

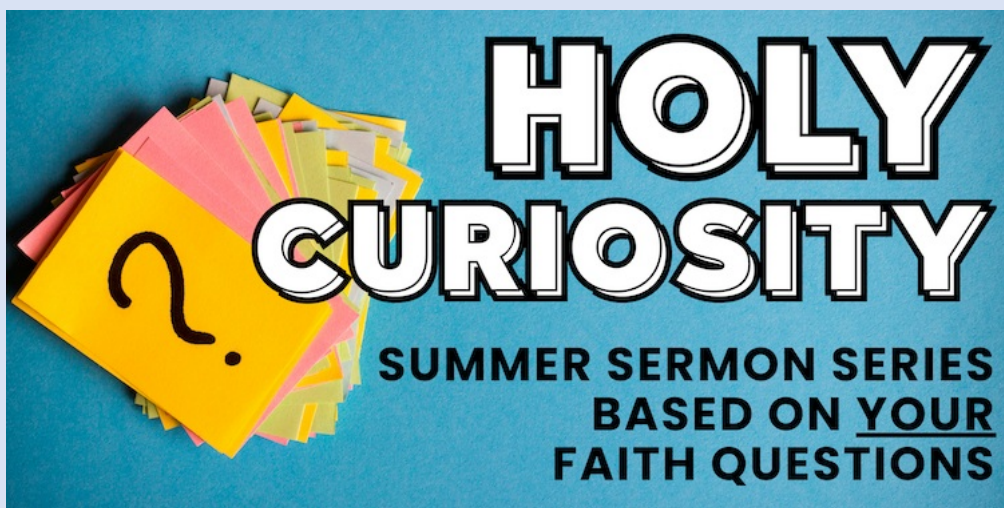
Ministry Newsletter

June 2025

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN MINDS

OPEN DOORS



Beloved Community,

This summer, we're launching a new sermon series called *Holy Curiosity*—a journey into the questions that stir our hearts and challenge our faith. *Holy Curiosity* isn't about offering all the answers. Instead, these sermons are meant to spark wonder, open dialogue, and equip you with tools to navigate your own spiritual questions—now and in the future. Together, we'll practice being curious in community.

Each week's sermon will be inspired by real questions submitted by you, our community, using this [link](#). I'll select some of the most frequently asked faith questions and we'll explore them together in the summer sermons. Additionally, we will have discussion groups around some of your questions that would benefit from conversation and group

exploration. These discussion groups will be led and hosted by several of our clergy friends from Open Hearts UMC. These gatherings will offer space to listen, learn, and grow alongside others also seeking deeper understanding.

Let's get curious—together. Submit your questions today!

Your Partner in Ministry,
Rev. Karen Jones

SUMMER WORSHIP

During the summer months, you can expect a more relaxed environment for a few practical reasons. To address the warmer days ahead, the worship leaders will not be wearing robes. You may also notice a lack of brass in the sanctuary as it is being sent away for relacquering. Feel free to also bring your more relaxed selves as we worship together this summer.



NEW MEMBERS

Welcome

New Members!



Emily Barnett & Avery Owens



Matsha & Dan Sichveland



Peggy Parrott



Olivia & Jeffrey Woodward



Isabel Stringfellow



Jeanne, Courtney, Bob, Tyler & Stella White



Rich & Cathleen Marseil



Lila Kitchens, Halden Virtue & Olivia Marseil

Emily Barnett:

Emily is an Upstate South Carolina transplant from Athens, Georgia. After attending college at Wofford College in Spartanburg, she remained in the Upstate, moving to Greenville to start her career. In her free time, you can find Emily listening to Taylor Swift, doing a jigsaw puzzle, or cheering on the Georgia Bulldogs! She is excited to join the wonderful congregation here at Open Hearts!

Avery Owens:

Avery and Emily both live in Easley with “Cropper,” their Brittany Spaniel. Avery is a lover of music and works as Marketing Manager for the Spartanburg Philharmonic, in addition to serving as the Director of Worship Technology at Open Hearts.

