



Ministry Newsletter

August 2025

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN MINDS

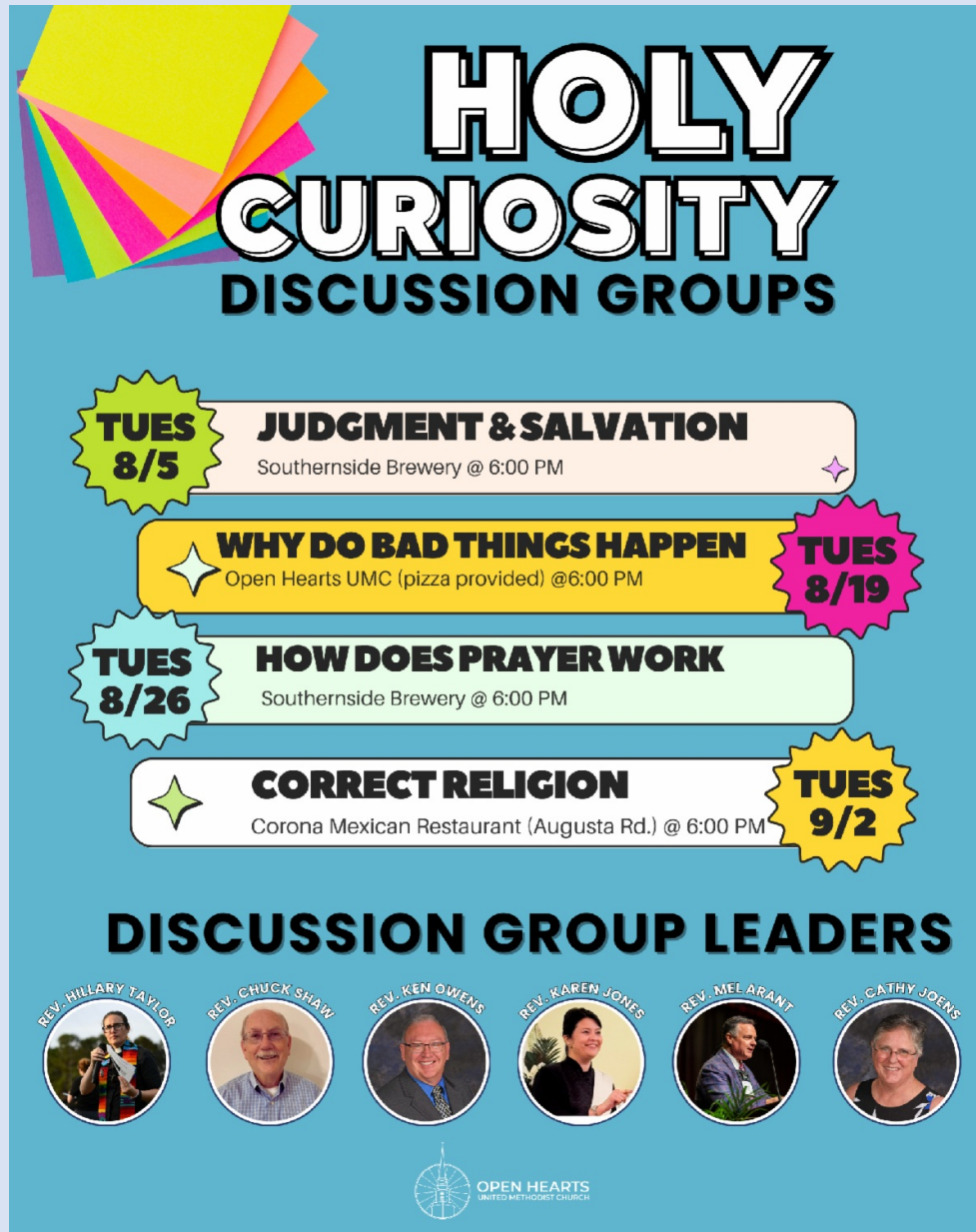
OPEN DOORS

Dear Beloved Community,

We are well into our Holy Curiosity sermon series and discussion groups, and I want to reiterate how grateful I am to you for entrusting me and the rest of the congregation with your questions. The series will go through the end of August, and I invite you to join us in person or online for worship.



