



Ministry Newsletter

November 2024

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN MINDS

OPEN DOORS

Beloved Community,

Even in the face of a power outage on October 6th, our worship continued with an undeniable sense of God's presence. Together, we celebrated the faithful service of our outgoing Leadership Team and joyfully commissioned our new leaders, including the Board of Stewards and committee chairs, to step boldly into their callings. Following this powerful moment of transition, our leaders gathered on the lawn for a meaningful time of fellowship, lunch, and orientation, ready to embark on a new season of leadership.

Due to the power outage, we were unable to livestream or record the worship service, but I want to ensure no one feels left out. If you'd like to learn about our 2024 leadership, the various committees, or know who to contact for specific needs, you can pick up the **2024 Leadership Roles and Committees** booklet in the church office or [*click here*](#). We encourage everyone to stay connected and informed as we move forward together!

Your partner in ministry,
Rev. Karen Jones



Guest Preacher

Sunday, March 9th, 2025



**Bishop
Will
Willimon**

RESCHEDULED

We regret that we were unable to host Bishop Willimon as our guest preacher on September 29th due to Hurricane Helene. We have since confirmed a new date with him and we look forward to hearing him preach at Open Hearts on March 9, 2025.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Save the date for
November 26th at
5:30 pm- you are
invited to gather
for the church's
annual meeting



Charge Conference

**November 26th at 5:30 pm
Open Hearts UMC Sanctuary**

**You're invited to attend this annual gathering
with our Board of Stewards and UMC SC District
Superintendent. An RSVP is not required.**

with our Board of
Stewards and
District
Superintendent,
Rev. Steve
Patterson.



We're Hiring!

Church Administrator

The Church Administrator supports the vision and mission of Open Hearts UMC by managing the systems and tasks related to administration, church ministries, and facilities.

We now have an open position on our staff team for a Church Administrator. If you know someone who may be interested in this role, please have them send their resume to karen.jones@openheartsumcsc.org. View job description [here](#).



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.

2703 Augusta Street | Greenville, SC 29605
openheartsumcsc.org

MEMBER NEWS



We extend Christian love and sympathy to Sara Chastain and family on the death of her husband Ronald Chastain on October 20th. Ronald's service was held on October 25th.

We also extend Christian love and sympathy to Joan Gauden and family on the death of her husband Earle Gauden on October 20th. A service is scheduled for November 29th.



It's time to...
FALL BACK!

Set your clocks back one hour on November 2nd when you go to bed! See you at church the next morning!

OPEN HEARTS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Important Children's Ministry Update



We've reviewed the metrics for when families with children are most engaged in the life of the church, and while few attend during the Sunday School hour program, we consistently have a large number of children present for worship at 11:00 am.

In an effort to better serve them with a quality program, we will be offering their program following the Children's Message, previously known as Children's Church. We're calling it "Sunday Bible School", because it will combine fun aspects of Vacation Bible School with a UMC curriculum curated by Jana Clack. It is our hope to have two classes weekly, one for ages 4-6 & one for ages 7-11. This will mean having 3-4 volunteers weekly who will assist with the program that will support the discipleship of our youngest church-goers. *Sunday Bible School will replace the Sunday School model at 9:45 am. During that time, children will be dropped off in room B-4 near the Welcome Center for Pray and Play.*

Resources and activities are provided by Jana Clack, who is available each Sunday to volunteers as well. If you are interested in serving every 6 weeks or so, sign up to volunteer [here](#).

If you are interested in serving with our paid nursery worker during the Sunday school hour or during 11:00 am worship, sign up [here](#).

College Student Care Packages

**We'd love to support your
Open Hearts college student!**



**Fill out the College Care Package
Google Form and we'll reach out
to them throughout the year with
letters, notes of encouragement,
and care packages from
their OHUMC family!**

We're excited to support our college students this school year! If you have a student attending school, please fill out this form. ([*click here*](#)) We'd love to pray for them and send care packages from their church family throughout the school year. Questions? Contact Amanda Youngblood (contact information in Realm).

