



Ministry Newsletter

September 2024

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN MINDS

OPEN DOORS

Dear Beloved Church,

It is with great joy that I share with you that after a year of prayerful discernment, persistent collaboration, and unwavering dedication, your Leadership Team presents the Vision Statement and the values for Open Hearts UMC!

VISION

Open Hearts United Methodist Church cultivates a welcoming community – united in God’s love, guided by scripture, and empowered by the Holy Spirit – to live out Jesus Christ’s teachings.

VALUES

BIBLICAL REFLECTION – *We apply scripture thoughtfully to guide us in discipleship while engaging reason, tradition, and experience.*

UNITY IN CHRIST – *We welcome people of individual experiences, circumstances, and hopes, trusting in the creating, redeeming, and sustaining God to unify us in faith.*

GRACE AS OUR GUIDE – *We see the best in each other and offer one another grace, because although made in the image of God, we fall short of perfection.*

This vision connects our unique identity and the gifts of this congregation to our purpose as a church, which is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We seek to be a warm and welcoming faith community where we can practice our faith, partnering with God and one another so that we can make an impact in our great community.

Our values reflect who we are and inform how we interact with one another. Embracing them will help us grow in discipleship and bring our vision to life.

With our vision and values in hand, we can worship and serve alongside each other, confident in our unity and shared direction as a congregation. We invite others to join us on this exciting journey, as together we grow in faith and make a lasting difference in our community!

Your partner in ministry,
Rev. Karen Jones
Lead Pastor

MEMBER NEWS

NEW MEMBERS AND BAPTISMS



Popie and Tom Whitted transfer to Open Hearts UMC from a disaffiliated UMC. They are big Clemson fans and proud grandparents! Popie is a flight attendant and enjoys entertaining. Tom is the Executive Director of Genesis Homes and is a pilot.

We welcome the family of *Rev Melton Arant Jr* (Coordinator of Clergy Services and Secretary of the SC UMC Conference) into membership at Open Hearts! Their memberships were formerly at Pendleton UMC. Until Open Hearts UMC is chartered, Rev Arant's membership will remain at Zion UMC in Anderson. He will actively participate at Open Hearts with his family.

Melton's wife, *Melissa*, is employed at Arthrex in Anderson. Their daughter, *Alanna*, is a third grade teacher at La France Elementary in Anderson. Melissa and Melton's sons, *Cpl Gillean (Gil) Arant* (USMC) and *TSgt Athon (Trey) Arant* (USAF), are currently serving our country. Trey is married to Laura Arant Garcia; they have three young children.


Natalie Bialas joins Open Hearts from a disaffiliated UMC. She and Tim are parents of *Emma and Chloe*, who were baptized on August 25th.

MEMORIAL

A plaque was installed on the Memorial Wall for Lilyan Gray, who passed away in November of 2023. Rev Karen Jones held a memorial service for the family on August 5th.

LOOKING AHEAD

Guest Preacher
Sunday, September 29th, 2024



Bishop Willimon

Retired Bishop of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church, former Professor and Dean of the Chapel at Duke Divinity School, as well as a Greenville, SC Native.

MUSIC MINISTRY HAPPENINGS



We'd like to thank our choir volunteers for their faithful participation in summer choir. We are now back to our regular schedule rehearsing Wednesdays 7–8:30 pm and meeting Sunday mornings for warm-up at 10:25 in the choir room. We welcome all interested singers to join us!

We commend our tireless audiovisual tech volunteers who have continually blessed our worship ministries! We invite all folks over age 15 with interest in audio or video to help us with this important ministry. No experience necessary—we will happily train you. Contact Dr. Tish Oney for information.

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) on November 3 at 4 pm. Anyone interested in singing this magnificent piece with us is warmly invited to attend our Wednesday evening rehearsals—the first half hour of each rehearsal will be devoted to learning this piece.

We warmly welcome new choir section leaders Jeremiah Reid (bass) and Hannah Bennett (alto) who are studying voice at Furman University. We look forward to hearing their beautiful voices enhancing our music each week!

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

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Youth Ministry River Tubing

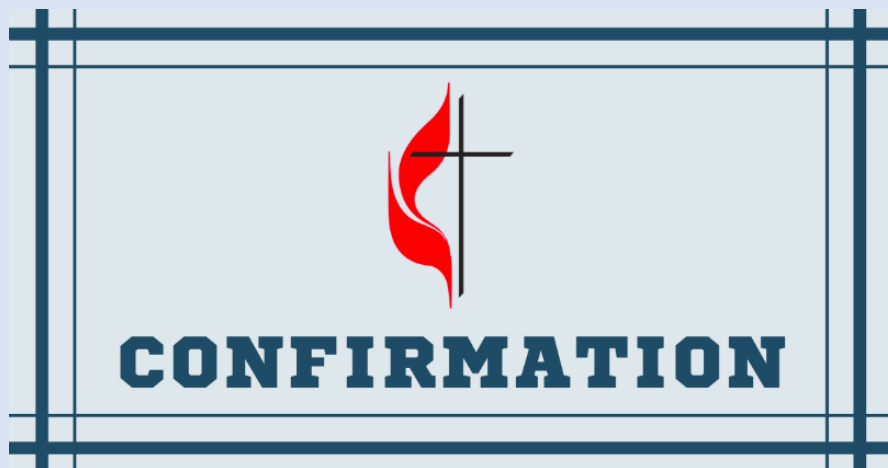


September 15th at 4:00 pm*

*Meet at Saluda River Company at 3:45 pm
1001 Old Easley Hwy, Greenville SC 29611

Join us on the Saluda River for river tubing and fellowship on Sunday, September 15th. We will "float" at 4:00 pm, but please plan for 3:45 pm arrival for check-in time. Open Hearts will purchase group tickets, that fee is paid with online registration.

