

HANDS AND FEET

SOCASTEE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



A Letter From Our Pastor

What is your New Year's Resolution? There are many articles available for helpful New Year's Resolution ideas. One that I would like to give you is activity within your local church, and challenging yourself to grow spiritually through the fellowship of Christian community. John Wesley talked about the ways that we can grow spiritually: The public worship of God, the ministry of the word, taking Holy Communion, prayer alone and prayer with your family, reading the Bible, fasting, and abstinence. I would like to add to this list, fellowship with other Christians. In the first quarter of the New Year, we have many opportunities for fellowship with one another. Investing yourself in these opportunities at your house of worship will give you time to work on your spirituality and get to know other brothers and sisters within your church family. We have many wonderful events to be involved in at Socastee UMC.

Easter will come early this year, with Ash Wednesday being on Valentine's Day. Please plan to come for the Ash Wednesday service the morning of February 14th at 9:15am with TLC students or the service that evening at 6pm. The main idea is that the center of your life becomes your church and your church family. When we prioritize church over "the world", we can truly begin to become a New Creation in Christ. We look forward to seeing you this New Year! What will you become in 2024?



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Looking Out Dee's Window

DEE HORTON



As I sit in the sunroom the day after the rain/wind storm, I see a pond that is practically overflowing. And I watch so many birds flying around to the feeders because yesterday they were sheltering from the storm. Enjoying the moment, it put me in a reflective mood, as I tend to do when the year is almost at an end. And, as I thought about it, there were both good and bad things that have taken place during this year, just as with most years.

A major, positive thing is that through technology (which I normally am not happy with), we receive on almost a daily basis, emails with pictures and videos of our great- grandbaby, Eleanor. Through Tiny Beans, we can see her grow and witness the almost daily changes in her. Since she is in Alexandria, Virginia, we aren't able to see her too often in person. So, Tiny Beans is a really good thing. And, of course, I can't forget Facetime. That is a highlight for us when we can do that and actually communicate with her.

After the first half of the year resulted in what can almost be described as a comedy of sorts (although I can assure you that I wasn't laughing for several months), the Administrative Assistant position at the church has been filled with a remarkable person. We are truly blessed to have Michele back with us. God's hand was most definitely in that outcome.

Lee and I had a wonderful trip up to Alexandria, Va at the beginning of the summer where we got to enjoy Eleanor very much. We also did the trip to the Ark in September, a trip we had wanted to do for awhile. The good part about it is that we didn't have to fly or drive. It was a wonderful trip with a bus full of wonderful people. And the Ark exceeded our expectations. The downside was that we returned home with COVID. The day we were both diagnosed with it was the day that Eleanor and her family were supposed to fly in for a visit. Now, that was a real downer for sure!!!

Lee and I have each had some health issues this year but thankfully we are still able to do so many things. I am trying harder to focus on what I can do rather than what I can't. And in the New Year, I want to commit to that even more. God has blessed me in more ways than I can count. And, yes, there are often some twists and turns on my path, but overall the good things far outweigh the bad. Thank you, God for blessing me and surrounding me with big and small blessings each and every day.



A Word From Worship



ANN LEWIN, WORSHIP CHAIRPERSON



This past Christmas, I was reflecting on what has transpired since Lanny and I first moved to South Carolina 7 years ago. From the day I was baptized, I'd lived in Maryland and was surrounded by family, friends, and always had a home church.

After settling in our home, we began searching for a new place to worship. We visited several United Methodist churches and after nearly a year, we were still searching. Finding a friendly and loving church like what we were accustomed to was proving to be difficult. Six months later, we walked into the doors of Socastee UM Church. We were greeted by a warm and friendly couple that made us feel welcomed. They invited us to sit with them, told us about the available bible study groups and mission opportunities. In essence, they took us under their wings. It wasn't long before Pastor Kurt asked me to serve as head of the Worship Committee. While I'd been very active in my previous church, I'd never served on the Worship Committee, much less chaired it. After much thought and prayer, I realized the Lord was nudging me for His purpose and so I accepted the position. It proved to be quite a learning experience, but it was also a great opportunity to get to know the members of this new church. While working alongside its members, I realized the church was filled with friendly, charitable members who were quick to help each other and to support the desire to serve others in and out of the church. The Lord knew I wanted a place to continue worshipping Him with a new church family, and He led me here. He found us a church family and He used me as well for His purpose. Praise Him for this blessing!

We all have different talents and capabilities and if we use them together in service to the Lord, our church and those we help through our missions, we are demonstrating to others that this is a loving, spirit filled church.

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I will soon be stepping down as the Worship Chair and by sharing my experience, it remind all our church members that if they haven't worked in our church as a volunteer in any capacity, they are missing a wonderful opportunity to get to know some wonderful people. I've made some great friends during my time as Worship Chair and am extremely grateful for everyone that I had the opportunity to work with. I'm especially thankful for the loving couple that took the initiative to welcome us when we first came to Socastee UM Church. It is because of them, Lanny and I are now happily part of a warm, friendly church family with members that actively give of their time, care and support and enjoy worshipping together and serving the Lord and each other.

Thanks to our Lord first and always! Thanks, and blessings to all who helped me in this journey and to all the volunteers that I had the pleasure of working with!!

