



## Ministry Newsletter

May 2025

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN MINDS

OPEN DOORS

Beloved Community,

What a joyful Easter celebration we shared at Open Hearts UMC! After a deeply meaningful journey through Lent, I'm overflowing with gratitude for this beautiful community of believers who faithfully walked together through the past 40 days, embracing the Spiritual Disciplines that were brought to life in our sermon series.

Now, we step boldly into the great 50 days of the Easter season—a time of joy, hope, and renewal! We're excited to continue our journey together with a series of inspiring worship services this month, all centered on the discipline of celebration. Let's keep the Easter spirit alive as we rejoice in the risen Christ and all the new life He brings!

**April 27 – We welcome back Jana Clack to the pulpit as guest preacher.**

**May 4 – We celebrate and welcome Bishop Will Willimon as our guest preacher.**

**May 11 – We celebrate and confirm Open Hearts UMC's first Confirmation class in worship.**

**May 18 – We celebrate and recognize our graduates in worship, as well as new members joining.**

**May 25 – We celebrate the Ascension of Jesus and the closing of the Easter season.**

Join us this month at 11:00 am worship as we continue to live as Easter people!

Your partner in ministry,

Rev. Karen Jones



## Celebrating Stewardship

JANUARY - MARCH 2025



### PRAYERS

**24 quarts of soup delivered** for people on our prayer list who were sick.  
**74 new prayer requests** received and prayed for by our CARES team.  
**86 inspirational cards and valentines** written and sent to church members in need and delivered to 6 local agencies.  
**114 cards** mailed and **68 birthday cards** sent to members.



### PRESENCE

**30 women** attended the Spring Women's Bible Study.  
**30 ladies** participated in the Galentine's dinner.  
**92 participants** at our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, hosted by our men.  
**6 youth and leaders** attended the UMC weekend retreat, Revolution 2025.  
**16 men** attended the quarterly Men's Ministry Night Out dinner.  
On an average Sunday, we have present **94 disciples** in Sunday School, **154 in-person** worshippers, and **63 online** worshippers.



### GIFTS

**\$1,250 contributed** to The Julie Valentine Center from OHUMC, increased by individual contributions from members.  
**\$2,000 contributed** by the Open Hearts Sunday School class to **6 local charities**.  
**\$268,550** in tithes, gifts, and offerings given to God through Open Hearts UMC, which is a **2.9% increase** from last quarter.



### SERVICE

**11 members** helped pack approximately **2000 meals** at Meals on Wheels.  
**5 volunteers** prepared a meal for **12 young women** involved with GirlUp GVL.  
**65 members and community guests** attended our educational presentation and dinner focused on poverty and homelessness in our community.  
**492 hours** from volunteers serving in music ministry and **83 hours** from volunteers serving in audio/visual ministry.



### WITNESS

**12 adults and 6 children** were added to our membership.  
**18 individuals** donated blood, saving up to **54 lives** through The Blood Connection.  
**17.6K people reached** on Facebook with **50 new follows**, which is **up 61%**.  
**3 members** were affirmed for ordained ministry at called charge conference.  
**18 new and prospective members** attended the Coffee with Karen gatherings, held the first Sunday of each month.

2703 Augusta Street | Greenville, SC 29605  
[openheartsumcsc.org](http://openheartsumcsc.org)

# Guest Preacher

Sunday, May 4th, 2025



**Bishop  
Will  
Willimon**

Bishop Will Willimon will be preaching at Open Hearts UMC on May 4, 2025 at 11:00 AM – We hope to see you there!

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## MUSIC MINISTRY HAPPENINGS



On March 30th our Hope Quartet convened on the Centre Stage concert stage for a performance with the Tish Oney Jazz Orchestra. They sang “Waltz for Ellie,” a jazz piece composed by our Director of Music Ministry, Dr. Tish Oney, as well as Oney’s composition written in 2024 for the Open Hearts UMC Fellowship Choir, “Sanctify Me.” We are so proud of our three student section leaders, Jeremiah Reid, Hannah Bennett, and Jacob Bouchie for their brilliant performance at one of the premier public performance venues in Greenville!