LOOKING AHEAD

MUSIC MINISTRY HAPPENINGS



Fauré Requiem

Concert for All Saints

Sunday, November 3rd at 4:00 pm

Presented by the choirs of:
Open Hearts United Methodist Church, St. Michael's
Lutheran Church & Fourth Presbyterian Church



St. Michael's Lutheran Church
2619 Augusta Street | Greenville, SC 29605

Join the combined choirs of Fourth Presbyterian Church, Open Hearts UMC, and St. Michael Lutheran for the beautiful and inspiring Fauré *Requiem* performed with orchestra and soloists (Vance Jenkins, baritone, and Dr. Tish Oney, soprano). This lovely musical setting emphasizes peace and hope for those who have departed us. The concert is free and open to the public.

Family Advent Night

**November 24th
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm**



FAMILY ADVENT NIGHT

Join us on November 24th for Family Advent Night! From 5:30 – 7:00 pm we will have a church family meal, make Advent wreaths, children's Advent crafts, and collect shelf-stable items (rice, mac and cheese, mashed potatoes, stuffing/dressing mix, canned veggies, and canned fruit) for our Title 1 partnership with Alexander Elementary.

RSVP on Realm [HERE](#).

MISSIONS OPPORTUNITES

GIVING THANKS

Want to show thanks for God's blessings? SHARE recommends these opportunities:

Winter Coat Drive for Alexander Elementary

Working with the Buy One Share One program, we will help provide warm coats for children. Select a hanger with a child's name, size, and color preference from the Sanctuary. Return to the church by November 17th.

Lunch with Triune Mercy Center Staff

(November 19th at 12:15 pm)

In the spirit of our “Let Us Break Bread Together” gatherings this fall, SHARE is organizing a lunch for Triune Mercy Center staff. If you are interested in: **making a dish, providing beverages or paper products, or serving the meal**, contact Lynne Shackelford (contact information in Realm).

Healthy Blue (BCBS) Thanksgiving Meal Distribution

(November 25th from 4–5:30)

Alexander Elementary School (1601 West Bramlett Road)

- Donate rice, mac and cheese, mashed potatoes, stuffing/dressing mix, canned veggies, and canned fruit. These items are due to the church office by November 24th.
- Help distribute food and welcome families at Alexander Elementary from 4:00 – 5:30 pm on November 25th!

Gratefull Greenville Meal

(Nov. 25th from 11:30 am–1:30 pm)

This event is free and open to the public. To support it you can: donate, volunteer, or simply enjoy a feast prepared by local restaurants!

(Wear your Open Hearts UMC name tag.) <https://gratefullgvl.org/>

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

First Friday Coffee

Join us for fellowship on November 1st at Inspire Coffee for our monthly "First Friday Coffee" gathering. This is a great way to meet other women within the Open Hearts community of faith!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

First Friday Coffee

November 1st

10am

Inspire Coffee

1433 Cleveland St.

Greenville, SC



First Friday of the Month

A vibrant collage of various breakfast items. It includes a bowl of fresh fruit (kiwi, blueberries, raspberries), a cinnamon roll, a stack of pancakes with strawberries, a croissant, a red teapot with two cups, a blue pot, a smoothie with orange slices, a plate of waffles with berries, and a breakfast platter with eggs, sausage, and fruit.

**Busy Women's
Brunch**

Saturday, November 9th
10:00 am at Lynne Shackelford's Home

Register on Realm
FREE Event

Sign up *here*.

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.

Blood Drive

Supporting The Blood Connection

November 10th from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Open Hearts UMC
2703 Augusta Street
Greenville, SC 29605



YOU can save up to three lives! Please join us on Sunday, November 10th, as we partner with The Blood Connection for our next blood drive. Walk-ins are welcome.

