

SOCASTEE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026 Edition

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Rev. Paula J. Stover

Let Us Bear Fruit

The Bible tells us a lot about the importance of bearing fruit. Jesus spoke often about being fruitful. In fact, in his last days he cursed a fig tree that had foliage but no fruit.

In the Gospel of John, Chapter 15, verses 1-5 Jesus said “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” (NRSV)

In an article in Ministry Matters called “*Radical Hospitality: The First Practice of Fruitful Congregations*,” Bishop Robert Schnase of the Rio Texas Annual Conference of the UMC describes hospitality as how a church expresses love for Christ and its neighbor through intentional acts of invitation and service. Hospitality is certainly a sign of a church bearing fruit. He went on to say “Jesus’ example of hospitality demands an unceasingly invitational posture that we carry with us into our world of work and leisure and into our practice of neighborliness and community service. It involves seeing ourselves as sent out by Christ and going out of our way, even at the risk of a sense of awkwardness and inconvenience, to invite people into some aspect of the church’s ministry.” Vibrant, fruitful, growing congregations practice radical hospitality. Churches where practicing radical hospitality is a priority and a way of life, sense a calling and responsibility to pray and work to invite others and to help them feel cared for and welcome, and to find opportunities to support them in their faith journeys. These churches, in the spirit of Jesus, exist “not to be served, but to serve.”

As the pastor, it is my prayer and my desire for our church to be fruitful. To not only abide in Christ, our true vine, but to prune and make room for the branches to grow and spread as they bear the good fruit of life in Christ. I firmly believe that the way we can do that is to examine some of our ways of doing and thinking and compare them to the example of Jesus Christ; separating from those that don’t and making room for the work of the Holy Spirit among us as we grow in practicing this radical hospitality that Bishop Schnase writes about. He closes the article by saying “People are searching for churches that make them feel welcome and loved, needed, and accepted. By repeating, deepening, and improving on the practices of investing in and welcoming people, fruitful congregations share the gracious love of God in Christ.” We are a welcoming church. We want all to come and worship and be a part of what God is and will do here, in and through us. Let us pray and search ourselves, and find ways of becoming a church that draws people in, welcomes and loves, nurtures and supports them. When Jesus comes by and moves away the foliage, the fruit will be plentiful and ripe.

Lord, let it be so in us. Let us grow and bear much fruit. Amen.

Grace and peace, Pastor Paula



A MESSAGE FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

Mary Wilson Campbell, Church Council Chair

It's spring once again, and we're reminded that this is a season of light, new beginnings, and emerging from the cold and darkness of winter, both for us personally and for our church. SUMC continues to be strong, despite ongoing challenges, and we are still deeply engaged in helping our neighbors with their many needs, whether they live in the Plantation Apartments or in Haiti.

There are a few changes to Council membership for 2026. The following people are new in their roles: Lay Leader, Al Wood; Chair of SPRC, Craig Campbell; Chair of Stewardship, Mary Lehr; Member at Large, Cindy Hall.

Continuing members in addition to Pastor Paula and me: Chair of Trustees and the 1875 Building Committee, Chip Smith; Treasurer, Dale Faulkner; Finance Chair, Mary Ann Graham; Missions Chair, Gail Collins; Worship Chair, Joanne Ryals; Lay Members to Annual Conference, Dale Faulkner and Alice Dunn; Education Chair, Carly Hall; Recording Secretary, Janet McLaughlin; Membership Secretary, Charlotte Loiselle; United Methodist Men President, John Packard; President, Women of Hope, Susan Redmon; Hospitality Chair, Sandra Stegall; Youth Representative, Aiden Jackson; Cemetery Committee Chair, Alice Dunn.

I hope you will join me in thanking the Council members for their dedication and hard work. Without these wonderful people we would not be able to serve God and our neighbors.

One of the current areas of focus for the Council is revenue generation, especially outside of our congregation, to enable us to continue and expand our ministries. We are planning activities such as a summer golf tournament, a fall barbeque, and possibly concerts with visiting musicians/vocalists. You will be hearing more about how you can support these activities as plans come together. If you have an idea for an event that might generate substantial revenue for SUMC, please talk to any of the Council members.

We are also planning to have greeters, in addition to the ushers, so that we can be more structured and intentional about how people are welcomed to SUMC and how follow-up is conducted. And we are establishing a Communications Committee which would handle items such as a new church brochure, churchwide announcements, and our social media presence. If you have talents in writing, editing and/or technology, let us know.

The Council continues to be grateful for the support and involvement of all church members. Together, we can do all things to the glory of God.

