

Open Hearts

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2703 Augusta Street
Greenville, SC 29605



Ministry Newsletter

May 2024

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN MINDS

OPEN DOORS

Beloved church,

We celebrate the goodness of God this Easter season and give thanks for all things that God has planted and nurtured through Open Hearts UMC. Below you will find our Celebration of Stewardship quarterly report that shares just a few ways in which we have been faithful disciples in January, February and March. And may this be an invitation for you to join us in God's great work here in this next quarter.

Your ministry partner,
Rev Karen Jones
Lead Pastor

Open Hearts UMC Celebrating Stewardship

Jan-Mar 2024



Prayers

Over 100 prayer requests received and lifted up.
75 cards mailed to people on our prayer list.
11 care packages sent to our college students.
43 cards of support and thanks given to Triune Mercy Center staff.
7 people attended the Good Friday Prayer Vigil.



Presence

73 people observed Ash Wednesday at either the drop-in or service.
80 children, youth, and adults enjoyed the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.
30 women attended the February Women's Ministry Dinner.
232 worshippers attended Easter and 64 worshippers attended Maundy Thursday.
On an average Sunday, we have present 101 disciples in Sunday School,
152 in-person worshippers, and 60 online worshippers.



Gifts

\$900 in missional giving from Sunday School classes.
\$216,983.51 in tithes, gifts, and offerings given to God through Open Hearts UMC.
\$50,405 given to United Methodist Committee on Relief through Open Hearts UMC.
282 hours from volunteers who shared their gifts for our music ministry.



Service

88 service hours in audio/visual ministry for worship.
363 hours from volunteers serving on our Property Committee.
19 children, youth, and adult members served with Greenville Church Without Walls at the MLK Celebration.
10 Easter baskets for homebound members made by our new adult Sunday School class, and 20 volunteers from ages 13 to 70 helped with our Easter Egg Hunt.



Witness

Approximately 134 people in attendance at our Community Easter Egg Hunt.
Up to 45 lives saved with 15 units of blood donated through The Blood Connection.
Our digital witness includes 727 unique visitors on our newly launched website, and over 8,700 people reached on Facebook.
11 volunteers supported the townhall meeting for CDC parents and staff with food, childcare, and hospitality.

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At Open Hearts United Methodist Church, stewardship is discipleship. When you give to God your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, you live into the call of being a disciple of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This Celebration of Stewardship quarterly report allows us to celebrate the fruits of our shared ministry and labor, and it is a doxology by giving God all the glory and praise for using us in the building of the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. Below are stories of growth and transformation that we also celebrate from this quarter.

- *We give thanks to God for our growth and ability to bring on two new staff members this quarter. We welcomed Dr. Elliott Smith as our organist and Jana Clack as our Director of Operations. Our church is blessed to benefit from their gifts in ministry.*
- *Membership continues to gradually increase. We celebrated one baptism this quarter. We are seeing new visitors each week and many visitors are returning on a regular basis. To become a member or check your membership status, please contact the church office or complete the membership form located at the sanctuary entrances. If you are interested in getting your child baptized, please reach out to Rev. Karen Jones.*

- *Elisabeth Rebernak, age 3, had her faith shaped by volunteer teachers and friends at Open Hearts. She recently learned about Zacchaeus in Sunday School. She can proudly tell the story about how he took people's money. Then he met Jesus and gave it all back and more. She also attended Scarlett Chambers' baptism ceremony, which sparked curiosity and good conversations about what it means to be baptized. – Katy Rebernak*
- *The CARES and SHARES teams coordinated efforts to support our ministry partner Triune Mercy Center by providing them with a hot lunch, a devotion, a poster made by our children's ministry, and a delivery of 43 handwritten cards from the congregation. "I can't believe y'all went to all this trouble for us," was the comment we heard several times from the staff. During what they described as a "tough year" it was a blessing to offer encouragement to these folks who encourage and support many people in need! – Sandy MacMillan.*

SPOTLIGHT



Boy Scout Troop 9 Annual Chicken Dinner Fundraiser Sunday, May 5

Grab a chicken dinner to support the Boy Scouts, and join us in Trinity Hall after the service to enjoy a delicious meal and a time of fellowship together. Tickets are available for \$12.00 per dinner. They can

be purchased this Sunday (4/28) before or after worship or Monday (4/29) and Tuesday (4/30) in the church office during church office hours.

