



## Ministry Newsletter

March 2025

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN MINDS

OPEN DOORS

Beloved Community,

We are approaching the beginning of the Lenten season, which is an intentional time to strengthen our spirits – to bear witness to Jesus’s death for the sake of our sins but also to bear the burden of our own crosses in discipleship. To help us in this journey, we will be embarking on a new sermon series using the classic book by Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. Each week the sermon will focus on one of the following disciplines: fasting, meditation, solitude, confession, simplicity, submission, and celebration.

In the words of Richard Foster, these disciplines “invite us to explore the inner caverns of the spiritual realm. They urge us to be the answer to a hollow world.”

I hope you will join us this Lent as we strengthen our faith together.

Your partner in ministry,

Rev. Karen Jones

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### LENTEN OFFERING

During Lent the S.H.A.R.E. Committee will present to our congregation an opportunity to contribute to a special offering focused on meeting

significant needs in our community. This year's offering will go to Triune Mercy Center in recognition of their long-term commitment to following Christ in offering love, compassion, and hope to those experiencing poverty.

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## MEMBER NEWS



**Deb and Ray Orvin** join from a local UMC. Deb and Ray are both retired, Ray from REWA and Deb from teaching at Greenville Tech. They live in Simpsonville with their dog “Waffles.” They are looking forward to being involved in the life of Open Hearts.

**Judy Benedict** joins Open Hearts UMC from a disaffiliated UMC. Judy is married to Open Hearts member Robert Benedict and they are the parents of grown daughters who live in NYC and Houston. She owns Giraffe Web Development and Design and created our new website! In her spare time Judy enjoys spending time at the lake.

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# Looking Ahead

*Shrove Tuesday*  
**Pancake Supper**

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

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

A detailed illustration of a stack of five golden-brown pancakes. A pat of butter is melting on top, and thick, dark brown syrup is being poured over the stack, dripping down the sides.

## SHROVE TUESDAY

Join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on March 4th. 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.**

## CHARGE CONFERENCE

**SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH**

12:30 PM in Sanctuary

We celebrate the good news that God has placed a calling on the lives of Natalie Buck, Jana Clack, and Sandy MacMillan for ordained ministry.

Come witness and celebrate this occasion!  
Stay for light refreshments in Trinity Hall afterwards.



*Natalie Buck*



*Jana Clack*



*Sandy MacMillan*

We will have a special called Charge Conference on March 9th to affirm

the calling God has placed on Jana Clack, Sandy MacMillan, and Natalie Buck for ordained ministry. SPRC has voted to recommend Jana Clack, Sandy MacMillan, and Natalie Buck to pursue ordained ministry. The next step is Charge Conference approval.

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Steve Patterson, will preside over the meeting and members of the Board of Stewards will vote on each candidate separately by written ballot. They will need 2/3 of the votes to receive the Board of Stewards (Charge Conference) recommendation to continue in the candidacy process towards ordination. We will also be recognizing Natalie Buck, who is in a different stage of the candidacy process and is transferring her membership from the Dakotas Conference to South Carolina Conference.

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**Save the Date!**

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

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## MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

### A Message from S.H.A.R.E. on Decluttering

Have you inventoried your home to see what possessions you rarely use that others might need? Do you long for the serenity in your home that organizing expert Marie Kondo promises follows tidying and decluttering? If so, the S.H.A.R.E. Committee encourages you this March to give items you are not using to worthy agencies that offer resale opportunities.

While Greenville has many thrift, resale, and consignment shops, here are some that are particularly helpful to clients of our ministry partners:

- Goodwill (multiple locations around Greenville)
- Safe Harbor Resale Shop – 2830 Wade Hampton Blvd., Unit 27, Taylors
- Nearly New Shop – 118 Greenacre Rd., Greenville
- Miracle Hill Thrift Stores – 494 S. Pleasantburg Drive, 701 Pete Hollis

- Blvd. or 2419 Wade Hampton Blvd., all in Greenville
- Salvation Army Thrift Store – 2402 E. North Street, Greenville

For those of you who live outside of Greenville, just search “charity thrift stores” to find good options.

Ecclesiastes 3:6 in *The Message Bible* reminds us there is “a right time to hold on and another to let go.” This spring consider letting go while helping others as well. Look for a bulletin insert that will enable our congregation to record our efforts. Send photos to [admin@openheartsumcsc.org](mailto:admin@openheartsumcsc.org).