MISSIONS

Holy Innocents Education Fund 2026

by Gail Collins

The giving window for the Holy Innocents Education Fund is May 17 - June 14. This mission began in 2019 when retired Episcopal priest Pierre Henry-Fritz Valdema of Haiti wrote a letter to Rev. Kurt McPherson, our pastor at that time, with a request for assistance. He sought help for families of Holy Innocents Church, who were unable to afford the costs of sending their children to school to receive the education that can break the cycle of illiteracy and poverty in Haiti. Socastee responded with love and funded three students that year. The following year we increased the number to seven students for 2020-21 and then to ten in 2021-22. Our current plan is to assist all ten children in graduating from high school.

Since we began our relationship with Pere Val and the Holy Innocents families seven years ago, this congregation has experienced several unusual and difficult challenges but nothing we encountered broke the faith of this Body of Christ.

First of all, the Covid19 pandemic began in 2020, creating hardships of church closures, online worship, and restrictions that made it feel impossible to resume normal church. However, the pandemic did not deter the people of SUMC from increasing their commitment from three to seven Haitian schoolchildren. The following year you stepped out on faith once again and added three more students for our total of ten.

Our church faced another challenge when the upheaval of church separation brought discontent to some in our congregation. We struggled through the process of discernment, eventually realizing that our church family would be broken before healing could begin. Through the trauma, however, God's people remained steadfast in their work as the hands and feet of Jesus. Nevertheless, as we approached the giving window in 2025, I confess that anxiety crept into my heart every time I looked at the church's financial reports. Our students' needs were even greater with the continued turmoil that existed in Haiti, but could our congregation provide for them when it was possible that our giving could not even meet the needs of Socastee? We soon had our answer. The answer was no. No, our congregation could not provide for the needs of both Socastee United Methodist Church and the Holy Innocents Education Fund. However, God most certainly COULD do both and even more!


By relying on God's grace and mercy, this group of believers persevered through our trials even as we underwent a change in pastoral leadership, not just once, but twice within two years. This church not only fully supported the education expenses for Holy Innocents in 2025, but as God's church you worked so hard and gave so generously that not one single mission or ministry of this church fell by the wayside as we traveled that rocky road. ALL programs, missions, and classes continued and even grew in number as the months of 2025 passed. Truly, my heart swells with joy and gratitude when I think about the love reflected in you as followers of Christ, – love for God, love for each other, love for our community, and yes, love for our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

So the Holy Innocents "giving window" opens the Sunday after Mother's Day and runs through Father's Day. I feel it is appropriate that during this four week "season of family," we focus on how we show love for all families both near and far. Of course, you can give to this beloved mission any time during the year or even all through the year, if you wish, but this specific span of time gives us an opportunity to watch the numbers increase and recognize God's love in action through you, the followers of Jesus. My heart knows that you will prayerfully, faithfully, and joyfully give to the Holy Innocents Education Fund for the 2026-27 school year. Praise be to God!

MISSIONS

Holy Innocents Education Fund 2026 (Continued)

Holy Innocents Education Fund 2026-27
A mission of Socastee United Methodist Church since 2019



He's got the whole world in His hands


Fundraising window will be open May 17 through June 14. Our goal for 2026-27 school year is \$20,000. Please support this mission with your prayers and your gifts.

Would you be a Friend in Jesus to a Haitian student?


- We as Socastee United Methodist Church committed ourselves to this mission in 2019 with 3 students.
- By the 2021-22 school year, our group had grown to 10 students.
- Despite exorbitant inflation in Haiti's economy that has driven up costs each year, we as a church have remained steadfast in our dedication to this mission.
- A Friend in Jesus is committed to praying for the student and providing annual tuition expenses until the child graduates high school.
- Four of the ten students have Friends in Jesus among our congregation. The remaining six continue to wait and pray.

Jean Woodler Voltaire and Chadeline Charles were two of the original three children who we began assisting in 2019. Look how they have grown!


**Jean Woodler
Grade 5**




Grade 9



**Chadeline
Grade 1**



Grade 6



MISSIONS

Holy Innocents Education Fund 2026 (Continued)

Naika and Djoseline joined our Holy Innocents group in 2021-22. Both young ladies are praying for Friends in Jesus to help them finish secondary school.

NS1 (Secondary)
Equivalent to 10th grade

Naika Jeanney
8th Grade



NS2 (Secondary)
Equivalent to 11th grade



Djoseline Jean
Grade 6



Alexandra
St. Elus

Grade 8



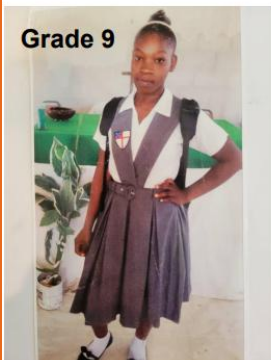
Grade 9



Alexandra just joined our group in the 2024-25 school year after a space became open due to another student leaving. Alexandra has 1 brother and 3 sisters. Their parents are deceased. The smile on her face is a reflection of the love and care she is receiving from Holy Innocents Church. Perhaps there is someone at Socastee who would commit to Alexandra as her Friend in Jesus.

