



Together in Mission and Ministry

News from the Greenwood District



Rev. Chris Lollis
District Superintendent

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.

Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)

There is a content creator on social media who regularly posts videos about her day and after she shares she always reminds folks to be kind. A reminder that, A little bit of kindness can turn a person’s bad day into a good day. Or a bad day into a tolerable day.

As I pondered on one of her videos the other day, I was reminded that yes kindness is good. Kindness and a smile can go a long way. Showing kindness by saying simple hello or opening the door for someone are simple ways to show caring, concern and love for others.

In Mark 12:28-34, we find a profound exchange between Jesus and a teacher of the law. The teacher, impressed by Jesus' wisdom in handling the debates of the Pharisees and Sadducees, asks Him a crucial question: “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” Jesus responds with what is known as the greatest commandment - to love God with all our being and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Jesus cuts to the heart of the matter, emphasizing the primacy of love in the life of a believer. Our relationship with God and with others hinges on love. Love is not merely an emotion but a choice, an action, a commitment. It requires the totality of our being - our heart, soul, mind, and strength. When we love God wholeheartedly, we align our desires, thoughts, and efforts with His will. This love is demonstrated in our worship, obedience, and devotion to Him.

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Greenwood District
SC Conference
The United Methodist Church

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- August Set-up Meeting
- Charge Conference Training
- Installation of a New D.S.
- Fall Lay Servant Ministry School

Connect with Us

- **Web:** <http://umcsc.org/greenwood>
- **LinkedIn:** @gwdist
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Furthermore, Jesus pairs this vertical love for God with a horizontal love for our neighbors. We are called to extend the same love, compassion, and care to others that we have for ourselves. This command challenges us to see others through God's eyes, to empathize with their struggles, and to serve them selflessly. In loving our neighbors, we reflect God's love to the world and fulfill His purpose for our lives.

The teacher of the law recognizes the profound truth in Jesus' words, acknowledging that loving God and loving others surpasses all religious rituals and sacrifices. Jesus affirms his response commending him for his understanding and telling him that he is not far from the kingdom of God.

There is much going on in our present time, and I sometimes wonder where the love has gone. I wonder what has happened to kindness. What has happened to care and concern for our fellow human.

I know there are many that are showing love to others. I know there are many who are loving their neighbors as themselves. But often, it is overshadowed by divisiveness and evil in the world.

I have seen the pain in the eyes of many.

But yet I read these words, love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. AND... love your neighbor as yourself.

I pray that we all show kindness. I pray that we all show love to God and to neighbor.

May we all examine our own lives. Are we living out the greatest commandment with sincerity and obedience? Are we loving God wholeheartedly and loving our neighbors sacrificially? May we be inspired by Jesus' words to prioritize love in all our relationships, knowing that in doing so, we draw nearer to the kingdom of God.

Blessings on the journey,



- August 4: John and Kristi Bolin
- August 22: Gray and Michelle Stallworth
Greg and Lisa Thompson
- August 24: Joey and Amanda Gambrell
John and Joie Rogers
- August 28: R. T. and Karen Bowling
- August 31: Dan and Dianne Bradley

- August 15: Martha Alewine
- August 17: Karen Bowling (R. T.)
Jimmy Counts
- August 20: Susan Galasso
- August 27: Mary Lou Finley (Emil)
- August 31: Michelle Stallworth (Gray)



2024-2025 Annual Set-Up Meeting

August 15, 2024

6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

103 Northside Dr., W.

Greenwood SC 29649

This annual gathering is for all pastors (appointed and assigned) and their families. The meal will be provided by the District; however, meal reservations are required to ensure we make adequate plans.

To make your meal reservations, send an email to the District Office (gwdist@umcsc.org) with the pastor's name and the number attending (adults and children).

Meal Reservation Deadline—August 9.



The QR Code to the left is for the 2024-2025 District Clergy Directory.

Please scan the code and then check YOUR information for accuracy. If you find an error or omission, send the correct information to Martha (gwdist@umcsc.org).

CONSULTATION/CHARGE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE—SEPTEMBER

Consultations

September 3

John Bolin
Steve Keck
Dan Bradley

September 5

Thessa Smith
Graham Bennett

September 9

Joie Rogers
Donna Eidson

September 16

Bill Rogers
Kathy Cinnamond
Viki Hydrick

September 19

Carol Peppers Wray
Susan Galasso

September 23

Emil Finley
William Hightower
R. T. Bowling III

September 25

Jason Wilson
Joey Gambrell
Charles Adams

September 26

Justin Ritter

Charge Conferences

September 3

Lupo Memorial

September 4

Ebenezer/Mathews

September 9

Waterloo

September 11

Tranquil

September 12

Main St.

September 15

Epworth/Springdale

September 16

Harmony/Ware Shoals

September 19

St. Paul, Ninety six

September 23

Hopewell/Sharon

September 24

Lowell St./Panola

September 25

Republican/St. Paul

September 26

Rehoboth

The full Charge Conference/Consultation Schedule is [available online](#). Pastors should check this schedule for the time of their consultation.

Pastors are reminded to complete and submit their Pastor Consultation form to Rev. Lollis (gwdist@umcsc.org) no later than 5 days prior to the consultation date.

All charge conferences begin at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

October 3-5, 2024



ON THE BLACK CHURCH
Healthy Churches: Striving for Wholeness

Philippians 1:6

Lowcountry Conference Center | Summerville, SC

umcsc.org/
blackchurchsummit



South Carolina Conference
The United Methodist Church

Registration deadline for hotel group rate: September 8

Registration deadline for event: September 20

Registration link: [Summit on the Black Church Registration - South Carolina UMC \(umcsc.org\)](https://umcsc.org/blackchurchsummit)

The **September Clergy Meeting** is set for Tuesday, September 10, 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Apportionment Update: as of August 14

5 church have paid 100%

1 church has paid 75-99%

19 churches have paid 50-74%

5 churches have paid 25-49%

4 churches have paid 1-24%

14 have paid 0%

FALL LAY SERVANT MINISTRY SCHOOL



WHEN: September 8 & 15; 2:00 p.m.—
7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Central UMC, Newberry

CHARGE CONFERENCE TRAINING

WHEN: Sunday, August 18; 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: ZOOM. The meeting link will be sent to all pastors in early August.

WHO: ALL pastors and associate pastors, church secretaries/admins; chairs of PPRC, Trustees, Finance; Financial Secretaries; and anyone else responsible for completing charge conference reports.



Installation Service for The Reverend Chris Lollis

You are invited to join us as we welcome our new District Superintendent to the Greenwood District of the SC United Methodist Church and to Greenwood, SC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2024, 3:00 P.M.
ST. MARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
550 HIGHWAY 72 BYPASS NW
GREENWOOD SC 29649

Reception immediately following in Founders' Hall

Pastors will gather in the Charles Poore Sunday School Classroom to robe and then will process to the sanctuary. Black robes and **white** stoles for Elders. All other pastors should wear black robes or business suits.