Pre-register

Safe Sanctuary Trainings

NOVEMBER 10TH
9:45 am & 12:15 pm

TRINITY HALL | RSVP IS NOT REQUIRED | CONTACT JANA CLACK FOR MORE INFO

SAFE SANCTUARY

Save the date for our Safe Sanctuary trainings on Sunday, November 10th. Join Jana Clack at either 9:45 am OR 12:15 pm in Trinity Hall. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Safe Sanctuary trainings are required annually for those who volunteer with vulnerable populations including children, youth, and vulnerable adults. AN RSVP IS NOT REQUIRED!

LOOKING BACK

OCTOBER MEN'S DINNER



The Open Hearts Men's Night Out at Pebble Creek in Taylors was a success. There were 15 men who attended and 4 who gathered beforehand to enjoy playing 9-holes of golf.



BREAK BREAD TOGETHER RECAP

174 seats were filled around tables during September and October for our seventeen "Break Bread Together" community meals. Thank you to our

hosts for opening up their homes and coordinating with venues to create hospitable spaces for intentional fellowship over a meal. Stay tuned for more ways to continue to connect through the breaking of bread.



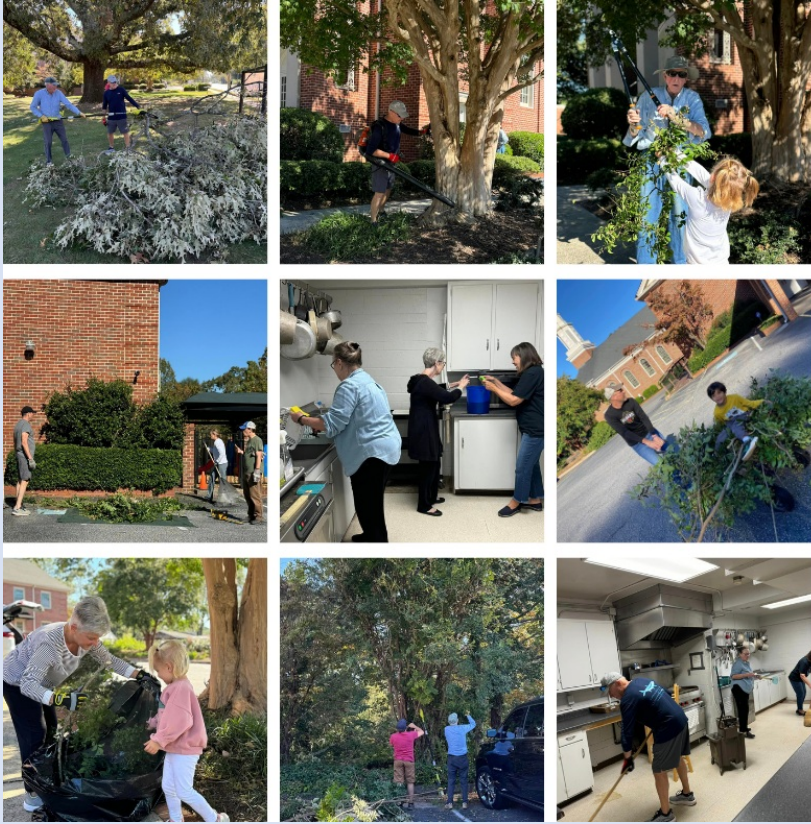
FALL FESTIVAL AND TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Fall Festival and Trunk-or-Treat 2024 were a blast! Thank you for spending such a beautiful morning with us. We were happy to fellowship over 300 people on our campus for the event!

OHUMC WORKDAY

On October 12th, 26 volunteers gathered together to take care of the building and grounds God has entrusted to us! There was significant work to be done outdoors, especially post-Helene. Folks also cleaned out and organized the kitchen, storage closets, and classrooms! Thank you to all who gave their time, talents,

and tools during this work day.



Website : openheartsumcsc.org



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

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