



Ministry Newsletter

July 2025

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN MINDS

OPEN DOORS

Who Will We Be in Year Three?

Beloved Community,

It is hard to believe, but Open Hearts United Methodist Church is coming up on its second birthday on July 1. We used to joke a year ago that we were an infant church learning how to crawl...but look at us now! I think we somehow skipped the toddler phase and went straight into running! This past year we expanded our staff to include Elliott, our organist; Jana, our Director of Discipleship; and Tina, our Church Administrator; into our dream team with Tish and Alex. We have more than DOUBLED our membership, and we launched our new governing system with the Board of Stewards. I am stunned and overjoyed with how we have grown in body and in spirit as a church! We've grown from a small, hopeful beginning into a vibrant connected community of faith, thanks be to God! From the start, we've been a church shaped by transition—many of us came here searching for a new kind of church home. That shared experience has shaped who we are: a community that knows how to welcome others who are also looking for a place to belong. We've built a culture of hospitality not because it's trendy, but because it's deeply personal to us.

One of the unexpected blessings of being a new church is the freedom to experiment in holy ways. Without the weight of "how we've always done it," we've embraced creativity in worship and community life—whether it's shared meals through our Break Bread Together gatherings, dramatic readings on Maundy Thursday, or even a forest of Christmas trees filling our sanctuary during Vacation Bible School. We believe God shows up in

joyful, surprising ways when we stay open to new expressions of faith and connection.

As we step into our third year, we're not just looking inward—we're asking big questions about who we're becoming and how we can serve and love more boldly. We will continue to trust in God with our future as well as the movement of the Holy Spirit and the creative ways we are called to be the Church. Join me with holy expectation as we venture into year three as Open Hearts UMC!

Your Partner in Ministry,
Rev. Karen Jones

MUSIC HAPPENINGS



Beautiful, worshipful music offered to God at a high level of excellence is a primary draw for many folks as they select a particular church to attend on a regular basis. More importantly, we serve a perfect God and our musical excellence honors Him. We are fortunate to have an excellent music program with wonderful singers and instrumentalists who regularly grace us with their talents. Our Schantz organ is a beautiful instrument that is admired by everyone who has played or heard it. However, two years ago we learned that it requires an overhaul to refurbish all the general pistons which are currently non-functional. General pistons control the entire organ's stops and couplers. In order to play it at this time, organists have to manually control each divisional stop independently, which makes the instrument very difficult to play well. General pistons allow for fast changes across all divisions, but our organ has lost this capability. To refurbish it properly we have consulted both local and regional experts who have assessed the cost estimate to be \$120,000. We appreciate the congregation's help in raising this money through the organ fund. Please indicate your support of this ministry with "Organ fund" on the memo line of your check. Thank you so much for

your support of our vital music ministry!

Summer Music Soloists

In July we begin featuring soloists for our summer services—we welcome Dr. Ben Griffeth, baritone; Doris Loretta, soprano; Greg McKee, bass/guitar; Olivia Marseil, mezzo-soprano; David and Molly Stanley, trumpet and violin; and Sam Moore, soprano as they share their music with us!



MISSIONS MINISTRY

School Supplies Partnership with Pendleton Place

This year we're partnering with Pendleton Place to meet the needs of students that Pendleton Place's Family Resource Center supports. We will begin collecting now and bless the school supplies on August 3. Shop using this [Amazon Gift List](#). Financial contributions marked "School Supplies" are also appreciated.



MEN'S MINISTRY



Men's Ministry Golf Outing & Dinner

July 15th

Pebble Creek Clubhouse RSVP to Miles Loretta

Date: July 15, 2025

Place: Pebble Creek Grill

Address: 101 Pebble Creek Dr, Taylors, SC29687

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Menu: Bucky's BBQ with sides, plus a vegetarian option – cheese pizza from Pebble Creek Pizza

Cost: \$20 (covers food and room rental)

- Reservations required so we buy the correct amount of food.
- Email your RSVP to meloretta@gmail.com

You can pay at the event.

Also, there is a 9-hole golf option for \$25 (includes cart). Probably tee off around 3:15pm. Contact Gary Judd at judd311@charter.net to confirm your reservation. Two of our young adults will be joining us (Pete Byford Jr and James Virtue). Let Gary know if you would like to sponsor one of them.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Women's Ministry Dinner

July 24th at 6:00 pm

City Range Steakhouse

RSVP to Donna Wilson

Open Hearts women are invited to dinner at CityRange (15 Haywood Road) at 6 p.m., Thursday July 24th. This is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. Contact Donna Wilson or Tanya Pearson with questions. RSVP by Monday July 21st [HERE](#) or call the church office.



Looking Back

The **Men's Ministry** enjoyed a wonderful meal and fellowship at Soby's mid-May!



Rebuild Upstate

Open Hearts is proud of our team of enthusiastic Rebuild Upstate volunteers, including our youth, ministerial staff, and adults/parents of youth partnered with Rebuild Upstate on June 4th. They demolished an unsafe deck and framed a sturdy new deck for an older adult homeowner. Rebuild Upstate makes homes safer, healthier, and more



livable for low-income homeowners. S.H.A.R.E. provided lunch for the group. It was a wonderful day of hard work and fellowship! We're thankful for the ways Rebuild Upstate serves our community!



How Does Greenville Help Homeless Youth?

On June 3rd, Open Hearts members and guests addressed that question. Michelle Shain, Interim Executive Director of Pendleton Place and Mary Latrick, their Philanthropy Coordinator, reflected on why so many youth are homeless, ways their staff work to

gain trust, their Street Outreach and Safe Place Programs and drop-in services, and residential support they provide. Moreover, they shared their personal stories of how they became involved with Pendleton Place, enthralled us with a harrowing story of helping hungry teenagers in buildings without electricity in the midst of Hurricane Helene, lifted our hearts in celebrating the educational successes of their clients, and answered an array of questions. Participants not only gained insight into an issue that most knew little about but also enjoyed fellowship over bowls of ice cream sundaes.

Lunch for Triune Mercy Center Staff

On June 10th, Open Hearts UMC provided and served lunch for the Triune Mercy Center staff. Church members not only ate with the staff, learning about each of their responsibilities, but also stayed for their devotional and staff meeting. Our members learned that the Greenville City Council is considering an ordinance to make it illegal to sleep outside within the city. S.H.A.R.E. urges our members to stay informed.



Camp Open Hearts June 2025



Thank you to everyone who helped make Camp Open Hearts a wonderful week of learning and fun. We had 27 adult/youth volunteers and 60 kids involved in our VBS this past week! We are grateful to the SHARE Committee, Open Hearts, Welcome, and Friendship Sunday School classes for providing dinners nightly—and to the Seekers Sunday School class for providing nightly snacks!

Website : openheartsumcsc.org



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