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES FAIR
March 3, 2024

**ATTENTION: Committee Chairs, Program Leaders,
 Work Area Coordinators, etc.**

➔ **Showcase the work of your
 committee, program, or work area.
 Welcome new volunteers.
 Provide handouts and contact info.**

START PLANNING NOW!

Contact Gail to reserve a spot for your group!
wsmc@collins2@gmail.com • 843-421-6816

Upcoming Winter Mission Opportunities

GAIL, COLLINS, MISSION CHAIR



THANK YOU
The missions committee appreciates the generous congregational support of our 2023 Angel Tree. Your kindness provided gifts for forty-four children in seventeen households of Plantation Apartments.



A PRAYER FROM OUR FOUNDER
Nurse Carmel Valdema

Eternal and Almighty God,
We bless you, we adore you, we give glory to you for all the gifts you've given us this year which is coming to its end. We are, Lord, living in constant fear in Haiti, not knowing where to go. Father, despite the difficulties of the country, the insecurity, the violence of all kinds, you have protected us, and we are still here.

We are grateful that you are strong when we are weak. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to work and provide care to all those who need it.

We pray to you, Lord, for our friends, donors and all those who support Light from Light and their families. May you continue to bless them for the love they give to children in Haiti. We are grateful to you, Lord, for the protection granted to the staff of Lespwa Timous - for safety and health. We ask that you continue to hide them from danger. We also pray for peace and a unified country for a better Haiti in the future.

We pray to you, in the Name of Jesus Christ, Amen!

Thank you for your support of LFL and the work in Haiti. We are so grateful for your partnership. Let's keep a LFL staff!

Jwayne Nwel!

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM HAITI

from the board and staff of
LIGHT FROM LIGHT

Carmel Valdema, Pere Val's Wife Prayer

Christmas Greetings from Pere Val

SAVE THE DATE!
March 3, 2024
SUMC MISSIONS FAIR
REFRESHMENTS + ENTERTAINMENT
FUN + FELLOWSHIP
DAZZLING DISPLAYS + PRESENTATIONS

Start the new year off right!
Join the SUMC Missions Committee and learn of the many opportunities to serve that are offered at Socastee UMC.

The committee meets every 3rd Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in the John Wesley room of the Meeting House.

First meeting of 2024: January 16

Contact Gail for more info: mmsgc@msn.com 843-421-6816



Thank you, Caregiver Crew



I would like to extend a tremendous thank you and “God bless you” to the women of the SUMC Nursery Caregiver Crew. These selfless individuals periodically sacrifice in-person worship attendance to ensure that the littlest Methodists of Socastee are cared for in a loving, safe setting while their mommies and daddies are in church. Some of these volunteers are mothers and grandmothers of our little charges, but others are simply acting on the vow they made when parents brought their babies to be baptized into the family of God. Caregiver Crew, I truly appreciate your dedication!

Gail Collins, Nursery Coordinator

“With God’s help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that this child, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.”

When you see the women listed below, please take a moment to thank them for joyfully serving Jesus by caring for the children of Socastee.

**Pam Bohannon
Ginny Callum
Amber Cooper
Carly Hall
Irene Hanselman
Jennifer Johnson
Madison Karnes**

**Mary Lehr
Sharon Lowe
Joan Mulkahey
Jackie Singleton
Leigh Smith
Teresa Turbeville
Elaine Zachary**

Missions Reminders

- Quarterly Clothing Drive January 7th-14th: Bagged donations should be placed on the floor in front of the stage in the fellowship hall. Children’s, men’s, women’s clothing accepted.
- Souper Bowl Sunday for Salkehatchie February 11th
- Missions Fair after church March 3rd: Plan to shake your shamrocks, and let’s enjoy fellowship time while teaching & learning about SUMC missions, ministries, and programs.

Socastee United Methodist Church Nursery

Each Sunday two loving caregivers tend to our littlest Methodists during the worship hour. If you would like to be part of this dedicated crew, please contact Gail.

mrsqc@msn.com 843-421-6816

NEW SCHEDULE BEGINS IN FEBRUARY, 2021

All volunteers will receive Safe Sanctuary training.

“With God’s help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that this child, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.”



Coming Soon!
Widows & Widowers Club-a new group will be formed to plan fun activities, socials and outings! We will be looking for creative ideas. Look for upcoming announcements in the church bulletin, website, as well as Realm Announcements when our first meeting will be scheduled

Holy Innocents Prayer Focus



Hello! My name is **Piquina Charles**. I am excited to be in 2nd grade. Thank you for your help so that I could begin my education. God bless you.



Hello! My name is **Djoseline Jean**. I am in the seventh grade. My favorite subject in school is mathematics. At home I help wash the dishes and study my lessons. When I play I like to jump rope. May God bless you for your kindness in helping me go to school.

My name is **Chadeline Charles**. Because you helped my family, I am able to attend school. I am in 3rd grade and hope very much that I will be able to continue school. May God bless you for your kindness.