Cathleen and Rich Marsell:

The Marsells, with their daughter Olivia moved to Simpsonville from Long Island, New York in 2018. They both work in the public school system. They are very happy to have found Open Hearts UMC and are excited to finally become members.

Peggy Parrott:

Peggy was born and raised in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. She was a staff assistant with Hospice and is a yoga instructor. She is a member of the Open Hearts Sunday School Class

Marsha and Dan Sichveland:

The Sichvelands join as Associate Members in conjunction with Westminster Presbyterian. Now retired, Dan worked for Coca-Cola parent company in Atlanta, and Marsha worked in landscape design. They are active members of the Open Hearts Sunday School class, ardent supporters of the Greenville Theatre, and enthusiastic travelers.

Isabel Stringfellow:

Isabel is originally from Stow, Massachusetts. She graduated from USC in 2022 and is now a first-year medical student at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine – Greenville. When she's not studying, you can find her running on the Swamp Rabbit Trail or watching whatever sports are in season (Go Red Sox! Go Gamecocks!)

Bob White:

Bob is happy to be back in the Greenville area after moving around the Southeast. He currently works as the National Inventory Manager for RTON Inc, and serves on the board of the non-profit Start with One International, an organization focused on clean water and education in East Africa. He and Courtney have two kids and the best granddaughter in the world!

Courtney White:

Courtney is originally from NJ and came south to Clemson where she met Bob as they were both in the Dixie Skydivers club. They married in 1993 and have two adult children, Alex and Tyler, and one granddaughter, Stella. Courtney is a Comfort Consultant for Complete Heat and Air. They reside in Easley.

Tyler White:

Tyler has a BFA in Theatre Acting from Anderson University. He is also an Eagle Scout and won Best Actor in State at the South Carolina Theatre Association in 2015.

Jeanne White:

Jeanne is the mother of two grown kids, proud grandmother of four and great grandmother to Stella. She is a retired English teacher from numerous schools, but most of time was at Greenville and Wade Hampton High Schools. She loves teaching and would readily return to the classroom. In June of 2024 she lost her husband of 57 years and values the continuing support of her family. She enjoys reading, singing in the church choir, and spending time with family.

Stella White:

Stella just finished fourth grade at East End Elementary school in Easley. She enjoys arts and crafts and is looking forward to horseback camp this summer.

Olivia Woodward:

Olivia is originally from Moncks Corner, SC. She attended Wofford College, where she studied sociology and Spanish and met her husband Jeffrey. Olivia has a Master of Public Health from Emory University and currently works for Emory remotely as a public health program evaluator. Olivia and Jeffrey were married last May at Advent United Methodist Church. They look forward to worshipping and serving at Open Hearts.

Jeffrey Woodward:

Jeffrey is married to Olivia Woodward. They will be celebrating one year of marriage on May 25th. He is a first-year medical student at the USC School of Medicine – Greenville.

MUSIC HAPPENINGS



Organ Fund

Do you love to hear our beautiful organ's music? In recent weeks we have not heard it because some of the pipes have been sent out for repair. Please consider giving (indicate "organ fund" in the memo line of your check) in addition to your regular giving to Open Hearts as we build a fund to eventually restore the entire organ to its original beauty. The music ministry thanks you for your help!

Membership and Parking Lot Update

Did you know? In less than two years, our membership has grown from 131 members to over 262. We have doubled!

Tom Creech, chair of our Growth Team, recently reported: *"From a growth perspective, per the UMC research and survey for our church area: Number one reason why people come to church and what they look for in a church is: a **warm and welcoming environment**. Number two reason is: a **good sermon**."*



As attendance continues to increase, and empty parking spaces decrease, we need to recruit additional parking lot greeters.

What would you do? These greeters are the first persons to welcome everyone to Open Hearts UMC! They identify open parking spots, make sure cars are parked as efficiently as possible, keep fire lanes open, and direct cars to overflow areas.

