

THE CORNERSTONE CONNECTION



Reaching Up To Christ and Out To Each Other

August 2026



From the Pastor:

There are seasons when we can look back and clearly see God's hand, and there are seasons when we can only take the next faithful step. Most of life—and most of ministry—seems to happen somewhere between those two places. We remember what God has already done, we wonder what God is doing now, and we trust that He is preparing what comes next. The good news is this: even when the way ahead is not fully clear to us, it is never uncertain to God.

As we've been moving through Romans, Paul has reminded us again and again that God keeps His promises. In these next weeks, we will see how Romans 9–11 tells the story of a God who refuses to give up on His people. Even when they wandered. Even when they doubted. Even when they couldn't see what God was doing, God was still working out his purpose. I think that's a message we need to hear even today.

Over the past year, we've experienced a change as we came together as one congregation. There have been new traditions to embrace and new opportunities to discover. Through it all, we've witnessed God's faithfulness. We've seen relationships grow, ministries strengthen, and a spirit of hope take root among us. And I believe God isn't finished yet.

In September, we'll begin a six-month Strategic Planning Focus Group. That may sound like we're making plans for the future, but I hope we see it as something much more than that. This isn't about deciding what *we* want our church to become. It's about asking, "God, who are you calling us to be?" The answer won't come from one person or one committee. It will come from us all as we pray, listen, dream, and discern together. We'll celebrate where God has brought us, honestly consider where we are today, and seek God's direction for the road ahead.

Paul ends this section of Romans not with a checklist, but with worship:

"For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen." (Romans 11:36)

What a wonderful reminder that this church has always belonged to God. Before any of us arrived, God was at work here. Today, God is still at work. And long after we've done our part, God will continue to lead His Church.

As we enter this new season, I invite you to do three things: pray faithfully, participate joyfully, and trust completely. Pray that God will give us wisdom. Participate by sharing your hopes and listening to others. And trust that the God who has guided us this far will continue to lead us where we need to go. The story of this church is still being written. The next chapter is waiting.

In God's Love,

Pastor Cindy

Lectionary Study for August:

Sunday, August 2:

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday, August 9:

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, August 16

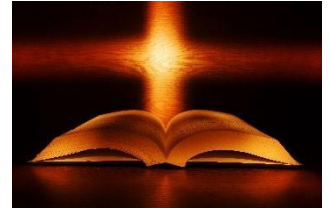
Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

Sunday, August 23:

Exodus 1:8-2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday, August 30:

Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28



August Birthdays

1st Elijah Henke
2nd Frank Knox
5th Val Lytton
11th Chris Starnes
13th Johnny Starnes
27th Jeanine Stovall
28th Marlene Dial

September Birthdays

5th Debbie Jackson
5th George Betancourt
9th Austin Stovall
10th Jim Smith
12th Monique Boekhout
16th Delilah Henke
16th Jordan Stovall

August Anniversaries

5th Randy & Lynn Hayes
17th Don & Rachel Hughes
21st Ken & Sharron Jones
30th Johnny & Kathy Starnes

September Anniversaries

5th George & Debbie Betancourt

Please contact the church office if there are any additions or corrections to the birthday & anniversary list.

For prayer e-mail and/or bulletin prayer list requests please notify the church office, 328-1496 or crnrstone@comporium.net (office hours are Mon-Thurs 9-2 p.m.). When the church office is closed, leave a voice mail on office phone or you may also email, call or text Pastor Cindy, 864-386-2765; carumsey@umcsc.org.



Donations to Cornerstone can be made by using the **QR Code** or through **Zelle** by using our email address: [**crnrstone@comporium.net**](mailto:crnrstone@comporium.net).
Or mail your checks to: 2697 Heckle Blvd., Rock Hill, SC 29732

Finance

Finance Reports

Jan-July 2026 Financial Status

Undesignated Donations	\$ 82,030.74
General overhead_Expenses	\$ (104,751.43)

Year to Date + or - \$ (22,720.69)

The year to date deficit is an average of (3,245.81) per month

**Money received for the merger of Epworth and Cornerstone
is being invested in short term CD's**

Sharron Jones, Finance Chair
Johnny Starnes, Treasurer

From the Pastor

Stewarding the Harvest

Summer is a season of growth. Gardens flourish, fields begin to fill, and we are reminded that every harvest begins with seeds faithfully planted. As Paul encourages us in Galatians 6:9, *"Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up."*

Those words speak to the life of our church. God has been at work among us, bringing new faces, new opportunities for ministry, and new ways to share the love of Christ with our community. We have much to celebrate, and even more to anticipate as we look toward the future God is preparing for us.