Hello! My name is **Carina Raymond**. I am in the 9th grade. My favorite subject in school is English and when I grow up, I want to be a businesswoman. Thank you for your kindness in helping my family

Hello! My name is **Jean Woodler Voltaire**. I am in the seventh grade and my favorite subject is Math. After school I like to play soccer. I wish to get a good education so I can become a doctor when I grow up. I thank you for your help last year so I could attend school. God bless you!



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Stewardship

January is the time we reflect on the past and focus on the spiritual changes for the new year. How will you use your gifts and talents in the new year to enhance your Christian Stewardship?

During 2023 the contributions to **OPERATIONS** were \$506,720 vs 2022 of \$449,095 an increase of 12.7%. The contributions for 2023 to **FELLOWSHIP HALL LOAN** were \$38,219 vs \$42,070 for 2022 a decrease of 10%. Please pray that the Church will continue to meet its obligations in 2024 in order to help perpetuate its mission.

Your Stewardship Chair,
Walt Smith



Why Are Books A Mission?



With all the social ills the Church is rightly concerned with, you might wonder why in the world there's a mission to put good books in the hands of small children.

And the answer is – because poverty, drug use, homelessness, crime, even early pregnancy and abuse are all strongly correlated with illiteracy. 85% of kids in the nation's juvenile system have poor reading skills; 70% of those in US prisons can't read above a 4th grade level. 2/3 of children who aren't reading well by the time they start 4th grade end up in prison or on welfare – and in South Carolina, that's about half of 4th grade students.

It's expensive in both lost potential and dollars. And it's immoral. This isn't someone else's problem. It's ours.

What if we start helping to address those problems BEFORE they're a problem?

With all the griping about teachers, the truth is that most teachers are phenomenal, and dedicated, and able to teach skills to the children in their charge. But as one sweet local teacher said, she can give those babies the skills, but if they have nothing to practice with at home, it won't stick.

And with all the griping about bad parents, the truth is that most parents want the best for their kids.

Many of them just need good information and access to resources. So we build on the good work done by other literacy programs, like Reach Out and Read or Freedom Readers. We keep repeating that same message – that it's important to read to and with your children. And then we make sure those families have access to books.

And guess what? *It turns out the number of books in a home is a better predictor of how far a child will go in school than either the parents' education or their income.* But books are expensive when a family is trying to keep the lights on. Even time, gas, and reliable car to get to the public library can be an obstacle to families in survival mode.



So we do this big thing. We find books.

We take a page from Ruth and Naomi, and working through church and in the community, we collect the gleanings – donations from the congregation and preschool, children's books which other kids have outgrown, books the library is discarding, books from retiring teachers, books from other literacy groups. Sometimes we buy special books, too.

We collect lots and lots of great children's books, of all kinds (because there are all kinds of kids with all kinds of interests), and we sort them, and clean them, and make them look nice.

And we display them in pretty ways, to draw little

eyes, rotating our stock just like they do in stores. We place those displays in schools and other areas where children see them all the time, so it becomes normal and routine to look for interesting titles or topics.



We make books TEMPTING.

Not a chore.

Reading for pleasure is how children get better and better.

And children are much more likely to read a book which they have chosen than one that someone else gives them.

Our mission is simple: to get books in the homes of children, even children whose parents are

struggling to pay for food, even children whose parents may not YET know the importance of reading to their children, even children whose parents may have not been read to when THEY were little.

We love our neighbors by helping make sure their children have the tools to maximize their own gifts and graces. And we can and will show other churches how they can help THEIR neighbors the same way.

Because -- again -- this isn't somebody else's problem.

We all pay one way or another when we fail our littlest citizens.

It seems such a small thing, collecting gently used books and helping them find new homes. But it's a way of loving our neighbors which makes a lasting difference.

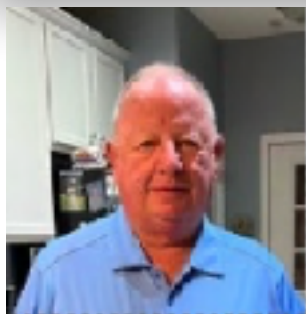
Did you Know?
 Each week the church website has on the home page a link to the weekly church bulletin & church service via YouTube

Upcoming Events

- Jan 7-Baptism of the Lord Sunday, Communion & Fellowship Time after church 11am
- Jan 7-13-Clothes Drive
- Jan 10-Wonderful Wednesday
- Jan 13-Saturday Night Live
- Jan 14-2nd Sunday of Epiphany
- Jan 16-Mens Club
- Jan 21-3rd Sunday after the Epiphany, Open Book Sunday
- Jan 28-4th Sunday after the Epiphany, Organ & Tissue Donation Sunday
- Feb 4-5th Sunday after the Epiphany, Communion & Fellowship Time, Boy Scout Sunday
- Feb 7-Wonderful Wednesday
- Feb 10-Saturday Night Live
- Feb 11-Transfiguration, Souper Bowl Sunday benefitting Salkehatchie Summer Service
- Feb 14-Ash Wednesday-9:15am & 6:00pm Services
- Feb 14-TLC Spring Play
- Feb 13-Fat Tuesday Breakfast by Men's Club in Fellowship Hall, 6am-9am
- Feb 14-Wonderful Wednesday
- Feb 18-1st Sunday in Lent, Open Book Sunday
- Feb 20-Sweetheart Dinner by Mens Club
- Feb 25-2nd Sunday in Lent
- Mar 2-Men's Breakfast
- Mar 3-3rd Sunday in Lent, Communion & Fellowship Time. Special Recognition of Marie Zakrzewski
- Mar 9-Saturday Night Live
- Mar 10-4th Sunday in Lent, Girl Scout Sunday, Daylight Savings Time
- Mar 13-Wonderful Wednesday
- Mar 14-TLC Spring Play
- Mar 16-Spring Surge First Presbyterian Church of MB
- Mar 17-5th Sunday in Lent, Open Book Sunday
- Mar 19-Men's Club
- Mar 24-Palm Sunday, waving palms & palm crosses
- Mar 28-Maundy Thursday, Communion
- Mar 29-Good Friday-10AM Service
- Mar 30-Easter Egg Hunt & Bake Sale

