



Ministry Newsletter

September 2025

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN MINDS

OPEN DOORS

Beloved Community,

We are growing—in faith and in number—at Open Hearts, and what a blessing it is to witness! As our community expands, one thing we want to hold onto is the deep, meaningful connections that make our church feel like home. We don't just want to grow *bigger*—we want to grow *closer*. We want to **abide with Christ** and **abide with one another**. That's why we're launching **Vine and Village**—a new way to build community, deepen relationships, and share the gifts God has placed within each of us.

Each of us has something to offer—skills, passions, wisdom, or creativity. Maybe it's a gift for cooking, a passion for yoga, a background in elder law, or a talent for woodworking. Whatever it is, we want to create space for you to **share what you love** while helping our community **grow stronger, healthier, and more connected** through a workshop, class, or experience that you will facilitate using your gifts.

We invite you to be part of this shared life. Let us know what you'd love to offer by filling out this short **form**—whether it's leading a workshop, teaching a class, or sharing a practical skill. Every offering helps us build our “village” and draw closer to the Vine. We will

present the **Vine and Village** experiences for October and November, so stay tuned on how to participate!

Your partner in ministry,
Rev. Karen Jones



EXCITING STAFF UPDATE



Join us in welcoming Moriah Journell as Children's Ministry Assistant!

Moriah graduated from Anderson University with a degree in Liberal Studies and has 8 years of experience as an Early Childhood educator here in the Upstate. Moriah has also served as an Early Interventionist and has a passion for supporting children with developmental delays/disabilities. She is a familiar face to many – she has been serving in our nursery for 5 months and we're excited for her to continue building relationships with our church community through this new role! Moriah's first day on staff will be September 7.



Looking Ahead

MUSIC HAPPENINGS



We have welcomed back our choir section leaders from Furman University's voice department (Hannah Bennett, Jeremiah Reid, and Jacob Bouchie) to the choir from their busy summer activities! On August 31 we look forward to special musical guest Benjamin Barker performing on hammered dulcimer!

We are excited to share that the Fellowship Adult Choir has grown to 23 singing members! Anyone interested in adding to our number is warmly welcome to join us for rehearsals Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm and Sunday mornings at 10:25 am in the choir room.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Friday Coffee

September 5th

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

Women's Fall Bible Study



Mondays at 10:00 am
September 15– October 27

Luke in the Land, Falls Women's Bible Study
Have you ever wanted to visit the Holy Land? Join us for a seven-week study, Luke in the Land, by Kristi McLelland. The study book with video access allows us to study the Gospel of Luke and see where the stories of the Bible took place. We'll visit Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Gethsemane, and the road to Emmaus, among other sites. See how Jesus the Messiah brought His

kingdom to earth for everybody. We'll meet September 15–October 27 at 10AM in the Friendship Classroom. **Sign up in *Realm*** or contact study leaders Donna Wilson or Jane Johnson. Study books available on Amazon.

MEN'S MINISTRIES

Date: September 23, 2025
Place: Capri's
Address: 115 Pelham Road,
Greenville, SC 29615
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Menu: Attendees will pay for their own meal.

Check out Capri's menu.

RSVP: Email your RSVP or any questions to Miles Loretta at meloretta@gmail.com

Note: This will also be a planning session for future programs/outings for the Men's Ministry. Please bring your ideas--and if unable to attend, email ideas to Miles before Sept. 23.



ALL ARE WELCOME!

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Youth Pool Party

Youth and their friends are invited to a pool party on September 7 at 5:30 pm to kick off another year of ministry and fellowship together. Dinner is provided. **RSVP to Jana Clack.**



Youth Bible Study

Beginning Sept 14, youth from 6th–12th grades, will meet weekly from 6:30–8:00 pm for Bible Study on Sunday evenings at homes around town. Together they share a meal and dive into the Word! If you interested in being involved (hosting, providing the meal and/or leading the lesson) — contact **Jana Clack.**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Does your child love making a joyful noise?! Join us this school year for Children's Choir on Sunday mornings from 9:45–10:15 am in the Sanctuary. Children will learn songs that praise God and help to lead worship several times a year. Sign up [HERE](#) to participate!

