

SOCASTEE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Summer 2026 Edition

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Message from Pastor Paula

A Word from Church Council

Missions

UMM Men in Ministry

UMW Women of Hope

2026 Salkehatchie Update

Realm Connect App

Welcome New Members

What's Going On At SUMC
(Weekly and Special Events)

Birthdays

Anniversaries

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Rev. Paula J. Stover

Many of you have asked me about the ordination process in The United Methodist Church. It is likely that most of you have never had the opportunity to go through it with someone. Whether you realize it or not, all of you are walking this journey with me right now.

The process of discerning a call to ministry begins in the same way for all who sense a calling to something different or more than the call we all have at our baptism. The discernment includes a call to lay ministry, and many other ways to serve. If a call to vocational ministry is present, this is the point: beginning with direction from the local church pastor, a person works with the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and the District Superintendent to initiate the process. One must be recommended by both in order to begin based on their determination that the person desiring to enter the process has demonstrated a call to ministry.

Through a process called “candidacy,” one begins a multi-year discernment and formation path. Following examination by the SPRC and a vote of the congregation, each candidate enters the process of becoming a “certified candidate.” In addition to enrollment, background checks, and psychological assessments, each candidate is interviewed by the District Committee on Ordained Ministry (dCOM). Each certified candidate is eligible for appointment after attending Licensing School. If appointed, they are licensed to serve as a Local Pastor if under appointment. Some remain licensed and are required to attend Course of Study classes through a United Methodist seminary, which are not for credit. Others become student pastors while attending seminary. All pastors holding a license must be reviewed and continued annually by the dCOM in the District to which they are appointed.

They are licensed to serve only the congregation to which they are appointed. If not appointed, they surrender their license.

The United Methodist Church recognizes two Orders into which one may be ordained.

The Order of Elder, in which one is authorized for a lifetime ministry of Word, Sacrament, Order, and Service, and the Order of Deacon, in which one serves as a bridge between the church and the world, focusing on ministries of Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice. The discernment process includes discerning which ordination path one is called to follow. I am called to be an Elder, leading the ministry of the local church at this time.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

(CONTINUED)

To be ordained an Elder in The United Methodist Church, one must earn a Master of Divinity from an approved seminary. The South Carolina Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry also requires courses be taken for credit in African American studies, women's studies, and Clinical Pastoral Education. After the core courses are completed, one enters the examination process, which includes writing papers on Theology and Doctrine, Call and Disciplined Life, a Bible study on an assigned gospel, and a sermon (written academically) on an assigned text. The candidate is interviewed and voted on by the Board of Ordained Ministry and is either carried over for another year of preparation or recommended for commissioning as a Provisional Elder or Deacon.

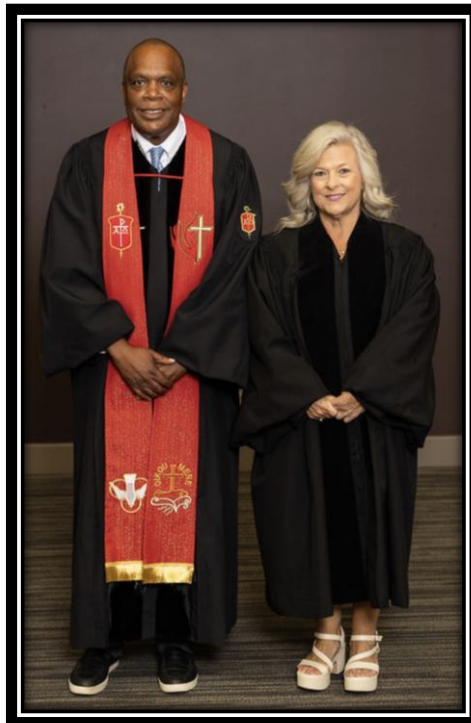
Once commissioned, the provisional member enters into an additional time of formation and preparation. This begins with a three-day retreat, which marks the start of two years of residency. There are additional papers and interviews with the Board of Ordained Ministry, which hopefully ends with a recommendation to Full Elder or Deacon.