## 2025 Uniting for Change Luncheon

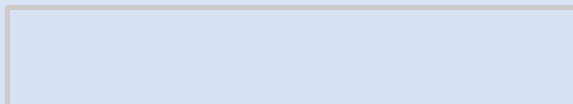
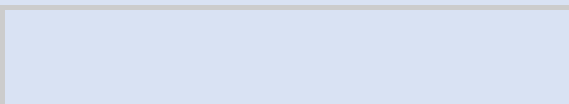
Dr. Jim O’Connell, author of *Rough Sleepers*, will speak about creating a community of compassion and care at the 2025 Uniting for Change Luncheon, sponsored by our ministry partner United Ministries on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11:30 to 1:00 (doors open at 11:15) at the Greenville Convention Center. Open Hearts will have one, possibly two, tables for ten available for our members who wish to attend this educational and fundraising event to support United Ministries programs. If you wish to attend, please call Tina Majors in the church office. Seats will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. If our tables fill up, individual tickets for \$85 may be purchased on the United Ministries website.

### MEN'S MINISTRY

Save the date  
for the next  
Men’s Ministry  
dinner from  
6 pm to 8 pm  
on March 11 at  
Topsy Taco!  
RSVP to Miles  
Loretta (Info in  
REALM).



### WOMEN'S MINISTRY







### Women's Friday Coffee

Join friends old and new for coffee and great conversation at Inspire Coffee House, 1433 Cleveland Street on March 7th at 10:00 am.

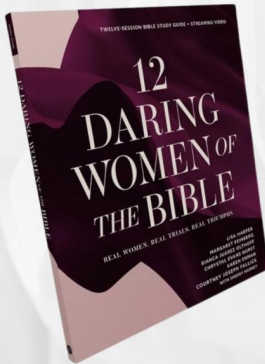


### Women's Ministry Dinner

Join us for dinner on April 8th at 6:00 pm! We are welcoming Kim Mogan, founder and Executive Director of GirlUp Gvl, who will join us as a speaker and host a Q&A with our group. Nursery is provided!

## 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 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](#)



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Join us for our Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday, April 19 here at OHUMC! We'll have an egg hunt on our lawn (with a pre-k egg hunt on the playground!), a petting zoo, games, face painting, crafts, and balloon art! This event is FREE and open to the community.



# Easter Eggstravaganza

April 19th at 10:00 am

Easter Egg Hunt | Petting Zoo  
Inflatables | Lawn Games | Crafts  
Face Painting | Balloon Art

FREE EVENT!



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## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It's never too early to be thinking about the warm days of summer and VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL! Join us in God's creation and go on adventures together this summer. We'll travel to Camp Open Hearts and encounter God's love like never before! VBS is FREE: a t-shirt and dinner are provided!

[REGISTER PARTICIPANTS OR AS A VOLUNTEER HERE](#)

# CAMP OPEN HEARTS

June 15 – 18, 2025 | 5:30–7:45 pm



**"FOR THE LORD IS GOOD AND HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER;  
HIS FAITHFULNESS CONTINUES THROUGH ALL GENERATIONS." - PSALM 100:5**



## Looking Back

### MISSIONS THANK YOU

We're deeply thankful for a night of fellowship, learning and community-building. Susan Midgett, UM Vice President of Mission Advancement, shared with us the origins and foundations of United Ministries providing an overview of how their programs help families in need. She also discussed the current demographics of poverty and homelessness in Greenville. Dinner and roundtable discussions with experts on poverty, housing, and homelessness in our community followed her talk in Trinity Hall.

Thank you to all who participated in the event!



## YOUTH MINISTRY

Our Youth gather for a weekly Bible study! A few weeks ago, they made Valentines for homebound members as part of a lesson on being agents of God's justice!



## BLOOD DRIVE

Our community blood drive in February was VERY successful! We extend our thanks to the Open Hearts members, donors from neighboring churches, and others in the neighborhood who donated. We made our goal of 18 – which means we saved up to 54 local lives.



Pictured: Lynne Shackelford (center) provided refreshments to blood donors Gwen Winn and John Winn.



## JULIE VALENTINE LUNCHEON

An enthusiastic Open Hearts UMC contingent at the 14th Annual Julie Valentine Luncheon.

The Open Hearts Sunday School Class had the Annual Heartburn



Party on February 15. (chili potluck)  
[Click here to see pictures of the fun.](#)



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



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