



# Together in Mission and Ministry

News from the Greenwood District



## LOVE NOTES

### LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS



Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Love  
District Superintendent

*The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.*

Deuteronomy 33:27

I can only imagine the life experiences that led to the writing of this hymn. There must have been self-reflection and community and world situations that brought authors Anthony Showalter and Elisha Hoffman to write and add a tune to this song. Showalter said that Deuteronomy 33:27 came to him as he was writing letters of consolation to two former students whose wives had died.

Today these words can bring a sense of comfort to us as well as a reminder to the reality of our dependence upon God. A reminder as we have so many unanswered questions as we received the devastating and tragic news of mass shootings. Words that can encourage us in the midst of our fears and the challenges of these times. The words perhaps brought comfort to those former students of Showalter. Today may we embrace them for our journey that is sometimes filled with grief and pain. Let us remain prayerful for God’s love to fill our hearts in such a way that we become the vessels we are called to be. I ask that we remain in prayer for our faith walk as Christians and as United Methodists. I mention in the report of the cabinet these words:

“We continue in a season of waiting. This is frustrating in many

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#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- 2022 Charge Conferences
- Annual Set-up Meeting
- Lay Servant Ministries
- District SUMMER MISSION PROJECT

#### Connect with Us

- **Web:** <http://umcsc.org/greenwood>
- **LinkedIn:** @gwdist
- **Twitter:** @gwdist
- **Facebook:** GreenwoodDist
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- **Instagram:** gwdist
- **Alignable:** Greenwood District

# LOVE NOTES

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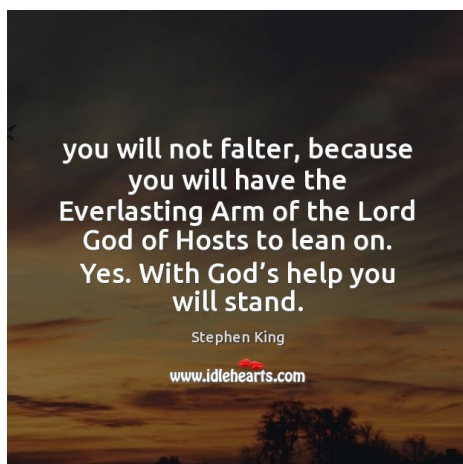
ways and yet it reminds us to turn our attention to the Lord, who knows all about us. There are some ways we can be productive while we wait. Our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world has not changed...While we wait, we are called to continue our faith walk. While we wait, we can begin with prayer for God's will to be done in our midst."

May we share the love of God, so that others may seek a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The fellowship, peace, and love that that we seek can be found as we lean on the everlasting arms of God.

Grace and peace,



Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Love



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## DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY

The District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM) will meet on **Wednesday, August 17, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.** The morning will be spent in training with the Clergy Services staff. Candidate interviews will begin that afternoon. Lunch will be served.

## HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

If you are a part of Lay Servant Ministries in the Greenwood District and want to encourage others to participate, join the LSM Outreach Team. Members of this Team will visit District churches to tell about Lay Servant Ministries. You will be provided everything you need for visiting churches to tell about Lay Servant Ministries. If you are interested, contact [Cathy Trevino](#), District Lay Servant Ministry Director.



- June 4: Amanda Gambrell
- June 7: Rachel Huggins (Bob)
- June 8: Joey Gambrell
- June 18: Meg Wilkes
- June 20: Bob Huggins
- June 23: Mamie Love



- June 2: Ken and Amy Freeman
- June 6: Barrett and Martha Alewine
- June 20: Ben and Laura Barnett
- June 26: Emil and Mary Lou Finley
- June 28: Rudy and Holly Gwaltney

## 2022 APPORTIONMENT UPDATE

Printed below is the 2022 apportionment payment breakdown as of May 25:

- 100%: 4 churches
- 75-99% - 0 churches
- 50-74% : 12 churches
- 25-49% : 25 churches
- 1-24% : 7 churches
- 0% : 29 churches

## SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING



If you are interested in scheduling Safe Sanctuary training for your church, please contact Martha (864-223-2650 or [gwdist@umcsc.org](mailto:gwdist@umcsc.org)).



### 2022 Charge Conference

- **Notify us NOW** of any special dates, events, vacation days to avoid when scheduling your charge conference. *We will begin putting the charge conference schedule together after Annual Conference. **The deadline for sending dates to avoid is July 1.***
- Do not request a new date once the charge conference calendar is published.
- Call or email the district office if you would like to volunteer for an early Charge Conference date.
- If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding your CC reports, please call, email, or visit the district office to ensure ALL CC reports are complete and accurate.
- Charge Conference training will be held in early August. Watch for details.

# **2022-2023 SET -UP MEETING**

**When:** August 11, 2022  
6:30 p.m.

**Where:** St. Paul UMC, Saluda

***Dinner will be provided.***

***Childcare will also be provided.***

Mark you calendars now for this first clergy meeting of the new Conference year. **ALL** appointed and assigned pastors are expected to attend this Set-up Meeting.

