



Ministry Newsletter

January 2025

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN MINDS

OPEN DOORS



Beloved Community,

What a wonderful Advent we had together to prepare for the birth of Christ! I hope you had a blessed Christmas filled with hope, peace, joy, and love.

As we finish up our year together, it is a good time to reflect on how far we have come as a church and posture ourselves for continued spiritual and community growth in 2025. I invite you to listen to this podcast from "Church is Changing" and listen to the story of Open Hearts UMC from a

new perspective. We discuss where we've been and who we've become. The discussion serves as a good reminder to us all of where we need to go as a church that "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."

[Click here](#)

With love and gratitude for you and our partnership,

Rev. Karen Jones

MEMBER NEWS

Welcome New Members!

Phil & Martha Perkins

Kathy & Rev. Ken Owens

Danielle & Jason Kaminiski

Ben, Johanna, Jackson & Hollis Ward

Kathy Owens joins from another UMC. She works remotely in Accounts Receivable for an environmental lab in Columbia. Her husband Rev Ken Owens is a UMC minister and a hospice Chaplain. His membership stays with the SC UMC Conference until we are chartered. The Owens reside in Easley.

Danielle Kaminiski joins from another UMC. She owns Reinvintage Warehouse in Spartanburg and is a talented artist. Her husband Jason Kaminski joins from another denomination and works for Michelin. They live in Duncan. The Owens are Danielle's parents.

Martha and Phil Perkins recently moved to Greenville and transferred their

membership from Cashiers NC UMC. Martha is a retired nurse and nurse practitioner. Phil is a talented musician, having led the music program in Cashiers. He has already joined our choir! They are enjoying living in Greenville and meeting new people.

The Ward family joins from another UMC. Johanna is a commercial interior designer, while Benjamin is an architect with Radium Architecture. Jackson is a first grader at Blythe and Hollis is in the Open Hearts campus of Augusta Rd Baptist Church CDC. The Wards are already engaged in the life of our church through the children's programs.



MUSIC MINISTRY HAPPENINGS



The Fellowship Choir and the Hope Quartet are excited to present excerpts from Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio, *Christus*, at our Epiphany service January 12. Through music we will share the story of the guiding star, the journey of the magi, and the promise of Christ, our bright Morning Star! Please join us in worship!

MISSIONS OPPORTUNITY

Learning about
Poverty and
Homelessness in
Greenville

Educational Event & Dinner

January 29th at 5:30 pm



Susan Midgett, Director of Mission Advancement at United Ministries, will lead us in a program on poverty and homelessness in Greenville.

**We will share a meal together and have roundtable discussions!
Nursery is provided.**



On January 29th at 5:30, the S.H.A.R.E. Committee will host a ministries education event on poverty and homelessness in our community. Susan Midgett, United Ministries Vice President of Mission Advancement, will share the origins and foundations of United Ministries, provide an overview of how their programs help

families in need, and discuss the current demographics of poverty and homelessness in Greenville. Her talk will be in the Open Hearts Sanctuary. Dinner and roundtable discussions with experts on poverty and homelessness in our community will follow in Trinity Hall. A nursery will be provided. Please register for this event through Realm.

Register [here](#).

Want to learn more about poverty before the event? Check out *Poverty by America*, written by Matthew Desmond.

MEN'S MINISTRIES



Men's Ministry Dinner January 14th

**Capri's Italian
Restaurant**
115 Pelham Road

The next Men's Ministry event will be on **Tuesday, January 14, 2025** at **6:00 pm**. The event will be at Capri's Italian Restaurant at 115 Pelham Road. RSVP to meloretta@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



Open Hearts women, save the date for a "Galentine's" Soup Dinner. It will be on **Thursday, February 6th** at **6:00 pm** at Wendy Thrailkill's house. Look for additional information soon! We hope to see you there!

YOUTH MINISTRY

SAVE THE DATES!!

January Youth Retreat: SC UMC
Revolution in Columbia (1/24-1/26)
Cost: \$150/person

REVOLUTION

Township Auditorium

Columbia, SC

January 24-26, 2025

\$150/person

Revolution is a weekend where UMC youth come together to worship our awesome God, take part in devotions, break-out sessions, and more!

February Youth Retreat: Asbury Hills
"Hands & Feet Service Weekend"
(2/21-2/23)
Cost: \$55/person

RSVP and save your space by [emailing Jana Clack!](#) Adult volunteers are needed; let Jana know if you are interested in chaperoning!

UPDATED WEBSITE

We have, for the last year or so, been working with United Methodist Communications regarding our website. Our grant funding with UMC COMM ends this month. To that end, we are excited to share that Giraffe Web, an Upstate web development company, is in the process of making updates to our website so that it is more user-friendly and functional. We anticipate the new changes will go into effect on January 1, 2025.



ADVENT ACTIVITIES

Advent Zoom Bible Study

Thank you to all the participants in Open Hearts First Zooming Advent Study. The group had a great time connecting and studying Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes by Cynthia Campell.



Young Adult Christmas Party

The Young Adult Christmas party was December 13th at the Clack home— and oh, what fun it was! Between the delicious food, ornament exchange and fellowship, a wonderful time was had by all! 35 were in attendance (adults + their



kids)□□.

Youth Activities



Youth Christmas Party

The Youth Ministry Christmas Party was on December 15th at the Creech home! 12 Students enjoyed a taco bar, decorating cookies, and a gift exchange to celebrate the Advent season.



Youth Gathering Downtown

Many of our youth had a blast having lunch downtown at Grill Marks and ice skating on Main Street on December 23rd!



Open Hearts Sunday School Class Advent Activity

Gifts were collected by the Open Hearts Sunday School Class for a family of six. Tanya Pearson is pictured with the cart of items to be delivered to United Ministries.

The Seekers Sunday School Class also sponsored a family for their Advent activity.

New Adult Sunday School Class Advent Activity

During this Advent season the New Adult Sunday School class partnered with *South Carolinians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty* (SCADP) to write Christmas cards to the men incarcerated on South Carolina's death row. Four of these men are in isolation for the holiday season due to impending execution dates.



The executive director of SCADP, Rev. Hillary Taylor, joined the class to discuss who is impacted by the death penalty. The mission of SCADP is to abolish the death penalty and catalyze criminal justice reform in South Carolina.

For more information about SCADP [click here](#).

Volunteers at United Ministries Winter Wonderland

Our Open Hearts volunteer crew of seven received many hugs and expressions of thanks as we interacted with families participating in United Ministries programs. Carolyn and Alex Burgin and their granddaughter MacKenzie helped children select gifts for other family members from the Santa Shoppe. With her fluent skills in Spanish, MacKenzie was invaluable in communicating with some of the families.



Tanya Pearson and Donna Wilson wrapping holiday gifts for United Ministries families.



Celebrating Christmas at Open Hearts United Methodist Church



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



Website : openheartsumcsc.org



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