That is an overview!

So, where am I (as your pastor) in the process?

Heretofore, I was a Licensed Local pastor. Recently, I was commissioned a Provisional Elder by the South Carolina Annual Conference. I have completed all the required studies except Clinical Pastoral Education, which I will complete before the Annual Conference meets in June 2028. I will attend the Provisional retreat at Asbury Hills Camp and Conference Center August 18-20, 2026.

I covet your prayers and continued support as I follow this "odd and wondrous calling" to ordained ministry!





A MESSAGE FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

Mary Wilson Campbell, Church Council Chair

Summer is usually a time when we lie on the beach and rest from our labors, and I hope that we all have a chance to do that. But other than not meeting in July, your Church Council is not taking a break during the summer, for there is much work to be done. We continue to focus on mission outreach, on helping our neighbors, near and far, to have a better life, and to do that, we must pay attention to the financial health of the church. When we think we have reduced expenses as much as we can, we find more opportunities to explore, including our electric bill and bank fees. The goal is always to find ways to reduce our spending without impacting our service to our neighbors and our congregation.

We continue to look at ways to bring in more revenue, including rental of our space to outside organizations, and events such as a golf tournament and barbeque. We will also be focusing on stewardship in the coming months. We tend to think of stewardship as just the pledge cards that we fill out during the annual fall campaign, but stewardship is so much more, as we will hear about beginning now and continuing for the rest of the year. We can't think about stewardship without first thinking about discipleship. Each of us needs to be in prayer about what it means to be a disciple, and how we can be better disciples.

Beginning in August the Council will be planning for the 2027 budgeting process. Part of that planning will be how best to communicate the budget to a varied audience, since pages of numbers do not speak to everyone. The budget needs to tell a story about how and where we focus our ministry.

As we go through the summer and get ready for a busy fall, please remember that this is YOUR Council, so if you have questions, ideas or concerns, bring them to the attention of any member so that they can be brought before the whole group for discussion and action, if needed. Although the Church Council leads the way, the future of SUMC belongs to all of us.

MISSIONS

by Gail Collins



School Supplies Drive

Our annual school supplies drive will take place during the month of July. **Monetary donations** may be given in the offering plate designated for "School Supplies." If you prefer to give online, you may give through Realm starting **July 5**.

Click "School Supplies" on the dropdown menu.

Prior to the start of the new school year in August, backpacks filled with approved grade-level supplies from the Horry County Schools list will be distributed to kindergarten-fifth grade students who live in Plantation Apartments here in Socastee. This is a wonderful way to love our youngest neighbors!



Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday is August 9th. Please prayerfully consider a gift toward this vital UMC ministry.

Visit aldersgatesnm.org for more information.

Providing Christian homes for special needs adults

Together We Can Make a Difference!

Adults with special needs are among the most underserved people in South Carolina, and the nation. The need for their care continues to grow, and Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry is there for them.

MISSIONS

(Continued)

Only 152 days til Christmas!

Get a headstart on seasonal fun by attending the Missions Committee SUMMERFEST: Christmas in July! Shop from exciting vendors and visit yummy food trucks for snacks. Inflatable waterslide fun available for the littles. Who knows? Maybe a special visitor will make an appearance!

Socastee United Methodist Church
5575 Dick Pond Road

**SUMMERFEST
CHRISTMAS
IN JULY**

All proceeds benefit Haiti mission fund

**SATURDAY
25
JULY**

**10AM
TO
3PM**

**CRAFT FAIR
BAKE SALE
INFLATABLE FUN**

Vendor space available - \$50

Contact Doni Sue 1-772-453-9393

MISSIONS

(Continued)

Blessings for the Giver & the Recipient



The SUMC Blessing Box provides immediate assistance for anyone in need. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Women of Hope faithfully replenish it on a regular basis. You may contribute to their work, or if you prefer, you may personally place staple foods, first aid supplies, toiletries, or cleaning products in the Blessing Box at your convenience.

Please do not place clothing items, toys, or books/magazines/pamphlets into the Blessing Box.