Greeters are needed: before Sunday School (9:20–9:55), during Sunday School (9:50–10:35), and before worship (10:35–11:05). Greeters are needed on a regular basis (1st, 2nd, etc. Sunday of each month) and to fill in.

To sign up to greet in the parking lot, please email membership@openheartsumcsc.org.

THANKS to everyone – for making Open Hearts a welcoming church – from the parking lot, through the entrance doors, and within the Sanctuary!



MISSIONS MINISTRY

Summer Engagement with Missions

During this summer, the S.H.A.R.E. Committee invites everyone in our congregation to engage with our mission program. Here are some great opportunities:

Tuesday, June 3 at 7:00 p.m., Trinity Fellowship Hall:

Come learn about how **Pendleton Place** helps homeless youth in our community. We will serve a variety of ice cream and toppings. Childcare is available. Donations of small toiletries will be appreciated. Sign up in Realm or call the church office.

Wednesday, June 4, 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., location to be determined (no more than 20 minutes from our church): Help build a ramp or deck with **Rebuild Upstate**. Ages 12 and up can participate. Our member Natalie Taylor is their Community Engagement Specialist. Lunch will be provided.

Tuesday, June 10, 12:15 at Triune Mercy Center (222 Rutherford Street): Help provide a variety of salads and desserts and beverages for the Triune Mercy Center staff. (Food can be brought on Sunday, June 8 and placed in

the kitchen refrigerator.) Better yet, come set up, serve, and then join the staff for lunch. Make a new friend at Triune! To get involved, contact Tina Majors or Lynne Shackelford.

Wednesday, June 11, 10:00 or June 24 at 2:00. Take a tour of **Pendleton Place** at 1133 Pendleton Street. Learn all about their mission, facilities, and activities. See their new Family Resource Center. Use the links below to sign up.

June 11 at 10am: [link](#)

June 24 at 2pm: [link](#)

June 15–18, 5:45–7:45: Volunteer to shepherd children to activities and help Pastor Karen with Bible stories during our **VBS**. Check with your Sunday School class about providing and serving meals. Volunteers needed to plate a pizza meal and put plates at tables in the Trinity Fellowship Hall on June 18th, from 4:45 to 6:15. Contact Jana Clack.

July 6–10 Youth Service Trip to Hilton Head: Support our youth as they embark to Hilton Head to do a variety of projects, including helping the Hilton Head Humane Association, Bluffton Self-Help, and St. Andrew Soup Kitchen. Financial donations welcome to enable participants to purchase wish list items for these agencies.

July 20–25 Salkehatchie at Newberry: Open Hearts is proud to have members of our church participate in Salkehatchie, a UMC endeavor across South Carolina to do repairs so that families can stay in their homes. We will have an excursion to Newberry on **July 23**, arriving around 3:00. Those who would like to carpool should meet at the church parking lot at 2:00 pm. Members of our congregation will visit the worksites and deliver cool treats for the workers. Please mark your calendars and look for more information in our next newsletter.

Mid July to early August: Help children and youth in under-resourced circumstances get ready for school. More detailed information will come in the July newsletter.



HOW DOES GRENVILLE HELP HOMELESS YOUTH?

Greenville has a considerable number of youth, ages 12–17, who have run away from or been kicked out of their homes, who have escaped trafficking, and who have been unable to secure stable housing. During June,

S.H.A.R.E. will be offering Open Hearts members opportunities to learn about Pendleton Place, an organization that offers youth residential and community services.

Come on **June 3rd** at 7:00 p.m. in **Trinity Fellowship Hall** to hear Michelle Shain, Interim Executive Director, and Mary Latrick, Pendleton Place's Philanthropy Coordinator, discuss supportive responses to the problem of

youth homelessness, including Pendleton Place's Street Outreach program, its drop-in services, its emergency shelter, and its housing stabilization program. We will serve a variety of ice cream and toppings. Childcare is available. Donations of small toiletries will be appreciated. Sign up in Realm or call the church office.

