



Ministry Newsletter

August 2024

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN MINDS

OPEN DOORS

Dear Beloved Church,

On June 30th we had a wonderful time together celebrating our first birthday as a church! Thank you to everyone who made the event so special. If you were unable to join us in person, you can view our worship service from that day here.

[Click here](#)

With one year behind us, we now take the time to look ahead at what the next year may look like for us with the same joy and expectation we had in our first year.

Transitioning our Committees

We have a Leadership Team made up of 11 laity and myself. We have met at least two hours every month since our inception. I commend the commitment of this team, the trust they built, and their contributions that allowed the church to thrive in our first year. Their last charge is to create a Vision Statement for the new governing body. The Nominations and Leadership Development Committee is currently working to fill all administrative and ministry committees using the Book of Discipline requirements and suggestions. Once these committees and roles are filled, and the Leadership Team delivers our Vision Statement, we will dissolve the Leadership Team so that the new governing structure can assume responsibilities. We give thanks for all that the Leadership Team has done to help us start and nurture this new church plant.

Chartering Goals

As a new church start, we are a ministry of the SC Annual Conference of the UMC under Congregational Development. We are not our own chartered church or legal entity. This has presented some challenges for us. Though none have been too overwhelming, there have been challenges, nonetheless. As a new church start, we also receive generous financial support from different offices of the Annual Conference. Typically, a new church is given five years to wean off conference financial support. Then the congregation is given another two years before it is asked for any apportionment payments. We have been incredibly blessed by the generosity of our membership and friends at OHUMC. You can see from our Stewardship Quarterly that we are a growing, healthy congregation, and I do not see any reason why we should wait the full five years before chartering. We have received much financial support from the Annual Conference. Considering our health, I would like to release those funds for some other new church plant that may have greater needs than us.

Thus I would like for us as a church to prayerfully consider chartering by the next Annual Conference meeting, which will be June 2025. Chartering will allow us to become our own entity, will simplify business management, and will grant us lay delegate voices at Annual Conference proceedings. I hope that after seeing a full calendar year of giving, a fully operational committee structure, a vision statement, and necessary policies in place, we can request a constituting charge conference with our District Superintendent early in 2025.

Please pray for our path forward and for all our lay servants who are leading us there. May God continue to richly bless Open Hearts UMC!

Your partner in ministry,
Rev. Karen Jones
Lead Pastor



Celebrating Stewardship

APRIL - JUNE 2024

PRAYERS



Over **80 prayer requests** received and lifted up.
87 cards mailed to people on our prayer list.
11 letters of encouragement sent to our college students, and **6 cards** sent to graduates.
12 art projects by OHUMC children mailed to homebound members.
15 soup deliveries to people on our prayer list.

PRESENCE



42 children attended Vacation Bible School.
29 women attended the April Women's Ministry Dinner.
22 men attended the first Men's Ministry Dinner in June.
On an average Sunday, we have present **91 disciples** in Sunday School, **132 in-person** worshippers, and **52 online** worshippers.
14 children and adults toured Samaritan House.

GIFTS



\$160,916.26 in tithes, gifts, and offerings given to God through OHUMC.
\$1,826 given to Epworth Children's Home through OHUMC.
436 hours from volunteers who shared their gifts for music ministry.
\$8,723.25 raised for the Samaritan House 20-for-20 campaign, including **\$147.25** raised by the Vacation Bible School kids.

SERVICE



439 food, clothing, and hygiene items collected for Julie Valentine Center.
30 service hours to Girl Up from the Open Hearts Sunday School class.
30 volunteers for Vacation Bible School.
14 children and adults toured Samaritan House.
105 hours from 9 volunteers in the Audio/Visual ministry.
12 Blessing Bags made for the homeless by the Children's Sunday School class.

WITNESS



74 children, parents, and staff enjoyed the meals we sponsored on the 1st day of school at the CDC under its new operator, Augusta Road Baptist Church.
18 individuals donated blood, saving up to **54 lives** through The Blood Connection.
8,400 people reached on Facebook, with 36% more visitors than last quarter and **1,100 visitors** to our website, which is a 46% increase.
66 people completed Safe Sanctuary training to make OHUMC safer.
24 girls at Girl Up received Bibles and dinner with their families from the Open Hearts Sunday School class.