Board of Trustees

GENE POSEY, BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR



We all enjoy coming to church where it is safe and pleasant to worship. The Board of Trustees will continue to help accomplish this.

Your 2024 Board of Trustees members are:

Martha Allen, Bob Bobo, David Geddings, Steve Hayden, Tony Lowe, Diane Miller, Gwen Owens, Gene Posey, and Charles Whaley. The Board of Trustees are elected to 3 year terms, with 3 Trustees rotating off the Board every year. The Board of Trustees are responsible for the cleaning service and all contractors that do service work and repairs of church property.

In 2023 major improvements were made to the church and parsonage.

In January 2023 curbing/landscaping was installed at the parsonage. Last summer new LED ceiling lights were installed in the Fellowship Hall. Last fall the Meeting House had a new roof installed. Minor projects are being completed throughout the year. The Trustees approved 3 projects the Boys Scouts completed to help them earn the rank of Eagle Scout. One scout pressure washed and painted the exterior of the Meeting House. One Scout reroofed and put new siding on the storage building behind the Fellowship Hall.

Please understand the Trustees do not do it all by themselves. When asked, many of our church members help to make “it happen”. The entire church thanks you.

“Coins of Change” helps pay for many unexpected expenses. A good example is there are 3 leaking windows in the Sanctuary and 1 leaking window in the Fellowship Hall that need to be fixed. “Coins of Change” will help pay for these repairs.

What the Board of Trustees do is very rewarding work. In 2024 the Board to Trustees will continue to be an active part of the church.

SAFE SANCTUARIES

Please be aware that we will be filming all of our Sunday Services as well as most of our Special Services. The video will be put on our YouTube page as well as our website. If you have children that attend services and do not want them to be filmed, please do not allow them to participate in Coins of Change or Children’s Time, as the whole service will be filmed, including those portions. thank you for your understanding.

Church Council Update

MARY WILSON CAMPBELL, CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIR



First, a huge shout out to Rene Smith, last year's Church Council Chair, and the entire Council for their hard work and dedication. I cannot thank Rene enough for her wise leadership and the Council members for going above and beyond their job descriptions while performing the necessary work of our church and the Kingdom of God. I believe that the new Council will continue the good work already begun.

Now, I'd like to introduce you to this year's Council. In addition to me as the new Chair, the following members are new in their roles: Lay Leader, Mary Lehr; Reserve Lay Members to Annual Conference, Gene and Susan Posey; Chair of SPRC, Susan Posey; Recording Secretary, Anda White; Chair of Finance, Mary Ann Graham; Chair of Worship, Martha Allen; Member at Large, Dee Horton. Those remaining on the Council in the same role as last year: Lay Members to Annual Conference, Joe & Martha Allen, Al Wood; Chair of Education, Jan Terrell; Chair of Trustees, Gene Posey; Chair of Stewardship, Walt Smith; Chair of Missions, Gail Collins; Financial Secretaries, Donna Bryant, Doug Vining, Laurie Harris, Patty Crisman, Debbie Marin, Carolyn Vest; Treasurer, Dale Faulkner; Membership Secretary, Diane Santee; and United Methodist Men Co-Presidents, John Patton and Bill Golder. The UMW will elect their president at their first meeting of the year.

The two major items to be addressed by the Council in 2024 are the 1875 Sanctuary Project (see more information on this elsewhere in this newsletter) and www.socasteeumc.org

the UMC Discernment Process. A Denominational Education Team has been established to ensure that all church members are able to make an informed decision regarding disaffiliation. Topics to be included in the educational sessions are United Methodist hierarchy/polity, the discernment process itself, and what the South Carolina UMC Conference does for us. The first education sessions will take place on January 18 at 7 p.m. and January 21 at 11:30 a.m. The second sessions are scheduled for February 15 at 7 p.m. and February 18 at 11:30 a.m. Further sessions will be held later. More information about these sessions will be coming soon.

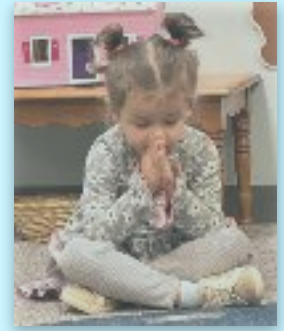
A 2024 church calendar will be available this month that will list key events and services for the year and will be updated as new items are added.