See "Summer Engagement with Missions" to sign up for two tours of the Pendleton Place facilities at 1133 Pendleton Street on June 11 at 10:00 and June 24 at 2:00.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Our Sunday Bible School Discipleship program takes a break for the summer, but the fun doesn't stop! Children are invited to join their families for worship or attend Summer Sundays! This program will follow the Children's Message. Children will be guided to their dedicated space where they will strengthen their relationships through prayer and play! **This program will run June 1 – August 10.**

Children's Library

Help us fill the Children's
Library with wonderful
discipleship resources –
both for use in our
programs, and for
families to take home
and utilize at home!



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

Join us in God's creation as we go on adventures at Camp Open Hearts.
This free program includes dinner and a t-shirt!

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

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Friday Coffee

June 6th

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

SPECIAL UMC CONFERENCE EVENTS

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.



Advocate is a newspaper for South Carolina United Methodists and they are hosting a listening session at Open Hearts UMC for the Greenville District on June 24, 2025 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. to survey readers. Click [here](#) to learn more and click [here](#) to RSVP.

YOUTH MINISTRY



HHI Youth Service Trip

July 6-10, 2025





Support our youth as they embark to Hilton Head to do a variety of projects! Financial donations welcome to enable participants to purchase wish list items for these agencies.

Youth are invited to register through Realm for this FREE week of service and fellowship! Contact Jana Clack for more information.

Calling all rising 6th through 12th graders! We're headed to Hilton Head Island, SC for a week of service and fellowship. Join us for this service trip, where lodging, transportation and meals are included in your registration. We will be serving the Hilton Head Humane Society, Bluffton Self Help, and the

St. Andrew by the Sea UMC Soup Kitchen. Every day, we'll enjoy group devotions and time at the beach! Register [HERE](#).



Buy an Open Hearts UMC Crewneck Sweatshirt, Long-Sleeve T-shirt, or Short-Sleeve T-shirt!

Support our Youth Fundraiser

Apparel Pricing:

Short-Sleeve: \$17

Long-Sleeve: \$19

Crewneck Sweatshirt: \$23

**Order Form closes on the evening of June 8th
& ships to YOU or to the church by June 24th.**

Support our youth ministry while sporting Open Hearts merch! Order through our Fundraising page until June 8th. Orders can ship directly to you or to the Church office for pickup. Sizes Youth S – Adult 3XL are available.

[PURCHASE MERCHANDISE HERE](#)



Our organist, Dr. Elliott Smith, directs the chamber choir Cantus at the SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. His ensemble was selected as a finalist in the high school division



of The American Prize (a national non-profit competition in the performing arts). But wait! There's more! Our three section leaders, Jacob Bouchie (tenor), Jeremiah Reid (bass), and Hannah Bennett (alto) sing in a Furman University choral ensemble which was also a finalist in the college choir division! We are so proud of our exceptional musicians!

See the list of finalists here: ([link](#)). The American Prize will be announcing winners soon at www.theamericanprize.org.

Our bass section leader, Jeremiah Reid, qualified for the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) national student auditions. He advanced from the local SC NATS auditions (statewide) to qualify in the top five in his category at the Mid-Atlantic Regional level (which includes the advanced singers from Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Washington, DC). In June he competes in nationals!

Also, our tenor section leader, Jacob Bouchie, won a national Dillard Scholar award from NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing). The award will help fund his summer program at the Taos Opera Institute! See the official announcement here: ([link](#))

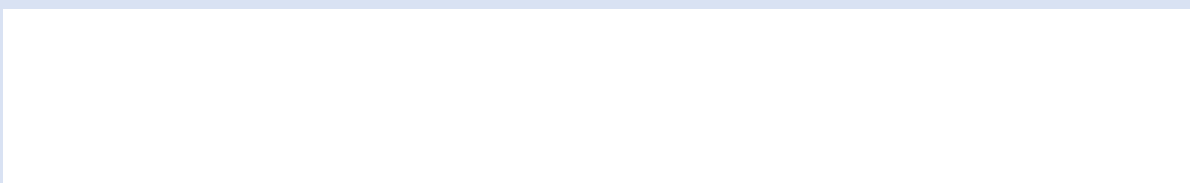
Many congratulations to all our outstanding musicians serving at Open Hearts!