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES



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



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

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

A Blessing of Animals witnesses

to God's and the Church's love, care, and concern for creation! Join us **September 21 at 4:00 pm** for a brief service and opportunity for your pet to receive a blessing. If your pet doesn't travel well, feel free to bring a picture. Kids can also bring a stuffed animal friend to be blessed. *We will be collecting canned kitten/puppy food for the Greenville Humane Society as an offering.*

Blessing OF THE ANIMALS

September 21 from 4:00–5:00 pm



FAMILY ZOO OUTING



Greenville Zoo & Lunch Family Outing

September 27 | 9:00 am–12:00 pm

Join your church family for fellowship & a meal at Yeehaw Brewing!

Join us at the Zoo on Saturday, September 28, at 9:00 am. Meet at the front gate and bring friends!

Lunch to follow at Yee-Haw Brewing Company.

CHURCHWIDE EVENT

Everyone loves a covered dish meal! Mark your calendar to join us following worship on September 28. Plan to bring your “best dish”—meat, salad, side or dessert. Beverages will be provided. Please **register on Realm** so we will know to look for you!



Churchwide

COVERED DISH LUNCHEON

September 28th after Worship

BRING A DISH, SALAD, OR
DESSERT TO SHARE AND JOIN US
FOR THIS POTLUCK LUNCHEON!

MISSION MINISTRIES

S.H.A.R.E. Educating about Mental Health

Mental health is essential for overall well-being at every stage of life. Regardless of age, background, or experience, prioritizing mental health strengthens individuals, families, and communities.

In September as part of our efforts to build a loving and inclusive church and to be disciples of Jesus in expressing compassion to those suffering and marginalized, S.H.A.R.E. will be bringing the congregation information through our newsletter, bulletin inserts, flyers posted on church bulletin boards, and social media posts. Throughout this period we will be sharing how to promote mental health awareness for all ages, guidance on helping a person with mental illness, and use of sensitive language in discussing mental health, drawing upon resources from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the National Alliance for Mental Illness.

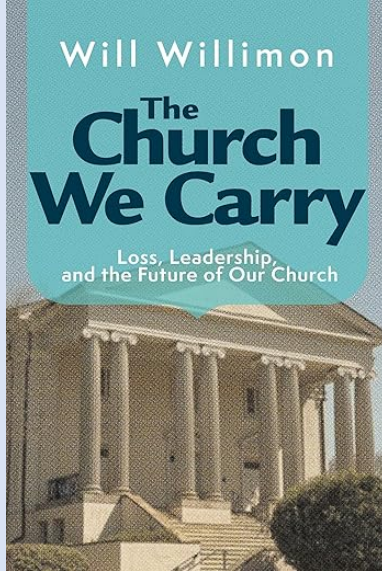
To access more information about some of the organizations in our community that support mental health, click [HERE](#).

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY

Retired United Methodist Bishop, Rev. Dr. Will Willimon will discuss his new book, *The Church We Carry: Loss, Leadership, and the Future of Our Church*.

Monday, September 8 (10:30 to noon) at the Trustees' Dining Room at Furman University. Pre-registration is encouraged.

Tuesday, September 16 (10:30 to noon) at the Richardson building at Wofford College. RSVP requested [here](#).



COMMUNICATIONS

Members of Open Hearts soon will start receiving the *South Carolina United Methodist Advocate*, the longest continuously published newspaper in Methodism. The church has purchased a digital subscription plan that will allow members to stay informed about news, mission opportunities, and much more. The monthly newsletter will be emailed to members, starting with the September edition.

The *Advocate* has won more than 150 journalism awards, and it was the winner of the South Carolina Press Association's "Best Overall" in its Division in 2025. The publication does a superb job covering issues important to United Methodists and nurturing the connectional bond among congregations.



HOLY CURIOSITY

We wrap up our summer sermon series Holy Curiosity this Sunday, with our last Discussion Group held on Tuesday, September 2nd at Corona Mexican Restaurant at 6 PM. Special thanks to the clergy that guided those discussion groups, Reverends Mel Arant, Cathy Joens, Ken Owens, Chuck Shaw, and Hillary Taylor. If you have questions that you are curious

about that weren't addressed in the sermons, feel free to reach out to Pastor Karen for one-on-one discussion.