I look forward to serving as Church Council Chair during these challenging times for the UMC. My prayer for 2024 is that, despite our differences, we can stay focused on Christ and are able to set aside our fears, worries and discontent so that we can work together to further His Kingdom.



TLC News

LINDSAY JACKSON, TLC ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



We've had a wonderful few months at TLC! With so many wonderful things happening each and every day, it's hard just to pick a few to highlight! Here are a few blessings:

- We've had several successful events including our Tag Sale, Trunk or Treat, Family Night, Parents Night Out and Christmas Program!
- Each Wednesday at 9:15 we have Chapel. So far we've learned the Fruit of the Spirit, The Armor of God, The Story of the Birth of Jesus, and several more! Feel free to join us one day, it's a great mid-week pick me up!
- Each and every day we are growing and learning new things! We appreciate all of the support from everyone at SUMC!



Getting To Know Your Church Family

DEE HORTON

Terrie and Dominic Risconsin



Terrie and Dominic sold their home in Columbus, NJ and lived at their shore home, Villas, NJ (near Cape May) until they finished their home here in Surfside. That was in March, 2022 They still spend their summers in Villas, NJ.

Both Terrie and Dominic are retired teachers. They started in Junior High but spent most of their teaching years on the High School level. Dominic taught for 36 years and Terrie taught for 25.

They have five children, four girls and one son; they also have three grandsons, who are 13, 10, and almost 2.

Some of their hobbies/interests are reading, puzzles, diamond art, painting, cryptograms, traveling and English football (soccer). They both played many sports in HS and college, then continued on recreational levels. In college, Terrie played power volleyball, basketball, and softball, while Dominic played soccer and baseball and was selected All American on the college level.

They are very excited to have joined the church family.

Fray Lowe

Fray is from Calverton, VA where she had a farm with horses. She has lived in the Myrtle Beach area for 5 1/2 years.

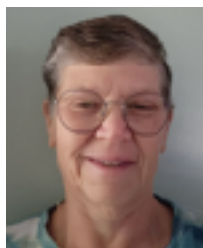
She is now retired but was a Finance Accountant in Washington, D.C.

Fray has two sons, one at HGTC and one in Raleigh, NC who is a CCU graduate.

Her interests/hobbies are walks on the beach, parks, working in the yard, and her dogs. And she loves to travel!!! Fray also says that she loves her family, hates the cold, and loves people!!!



Tina Berry

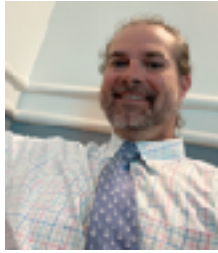


Tina is from Philadelphia, PA and moved to the Myrtle Beach area 19 years ago. She was a school bus driver. She has two sons that live in "Philly" and four grandchildren -- one 14 year old granddaughter and one four year old; two grandsons, one five year old and one four year old.

Tina loves softball, football, darts, sewing, and baking. She loves having fun and helping people.

Duncan Sherer

Duncan is originally from Chester, SC; however, before moving to the Myrtle Beach area 18 years ago, he lived in Clemson, SC and Daytona Beach, Fl. He works in finance, primarily automobile finance.



Duncan has one daughter, Taylor, who is 22 years old and is in graduate school at Clemson University.

Hobbies and interests of Duncan are beach surfing, paddle boarding, fishing, or just enjoying all the beach has to offer. To quote him about golf, he says "I have golf clubs but they don't work very well, and I am pretty sure that has nothing to do with the guy swinging the clubs!"

Duncan was asked to play Jesus in one of the liturgical dances last Spring. And, as a side note, he was born on Christmas Eve!!!

Julie Fay



Julie was born and lived in Mason, Michigan until moving to this area in 2006. She worked in business for 20 years and then went back to school and got her teaching degree. She has taught in both Michigan and in Horry County. Julie has been married to her husband, Greg, for 51 years. They have three children and ten grandchildren.

Julie and Greg enjoy spending most of the summer in Michigan at their cottage with visits from all of their children. Julie also enjoys spending time with family and friends. She and Greg also take care of their youngest grandson while his parents work. He is in the 4 year old class at TLC. Julie enjoys making

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cards, doing puzzles, and playing board games with her children and grandchildren.

Julie commented that her parents began going to church when Julie was almost three years old, after a near-drowning accident. She said "it changed our lives forever."

Carolyn and Jim Wagner



Jim is from Lexington, NC and Carolyn comes from Circleville, West Virginia. They have lived in the Myrtle Beach area for three years. Both are retired.

Jim was a Manufactures Rep for Leeboy Asphalt Paving machines and Carolyn was an Office Manager and Assistant to a VP General Contractor

They have three children, three grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

Carolyn enjoys crafting and boating and Jim's hobbies are boating, fishing, and golf.

They are also part of our shut-in visitation teams.



Dolores and Skip Bowerman



Dolores and Skip are from central New York (outside of Syracuse), but have also lived in Kentucky, North Carolina, Georgia and Northern Virginia. They moved to the Myrtle Beach area in early 2014.

Skip was in Federal law enforcement and Dolores was a Contracting Officer for the Federal Government.

Dolores and Skip have been married for 45 years and have three children -two boys and one girl - and one grandson.