The beautiful music on Easter morning was provided by our talented Choir. We are so blessed to have this choir!

Lent Offering

S.H.A.R.E. is delighted to report to our congregation that \$3100 was given to our Lent offering--\$30 of which was contributed by our children. The recipient of this outreach-focused spring offering is Triune Mercy Center, a non-denominational mission church known for meeting the physical needs and emotional needs of those experiencing poverty and offering resources for life-transformation—in the spirit of love, compassion, and hope.





We welcomed **Bishop Will Willimon** as our honored guest on May 4th. to lead worship, which can be watched [here](#), teach a Sunday School class, and visited our Confirmation class for some Q&A and pray over the students.



Confirmation Sunday

Our inaugural Confirmation Class was combined with St. Paul UMC for classes led by both Rev. Karen Jones and Rev. Matt Greer. On May 11th we confirmed Lila Kitchens, Halden Virtue and Olivia Marseil. (We will confirm our fourth student, Evie Virtue in June).



Graduation Sunday

On May 18th, the high school graduates honored us by leading

worship and sharing their gifts. You can watch the service [here](#).

We lift up prayers for high school graduates Pete Byford, Jane Ann Creech, Olivia Hincapie, Kate Kitchens, and Josie Yarborough; college graduate Ava Kitchens, and Dr. Cori Richardson for completion of Residency. May God bless their future endeavors.



First Graduation Class of the CDC

We celebrate the first graduating class of preschoolers from the ARBC – Open Hearts Child Development Center! We are very grateful for the partnership with Augusta Road Baptist Church who is the operator of the CDC on our campus, with Rev. Matt King and Mandy Anderson who had a vision to continue a legacy of child development here a year ago, and with Mary Margaret Martin, the director here. May God go with our little graduates into kindergarten!

Pendleton Place's New Family Resource Center

On May 16, Pendleton Place proudly hosted a ribbon cutting of its new Family Resource Center (FRC). Pendleton Place Board Chair Rev. Matt King of Augusta Road Baptist Church, who played such a significant role in enabling the CDC to remain on our campus, gave introductory remarks of gratitude, along with Interim CEO Michelle Shain. The FRC brings an array of family-strengthening services to West Greenville, including parenting classes, developmental screening services, and kinship care navigation—all efforts to prevent families from fracturing.

Cely Construction, a family firm presided over by our member and trustee Sammy Cely, transformed an abandoned home into a welcoming space filled with air and art. What a gift to the Greenville community!



Jenna Robinson,
Sam Celey,
Lynne Shackelford



Pendleton Place staff
and board members
celebrate the ribbon
cutting.



Rev. Matt King
Augusta Road Baptist
Church



Epworth Children's Home Excursion

Eight eager Open Hearts members and a friend toured the Epworth Children's Home's gorgeous 33-acre tree-laden campus in the heart of downtown Columbia on May 28th. Jenn Stanley, Epworth's Director of Faith Formation and Recreation, provided a comprehensive tour of the Administration Building,

residential buildings, the gym, the health center, the Early Intervention Center, the Rudolph C. Barnes Learning Center, and Epworth Memorial United Methodist Church. Even better, Jenn captured the essence of Epworth—from the passion and extensive training of the staff as they dedicate themselves to healing trauma and earning trust, to the creative worship services and fun summer and holiday activities. Our group left Columbia filled with enthusiasm for Epworth's outstanding work promoting the well-being of children, families, and young adults and grateful for Epworth's strong relationship with the United Methodist Church.

Blood Drive

Success! Our May 2025 blood drive, in partnership with The Blood Connection, was a big success. With our very visible location, nine church members and nine community neighbors donated blood – saving up to fifty-four lives in our community. Thank you!



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

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