



## Ministry Newsletter

February 2025

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN MINDS

OPEN DOORS

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“Strengthening Our Connections”

Beloved Community,

We each can do small things to help change the world around us through Jesus Christ. And when we share that work with each other and with other organizations who seek to bring good to this world, our impact is even greater. And next month, I hope to highlight a few ministries and organizations in our community that our church is engaged with through a wonderful line-up of guest speakers for our worship services.

February 9 Director of Discipleship, Jana Clack, *shares how partnering with the community nurtures a missional spirit and deepens our discipleship here at Open Hearts.*

February 16 CEO of [Jasmine Road](#), Lisa O’Connell–Hall *shares how they are bringing healing to women who are survivors of sex trafficking, prostitution, and addiction. Read below on how Open Hearts UMC is supporting Jasmine Road this month.*

February 23 Dennis Gillan, Founder of [Half a Sorrow Foundation](#), *shares how they are improving mental health through real conversations. Open Hearts provided space for their Survivors of Suicide.*

March 2 Rev. Hillary Taylor, Executive Director of [South Carolinians Against the Death Penalty](#) *is also an ordained elder in the UMC, and she*

*shares about the criminal justice reform as discipleship.*

If you are interested in learning more about what the United Methodist Church believes about social justice and its position on important issues like sex trafficking, suicide and mental health, capital punishment, and more, check out our United Methodist Social Principles [Here](#).

Your partner in ministry,

Rev. Karen Jones

We're looking back on another amazing quarter of Stewardship here at Open Hearts UMC! Take a look at all of the ways our community of faith lives out our baptismal vows within the church and beyond.



OPEN HEARTS  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Celebrating Stewardship

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024

### PRAYERS



**13 soup deliveries** for people on our prayer list who were sick.  
**90 hours** of prayer and volunteering by our CARES team.  
**36 Christmas cards** written to men incarcerated on South Carolina's death row by the New Adult Sunday School class.  
**37 cards and welcome emails** sent to frequent visitors and **78 birthday cards** sent to members.

### PRESENCE



**16 children** participate in our new Sunday Bible School program, **9 participants** on our online Advent Bible Study, **16 youth** participating in their new Bible Study, and **30 women** in the Fall Women's Bible Study.  
**35 participants** at our first Young Adult Christmas party.  
**110 participants** at our Advent Family Dinner.  
On an average Sunday, we have present **85 disciples** in Sunday School, **149 in-person** worshippers, and **63 online** worshippers.

### GIFTS



**\$1,010 contributed** to United Ministries by Sunday School classes for their ministries.  
**\$1,900 contributed** by the Open Hearts Sunday School class to charities.  
**\$3,830** in Advent offerings to be distributed to United Methodist agencies and charities.  
**\$260,882.55** in tithes, gifts, and offerings given to God through Open Hearts UMC, which is a **60% increase** from last quarter.  
Our choir has grown to **20 members** who share their musical gifts in worship.

### SERVICE



**43 winter coats** and approximately **400 Thanksgiving food items** were donated for Alexander Elementary School students in need.  
**7 volunteers** served at United Ministries Winter Wonderland.  
**9 volunteers** prepared and/or served lunch for 16 Triune Mercy Center staff and served lunch on a different day to 70+ community members experiencing homelessness at TMC.  
**770 hours** from volunteers serving in music ministry and **84 hours** from volunteers serving in audio/visual ministry.

### WITNESS



**4 individuals** gave their testimony at our Moravian Love Feast worship service.  
**14 individuals** donated blood, saving up to **42 lives** through The Blood Connection.  
**21,400 people reached** on Facebook, which is **5.8 % increase** from last quarter, and **1217 new visitors** to our website, which is a **16% increase**.  
**308 worshippers** chose to celebrate Christmas Eve with us at Open Hearts, including **18 children** who sang an anthem during the Family-Friendly service.

## MEMBER NEWS

We welcome the Moats family as they transfer in from a closed UMC. Laura Moats is originally from Pensacola, Florida and works as controller at Insignis Partner as a licensed CPA. In her free time, Laura enjoys traveling to the beach, bike riding on the Swamp Rabbit Trail, and hot yoga. Evan Moats is an account manager at Snap-On, having earned his bachelor's in business from the University of South Carolina. He loves the outdoors and cheering on the Gamecocks! Together they have two daughters, Emily (6) and Sarah (4).

