

## Ministry Newsletter

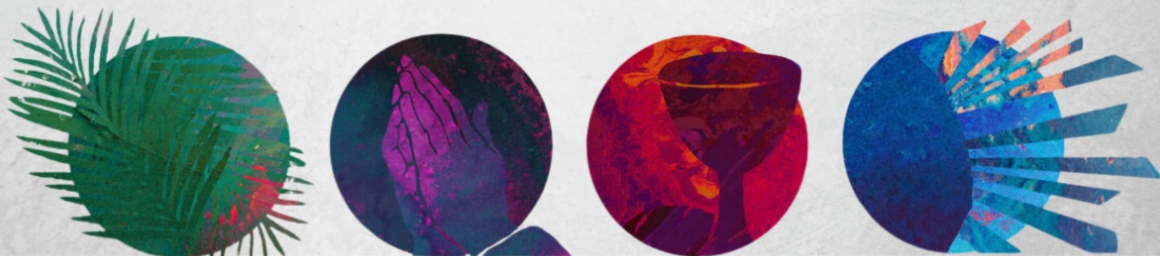
April 2025

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN MINDS

OPEN DOORS

# HOLY WEEK



## April 13–20, 2025

Beloved Community,

Easter will be upon us in a few short weeks, and I hope you will consider joining us in preparation for Easter and in celebration of the resurrection.

Here are a few Holy Week opportunities to add to your calendar to help you in your spiritual journey in our community.

**PALM SUNDAY – April 13 at 11am**

*Children and youth are invited to process into the sanctuary with palm branches as we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem before his death.*

**PRAYER STATIONS – April 14–18 drop in 9am–1pm**

*We will have interactive prayer stations to engage your senses throughout the sanctuary during Holy Week. Enter using the church office door (back of the church) and use the Ring doorbell. The stations are self-paced and you can drop in during office hours during Holy Week.*

**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE– April 17 at 6pm**

*This service includes Communion as we remember the Last Supper, followed by a dramatic telling of Jesus's last moments on earth using a Tenebrae liturgy.*

Join us as we journey through Holy Week, reflecting on Jesus' sacrifice and the deep love shown through His death on the cross. Then, on Easter Sunday, we gather in joy to celebrate His victorious resurrection! Come worship with us at one of our two Easter services—8:30 AM or 11:00 AM in the sanctuary—as we rejoice in the hope and new life found in Christ.

Your partner in ministry,

Rev. Karen Jones

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# Easter Eggstravaganza

April 19th at 10:00 am

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

**FREE EVENT!**

Join us for our Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday, April 19th! We'll have an egg hunt on our lawn (with a pre-k egg hunt on the playground!) and many other activities! This event is FREE and open to the community.

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## LENTEN OFFERING

During Lent the S.H.A.R.E. Committee has created 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

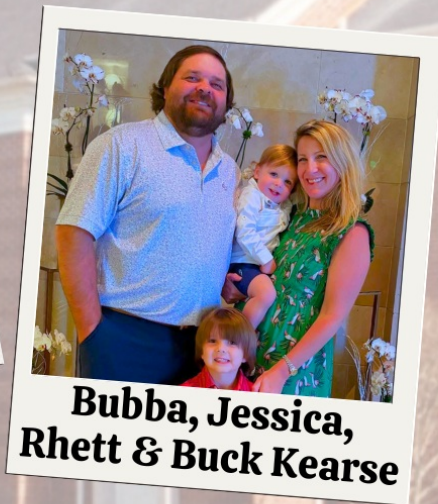


# Welcome

## New Members!



**Natalie Buck**



**Bubba, Jessica,  
Rhett & Buck Kearsse**



**Ann & Ruby Brandon**

Natalie Buck moved to Greenville with her fiancé, Rev. Hillary Taylor, in 2021. She started attending Open Hearts UMC during Lent 2024. As the volunteer coordinator at Rebuild Upstate, a local home repair nonprofit, she connects community members and churches with opportunities to serve neighbors. Natalie is a certified candidate for ministry and is pursuing ordination in the South Carolina Conference. She is active in the new Sunday School class and serves as a liturgist in worship.