The goal of this series and discussion groups is to generate curiosity in our faith, connecting us to God and to one another. The format for the discussion groups is casual and open-ended. The only guidelines for these discussions are 1) learn and use each other's name, 2) if you disagree, do so agreeably, and 3) ask questions on the topic starting with "I'd be curious to know... ." You do not have to commit to coming to all of them, just choose the ones that interest you and show up. We have had an average of 30 people turn out for our discussion groups so far, and I hope you'll join us on one of our upcoming dates.



**HOLY
CURIOSITY
DISCUSSION GROUPS**

TUES 8/5 **JUDGMENT & SALVATION**
Southernside Brewery @ 6:00 PM

TUES 8/19 **WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN**
Open Hearts UMC (pizza provided) @ 6:00 PM

TUES 8/26 **HOW DOES PRAYER WORK**
Southernside Brewery @ 6:00 PM

TUES 9/2 **CORRECT RELIGION**
Corona Mexican Restaurant (Augusta Rd.) @ 6:00 PM

DISCUSSION GROUP LEADERS

REV. HILLARY TAYLOR REV. CHUCK SHAW REV. KEN OWENS REV. KAREN JONES REV. MEL ARANT REV. CATHY JOENS

OPEN HEARTS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**WE'RE
HIRING**

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
ASSISTANT**

10 hours/weekly
including Sunday mornings

We're Hiring!

We're hiring a part-time Children's Ministry Assistant, who will assist the Director of Discipleship in organizing & implementing a high-quality children's ministry.

Applicants should have a bachelor's degree & at least 2 years of classroom experience. Resumes & cover letters should be sent to jana.clack@openheartsumcsc.org.

We will return to our more formal worship setting on August 17 with robes and our recently refinished brass appointments.



Celebrating Stewardship

APRIL - JUNE 2025



PRAYERS

117 prayer requests received and lifted up.
123 inspirational cards mailed to members in need and **65 birthday cards** sent to members.
11 quarts of soup delivered to people who were sick.
2 prayer shawls gifted to members in need.
1 wedding basket delivered to celebrate a marriage.
Numerous calls and texts made to check in with those in need.



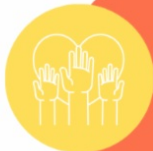
PRESENCE

40 women attended the Women's Ministry/S.H.A.R.E. Dinner in April.
21 men attended the Men's Ministry Dinner in May.
32 people, including **children**, attended the Young Adult Cookout in May.
12 children in the nursery during the Maundy Thursday service.
320 people attended Easter Sunday services and **49 children** received Easter worship bags.
23 guests attended the ice cream social to learn about youth homelessness in Greenville.
8 ladies toured the Epworth facilities in Columbia.



GIFTS

\$155,956 in tithes, gifts, and offerings given to God through Open Hearts UMC.
\$3100 given to Triune Mercy Center from our Lent offering.
\$1501 in donations and gift cards presented to GirlUp GVL.
\$5000 donated by S.H.A.R.E. to **5** local charities (\$1000 each).
\$1953.47 donated to **each of 4** local charities to combat food insecurity from funds received from the closing of the Samaritan House.



SERVICE

16 OHUMC servants participated in "Love Your Neighbor 29605", a community day of service.
112 items collected for Epworth foster families in Greenville.
39 articles of clothing collected for emergency clothing closet at Julie Valentine Center.
11 people packed approximately **1200 meals** for Meals on Wheels.
Lunch provided for **18 staff** members at Triune Mercy Center.
10 youth and adults participated in a day of service with ReBuild Upstate.
539 hours given for Music Ministry and **77 hours** for Worship Tech Ministry from volunteers.
49 hours given from volunteer ushers.



WITNESS

16 people volunteered at the OHUMC Exhibit Table at the SC Annual Conference.
18 individuals donated blood, saving up to **54 lives** through The Blood Connection.
5 youth led the congregation in a powerful Graduate Sunday worship service.
Approximately **500 people** attended our community Easter Eggstravaganza.
8 youth (4 from OHUMC and 4 from St. Paul UMC) attended our first Confirmation class series.
8 children participated in the first PreK Graduation Ceremony with the CDC.
60 children and **27 volunteers** participated in our successful Camp Open Hearts VBS.
Meeting space provided for our UMC community for **4 events**: Candler Alumni Dinner, Deacon Lunch, Kids Camp during Annual Conference, and the Advocate Newspaper.