Skip's hobbies are golf, music, playing piano and working outside. Dolores enjoys reading, knitting and crocheting, the beach, gardening and traveling. They spend part of the winter in Florida.

They are looking forward to getting into a couples' Bible Study when they return from Florida and also doing some volunteer work.

Michelle, Whitney & Shane Foster



Michele, Shane and Whitney Foster became new members of SUMC on Dec 17, 2023. Michele was born in Greenville, SC, lived in Asheville, SC for six years, and then moved to

Socastee when she was eight years old. Both her children, Shane and Whitney were born in the Myrtle Beach area.

Michele is a payroll administrator, running her own business, Walk by Faith Payroll Services, out of her home. Whitney works at Tender Year Day Care as a

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teacher. She has worked with children up to pre-k and then occasionally takes care of the after school children. Shane is a sophomore at Socastee High School. He has played golf, baseball, and archery and is also involved in the Air Force JROTC.

Michele's interests and hobbies are spending time with family, crafting and swimming. She and Shane enjoy going to the beach. He loves surfing and started teaching surf lessons last summer. He also like to build things, fish, ride dirt bikes, swim and mainly do anything involving the outside. Whitney and Michele like to watch most sports, both college and pro baseball and football, and also college basketball, especially the SC Gamecocks and Atlanta Braves.

Michele and her husband Marshall have been married going on 35 years. They had thought they were only going to have Whitney, but in Whitney's junior year of high school they found out that Michele was pregnant with Shane. As she said "we realize that God had other plans for us."



Church News



Martha's Committee



Socastee United Methodist Church Members have helped in so many ways during 2023. We have been blessed by the many volunteers who have baked and prepared food item for those family members as they shared may positive

memories of their loved ones. Martha's Committee is appreciative of all those members who have donated their time to help set up and clean the Fellowship Hall while repast meals are being served.



If you would like to help in some way, either by setting up or being part of the clean up crew, or you would like to donate food or baked items when a church family member or loved one passes, please contact **Dee Fields at 843-238-3391**. Your gift of time and food items are truly appreciated by everyone!

We thank thank all those church members for supporting Martha's Committee as our goal is to provide strength and support for our church family members during challenging times.

Dee Fields Martha's Committee Chairperson

1875 Sanctuary Update

Pastor Meredith and Fred Harris, Chairperson of the Building Committee will be meeting with the Church Building and Grounds Committee, Monday, January 8, 2024. This



committee headed by Reverend Steve Brown, District Superintendent, will be touring the sanctuary as well as reviewing and discussing our progress with renovating this facility.

At this meeting we will be seeking approval of 3 options which the building committee have created. An update to the church congregation will be given in the near future. We will begin looking for ways to fund this project either by donations or fund raisers. In the meantime you are welcome to email Fred Harris at fharris39@gmail.com with any questions or suggestions.

Denominational Education Team Info

Please read the "Church Council Update" for more information on 2 classes scheduled for you! A letter will be sent to your home with more details and the church website will be updated frequently with information! Please visit our website and stay informed!