With every opportunity, however, comes the responsibility to steward what God has entrusted to us. Stewardship is about more than a budget—it is an act of discipleship. It is our response of gratitude for God's abundant grace and our commitment to the mission Christ has given us.

Jesus reminds us in Luke 10:2 that "the harvest is plentiful." We see signs of that harvest all around us. People are searching for hope, belonging, and purpose. As the church, we have the privilege of welcoming them, serving them, and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

To continue this work faithfully, we also need the ongoing commitment of our church family through generous and consistent giving. Our ministries, outreach, worship, and care for our neighbors are made possible because God's people choose to invest in what God is doing here. Every tithe and offering becomes a seed planted in fertile soil, helping our congregation continue to grow and reach others with Christ's love.

As we journey through this summer, I invite you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to steward the blessings you have received. Whether through your time, your gifts, your service, or your financial support, each of us has a part to play in the harvest.

Together, let us not grow weary. Let us continue sowing generously, trusting faithfully, and looking ahead with hope, knowing that God is already preparing a harvest greater than we can imagine.

With God's Blessings,
Pastor Cindy



Schedule for Scripture Readers:

August 2nd: Steph Pilecki
August 9th: Beth Dills
August 16th: Ken Jones
August 23rd: Frank Knox
August 30th: Bill Brothers

Schedule for Worship Leaders

August 2nd: Dan Sliva
August 9th: Randy Hayes
August 16th: Bill Brothers
August 23rd: Maxine Smith
August 30th: Randy Hayes

Schedule for Acolyte Schedule:

August 2nd: Elijah Henke
August 9th: Gavin Sliva
August 16th: Emery Sliva
August 23rd: Teresa Boehme
August 30th: DeeDee Anthony

Schedule for Offering Counters (Sunday mornings):

August 2nd: Linda McCallum & Dan Sliva
August 9th: Teri Brothers & Diana Deyton
August 16th: Debbie Jackson & Randy Hayes
August 23th: JoAnn Till & Angela Constantine
August 30th: Debbie Jackson

Schedule for Youth Sunday School Teachers:

August 2nd: Kathy Hurley
August 9th: Kathy Hurley
August 16th: Randy Hayes
August 23rd: Dale Williams
August 30th: Kathy Hurley

thank you =
= volunteers!

Missions

Rock Hill Salkehatchie Camp

The Rock Hill Salkehatchie Camp met June 20 thru 27 with twenty-eight campers from all over the state participating. Three homes were worked on.

Home number one had two handicap ramps and an eight by eight foot deck built.

Home number two had a handicap ramp built and repairs made to the back of the home.

Home number three had a new roof installed.



Divine Manor Ministry

Divine Manor is an assisted living facility on Oak Pond Road in the Leslie area of Rock Hill. Most of the residents are either on Medicaid or have very low incomes. The facility has room for 31 residents.

Our monthly visits are on the last Wednesday of each month at 3 PM, except in December where we have a Christmas party for them. Our visits include a short devotional, playing bingo, and giving them snacks (peanut butter or cheese crackers, a canned Pepsi or Coke, and a small bag of chips). They enjoy getting to know us and our time with them, as well as winning at bingo. They also receive birthday and Christmas cards.

There are several ways that you can help out. You are more than welcome to come with us to visit and help out; during bingo some have trouble finding their numbers and keeping up. You may also donate snacks in the box in the Wesley room. Thank you for your help and interest!