Ann Brandon transfers from another UMC. She has been a mental health counselor for 13 years and feels honored to be called to this profession. She has her own private practice. Ann and her three-year-old daughter Ruby enjoy camping, swimming, doing crafts, and playing outside at local parks. They also enjoy participating in activities at Open Hearts.

The Kearsse family is transferring their membership from another UMC. Jessica and Bubba were married in 2018 and moved to Greenville in November 2022. Jessica graduated from Clemson and has worked for Marriott International for 20 years. Bubba is a Newberry grad and is employed by ABC Supply. They have two sons and enjoy the family meals at Open Hearts. Rhett is a five-year-old at Open Hearts ARBC and will start at Blythe Academy in August. Rhett loves sports, especially watching Clemson and Carolina football. Buck is a happy two-year-old at Open Hearts ARBC. He was baptized on March 23rd at Open Hearts UMC!



Our Fellowship Choir and Hope Quartet have been hard at work preparing music for Holy Week and Easter Sunday. We have special music planned for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and two morning services on Easter. We invite all to come and worship with us during this holy season! It's not too late to jump into the choir if you'd like to sing with us through the rest of the spring! All singers are invited to join us Wednesdays at 7pm in the choir room. For information, consult our Director of Music Ministry, Dr. Tish Oney.

The Hope Quartet will be a featured ensemble in the Centre Stage concert, *The Tish Oney Jazz Orchestra at Centre Stage* on March 30. They will perform sacred choral music and contemporary jazz composed by Dr. Oney. **To purchase tickets click [HERE](#).**

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## Samaritan House Permanently Closed

The Samaritan House of Greenville, which has provided food assistance in our community since 2004, ceased operations in early March. Since 2020, the program has operated from 2723 Augusta Street, which is a part of Open Hearts United Methodist Church.

Karl Schnelle, a member of Open Hearts UMC, has volunteered to serve as project manager to help The Samaritan House Board dissolve the nonprofit agency that was formed by five local churches. Karl is one of about a half-dozen loyal Open Hearts volunteers that have served recently with the food pantry. The church is deeply grateful for their compassionate volunteerism.

The final day for food distribution to clients was March 6. Volunteers have worked with the nonprofit board to keep clients informed of the closing of the food pantry and ensure they are aware of other options for food assistance. Other food assistance programs can be found at Harvest Hope Food Bank, The Universal Church/Iglesia Universal, Solomon's Temple

Church, Long Branch Baptist, St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Triune Mercy Center, and United Ministries. Karl also is helping the nonprofit board dissolve the agency.

Regretfully, Open Hearts United Methodist Church learned last year that Samaritan House needed substantial repairs for it to continue to be occupied safely. Due to the cost of the remediation of water damage and termite damage that has accumulated over the years, and anticipated repairs or replacement of the HVAC system, Open Hearts UMC decided after thoughtful discussion that the cost of remediation at this time is not the best use of the resources. The leadership of Samaritan House considered relocating the operations to another location but ultimately decided to close the food pantry due to the lack of a suitable alternative site.

Volunteers have taken three truckloads of furniture and equipment to Harvest Hope, South Carolina's largest food bank that has a location on White Horse Road in Greenville. All the food at Samaritan House was handed out on its last day of operations.

Open Hearts United Methodist Church recognizes the growing issue of food insecurity. Through the S.H.A.R.E. (Mission) Committee we are currently assisting United Ministries, Triune Mercy Center, Meals on Wheels, GirlUp GVL, AIDS Upstate, and Thomas E. Kearns Elementary School by collecting items for food pantries, providing and serving meals, packing meals, and offering financial support.





# LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR 296 5

Augusta Heights Baptist | Open Hearts UMC | St. Michael Lutheran

## Day of Service & Fellowship April 5th from 9:00 am- 1:00 pm

**Project Host Food Truck luncheon  
& concert will follow local service projects**

We're excited to partner with Augusta Heights Baptist and St. Michael Lutheran for a Day of Service! Save the date and join us for service projects at Meals on Wheels, Conestee Nature Preserve, and Pleasant Valley Connection followed by a concert with lunch at St. Michael. *Nursery is provided during the service projects from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm.*

**Register [HERE!](#)**

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**MEN'S MINISTRY**



# **Men's Ministry Dinner May 13th**

**6:00 pm**

**Soby's Downtown  
RSVP to Miles Loretta**

Join us for dinner and fellowship at Soby's downtown on May 13th at 6:00 PM. RSVP to Miles Loretta (Contact info in Realm) or by calling the church office.

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**WOMEN'S MINISTRY**





# *Women's Ministry Dinner*

## **April 8th at 6:00 pm**

RSVP on Realm  
Nursery is provided!

**Join us in welcoming Kim Mogan,  
Founder of Girl Up GVL as our speaker!**



Open Hearts UMC women and friends are invited to enjoy a catered meal, fellowship, and a casual presentation by Kim Mogan, founder and executive director of **GirlUp GVL**, on April 8th at 6 p.m. in Trinity Hall. Kim will share with us the mission, values, challenges, and triumphs of this dynamic organization that empowers middle and high school girls.

**Register through Realm** or call the church office. Cost is \$10. Childcare is provided. If you would like to donate to the GirlUp GVL program, we will be filling our centerpiece decorations with gift cards to help with their transportation and meal expenses. Preferred cards are Target, Walmart, QT, and Spinx.

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY**



# Friday Coffee

**April 4th**

**10:00 am**  
**Inspire Coffee**  
1433 Cleveland St.  
Greenville, SC

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## **YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**

Young adults are invited to join us for live music, burgers, brews, and good company on April 10th at Southernside Brewing. We'll have tables reserved from 6:00 – 8:00 PM – an RSVP is NOT required!



*Young Adults*

# **Burgers & Brews**

## **@ Southernside Brewing**

**April 10th at 6:00 PM | 25 Delano Drive**

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### **YOUTH MINISTRY**

We are excited to celebrate the incredible accomplishments of the Class of 2025 on Sunday, May 18th, 2025. If you or someone within your family would like to be recognized during our worship service, please fill out the Google Form below.

**Graduate Sunday Form**



# Class of 2025

**Graduate Sunday  
May 18, 2025**

**Please complete the  
graduate Google Form!**

## Donate Easter Eggs

We're looking Easter Eggs filled with nut-free candy  
for our Easter Eggstravaganza on April 19th! Bring  
donations to the church office Monday-Thursday.  
from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



## 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](#)



**Save the Date!**

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



# Guest Preacher

Sunday, May 4th, 2025



**Bishop  
Will  
Willimon**



## Looking Back

Open Hearts Members  
enjoying lunch at **Jasmine  
Kitchen** in February to  
support the **SHARE** mission of  
the month.



The Board of Stewards voted at  
our **Charge Conference** on  
March 9 to affirm Sandy  
MacMillan, Jana Clack, and  
Natalie Buck and their call to  
ordained ministry.



Congratulations to our ministry candidates!



## S.H.A.R.E. in ACTION

A group of Open Hearts members attended a viewing of *No Address*. The film depicted the life of many who have fallen into homelessness and the numerous causes of why people are unhoused. The event was sponsored by the Salvation Army and numerous community organization shared their experiences with dealing with homelessness in Greenville.



Open Hearts Sunday School Class volunteered at Meals on Wheels preparing meals. There were 10 volunteers who prepared over 1,500 meals within a few hours.



March First Friday  
Coffee Participants

## Men's Ministry Night out in March



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



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

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