Carina Raymond

Grade 9



NS2 (Secondary)
Equivalent to 11th grade



Carina is in level NS2 of secondary school. She does not yet have a Friend in Jesus from Socastee UMC who is willing to assist her with her next two years of school. The hand on her hip indicates that she is a determined young lady, don't you think?

UNITED METHODIST MEN

by John Packard



The United Methodist Men meet on the third Tuesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall (with dinner!!) All men are invited.

We enjoy a meal, have a devotion, and discuss and organize projects to support the Church and our Socastee community.

Some of our upcoming projects include:

- Providing a meal for the Community Easter Egg hunt here at the Church.
- Helping to serve breakfast to about 600 high schoolers who participate with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.
- Organizing a Church-wide trip to the Myrtle Beach Pelicans game on May 26, with our choir singing the National Anthem prior to first pitch.
- This year we will be helping Socastee Elementary School by providing lunch for the teachers and staff during their Field Day, June 1.
- On Saturday, June 27, we will be supporting a Captain's Choice golf tournament at Whispering Pines. This tournament will benefit our Church.

See any of the UMM members for details for any of these projects and we hope to see more men for our next meal/meeting on April 21, at 6:30 pm, in the Fellowship Hall.

UNITED METHODIST MEN - *Continued*



REALM CONNECT

REALM CONNECT APP

How do I get an invite to the Realm App?

We encourage all members to download the Connect app. It is a great tool to receive announcements and other church communications.

To sign into the Realm Connect app, you must first create a Realm account. All SUMC members are added to our Real database. Realm is the database we use to keep our member accounts up to date. We also use Realm for other things such as to send out emails to the congregation, and to set up event registration.

If you are a member and do not have a Realm account, contact the church office at 843-650-3373 and we will get you set up. Once added to Realm, you will receive an email invitation.

1. Find the Realm invitation in your email. If you do not see it, check your email's spam folder to ensure it was not sent there by mistake.
2. Click the link inside the email.
3. Enter your email address and create a password for your account. You can now sign into the Realm Connect app using this account information.

How do I reset my Realm Connect App password?

If you have an account and your password is not working, you can request an email to create a new password.

1. Open the Realm Connect app and tap Forgot your Password.
2. Enter your email address and tap Send Email.
3. Check your email for an email from Realm. If you do not see it, check your email's spam folder to ensure it wasn't sent there by mistake.
4. Click the link inside the email and follow the instructions to create a new password.

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS

Eddie Dyer

Cynthia Dyer

Janice Brian

David Prescott

Linda Prescott

WHAT'S GOING ON AT SUMC

WEEKLY

SUNDAYS:

- 8:00 am Fellowship Hall – The Hospitality Committee offers light refreshments before worship service. (8 -10 am)
- 8:45 am Sunday School – Adults meet in the John Wesley Room, Children meet in the Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 am Sunday Worship - New Sanctuary

TUESDAYS:

- 9:00 am Stitchers – John Wesley Room
- 6:30 pm Men in Ministry (*Third Tuesday of each month*) – Fellowship Hall for a meal, fellowship and devotion.

WEDNESDAYS:

- 11:00 am Women of Hope – John Wesley Room (*Second Wednesday of each month*)
- 12:00 pm Book Club- John Wesley Room (*Last Wednesday of each month*)
- 5:30 pm Wonderful Wednesday (*Second Wednesday of each month*)

THURSDAYS:

- 10:30 am Thursday Morning Bible Study – John Wesley Room
- 12:00 pm Gracie's Heart Card Ministry (*Last Thursday of each month*) – John Wesley Room

WHAT'S GOING ON AT SUMC

SPECIAL EVENTS



THE WOMEN OF HOPE invite you to their special Bake Sale on Sunday, June 21 – Father's Day! Stop by and pick up a delicious homemade treat to celebrate the men in your life. From baked goods to sweet surprises, there will be something for everyone to enjoy! Don't miss this opportunity to support a wonderful ministry while making Father's Day a little sweeter!



UNITED METHODIST MEN is organizing a church-wide trip to the Myrtle Beach Pelicans game on May 26, with our own SUMC Choir singing the national anthem prior to first pitch. More details to come!