Upcoming Events

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 am Good Eats Fellowship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:15 pm Trustees Meeting	3 10:30 am Bible Study	4	5	6 6:00 pm Addie McClintock Circle	7	8
9 9:30 am Good Eats Fellowship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 5:15 pm Finance Meeting 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting	10 10:30 am Bible Study	11 5:30 am-8:30 pm Special Elections 2:00 pm Wings of Faith Circle	12	13	14	15
16 9:30 am Good Eats Fellowship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	17 10:30 am Bible Study	18	19	20 2:00 pm Nifty Knitters	21	22
23 9:30 am Good Eats Fellowship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	24 10:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm UMM Meeting	25 5:30 am-8:30 pm Special Elections Run-off	26 3:00 pm Divine Manor 6:00 pm Choir Practice	27	28	29
30 9:30 am Good Eats Fellowship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	31 10:30 am Bible Study					

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:30 am-8:30 pm Special Elections	2 6:00 pm Choir Practice	3 5:30 pm-6:30 pm Love-Serve-Lead Class 6:00 pm Addie McClintock Circle	4	5
6 9:30 am Good Eats Fellowship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:15 pm Trustee Meeting	7 10:30 am Bible Study	8 6:00 pm Choir Practice	9 6:00 pm Choir Practice	10 5:30 pm-6:30 pm Love-Serve-Lead Class	11	12
13 9:30 am Good Eats Fellowship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 5:15 pm Finance Meeting 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting	14 10:30 am Bible Study 5:30-7:30 pm Strategic Planning Focus Group Meeting	15 2:30 pm Women in Faith Circle	16 6:00 pm Choir Practice	17 2:00 pm Nifty Knitters 5:30 pm-6:30 pm Love-Serve-Lead Class	18	19 8:00 am Nifty Knitters 9:00 am-2:00 pm United Women in Faith Luncheon
20 9:30 am Good Eats Fellowship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 5:00 pm Youth Group	21 10:30 am Bible Study	22	23 6:00 pm Choir Practice	24 5:30 pm-6:30 pm Love-Serve-Lead Class	25	26
27 9:30 am Good Eats Fellowship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	28 10:30 am Bible Study	29	30 3:00 pm Divine Manor 6:00 pm Choir Practice			

Faith Fun Corner



MondayMandala.com

Rest for the Weary

"For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:30 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

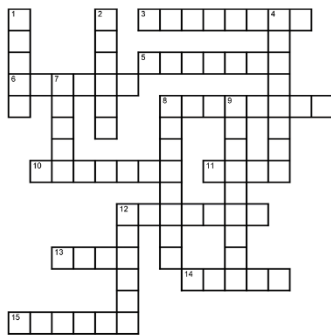


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HUMBLE	ALL	LEARN	LIGHT	YOKE
SOULS	WEARY	GENTLE	TAKE	HEART
COME	GIVE	EASY	BURDEN	REST

Name: _____ Date: _____

Back to School



Across

- Time to play outside during a break in the school day.
- A place to sit and study in your room or at school.
- It helps you measure and draw straight lines.
- Writing utensil made of wood.
- The person who guides and helps you in class.
- A subject that involves numbers.
- Use this to stick things together.
- Where you go to enjoy stories and explore new worlds.

- A colorful container to keep your sandwiches and snacks.

Down

- Place where you might eat your lunch at school.
- Present for the teacher.
- Someone who goes to school.
- A place where you learn and have fun.
- Mark on an exam or in a class.
- What school is all about.
- A pad made of bound sheets of paper for taking notes.
- A small tool to undo mistakes.

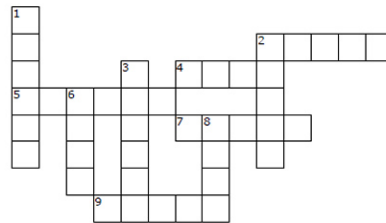
WORD BANK: Apple, Cafeteria, Desk, Eraser, Grade, Learning, Library, Lunchbox, Math, Notebook, Pencil, Recess, Ruler, School, Stapler, Student, Teacher

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Rest for the Weary

"For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:30 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)



ACROSS

- Not heavy
- The opposite of go
- A heavy load that you carry
- The place within a person where their feelings or emotions are
- Very tired, especially after working hard for a long time

DOWN

- Not proud or not believing that you are important
- To get knowledge or skill about a subject
- Calm, kind or soft; not violent
- Stop and relax to regain your strength
- Not difficult

WEARY	HUMBLE	EASY	BURDEN	REST
COME	HEART	LIGHT	GENTLE	LEARN