LITTLE FREE BOOK FAIRS OF SUMC

Quarterly Book Cleaning

Fellowship Hall July 11, 2026 9:00 a.m. - noon



Join us for great fellowship, laughter, and work. All books and cleaning supplies provided— just bring the elbow grease and a desire to make children smile over beautiful, clean books!

See Sunny Fry for more information.

MISSIONS

(Continued)

LFBF Joins Forces with Shepherd's Table



News of our beloved Little Free Book Fairs is spreading! This summer LFBF will be present each Friday at Shepherd's Table in Conway, SC, for their Summer Kids Pantry from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This is a phenomenal way to feed the bodies and the brains of God's children!

Ongoing Food Drive

June-July: Pasta Sauce

August-September: Canned Meat

This new food drive changes each month!
Collection basket located in the narthex.
See Laura Marin for more information.



Missions are COOL!



Missions Committee is THE happening thing at SUMC!
We invite you to join us in loving our neighbors through the work of the myriad of missions available here at Socastee. You can choose to be involved a whole lot or just a little bit, but there is work and joy for everyone. Our next meeting is **July 7th at 6:00 p.m.** when we will be finalizing details for Summerfest that is on July 25th. That is a week earlier than our **regularly scheduled monthly meeting time which is the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 in the John Wesley classroom.** We are flexible!

Experience the blessings of serving Jesus by serving others through missions.

Call or text Gail Collins if you have any questions.

843-421-6816

MISSIONS

(Continued)

Many thanks to all who support the students of Holy Innocents with your prayers and gifts.

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



He's got the whole world in His hands.

Goal: \$20,000

Total 6-28-26:

\$20,220.00

We will receive word in August about total tuition costs for 2026-27. Needed funds will be transferred at that time, and any remaining funds will carry over to 2027. You may continue to give year-round to this beloved mission.



Jean Woodler Update

Jean Woodler has received his new eyeglasses! He and his family send much gratitude to the congregation of Socastee UMC who made this possible. Now he'll be able to comfortably read all texts and assignments for school. We wish him well on his end-of-year testing this summer. God bless you, Jean Woodler!

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 to come and enjoy a meal, have a devotion, and discuss and organize projects to support the Church and our Socastee community. We are an active group that can always use an extra pair of hands.

The UMM have recently completed a few projects. Our annual trek to the Pelicans game was on May 26, with 57 folks attending. (Last year 40 attended). Our choir did a wonderful job singing the National Anthem prior to first pitch.

On June 1, we purchased, cooked, and served the Socastee Elementary School teachers and staff a hot dog lunch on their Field Day.

We also purchased and installed a new oven in the Fellowship Hall kitchen to replace the one that didn't work.

Upcoming projects include serving the Socastee High School Football Team with their pre-game meal on Sept 25.

UNITED METHODIST MEN - *Continued*



SUMC fun at the Pelicans Game



Stove donated to
SUMC Fellowship
Hall kitchen



UNITED METHODIST MEN – *Continued*



UMM at Socastee Elementary serving Hot Dog Lunch on Field Day



WOMEN OF HOPE

by Susan Redmon



Our group continues to grow. We currently have 26 very active members. We are busy with a number of projects and fundraisers so we can support programs in our church family and community.

Some of our ongoing and upcoming projects:

- We continue to provide food items for the Blessing Box and our members volunteer to fill the food bags and the box two days a week.
- We are providing small gifts to be distributed to shut-ins and special friends when they are visited during the month of June.
- We donated Gatorade, snacks, paint brushes and work gloves for the volunteers going to Salkehatchie. We also made a monetary donation to Salkehatchie.
- We provided a small treat for all the men of the church on Father's Day.
- We had a bake sale on June 21st (Father's Day) following the worship service.
- We are making a monetary contribution to the Backpack School Supply Project in July.
- We are also doing a bake sale at the Mission Committee's Christmas in July project.

2026 SALKEHATCHIE

Three members of Socastee United Methodist Church (Aiden Jackson, Xander Jackson, and Keith Marin) at the Sumter Salkehatchie camp June 13th-20th. If you are interested in going next year, be in prayer and talk to one of them and/or Pastor Paula.