The Wolfe family also transfers in from a closed UMC. Lindsey Wolfe is a lifelong United Methodist, Furman alum, and paralegal at Nelson Mullins Law Firm. Blake Wolfe is a master deputy with the Greenville County Sheriff's Office and enjoys jiu-jitsu in his spare time, as well as serving as a security officer here at Open Hearts. Together they have one daughter, Charlotte (4).

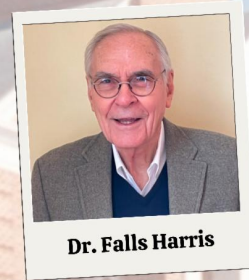
Dr. Falls Harris joins Open Hearts following a lifelong membership at the prior BSUMC. Falls is a retired dermatologist and established Dermatology Associates (now Epiphany Dermatology) when he came to Greenville in 1964. In retirement he enjoys music as well as visits/trips with his family. At Open Hearts he serves on the Worship Team and is part of the Men's Ministry.

# Welcome

## New Members!



Evan, Laura,  
Emily & Sarah Moats



Dr. Falls Harris



Blake, Lindsey &  
Charlotte Wolfe

*"We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."*

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## STAFF UPDATE

We are pleased to welcome Tina Majors to Open Hearts UMC as our new Church Administrator. Tina recently relocated from



# Staff Spotlight



Tina Majors is excited to be joining the Open Hearts staff team as Church Administrator! Tina has decades of experience in Nonprofit Leadership & recently relocated to Greenville from Nashville, TN to be closer to her daughters & grandchildren. Welcome, Tina!

the Nashville, TN area. She has many years of experience in nonprofit management, fundraising and event planning, as well as real estate. She has two daughters in the Greenville area and two grandsons, and her son's family lives in the Denver, CO area. She's an active volunteer

in the GFWC Golden Strip Woman's Club, and an avid reader, and loves to spoil her little beagle, Annie.

## MUSIC MINISTRY HAPPENINGS



## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Open Hearts' music ministry is pleased to celebrate our three choral section leaders: tenor Jacob Bouchie, a sophomore voice major at Furman University; bass Jeremiah

Reid, and alto Hannah Bennett (both first-year voice majors at Furman). Each serves as section leader in our Fellowship Choir and as a soloist in the Hope Quartet. We are pleased and honored to sing with these three outstanding student musicians, and we look forward to sharing and hearing their beautiful music on a regular basis!



**Save the Date!**

Retired Bishop, Rev. Dr. Will Willimon will be preaching at Open Hearts UMC on Sunday, May 4, 2025.

**SHROVE  
TUESDAY**

Join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake



# Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

**March 2nd**  
**5:30 - 7:30 pm**  
**Trinity Hall**

**Adults: \$5**  
**Ages 6-18: \$3**  
**Under 5: FREE**



Dinner on March 4th from 5:30 to 7:00 pm All are welcome, as we prepare for Lent with good food and fellowship. The men are ready to flap jacks for another big crowd!

Register [HERE](#)

# Ash Wednesday Service

**March 5th at 6:00 pm**  
**Nursery will be provided.**

MISSIONS OPPORTUNITY

Jasmine Road

In 2016 Jasmine Road, a two-year residential program for women survivors of sex trafficking, prostitution, and addiction, opened in Greenville. Jasmine Road offers a loving community to promote healing, empowerment, and ultimately, thriving through sustainable employment, safe housing, opportunities for personal and educational development, and long-term support.



Jasmine Road's social enterprise program allows participants opportunities to be employed in making candles, creating jewelry, and working in the restaurant Jasmine Kitchen at 503 Augusta Street. Through the social enterprise program participants learn skills in customer service, marketing, management, teamwork, and accountability while providing services that benefit the Greenville community.

To support this worthy enterprise, the S.H.A.R.E. Committee encourages our church family to enjoy a delicious and healthy lunch of soups, salads, and sandwiches at Jasmine Kitchen at 503 Augusta Street from February 17–28, Monday through Friday, 11:30–2:30 with Open Hearts friends or folks you want to get to know better. Take photos of your group that our church can share! You can send the photos to the church administrator, Tina Majors, at [admin@openheartsumcsc.org](mailto:admin@openheartsumcsc.org).

For further information on Jasmine Road, here is a [link](#) to their website.

## MEN'S MINISTRIES

Save the date  
for the next  
Men's Ministry  
dinner at 6 pm  
on March 11 at  
Topsy Taco on  
Pelham Rd.







Mark your calendars for February 6th at 6 pm and join us for a baked potato bar, salad and dessert (\$10/person).