It has been a long time since we could gather as a district family. We are looking forward to welcoming pastors, spouses, and children to this gathering. This is our opportunity to meet pastors who are new to our district and recognize those pastors who moved to new appointments within the Greenwood District.

While the pastors are in their business meeting, the spouses will be able to meet and get to know each other.

**Please do NOT schedule vacation, doctor appointments, or other engagements for this date and time.**

The meal/childcare reservation form is now available online: <https://tinyurl.com/bdhhzc8j> The reservation deadline is August 8.

## **NACOM WHAT IS THAT?**

For decades thirteen churches in Newberry worked together to support local ministries and spread the Good News of God's grace in our community. A brochure about NACOM (Newberry Area Council on Ministries) boldly declares the group's mission: "Bringing Newberry Area Methodists Together for Christ."

Unfortunately, gathering together during the past two years has been all but impossible, and NACOM was no exception. Participation in our last meeting was so poor that NACOM's future looked bleak.

Yet, hope springs eternal, and our community needs us more than ever. Violence is on the rise. We have no homeless shelter in the area, and our recently formed food pantry is facing huge demand. If we don't respond to our neighbors' woes, who will?

So, let's take up our mats and walk together to the **NACOM RALLY** on Sunday evening, **July 17, at 6:00 p.m. at The O'Neal Street UMC (501 O'Neal Street, Newberry)**. We'll sing some hymns, say some prayers, have some fun, enjoy finger foods, and talk with one another about how we can make a difference together. This event is open to all Greenwood District United Methodists but especially those in the Newberry area--clergy and laity alike.

Then on **Thursday, August 25**, at 7:00 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church (1005 College Street, Newberry), we will have another NACOM meeting and welcome every one back. So mark your calendars, Newberry Methodists. Let's work together to make NACOM once again a vital ministry in the Newberry area.

# LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES SPRING SCHOOL

The Spring 2022 Lay Servant Ministry School was held at St. Mark UMC, Greenwood, on April 24 and May 1. This was the first in-person school since 2019. Two classes were cancelled due to low registration; however, two advanced classes were well-attended.

Many people do not realize that Lay Servant Ministry classes are available to anyone who is interested in knowing more about the United Methodist Church and how to be a more engaged lay person, or to be equipped as local church leaders.

Each district in the SC Conference has its own Lay Servant Ministry Team that plans and oversees the two Lay Servant Ministry Schools per year. However, anyone in any district can take a class offered in another district. The only requirement is that everyone must take the Basic class which is a pre-requisite for most other classes.

Announcements about upcoming schools and the courses to be offered are always sent to current lay servants, lay speakers, certified lay ministers, and all pastors. The same information is always available on the Conference Lay Ministry webpage, the Greenwood District web page ([www.umcsc.org/greenwood](http://www.umcsc.org/greenwood)), the District Facebook page, and other District social media outlets.

Whatever the reason for taking a class, new friendships are made and participants find that learning is really fun.

The photos on the right are scenes from the 2022 Spring Lay Servant School in Greenwood.

Be on the lookout for information about the 2022 Fall Lay Servant School!



Instructors Rev. Mike Evans (Edgefield UMC) and Tony Watson (District Lay Leader). *Living Our Beliefs* class



Small group discussion during the *Opening Ourselves to Grace* class.



Ashley, 18, has now completed the coursework to become a certified lay speaker. Wes, 16, took the Basic course. Congratulations to these young people.



## *GOD'S ABUNDANCE FOR ALL PEOPLE*



Located at O'Neal St. UMC, 511 O'Neal St., Newberry, *God's Abundance for All People* is a food pantry / clothes closet ministry to people in need in the Newberry area. This ministry is now a partnering agency with Harvest Hope Food Bank.

Volunteers operate *God's Abundance for All People* by serving folks who come to the food pantry and also by delivering food to those not able to travel.

Stop by any Saturday between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to drop off your contributions, to just visit, or even volunteer to help.

Rev. Darlene Kelley is the pastor of the Mt. Pleasant/O'Neal St. Charge.



## *DISTRICT SUMMER MISSION PROJECT*

### **Summer Food Drive**

Rev. Darlene Kelley, pastor of the Mt. Pleasant/O'Neal St. Charge, issued a challenge to hold a **Summer Food Drive**. Yes, food drives are not just for Thanksgiving and Christmas! Many of our neighbors live in a constant food desert and it is our responsibility as followers of Jesus to care for them

The District has accepted the challenge as our **Summer Mission Project**. Everyone (churches, individual families, Sunday School classes, UMW circles, UMM groups, youth groups are all encouraged to participate.