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 here on Earth. Below are stories of growth and transformation from our community that we also celebrate from this quarter.

"... thank you for all that you did for me during my time at Furman. Having such a loving and supportive community while I was away from home meant the world to me and I am forever grateful. Between the care packages, coffees, notes, and hugs at church, Open Hearts was such a nurturing environment for Katy and I to get plugged into. Thank you for continuously checking in on us,

*connecting us with people, and making us feel so loved.”
Courtney King, college student who worshipped at OHUMC*

*“We were welcomed with open arms and smiling faces to VBS this week. My girls have never gotten to experience VBS and had the best time. They chose to cancel their extracurricular activities to keep attending all week!! Your efforts and volunteers are making a huge impact on our family and the community with your outreach! We are just so grateful!”
Mandy Anderson, a member of the Greenville community*

*“Those who stopped by our table reported that people are praying for our congregation’s growth and continuing impact in Greenville and beyond.” “I was impressed by how many United Methodists from across the state knew our story and were cheering us on.”
Carol Wilson and Beth Padgett, OHUMC exhibit table volunteers at the 2024 UMCSC Annual Conference*

NEW MEMBERS



We are happy to share that the following people joined Open Hearts UMC in June.

Margaret Borklund joins by transfer from a closed UMC in Greenville. Her talents include creating floral arrangements for traditional worship.

Margie and Karl Schnelle join us by transfer from a UMC in Indiana. They are a retired marketer and engineer who have a passion for outreach

and missions service.

Lucy Strausbaugh joins via transfer from another denomination in the community. She enjoys keeping up with her two young great-grandchildren!

Nancy Tucker is a retired 1st grade teacher with a heart for children. She joins from a closed UMC.

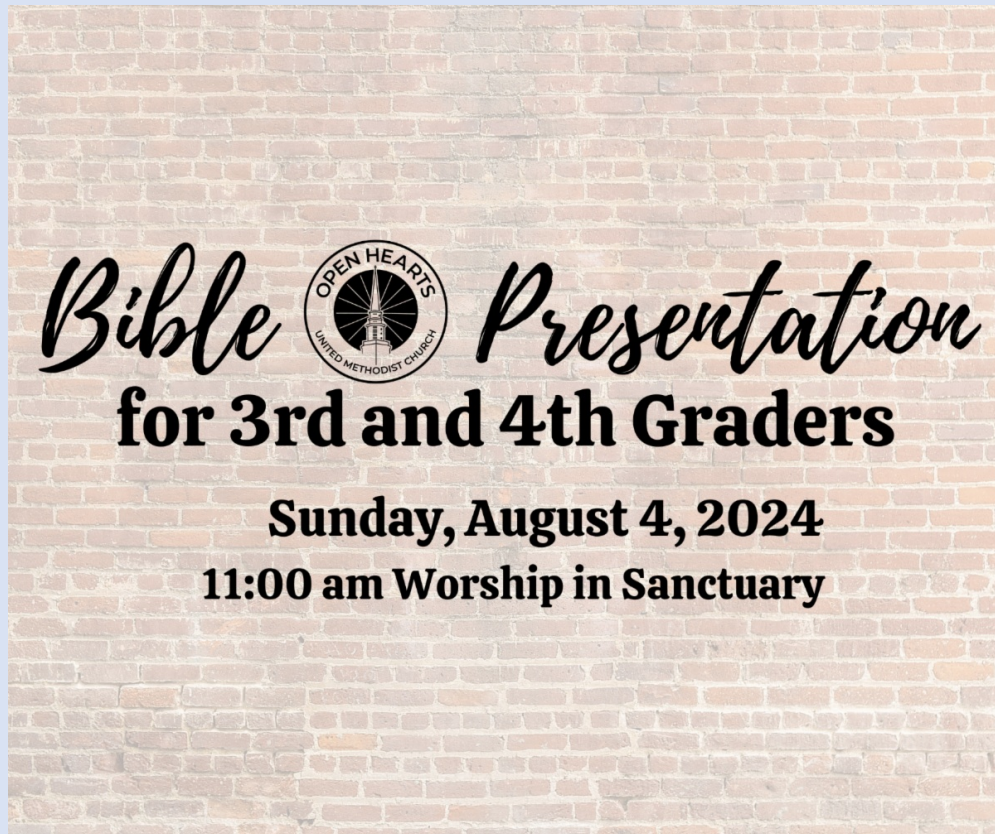
Henry Tucker resides in California and joins from a closed UMC is Greenville.