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.

How do I add/update my photo in Realm so people will recognize me?

1. Stop in the Church office during open hours (Monday – Thursday 8:30 am to 1:30 pm) and Dee will take your photo and upload it into Realm.

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS



Nancy Myer

She comes on profession of faith from the Episcopalian Church.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT SUMC

WEEKLY

SUNDAYS:

- 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
- 11:30 am Sunday School – **Resumes September 13** in the Fellowship Hall (second floor)

TUESDAYS:

- 9:00 am Stitchers – John Wesley Room
- 6:00 pm Missions Meeting (*Second Tuesday of each month*)– 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 - **Resumes September 16** (*Third Wednesday of each month*)
- 5:30 pm Wonderful Wednesday – Fellowship Hall – **Resumes September 9** (*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
- 5:30 pm Senior Singles (*First Thursday of each month*) Group meets at a restaurant. See weekly bulletin for details.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT SUMC

SPECIAL EVENTS

Vacation Bible School

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

SUMC Fellowship Hall

Pre-K* - rising 6th Grade

**Pre-K must be potty trained to attend.*



July 11th

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

SUMC Fellowship Hall



CRAFT FAIR, BAKE SALE and INFLATABLE FUN

Saturday, July 25th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at SUMC!

All proceeds will benefit Haiti mission fund.

Come join the fun and support a great cause!



September 12th

Whispering Pines Golf Course

More details to come in Realm Connect!

WHAT'S GOING ON AT SUMC

SPECIAL EVENTS (CONTINUED)

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, September 9 at 5:30 pm

Hot Dogs and Smores at the Fire Pit

JOIN US!



UMM Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, September 27

Immediately following Church Service

Free will offering to support UMM projects



The Learning Center

TAG SALE & COOKIE BAKE



October 13

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

LINE DANCING CLASSES

will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm on the following dates:

July 3, 24 & 31

August 7 & 14

September 4, 11 & 18



BIRTHDAYS

JULY

Mary Ann Graham	July	3
Eric Grzeszkowiak	July	5
Jason Heilman	July	6
Don Moore	July	7
Katrina Barton	July	11
Carly Hall	July	11
Carolyn Dahl	July	13
Alice Dunn	July	13
Jan Terrell	July	15
Aiden Jackson	July	18
Scott Williamson	July	22
John Hinson	July	27

AUGUST

Jordyn Heilman	August	6
Gail McGinnis	August	9
Avarie Jackson	August	14
Lindsay Jackson	August	16
Jim Smith	August	12
Jackson Terrell	August	17
Katie Collins	August	23
Joanne Ryals	August	25
Mark Terrell	August	27
Lanny Lewin	August	28
Chase Poplin	August	31

SEPTEMBER

Nichole Rogers	September	1
Dolores Bowerman	September	4
Larry Geise	September	10
Sandi Poplin	September	10
Bill Singleton	September	11
Karen Jakubek	September	14
Lynn Petrick	September	14
Joyce Silvis	September	15
Mary Wilson Campbell	September	15
Linda Prescott	September	16
Mateo Perez	September	18
Janice Brian	September	19
Beryl Moore	September	19
Misty Singleton	September	23
Ruth Koenig	September	24
Peggy Packard	September	26
Butch Williamson	September	27
Debbie England	September	28
Beverly Moretz	September	29
Tom Chandler	September	30



ANNIVERSARYS

JULY

Scotty & Cheyenne Singleton	July 1
John & Cheryl Hinson	July 4
Kirk Gruber & Martha Hamel	July 18
Scott & Susan Williamson	July 19
Bill & Misty Singleton	July 27
Jim & Neal Smith	July 28

AUGUST

Keith & Laura Marin	August 4
Michael & Beth Lawrence	August 7
Jerry & Charlotte Loiselle	August 23
Richard & Melissa Ward	August 28

SEPTEMBER

John & Peggy Packard	September 11
----------------------	--------------

