



# Celebrating Stewardship

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2024

## PRAYERS



CARES started a **new soup ministry** delivered to members recovering from illness or surgery. We also continue with our **prayer chain** ministry, **card ministry**, and **visitations**. Because we are called to **pray ceaselessly**, it can be difficult to quantify this discipleship practice, but you can hear more about our CARES ministry on the back of this report.

## PRESENCE



**71 women** attended the Women's Ministry Fall Kickoff Dinner.  
**25 women** attending the Fall Women's Bible Study.  
**19 men** attended the Men's Ministry Dinner in August.  
**9 families**, including **14 children**, attended the Family Zoo Outing.  
**100 people** attended the Back to School dinner.  
**58 seats** at the table were filled for our Break Bread Together meals.  
On an average Sunday, we have present **95 disciples** in Sunday School, **139 in-person** worshippers, and **57 online** worshippers.

## GIFTS



**\$165,689.43** in tithes, gifts, and offerings given to God through Open Hearts UMC, which is an **8.2% increase** from last quarter.  
**5 new choristers** joined the adult choir to share their gifts in worship.  
**382 hours** from volunteers who shared their gifts for our music ministry.

## SERVICE



**7 servants** spent **6 days** at Salkehatchie repairing **2 homes** in Newberry.  
**50 backpacks** filled with school supplies were donated to Southside High School.  
**167 items** were given to the teachers at Grove and Thomas Kerns Elementary Schools.  
**9 people** packed approximately **1600 meals** for Meals on Wheels.  
**17 people** served as hosts to our **9 Break Bread Together** meals in September.

## WITNESS



**8 individuals** delivered cold treats to the Salkehatchie team and home owners at the Newberry work site.  
**16 individuals** donated blood, saving up to **48 lives** through The Blood Connection.  
**6 youth** led the congregation in a powerful worship Youth Sunday service and gave witness to their work at Salkehatchie.  
**20,300 people reached** on Facebook, which is **141% increase** from last quarter, and **1054 new visitors** to our website.



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 that we also celebrate from this quarter.

*We celebrate giving 2 Bibles to children for the 3rd/4th Grade Bible Presentation.*

*We celebrate 3 baptisms this quarter and gladly welcome to God's family Chloe and Emma Bialas, and Emory LeBlanc. Each baptized child is gifted a quilt, a book about their baptism, a certificate, and a baptism candle.*

*"Our daughter had a wonderful experience this summer at Salkehatchie [summer service]! She built so many special relationships and learned so much. She loved serving alongside her church friends and leaders while also making new friends. She was most blessed by getting to know the people who live in the homes where they were working. We love that she had this opportunity to grow in her faith!"*

*- Stacey Kitchens*

*What a blessing it' is to be a part of the CARES Team at Open Hearts! I've never seen people so willing to love one another in tangible ways. We try to count things like official prayer requests, soup deliveries, and cards sent by our card ministry folks, but there's no way to count all the creative ways our church family loves one another. Weekly, I hear of members calling to check on one another, sharing meals, visiting, praying, sending cards, sharing groceries, lending cars... the list is endless!*

*-Sandy MacMillan, CARES Committee Chair*