Susan and Rick Wright join by transfer from a sister UMC church in Anderson, SC. Susan is a realtor who enjoys gardening and cooking, while Rick is the Head Coach of the Greenville Triumph.

Robert Lail of Blythewood, SC joins Open Hearts as an Associate Member.

He is the father of Rev. Karen Jones and is retired from the US Army.

LOOKING AHEAD



Bible Presentation

If you have a rising 3rd or 4th grade student who would like to have a children's Bible presented to them on August 4th, please fill out this form.

Form

Membership is not a requirement to receive a Bible, as we want everyone to have access to God's word. Children will receive the *Deep Blue Kid's Bible - Common English* which has great resources and tools for children to help navigate God's word!



**YOU COULD NOT,
WOULD NOT, WANT TO
MISS- A CELEBRATION
SUCH AS THIS!**

"Back to School" Dinner

*Wednesday, August 14th
5:30 pm in Trinity Hall*

**Baked Ham | Mac & Cheese
Green Beans | Deviled Eggs
Tossed Salad | Cake
Lemonade & Tea**

Adult: \$5
Family: \$15

**RSVP by Sunday, August 11th by
registering on Realm or calling
Susan Hawley at (864)-346-8369**



Sign-up

SUMMER MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

School Supply Drive

benefitting

Southside High School

Visit our Amazon wishlist for items needed to support the academic success of 75 SHS students!



Our ministry partner, Church without Walls, is working with other churches and organizations to provide school supplies for 400 children and youth who live at Belle Meade Apartments. We have been asked to provide 50–75 backpacks filled with school supplies for high school students attending Southside. You can help in two ways:

1. Bring a new backpack to church no later than August 4th. Collection bins will be by the Welcome Center and in the narthex. Backpacks should preferably be approximately 17 inches, have a place for a computer, be sturdy and water-resistant, and be a classic design and a dark color.
2. Make a financial contribution to Open Hearts marked “School Supplies.” We will have a team of educators purchase in bulk the school supplies the school has requested.
3. Donate school supplies through this link:

[Donate Here](#)

Donations are shipped from Amazon to the OHUMC church office and will be given to our community partner, Church Without Walls, prior to the start of school.

Contact Lynne Shackelford at Lynne.Shackelford@furman.edu if you have questions.

Backpack Blessings

Sunday, August 4th



10:00am Welcome Back
Brunch (Trinity Hall)

11:00am Worship Service,
Presentation of Bibles &
Blessing of the Backpacks

August Day of Service

You're invited to help prepare and pack meals at Meals on Wheels of Greenville County-- which is less than 1 mile from our church campus!



August 5th

7:45 am - 10:00 am

Sign up Online

Sign-up

MUSIC MINISTRY HAPPENINGS



Choir Plans

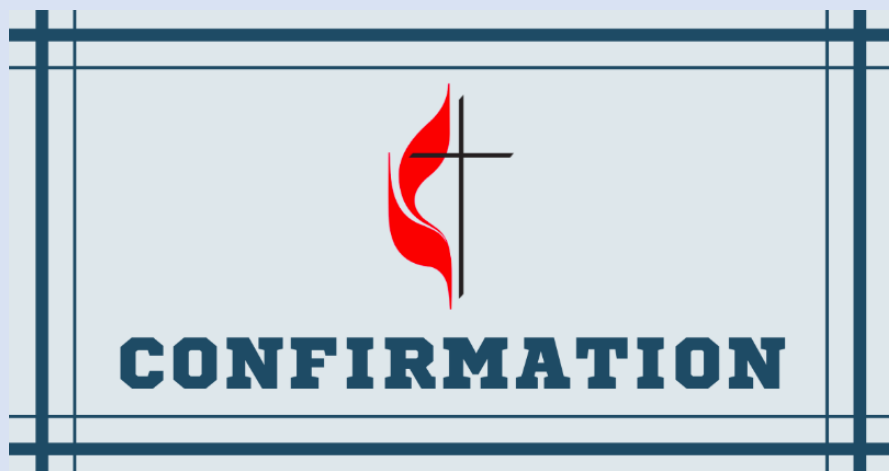
Summer choir is going strong! We welcome any interested singers over age 14 to join us in the choir room Sunday mornings at 10:30 am (through August 11) to run through our service hymns and benediction which we use to lead worship.