UPDATES

Facility Changes

We have made changes to our facilities to make them more accessible and inclusive to our entire church family. You will notice that the two bathrooms on C-Hall are now for both men and women. This makes the larger restroom available for both men and women who utilize walkers. It also provides room for a diaper changing station that both mothers and fathers can use. In addition, both the men's and women's restrooms under the Narthex (at the end of Trinity Hall), are now also equipped with diaper changing stations. In addition to these



improvements:

- We added a rail to the chancel area so the choir and other worship servants can safely ascend the chancel steps.
- We added new non-slip rugs throughout the building, especially in potentially hazardous areas.
- We added designated visitor parking spots in our parking lot by the front of the sanctuary near the Narthex.

Thank you to the Trustees and Property team for their diligent work to improve our church home!

LOOKING AHEAD



Women's Ministry Dinner

We had a great time at our first women's dinner, and we're excited to get together again! Our women's ministry invites you to join us for dinner at *Portofino's* on Tuesday, April 30th at 6:00 pm. Please RSVP by noon on Monday April 29th, at the latest, so that we may have an accurate headcount for the restaurant. All women (OHUMC women and non-members) are welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

[Register here](#)

First Friday Coffee

10 a.m. on 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!



Calling All Graduates

Join us this May as we recognize and celebrate high school, technical school, undergraduate and graduate level students who completed programs in December 2023 or will in May 2024. Submit your graduate's information [here](#).



Blood Drive

The Blood Connection will be at Open Hearts UMC on **Sunday, May 5th** from 10 am – 2 pm. You can sign up online or just pop in before or after worship. All donors will receive a grilled chicken dinner prepared by Scout Troop 9 in addition to \$40 in TBC eGift reward points. Each donation saves up to three lives!

[Pre-Register here](#)

Safe Sanctuary Training – Virtual

Wednesday, May 8, 2024
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Online

Since 2007, churches in the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church have sought to provide and implement Safe Sanctuaries practices for the protection of children, youth, vulnerable adults and volunteers. Each local church must maintain a Safe Sanctuary policy and review it annually.



Our first churchwide Safe Sanctuary training was a huge success! We had 60 folks in attendance. Open Hearts UMC will host a virtual training via Zoom on Wednesday, May 8th at 6:30pm until 7:45pm. All congregants are encouraged to attend.

Congregants who volunteer with children, youth and vulnerable adult ministries are required to participate in Safe Sanctuary trainings in order to continue volunteering.

If you are unable to attend this date, please contact Sarah Moseley to discuss alternate options to procure this training. (sarah.moseley@openheartsumcsc.org)

[Register here](#)

Registrants can bring named guests.

**Epworth Children's Home Annual
Mother's Day Offering**

Sunday, May 12th, Mother's Day –

In preparation for the Epworth Mother's Day Offering, we will welcome Rev. Kathy James, Director of Church Relations at Epworth to Open Hearts UMC on May 5th. She will lead the new adult Sunday School class that morning in room D04 and will be introduced to the congregation in worship.



Did you Know?

- 151 children lived at Epworth last year, each one from our own communities in SC.
- 313 children are currently served through Epworth's Foster Care Program
- 100% of your Mother's Day Offering provides comprehensive care for the children at Epworth. Epworth is not an apportioned item in the Annual Conference budget. Mother's Day is your opportunity to support Epworth's ministry, Give generously and Happy Mother's Day!

REMINDERS

Julie Valentine Center Support

We continue to collect donations through April to help the Julie Valentine Center (JVC) support child abuse and sexual assault survivors. The following items are requested:

- 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, teddy grahams, fruit chews, baked chips, candy, cookies, chewy granola bars, kind 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.



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 this will allow us to participate and be present while offering a very helpful service by helping with greeting, ushering, registration, set up and break down, and driving guests from the parking lot to the convention center. 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

Salkehatchie Summer Service–July 14–19

We continue our planning to send a group of youth (age 14 and up) and adults to Newberry Salkehatchie camp, July 14th – 19th. During this week, volunteers will work on homes in the community in need of improvement. Please speak to Sarah Moseley if you would like to attend or support this mission in some other way. We currently have three youth and one adult registered and registrations are still open.



Leadership Team

Summaries from the 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.

LOOKING BACK

Baptism

Open Hearts UMC celebrated the baptism of Elizabeth Kemp Reid on Sunday, April 7, 2024. On the same day her mother, Harley Reid, joined our church.



Easter Egg Hunt



It was a beautiful day for our Community Easter Egg Hunt. Over 130 attended and enjoyed a large egg hunt as well as crafts and snacks. Thank you to the over 20 volunteers who made this event a big success!

Easter Sunday

The weather was beautiful and the church was full as we came together to celebrate Jesus's resurrection with the promise that we too will be resurrected with him and be restored to God's Eternal Kingdom.



Remember to check our Amazon wishlist to support our church needs as we grow! There are items added all the time!



Website : openheartsumcsc.org



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