2703 Augusta Street | Greenville, SC 29605
openheartsumcsc.org

UPDATE FROM TRUSTEES

You may have noticed a "cherry picker" lift parked in front of the church last month. The Trustees identified some leaks in the steeple and roof, which we were able to repair. In addition, several gutters on the property were cleaned, repaired, or replaced. We are grateful to our Trustees for their faithful stewardship of God's house at OHUMC, and we thank you for

NEW MEMBER UPDATE

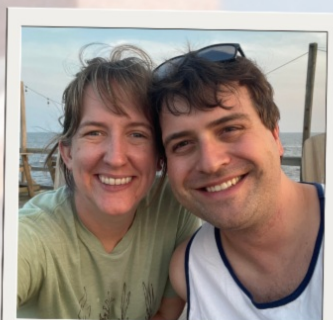
Welcome New Members!



Julie Summey



Marci Dutt



**Shelby & Steven
Winters**



**Jason &
Samantha Moore**

"We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."

Shelby and Steven Winters:

Shelby is originally from Eufaula, Alabama. She attended Auburn University where she met her husband Steven. Post-graduation she worked in Birmingham for AmeriCorps and other nonprofits. They moved to Greensboro, NC for his medical residency and then moved to Easley two years ago. She is now a Montessori teacher in Greenville. They have three cats and a dog. Shelby enjoys white water kayaking and spending time outside.

Steven is originally from Durham, North Carolina and graduated from Auburn University. Steven completed his internal medicine residency in Greensboro, NC. He is now the admitting internist at Prisma Baptist in

Easley. He likes to fish and play Dungeons and Dragons in his spare time.

Marci Dutt: Marci was born and raised in Michigan before moving south to attend college. She holds degrees from Clemson, USC, and Converse! Marcie is a speech pathologist with the Greenville County Schools and lives in Simpsonville with her spoiled dog, Max.

Samantha and Jason Moore:

Samantha and Jason Moore join Open Hearts having relocated from Highlands NC eight months ago. They reside with their sister and brother-in-law Amanda and Benjamin Griffeth and family in Simpsonville.

The Moores have been married twenty-six years. Jason spent thirty-five years working in retail prior to retirement. They both enjoy music and will be sharing their musical talents as they sing in our choir. They are excited to become part of the Open Hearts UMC family!

Julie Summey

Julie is originally from Ohio but has lived in the Upstate for 27 years. She is the proud mom of two amazing adult children. She is about to begin her 26th year of teaching music. She currently teaches at Ellen Woodside Elementary and Skyland Elementary. Julie is a gifted cook and has generously provided food for our lunches with the Triune Mercy Center staff.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Friday Coffee



August 1st

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

MISSIONS MINISTRY



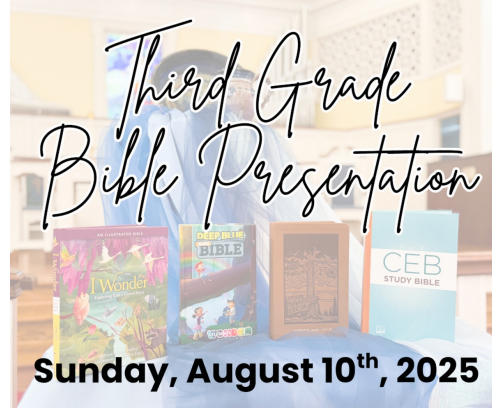
School Supplies Partnership with Pendleton Place

Our partnership with Pendleton Place enables our church to help provide customized supplies that each student needs. Moreover, in helping students from preschool to college at a variety of educational institutions, we are broadening our community impact. You can purchase the needed supplies using this [Amazon](#)

[Gift List](#) or contribute a check marked "School Supplies." We will bless the school supplies during worship on August 3.



We're planning for Fall 2025 and can't wait for Back to School Sunday. Join us for worship at 11:00 am; we will bless our students, educators, and school staff by giving out tags for school bags.