Fall Kickoff Dinner

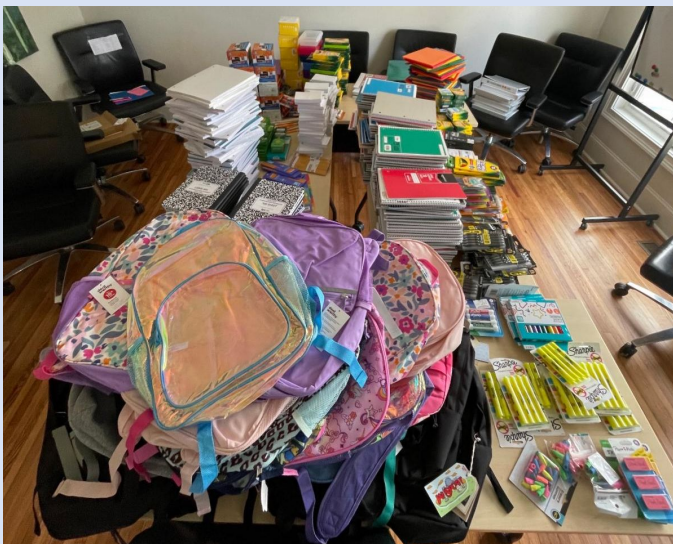
Our Fall Kickoff Dinner was held on Wednesday night, August 13. Approximately 65 folks joined together for a delicious catered meal!

School Supplies

Our S.H.A.R.E. Committee asked.....and you responded! OHUMC partnered with Pendleton Place, who offers services and support for children and youth in foster care, to do a school supply collection. Supplies were blessed during worship on August 3.



Thank you for giving: 780 pencils, 119 spiral notebooks, 26 packs of notebook paper, 26, 7 packs of graph paper, 32 packs of crayons, 15 headphones, 19 packs of colored pencils, 166 pens, 5 calculators, 33 backpacks, 168 folders, 29 composition notebooks, 28 packs of markers, 36 highlighters, 60 packs of index cards, 24 binders, 172 glue sticks, 102 erasers, 11 rulers, 8 Expo markers and 3 pencil boxes! Additional donations were sent directly to Pendleton Place!



"Our Family Resource Center families of Pendleton Place are extremely grateful for your generosity during this back-to-school season. Education is the foundation for children to thrive and realize their full potential, and having the right supplies for school sets them up for success. However, when parents are not in a financial position to purchase the necessary supplies, children often go without and their

educational outcomes can suffer. Through your kindness, you not only relieved these families of a significant financial burden, but you set these children on the path to have successful school years. We look forward to

continuing to partner with you in the future and would love to welcome you in for a tour any time to see the impact of your gifts."

Mary Latrick
Philanthropy Coordinator
Pendleton Place



Bible Presentation Sunday

Five Rising 3rd – 5th graders were presented with Bibles during worship service on August 17 to help them grow in their discipleship and faith journey. The OHUMC family embraces the nurturing of these precious children!



Back to School—Backpack Tags

Our Back to School celebration was held on August 10 during our Worship Service. We blessed and prayed over our students, educators, and school staff before they started their new school year.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

We offer a warm thank you to all our summer music soloists! Dr. Ben Griffeth, David and Molly Stanley, Olivia Marseil, Doris Loretta, Greg McKee, and Phil Perkins shared their wonderful musical gifts to make our summer Sundays extra special.

BLOOD DRIVE

More than twenty members and neighbors showed up to donate blood at our summer blood drive, held in partnership with The Blood Connection. Approximately forty lives were saved by this act of kindness. Thanks to our faithful blood donors!



L-R: Volunteer Margie Gust, and faithful donors John Winn, Gwen Winn, and Dottie Pittman, sporting bright arm wraps!

L-R: Blood donor Gwen Winn and volunteer Julia Turlington.

Website : openheartsumcsc.org



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

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