMC has the support of the Annual Conference, its clergy and laity who are rooting for us from all across South Carolina, Congregational Development, and the Greenville District. This is our chance to return that support. If you have questions, email Pastor Karen at karen.jones@openheartsumcsc.org

LOOKING BACK



AFFIRMING TRIUNE MERCY CENTER STAFF

On March 12th, Pastor Karen, Sarah Moseley, and a group of Open Hearts members had the privilege of providing lunch for the Triune Mercy Center staff. They graciously invited us to share a meal with them and to stay for their staff meeting. Highlights included Sandy MacMillan's uplifting devotional and hearing Triune staff members read aloud the notes our congregation wrote so everyone could share the messages. Thanks to all in our congregation who participated by your presence, your providing items for the meal, and your thoughtful notes and lovely artwork. The Triune staff was deeply touched by your efforts.



BAPTISM

Open Hearts UMC celebrated the baptism of Scarlett Chambers on Sunday, March 10, 2024.



WOMEN'S DINNER

We had a great turn-out for our most recent women's event. Thirty women from Open Hearts met for dinner at CityRange to get to know one another and enjoy food and fellowship together. We look forward to our next get together!



REMINDER

Summaries from the February and March Leadership Team meeting are posted on the upstairs and downstairs bulletin boards. They are also available in Realm:

1. Open the Realm Connect App.
2. From the menu, choose Groups, Open Hearts United Methodist Church.
3. In the menu across the top, choose Files.
4. A pdf of the summaries is listed there to open and read.

To ensure transparency of information at Open Hearts UMC, these summaries will be available in these locations after each Leadership Team meeting.

Remember to check our Amazon wishlist to support our church needs as we grow!



Website : openheartsumcsc.org



Open Hearts United Methodist Church | 2703 Augusta Street, Greenville, SC 29605

[Unsubscribe communications@openheartsumcsc.org](mailto:Unsubscribe_communications@openheartsumcsc.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by communications@openheartsumcsc.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!