Save your space: [Here](#)



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 an 8th–12th grade student who 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.

You're Invited!



Fall Women's Dinner *at Open Hearts UMC*

September 12th at 6:00 pm

Meal: **Tropical Grille**

Cost: **FREE**

We will also be decorating cookies for the women of Shepherd's Gate after our meal! Women of all ages are invited to attend!

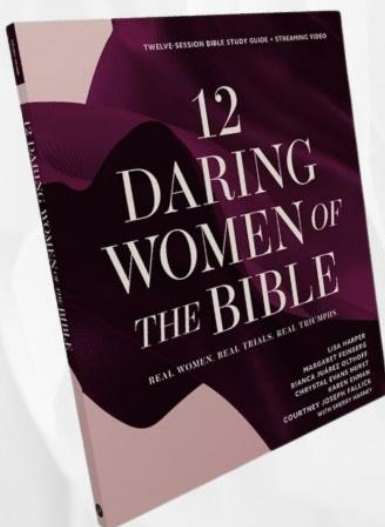
RSVP ON REALM!

For more information or to sign up for dinner click below.

[Sign-up](#)

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

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.

THE TASTING ROOM
TRAVELERS REST, SC

MEN'S MINISTRY

There are 22 men registered to attend a dinner on August 29th at the Tasting Room in Travelers Rest.

Come join us on October 22 for the next Men's Dinner! More information to follow.

Blood Drive

Supporting The Blood Connection

September 8th from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Open Hearts UMC
2703 Augusta Street
Greenville, SC 29605



Save time- Make an Appointment (using Sponsor Code 3TRI):
<https://shorturl.at/FfbRM>

All donors will receive a \$40 e-gift card. Each donation saves up to three lives!

Donors must have a photo ID, be at least 17 years old (or 16 with a signed parental permission form), and weigh at least 110 pounds. A TBC Bloodmobile will be located in the parking lot closest to The Samaritan House.

Walk-ins are welcome. Please help spread the word and invite a friend or neighbor! You may also pre-register below:

[Pre-Register Here](#)

or contact Julia or Jenna. Note: we are adding more time slots, to make registration easier.



Thanks to faithful blood donor
Chris Youngblood!



Alex Payne and Marshall Gaddy set up,
clean up, AND donate blood too!



Family Zoo Outing

September 21st at 10:00 am*

*Meet at Greenville Zoo Entrance Gate



greenvillezoo

We hope to see YOU at the Greenville Zoo on September 21st! Families are invited to join us for fellowship and fun at 10:00 am! Families will meet outside of the entrance gate and pay for their admission before we enter. No RSVP is required!

LOOKING BACK



Back to School Activities

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make our Dr. Seuss themed "Back to School Dinner" on Wednesday August 14th a success! Over 80 adults and children enjoying a Seuss-themed dinner (including green eggs and ham, of course!), cake, and games (Cat in the Hat Stack, Hop on Pop Hopscotch, One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Go Fish!). It was a fun evening for all.

The S.H.A.R.E. Team expresses deep gratitude to the congregation for their generosity in providing school supplies. We filled 54 backpacks with supplies for Southside students, as well as gave a bountiful quantity of other supplies to the Greenville Church without Walls. In addition, at the Back to School Dinner, Open Hearts collected supplies for teachers, primarily antiseptic wipes, tissues, and hand sanitizer, as well as other supplies teachers will likely need for their students throughout the year. These supplies will go to Grove Elementary School and Thomas E. Kerns Elementary School, two Title I schools with at least 40% of their students from low-income households. Thanks to Open Hearts Members, students and teachers in our community are off to a great start with the 2024-2025 school year.



SHARE-Sponsored Summer Mission Event with Meals on Wheels

On August 5th a stalwart team of nine Open Hearts members journeyed to Meals on Wheels to learn about the organization and how to pack meals for clients. Our team included a teenager, a professor not yet started back into the hectic academic routine, an amazingly conscientious volunteer who had return flight problems on a trip to the Northeast and didn't get back to Greenville until 1 a.m., and quite a few Medicare qualifiers. After a brief orientation, the team assumed their stations and got to work. They soon learned the pace was lightning quick—reminding some of us of the *Love Lucy* episode in which Lucy and Ethel attempt to package chocolates on an assembly line. At the end of our shift of several hours, The participants were ready for water and sitting down but were proud that they had packed almost 1600 meals, delighted with the new friendships they had made, and eager for another Meals on Wheels team volunteer opportunity.



A Special Visit to Triune Mercy Center

On August 6th, Jane Johnson, her granddaughter Jordyn (daughter of Lani and Amanda Johnson), and Lynne Shackelford, co-chair of S.H.A.R.E, headed to Triune Mercy Center to deliver inspirational quilts that Jane had made over a period of months for the Triune staff as a Lenten project. Once at Triune, Jane revealed that she and her husband Robert had been married there 50 years ago. Upon hearing that news, Rev. Jennifer Fouse Sheorn led Jane and Jordyn to the sanctuary for an impromptu tour. Then Jane presented each staff member with an individualized quilt, followed by one of her inimitable hugs. The staff were thrilled over their surprise gifts.



Upon leaving, Jane, Lynne, and Jordyn noticed two homeless men outside Triune. Jordyn asked her grandmother if they could give each man a bag filled with useful items, such as a water bottle, a washcloth, shampoo, hand sanitizer, etc. Her family keeps these in their cars. She gave each man a bag--spreading joy, inspiring Lynne to consider a new SHARE churchwide project, and reflecting love for her neighbors, a lesson that both her grandmother and her parents often demonstrate. Thanks to three generations of Johnsons for their open hearts!

Leadership Team August Meeting Update

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

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



Website : openheartsumcsc.org



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

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