**Do you have musical talent?** If you play an instrument or sing and would like to share your talents over the summer during our Sunday services, please get in touch with our Director of Music Ministry. We’ll be glad to include you in our summer choir (which meets only Sunday mornings) or as an instrumental soloist. You are welcome to join us in making a joyful sound! Dr. Oney would like to extend many thanks to all our music and tech volunteers for their faithful service during this 2024–25 season!

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## STAFF UPDATE



# Staff Spotlight



Avery

Avery Mack Owens has joined the Open Hearts family as Director of Worship Technology! An Upstate native, Avery has experience in audio visual technology, including in worship settings. We look forward to all of the creativity and expertise he will bring to our community of faith!

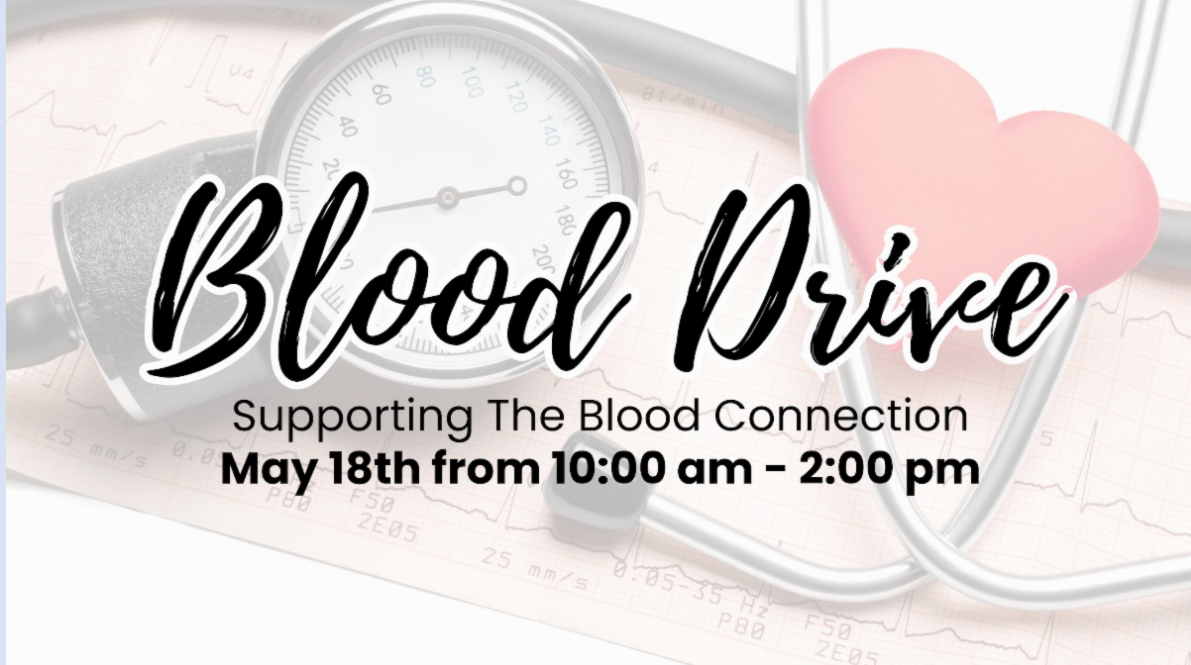
Join us in welcoming Avery Mack Owens to the Open Hearts family! Avery has joined the staff as Director of Worship Technology and we're excited to have his experience and creativity as part of our team! When he is not serving at OHUMC, Avery works as the Marketing and Audience Experience Manager at the Spartanburg Philharmonic. We hope you'll stop by the Sanctuary balcony on Sunday mornings and get to know Avery!

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## Looking Ahead

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Please donate blood to save lives!

Our 2025 Spring blood drive, in partnership with The Blood Connection (TBC), is planned for **Sunday 5/18/2025, 10 AM – 2 PM** in the Open Hearts UMC church parking lot. Pre-registrations are encouraged, but walk-ins are also welcome and needed. All donors will receive a \$40 TBC Rewards gift card from The Blood Connection.

[Click HERE to pre-register!](#)

Please help spread the word – by inviting your family and friends to donate blood and save lives.