To register click [HERE](#)

## Women's Spring *Bible* Study

Mondays from 10:00-11:30 am  
March 3 - April 7



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

### BIBLE STUDY

Spring Bible Study – 12 Daring Women of the Bible – Part 2

Our six-week study, Part 2 of the *Twelve Daring Women of the Bible* study begins on March 3. Each session is about a different daring woman; you do not need to have done Part 1 to participate. We hope you'll join us—and feel free to bring a friend!

To purchase the book: <https://www.amazon.com/Daring-Women-Bible-Study-Streaming/dp/0310170699>

To register click [HERE](#)



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Churches in the South Carolina UMC have sought to provide and implement Safe Sanctuaries practices for the protection of children, youth, vulnerable adults and volunteers.

Our Spring Safe Sanctuary training will be March 2nd at 12:15 pm in Trinity Hall following worship. Lunch & childcare will be provided.

RSVP for Training [HERE](#)

A graphic for a Safe Sanctuary Training event. At the top center is the Open Hearts United Methodist Church logo, which is a circular emblem with a cross and the text "OPEN HEARTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH". Below the logo, the text "Safe Sanctuary Training" is written in a large, bold, black font with a white outline. Underneath that, "MARCH 2ND" is written in a similar large, bold, black font with a white outline. Below the date, "12:15 pm in Trinity Hall" is written in a bold, black font with a white outline. Underneath that, the phrase "Lunch will be provided" is written in a smaller, italicized, black font with a white outline. At the bottom of the graphic, the text "TRINITY HALL | RSVP TO JANA CLACK VIA EMAIL BY FEB 25TH" is written in a bold, black font with a white outline. The background of the graphic is a photograph of people holding up a large, colorful rainbow flag in a grassy area with trees in the background.

**Safe Sanctuary Training**

**MARCH 2ND**

**12:15 pm in Trinity Hall**

*Lunch will be provided*

**TRINITY HALL | RSVP TO JANA CLACK VIA EMAIL BY FEB 25TH**

## BLOOD DRIVE

Open Hearts is partnering with The Blood Connection to sponsor a quarterly blood drive on February 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Each donor will receive a \$40 eGift card! Our church

# Blood Drive

Supporting The Blood Connection

**February 9th from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Open Hearts UMC  
**2703 Augusta Street  
Greenville, SC 29605**



also receives eGift cards for hosting blood drives.

Did you know? Approximately 1 out of every 7 people entering a hospital needs blood. A single blood donation can save up to 3 lives. YOU can give the gift of life!

Donors must be at least 16 years old (16-year-olds need parental permission

provided at the donation site), weigh at least 110 pounds, have a picture ID, and be in generally good health. Please schedule an appointment by clicking on [this link](#) or sending an email to [membership@openheartsumcsc.org](mailto:membership@openheartsumcsc.org). Walk-ins are also welcome. Please invite a friend.

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## ADVENT OFFERING RECAP

Celebrate with us the generosity of the #OpenHeartsUMCSCcommunity! \$4,310.00 was raised during the Advent season for our #BeUMC connection.



# Advent Missions Offering

## \$4,310.00

### Raised for UMC Connectional Ministries:

Epworth Children's Home

Native American Ministries

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry

Peace with Justice

Youth Service Fund

UMCOR

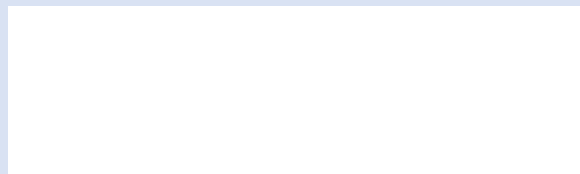
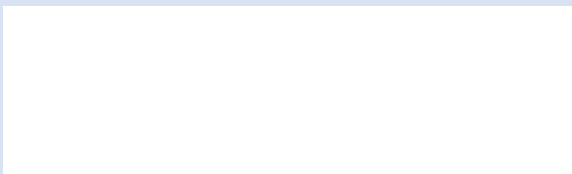


The **Men's Ministry** gathered for a meal and fellowship last night at Capri's Italian Restaurant! A great time was had by all- laughs and stories were shared around the table.

Save the date for the next Men's Ministry dinner on March 11 at 6 pm at Topsy Taco (Pelham Rd.)

### Youth Revolution

Some of our Youth attended the South Carolina UMC Youth Revolution Retreat in Columbia this past weekend! The theme this year was *BELONG*: centered around Ephesians 2:13.





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



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Website : [openheartsumcsc.org](http://openheartsumcsc.org)



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

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