Rising 3rd– 5th graders are invited to receive a Bible on August 10 during worship! Sign up for Bible Presentation [HERE](#).

We're excited to celebrate the start of another fall season! Save the date for our Fall Kickoff Dinner on August 13– we'll share a churchwide meal and fellowship together in Trinity Hall!

RSVP [HERE](#) or by calling the Church office. Adult meals are \$10, child meals are \$7.

Menu: Baked spaghetti, green beans, salad bar, garlic bread



MUSIC HAPPENINGS



Our summer soloist series continues through August featuring David and Molly Stanley and Phil Perkins August 3, Dr. Benjamin Griffeth August 10, Sam Moore August 17, and our musical guest, Benjamin Barker August 24. Choir rehearsals resume August 13 at 7 pm; all singers are welcome to join us Wednesday evenings for this new season.



Calling all Young Adults (Ages 22-40). You're invited to a Low Country Boil at Hunter & Cori Richardson's home on September 5th. **RSVP through Realm** and bring a friend!



Young Adults are invited to trivia night at Southernside Brewing on September 10th! We'll have tables for OHUMC - come enjoy \$1.50 wings and trivia! No RSVP required.



Blood Drive

Supporting The Blood Connection
August 13th from 3:00 – 7:00 pm

Roll up your sleeves!

We are trying something different! We will host a WEDNESDAY afternoon drive on August 13 from 3–7 PM. A bloodmobile from The Blood Connection will be in the front parking lot. Donors will receive a \$40 eGift card. Here is the [link](#) to pre-register.

Walk-ins are welcome. Enjoy the church dinner, drink plenty of water, and donate blood too!



**Family Messy
Game Night**

August 24th 5:30 PM **Pizza Dinner
Provided**

Calling all families– life is messy, but we're in this together! You're invited to the OHUMC lawn on August 24 for FREE messy family games. We'll share a pizza dinner under our beautiful oak tree. Games will be geared towards families with children ages 3–12.

Wear mess-friendly clothes or a swimsuit and water shoes. Bring goggles, towels, and your game face!



Looking Back

YOUTH SERVICE TRIP TO HHI



Our Youth Service Team, composed of 7th–12th graders and adult volunteers, shopped for and volunteered at **Hilton Head Humane**. We were able to purchase over \$1900 worth of desperately needed supplies!

The Youth Service Team felt called to serve Kerr County, Texas. We purchased supplies that would be helpful in **Camp Mystic** recovery and rescue efforts. We partnered with St. Andrew by the Sea UMC's youth to put together supplies and letters and ship them to the rescue effort.



The Youth Service Team partnered with **Turtle Trackers of Hilton Head Island** to learn and assist with sea turtle nest preservation efforts. They “put the beach to bed”, filling holes and collecting waste along the beach. They were also able to see an active, protected turtle nest!



The Youth Service Team served alongside the **St. Andrew by the Sea Soup Kitchen**, purchasing 250lbs of white rice, 120lbs of black beans and hundreds of toiletry products to support their mission. They cleaned and restocked the outdoor little pantry, sanded and painted railings, moved storage items, served on the food distribution line, cleaned, and bagged rice and beans for families.



MEN'S MINISTRY JULY OUTING



Fifteen men, including two young adults (James Virtue & Pete Byford), attended the July golf and dinner outing, catered by Bucky's BBQ. Many played golf before the meal was shared!



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

A group of 30 OHUMC women enjoyed fellowship and a delicious meal at the CityRange Steakhouse Grill on July 24.

MUSIC

We extend our gratitude to our July choir soloists Dr. Benjamin Griffeth, Doris Loretta, Greg McKee, and Olivia Marseil for the beautiful musical offerings they provided in place of our choir anthems while our choir enjoys some summer respite. Thank you all for blessing us with your delightful musical gifts!

MISSIONS – GIRLUP GREENVILLE

Open Hearts collected 378 individually wrapped snacks for the GirlUp GVL middle school girls who are participating in a summer enrichment camp and high school girls who are learning about the professional world through internships. The S.H.A.R.E. Committee thanks the congregation for its generosity!



Website : openheartsumcsc.org



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

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