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## MISSIONS MINISTRY

### *Lenten Mission Reminders:*

- If you are a parent of a child, remember to bring Triune Mercy Center donations that children collected throughout Lent to worship.
- If you participated in the challenge to simplify your home and donate to local non-profits, let us know by filling out a form found at the entrances of the sanctuary.
- If you collected items for Julie Valentine Center, please place them on the altar this Sunday, April 27th to be blessed.



South Carolina United Methodists proudly celebrate Epworth each May.

*Did you know . . .*

- That Epworth Children's Home and The Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing, originally Epworth Orphanage, in Columbia has been supporting children and families for over 125 years?

- That today Epworth offers a multitude of services, including recruiting and licensing foster families throughout South Carolina, kinship care for grandparents and others raising another person's child, an Early Intervention Center to serve families with special needs, intensive in-home services, parent support groups, and a program to prepare those 18–23 for higher education and pursuit of careers?
- That Epworth Children's Home in Columbia provides youth 12–18 residential care, including 24-hour/7 days a week adult support, counseling, tutoring, and healthcare?
- That Open Hearts has an Epworth office in our church?

To show our support, S.H.A.R.E. is offering two opportunities in May:

1. We would like to arrange a road trip to Columbia to tour the Epworth facilities in Columbia and have lunch. If interested, please contact Pastor Karen or Lynne Shackelford. Once we know who is interested, we will set a date.
2. Throughout May we will collect resources Epworth has requested for foster families. These can be provided by Sunday School classes or other groups, families working together, or individuals. ***Donations can be dropped off on Sundays and during the week at the church office.***

[Click here for the items needed!](#)

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**WOMEN'S MINISTRY**



**WOMEN'S MINISTRY**



# *Friday Coffee*

**May 2nd**

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

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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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**YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**





# Young Adults

## Spring Cookout

12:30 PM at Picnic Shelter/Playground

**NURSERY PROVIDED | RSVP ON REALM**

Young adults and young families are invited to a cookout on Sunday, May 4th following worship at the playground/picnic shelter. Nursery is provided! **RSVP HERE!**

### SEE THE POSSIBILITIES, LIVE THE PROMISES!



#### 2025 SOUTH CAROLINA UNITED METHODIST ANNUAL CONFERENCE



*See The Possibilities of a Seed: "Plant gardens and eat what they produce." Jeremiah 29:5-7*

**June 8-11, 2025 | Greenville Convention Center**

The South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will be held in Greenville in June, and we will be hosting several conference-related events at Open Hearts including a kids camp for children of the delegates. We will also host a table in the exhibit hall at the Greenville Convention Center. If you would like to volunteer to host our exhibit table, you can **sign up here**. And if you would like to volunteer at Annual Conference, you can look at roles and shifts on this **sign up**.

**Vacation Bible School:**  
**June 15-18**

It's never too early to be thinking about the warm days of summer and VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL! Join us in God's creation as we go on adventures at Camp Open Hearts. VBS will be from 5:45 – 7:45 PM daily and this free program includes dinner and a t-shirt!



**REGISTER AS A VOLUNTEER  
OR PARTICIPANT HERE!**

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



Our Young Adults enjoyed fellowship and dinner at Southernside Brewing on April 10th! Join us for our next gathering – the Cookout at OHUMC on May 4th.

*Questions about our YA ministry? Contact Hunter Richardson or Jana Clack (info in Realm!).*



**What an amazing Lenten season it's been!**

We welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday waving branches and remembered His sacrifice on Maundy Thursday through a





Tenebrae service. We celebrated with our community on Saturday, April 19th at the Easter Eggstravaganza. Over 500 people attended the event! Easter worship brought roughly 320 people to Open Hearts to celebrate the resurrection and lift up Alleluias!

Thank you to every volunteer who helped make Holy Week happen!



## Women's Ministry Dinner Follow-Up

We are excited to share the thrilling news that we sent Kim Mogan, the Founder of GirlUp GVL, home with \$1501 in cash, checks, and gift cards for the **GirlUp** program. Thank you for your attendance, attention, enthusiasm, and generosity at our event.





## WOMEN'S MINISTRY APRIL DINNER

WITH GIRLUP GVL

*Dinner and Q&A with Founder, Kim Mogan*



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



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