LINE DANCING CLASSES will be held most Fridays in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm on the following dates:

April 24

May 1, May 8, May 15, May 22

June 5, June 12, June 19, and June 26



BIRTHDAYS

APRIL

Rett Haselden	April	3
Shirley Mullen	April	3
Diane Miller	April	5
Rose Killian	April	7
Carole Williamson	April	9
Colt Karnes	April	10
Kelli Terrell	April	10
Braelyn Tester	April	11
Robert Jablonski	April	11
Tyler Leigh	April	12
Bill Killian	April	14
Caitlin Shuppy	April	14
Roger Kennedy	April	14
Carol Sullivan	April	17
Dale Fryer	April	17
Brad Reynolds	April	18
Lynda Neveu	April	18
Marilyn Burch	April	19
Michael McPherson	April	22
Cooper Savoca	April	23
Dale Faulkner	April	25
Robert Haight	April	25
Ryan Dunn	April	25
Don Jones	April	26
Dorothy Ferguson	April	27
Kristen Cooper	April	27
Anistyn Woessner	April	28
Bob Scott	April	28
Mary Morris	April	28
Chapel Gause	April	29
Henrietta Martin	April	29
Susan Finch	April	30

MAY

Cindy Hall	May	1
Joan Davidson	May	1
Greg Musgrave	May	2
Mildred Pyle	May	2
Jay Barton	May	3
Mary Turbeville	May	4
Rianna Kearns	May	5
Gaines Gause	May	6
Kylie Thomas	May	6
Chip Smith	May	7
Julie Fay	May	7
Riley Bullock	May	7
Andrew Higgins	May	9
David Hardee	May	9
Diana LeBlanc	May	9
Lauren Shuppy	May	9
Carolyn Wagner	May	10
Emily Michael	May	11
Paige French	May	13
Landon Terrell	May	15
Christine Gorman	May	16
Cory Jackson	May	17
Paula Fryer	May	17
Brian Gause	May	18
Allison Padgett	May	19
Ruth Berckart	May	20
Carly Thompson	May	21
Devin Thomas	May	24
Sheri Mathis	May	24
Amelia Williamson	May	26
Norman Hart	May	26
Randy Petrick	May	26
Connie Spahr	May	27
Irene Hanselman	May	27
Rev. Will Harper	May	27
Carolyn Jurasko	May	28
Richard Culberson	May	28
Bill Haselden	May	29
Martha Hamel	May	29
Sherilyn Yearty	May	30
Walt Smith	May	30
Barbara Gulino	May	31
Pattie Stotler	May	31

JUNE

Roger Friedman	June	1
Celia Poupore	June	3
Haley Colway	June	4
Remington Singleton	June	4
Carol Benish	June	5
Wanda Setzer	June	5
Janet McLaughlin	June	6
Steve Hayden	June	6
Amber Cooper	June	8
Marlea Kjos	June	9
Laura Marin	June	10
Valerie Sullivan	June	10
Cathy Newcomer	June	11
Stacey Whitacre	June	12
Jeffrey Heilman	June	13
Bob Wolford	June	15
Gregory Thompson	June	15
Meg Tessenaar	June	15
Lori Rogers	June	16
Leeann Poplin	June	18
Syd Putnam	June	18
Trevor Hancock	June	18
Bruce Watson	June	19
Erinn Bullock	June	20
Jim Miller	June	22
Sunny Fry	June	22
Keith Marin	June	23
D. Richard Graham	June	24
Klaus Ford	June	24
Alice Garcia	June	25
Jessie Geise	June	27
Tyler Sullivan	June	27
George Grzeszkowiak	June	28
Janice Heilman	June	28



ANNIVERSARYS

APRIL

Colt & Madison Karnes	April 7
Wayne & Dale	April 11
Richard & Robin McElroy	April 15
Don & Beryl Moore	April 16
Patrick & Cindy Hall	April 16
Ron & Vicky Winson	April 20
Walt & Rene Smith	April 23
Mark & Tasha Hall	April 24
Richard & Sharyn Vadimski	April 26

MAY

Bill & Rose Killian	May 1
Mark & Jan Terrell	May 13
Phil & Cathy Newsome	May 17
Randy & Lynn Petrick	May 20
Brian & Chapel Gause	May 30
Wayne & Lori Rogers	May 30

JUNE

Bill & Jean Haselden	June 6
Steve & Fay Hayden	June 6
Lee & Debbie Marin	June 6
Taylor & Megan Tuberville	June 6
Tom & Pat Chandler	June 7
Harry & Diane Miller	June 7
Rod & Gayle Schroder	June 14
Brian & Meg Tesseneer	June 15
Tom & Carolyn Jurasko	June 16
Rodger & Madge Friedman	June 17
Jay & Katrina Barton	June 18
Dale & Nancy Faulkner	June 25