Fall Memories at SUMC



TLC Pumpkin Patch



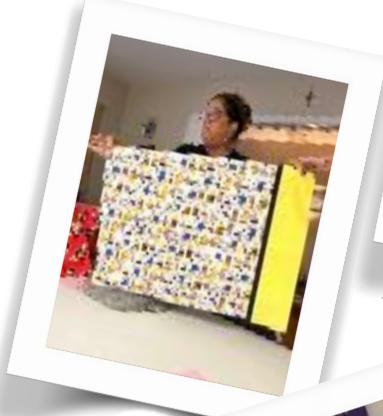
Pastor Deborah from the Brook



Thanksgiving Cornucopia



Hope Circle Craft Show



Epworth Pillows & Quilts



Children Time



Jan



Pastor Appreciation



Handbells



Pastor George



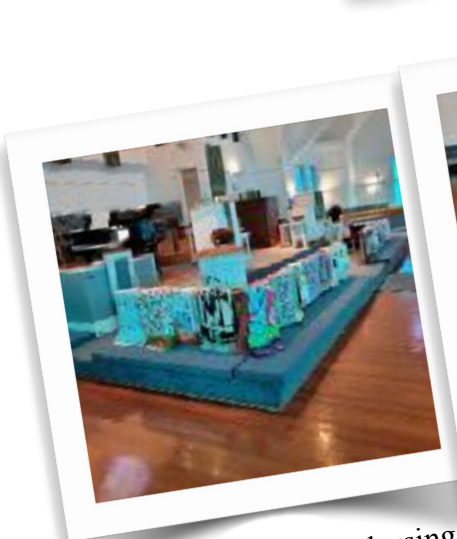
Tim



Choir



Sherry



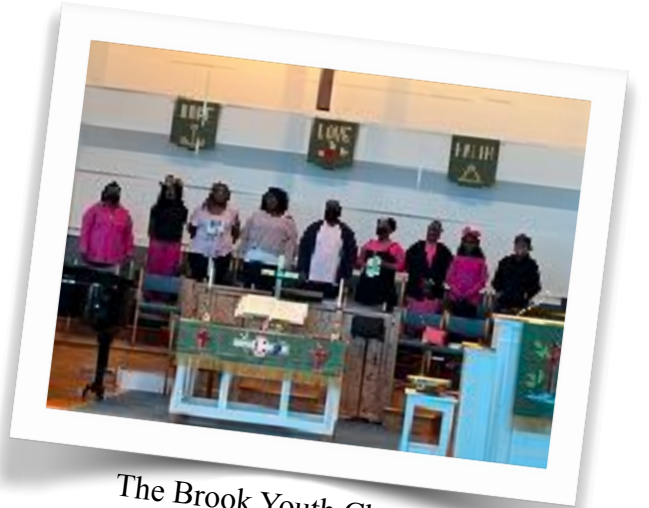
Blessing of the Quilts



Pastor Tom & Homecoming



Quilt of Valor presented to Jim Fields



The Brook Youth Choir



Al



All Saints Service



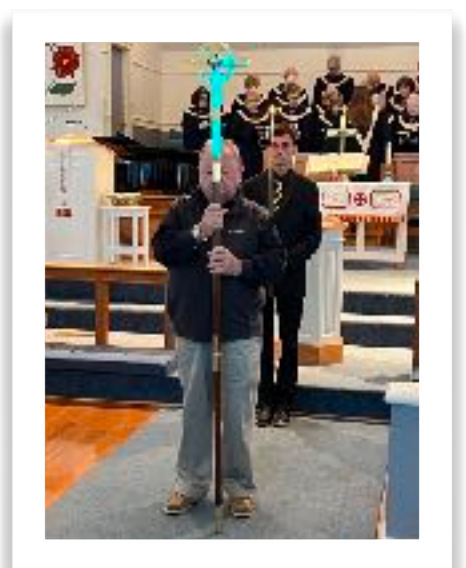
Janice



Children's Choir



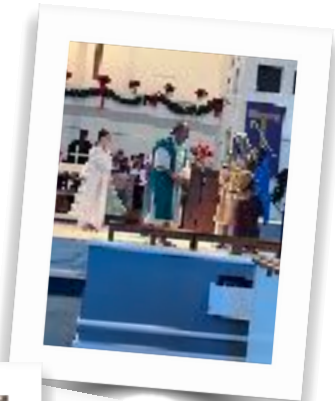
Hope Circle Soup Sale



Gene & Shane

Christmas Cantata - "The Gift"

December 3, 2023





Church Member Donations for Blue Star Mothers



Boy Scouts & Church Members
Grave Stone Cleaning



Sandi



Christmas Dinner



Sunny, Jan & Lori with the Little
Free Book Fair at Socastee
Elementary



Logan Walters, Boy Scouts helping
with Georgetown's Thanksgiving
Dinner

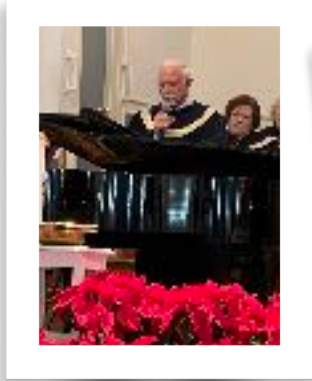


Nate McQuarrie & Cooper King Eagle Scouts





Making Chrismos @ Wonderful Wednesday



Coy



TLC Christmas Program



Reverend Len



Cathy Newcomer & Ray Tinsman



Women Bible Study Christmas Luncheon





Birthdays & Anniversaries

January

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Johnny Collins | 1 |
| Scotty Singleton | 1 |
| Brian Tessenaar | 2 |
| Tiffany Killian-Garcia | 2 |
| Tony Payne | 3 |
| Jamie Sherman | 3 |
| Mitchell Strickland | 4 |
| Jimmy Redmon | 4 |
| Linda Bobo | 5 |
| Ann Bulda | 5 |
| Marilyn Taylor | 5 |
| Kirk Gruber | 5 |
| Susie Bartlett | 5 |
| Ina Squires | 6 |
| Dominic Lombardo | 6 |
| Tonya Payne | 8 |
| Bill Golder | 9 |
| Travis Collins | 10 |
| Beth Douglas | 12 |
| Gayle Schroder | 12 |
| John Jordan | 13 |
| Barbara Wolfe | 14 |
| Hannah Hall | 14 |
| Beth Lawrence | 15 |
| Doris Singleton | 17 |
| Allen Cooper | 17 |
| Katherine Haselden | 18 |
| Annette Pollard | 19 |
| Rene Smith | 19 |
| Diana Petrick | 19 |
| Ian Hanselman | 19 |
| Caitlin Jurasko | 20 |
| Nicholas Jurasko | 20 |

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Sally Swisher | 21 |
| Tom Crickmore | 21 |
| Kandy Rogers | 22 |
| Bo Turbeville | 23 |
| Tracy Leigh | 23 |
| Heather Jurasko | 23 |
| Scott Terrell | 23 |
| David Smith | 24 |
| Sharon Vining | 24 |
| Wendell Vozar | 25 |
| James Fry | 26 |
| Jenny Lecroy | 28 |
| Lee Smith | 28 |
| Ava Finn | 28 |
| Marjorie Hewitt | 30 |
| Leslie Smith | 30 |
| Sharon Scott | 31 |
| Max Smith | 31 |
| David Geddings | 31 |
| Russell Fry | 31 |
| Hugh Cooper | 31 |