Regular choir rehearsals resume Wednesday, August 14 at 7 pm and all are invited to sing with us. Dr. Oney would like to thank our summer choir singers, Open Hearts Sunday School class, special music soloists, and our tireless audiovisual tech volunteers who have blessed our music ministry and worship services this summer!

Mark your calendars—Open Hearts Fellowship Adult Choir will join Fourth Presbyterian Church and St. Michael's Lutheran Church choirs for a combined community presentation of Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* at St. Michael's (next door to Open Hearts). The tentative date for this exciting event is November 3. We will keep our church family informed as plans develop further!

Anyone interested in donating to our organ refurbishment fund may indicate "organ fund" in the memo on your check. Thank you for your support!

YOUTH HAPPENINGS



Confirmation Plans for OHUMC

Open Hearts UMC looks forward to a partnership with St. Paul UMC and Pastor Matt Greer to create a confirmation class that will begin early 2025. If you have a student that is in 8th-12th grade that would like to confirm their baptism, please keep an eye out for more details this fall. You may also reach out to Rev. Karen Jones if you have questions.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

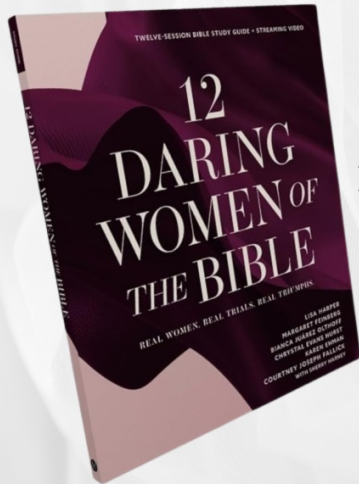
KICKOFF DINNER

Save the date for the **Women's Ministry Fall Kickoff dinner**, at the church,

on Thursday, September 12th at 6:00p.m. We plan to eat a catered meal together and decorate cookies to give to the women at Shepherd's Gate (Miracle Hill's emergency shelter for women and children). We'll share news about upcoming events as we spend time with friends—new and old!

Women's Fall *Bible* Study

Mondays from 10:00-11:30 am
September 23 - October 28



In this Bible study, we'll look at the spiritual lessons learned from twelve daring women in the Bible & what they mean for us today.

As we look at each of these women's lives, we'll discover how to:

- Apply biblical lessons to modern-day struggles.
- Live through failures as well as successes.
- Draw near to God in a world filled with trials.
- Find lasting contentment in every situation.
- Overcome rejection, insecurity-- & much more!

Register via Realm



OPEN HEARTS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

For more information or to sign up click below

[Sign-up](#)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

First Friday Coffee

August 2

10am

Inspire Coffee

1433 Cleveland St.

Greenville, SC

First Friday of the Month

If you have questions about any of our Women's Ministry events, have an idea you'd like us to consider, or would like to join our team, email Sandy MacMillan at CARES@openheartsumcsc.org.

LOOKING BACK

SALKEHATCHIE

Salkehatchie is a week-long summer service project unique to the United Methodist Church in South Carolina, where servants ages 14 years old and older can come together with other United Methodists to work on homes in need of repair. Open Hearts UMC commissioned and sent a team of 6 youth and 2 adults to Newberry on July 14th. We give thanks for their hard work on behalf of God's Kingdom!

To learn more about this program, [Click Here](#)



OHUMC Celebrates First Birthday

To read an article in the *South Carolina United Methodist Advocate* regarding our New Church Start and First Birthday Celebration:

[Click Here](#)

Leadership Team July Meeting Update

A summary of notes from the Leadership Team July meeting are available on the upstairs (by the church office) and downstairs bulletin boards and on Realm.

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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