Staples such as peanut butter, canned soups and vegetables, cereal, canned meats, bottled juices, shelf-stable milk are always needed. Personal items are also needed, such as feminine products, diapers, soap, shampoo, lotion, toothpaste.

Kelley says, "You can make a difference! You can make the world a little better, a little healthier, and a little happier, especially for the elderly and for children."

Our Summer Food Drive Challenge kicks off on **June 19** and continues through **July 17**. Please keep a tally of the amount of food collected and send that information to the district office by July 20. Let us know the name of the food pantry/food bank that received your contributions.

Ways to tally your collections:

- Number of pounds; or
- Tally of individual items. Ex: 100 cans of vegetables; 125 cans of soup; 10 5-lb. bags of sugar, etc.

We will recognize participants and amount of food collected at our Set-up Meeting on August 11.

## LOWELL ST. UMC OPENS COMMU- NITY OUTREACH CENTER

### Cupboard & Closet

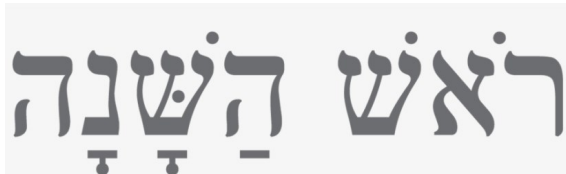
Lowell St. UMC opened a food pantry and clothes closet ministry two weeks ago in their House on the Hill. This community ministry effort will serve the Greenwood Mill Village.

Since opening Cupboard and Closet, Lowell St. UMC has partnered with Bow and Arrow Center of Hope, which will open a satellite office in Lowell St.'s House on the Hill. So in addition to a food pantry and clothes closet, area residents will have access to Bow and Arrow Center of Hope's two therapist offices, two therapeutic mentoring/group rooms, and numerous education classes/events will be available.



Pictured are Rev. Cheryl Remchuk, pastor of Lowell St. UMC, and Krisie Raines, founder of Bow and Arrow Center of Hope.

God is truly moving throughout the Greenwood District as we minister to the least, the last, and the lost.



**Jehova Jireh**

*The Lord will provide.*

## LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES COMING TO YOUR CHURCH?

The Greenwood District Lay Servant Ministries (LSM) would like to bring LSM classes to your church beginning with the Basic class, which is an overview of Lay Servant Ministries and a pre-requisite for the Advanced Lay Servant classes. Other classes will be made available.

To get credit for any class requires a total of 10 contact hours. The pastor and the instructor can decide on the dates and times for each course offered. The church may also request to offer a specific course.

To offer any course requires a minimum of 5 people to attend. Any course offered will cost \$20.00 per person. Books are to be purchased by the participants. Registration scholarships are available.

If the church decides to provide a meal, that cost is separate from the \$20 cost of the course.

Anyone can attend these classes. Participants do not have to become a Local or Certified Lay Speaker.

Churches are encouraged to partner with each other in offering one or more courses which will make for a more meaningful experience for all participants.

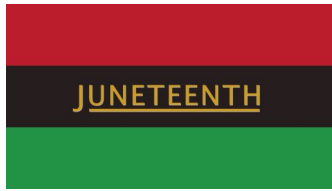
Interested pastors should contact Cathy Trevino, District Director of Lay Servant Ministries (864-992-2228 or [gwdlsmdir@gmail.com](mailto:gwdlsmdir@gmail.com)).



## ***DISTRICT OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED***



United  
Women  
in Faith



The District Office will be closed on **Monday, June 20**, in observance of Juneteenth.

Juneteenth became a federal holiday on June 17, 2021, when President Biden signed it into law. Prior to that June 19 was celebrated unofficially by states, groups, and individual citizens.

On June 19, 1865, Union army troops arrived in Galveston, TX, and freed approximately 250,000 enslaved people. This was two and one-half years after the *Emancipation Proclamation*. Juneteenth marks the end to slavery in the U.S. and is considered to be the longest-running African-American holiday. Slavery was formally abolished in December 1865 with the adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment.

We celebrate this day with all our brothers and sisters.

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The District Office will also be closed on **Thursday, June 23**. Rev. Love will be on Spiritual Renewal Leave and Martha will be in Columbia attending Safe Sanctuary Training. She will respond to voicemail and emails as soon as possible.

See related article regarding Safe Sanctuary training on page 3.

2022 UWF Virtual Gathering: *Come Together Be Together*. Jun 25, 10:00 a.m. Rev. Debra Dowdle, Goose Creek UMC, is the keynote speaker. [Full details, including registration information, are available online.](#)

The meeting link will open at 9:40 a.m.

## ***SALKEHATCHIE SUMMER SERVICE***



**Salkehatchie**

There may still be time to register to participate in a Salkehatchie Camp this summer. [Click here to see the names of the camps, the dates, and the contact information for camp directors.](#)

There will be three camps in the Greenwood District this summer: Laurens, Emerald City (Greenwood), and North Augusta.