February

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Dale Willoughby | 1 |
| Ann Spangler (Smith) | 1 |
| JJ Robertson | 1 |
| John Poupore | 2 |
| Wade Zachary | 3 |
| Dana Mayberry | 4 |
| Wayne Rogers | 5 |
| Andrea Higgins | 5 |
| Pam Howle | 7 |
| Ava Sherman | 7 |
| Davis Bullock | 7 |

February's Birthdays (cont.)

| | | | |
|----------------------|----|------------------------------|----|
| Joyice Waters | 8 | Dustin Ewald | 10 |
| Jim Taylor | 9 | Doris Harris | 10 |
| Suzanne Grzeszkowiak | 11 | Harriet Witten | 11 |
| Donna Bryant | 11 | Pam Taylor | 11 |
| Dorothy Froelich | 12 | John Patton | 13 |
| Mindy Montez | 13 | Phil Newsome | 13 |
| Brady Parker | 13 | Megan Turbeville | 17 |
| Raelin Jackson | 15 | Brittany Hall | 17 |
| Ron Winson | 16 | Emma Thompson | 17 |
| Tannon Turbeville | 16 | Fay Hayden | 18 |
| Debbie Tucker | 17 | Jackie Singleton [Hanselman] | 18 |
| Jackson Petrick | 18 | Donald Wolfe | 19 |
| Bob Bulda | 19 | Susan Williamson | 19 |
| Sharyn Vadimski | 19 | Brenna Fotheringham | 19 |
| Jo Burdock | 21 | David Rohrer | 20 |
| Susan Redmon | 21 | Stephanie Setzer | 20 |
| Paul R. Silvis | 21 | Mark Anthony Hanselman | 20 |
| Madison Karnes | 21 | Kathy Harmon | 22 |
| Brooke Ward | 21 | Teresa Turbeville | 23 |
| Emery Bullock | 21 | Jean Haselden | 24 |
| Jean Page | 22 | Jodi Livingston | 24 |
| Carnice Lambert | 24 | John Bealer | 26 |
| Lee Marin | 25 | Trenton Turbeville | 26 |
| Logan Singleton | 25 | Charles Whaley | 28 |
| Bev Cirillo | 27 | Grace Taylor | 28 |
| Kim Ard | 28 | Diane Santee | 29 |
| Lori St. Clair | 28 | Jennifer Fortune | 29 |
| | | Wayne Willoughby | 30 |
| | | Keri Geddings | 30 |
| | | Eloise Karnes | 30 |

March

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Gene Kipe | 1 |
| Sharon Lowe | 1 |
| Cheryl Hinson | 1 |
| Reggie McCoy-Noce | 2 |
| Virginia Ford (Ginger) | 2 |
| Kim Quiggle | 7 |
| Jim Wagner | 8 |
| Patty Merritt | 9 |
| Amanda Musgrave | 9 |
| Jacob Livingston | 9 |
| Sandra Stegall | 10 |



Anniversaries

January

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Diane & Ed Martin | 17 |
| Sally & Tom Crickmore | 20 |
| Kim & Lanny Ard | 24 |
| Doris & Bob Wolford | 28 |

February

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Leigh & David Smith | 5 |
| Tracy & Glenn Leigh | 10 |
| Tina & Steve Shuppy | 12 |
| Trudie & John Bealer | 14 |
| Diane & Robert Santee | 14 |
| Mary Ann & D. Richard Graham | 19 |

March

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Elaine & Ed Wilbraham | 15 |
| Sharon & Doug Vining | 19 |
| Irene & Michael Hanselman | 23 |
| Andrea & Andrew Higgins | 30 |

Contact Information

Socastee United Methodist Church
 5575 Dick Pond Road
 PO Box 30783
 Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 19588

Church Phone-843-650-3373
email-sumc@socasteeumc.org

Pastor-Meredith Dark
Administrative Assistant-Michelle Bellamy
Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 8:30am - 4:30pm
 (Closed 12:30pm - 1:30pm for Lunch)
 Closed Friday

Service Times:
 Sunday School: 8:45am
 Sunday Morning Service: 10:00am
 Sunday Evening Prayer and Praise
 Service-4:00pm

Our Mission Statement

We are a loving congregation that strives to show the love of Christ to the world.

Did You Know?

The church office has medical equipment for loan. Please contact the church office at 843-650-3373 or email sumc@socasteeumc.org with questions.

Blessing Box

Take what you need...leave what you can.

What is a blessing box?

- ★ free resource for food and other essentials
- ★ supported by church & community
- ★ located in front of the church
- ★ walking distance of neighborhoods
- ★ open 24 hours a day



Why are blessing boxes needed?

- ★ Families in our community face many challenges: poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, eviction, mental health issues.
- ★ Jesus commands us to love our neighbors as ourselves.
- ★ The blessing box is a simple way for neighbors to help neighbors.

What goes into a blessing box?

- ★ Food, both ready-to-eat and to cook
- ★ Personal care items/toiletries
- ★ Baby supplies
- ★ Household/cleaning supplies

Give to the SUMC Blessing Box regularly!

SUMC Missions

