

THE CORNERSTONE CONNECTION



Reaching Up To Christ and Out To Each Other
May, 2024

From the Pastor:

Dear Church Family,

The long awaited (for 6 years) UMC General Conference has completed its work and several controversial decisions were reached by majority vote. Following is a list of the most important changes to the United Methodist Book of Discipline:

- Bans on celebrating same-sex unions were deleted. New language was added stating, “Within the church, we affirm marriage as a sacred lifelong covenant that brings two people of faith, an adult man and woman of consenting age, or two adult persons of consenting age into union with one another...”
- A new paragraph, 340.3 was added declaring, “No clergy at any time may be required or compelled to perform, or be prohibited from performing, any marriage, union, or blessing of any couple, including same sex couples. All clergy have the right to exercise and preserve their conscience when requested to perform any marriage, union, or blessing of any couple.”
- Conferences and churches are banned from discriminating against clergy based on sexual orientation. Paragraph 425.1 now says, “Open itineracy means appointments are made without regard to race, ethnicity, origin, gender, color, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or age, except for the provision of mandatory retirement.” Annual Conferences are directed to train Pastor Parish Relations Committees to receive pastors regardless of sexual orientation.
- Clergy are no longer specifically required to be celibate if single and monogamous in male/female marriage. Along with homosexual behavior, these have been removed as chargeable offenses. Specific bans on adultery and sex before or outside marriage were removed.

(continued on next page)

(Pastor's letter, continued)

- Sweeping changes to the UMC Constitution were approved allowing UMC jurisdictions (regions of annual conferences) to organize as a region and adopt their own rules if ratified in the annual conferences. Global annual conferences can do likewise.
- Individual churches may choose not to recognize or affirm same sex marriage by a vote of the church trustees.
- The church disaffiliation legislation had a sunset clause of December 31, 2023. It was not renewed. Churches that wish to exit the UMC no longer have that pathway. However, the South Carolina and South Georgia conferences allow exiting Churches to utilize the Local Church Discernment Process grounded in Discipline Paragraph 2549. This paragraph is typically employed when a local church, after following the discernment process, determines the need to close. Unlike the disaffiliation process, the Local Church Discernment has no sunset clause. Certain financial obligations – as calculated by conference trustees- will need to be satisfied (paid to the Conference) before a congregation can be approved to separate. These include a tithe equal to 10 percent of the appraised value of all church property and liquid assets, all unpaid apportionment giving for the prior year as well as the year of closure up to the date of Annual Conference, and an additional 12 months of apportionment giving.
- On abortion, a new resolution declares: “The United Methodist Church upholds a person’s right to an abortion after informed consideration with their family, medical practitioners, pastor, and other pertinent counsel. State and federal laws and regulations prohibiting abortion violate a person’s right to the full range of reproductive healthcare and, potentially life...”

These were some of the major legislative outcomes of the UMC 2024 General Conference held in Charlotte, N.C. April 23rd – May 3rd. The South Carolina Annual Conference will be processing these decisions when it meets June 9th – 12th. We have been asked to remain patient until everything has been worked out. We will set up a Charge/Churchwide meeting to discuss the outcome following Annual Conference. Plan to attend if you would like to join the discussion on these matters. In the meantime, let me know if you have any questions. I will answer as best I can.

Peace, Irvin

Lectionary Study for May:**Sunday, May 5th:**

Acts 10:44-48
 Psalm 98 (UMH 818)
 1 John 5:1-5
 John 15:9-17

Sunday, May 19th:

Acts 2:1-21
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (UMH 826)
 Romans 8:22-27
 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-151

Sunday, May 12th:

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
 Psalm 1 (UMH 738)
 1 John 5:9-13
 John 17:6-19

Sunday, May 26th:

Isaiah 6:1-8
 Psalm 29 (UMH 761)
 Romans 8:12-17
 John 3:1-17

May Birthdays:

1 st	Ligita Hasenjaeger	16 th	Kathy Starnes
4 th	Daniel Sliva	19 th	Linda McCallum
6 th	Judy Penn	21 st	Vicky Castro
10 th	David McManus, Sr.	30 th	Angela Constantine

Coming Up Next Month**June Birthdays:**

12th DeeDee Anthony
 22nd Joan Owen
 24th Anne Price
 24th Teresa Boehme

June Anniversaries:

7th Mike & Carol Painter
 10th Dale & Kim Williams
 12th Chris & Lisa Starnes

Please contact 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 church secretary, Cary Bartelmo, cbartelmo@comporium.net; 803-372-7923.

Cornerstone's **Instagram** page: [Cornerstone UMC Rock Hill, SC \(@umc.cornerstone\)](https://www.instagram.com/@umc.cornerstone) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)

To view the worship service each Sunday on Cornerstone's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/CornerstoneUMCRockHill/>

Year-to-Date Financial Status as of 4/30/24:

Undesignated donations: \$52,559.12
Overhead distributions: 49,368.53
Bottom line for year: 3,190.59

Apportionments Due
January: \$1,328.25
February: 1,328.25
March: 1,328.25
April: 1,328.25
Designated money paid: (775.00)
Balance due: \$4,538.00

Scripture reader schedule for May:

May 5th: Diane Brewer
May 12th: Steph Pilecki
May 19th: Randy Hayes
May 26th: Ken Jones

If you are interested in being a scripture reader for worship services, contact church office.

Acolyte Schedule for May:

May 5th: Gavin Sliva
May 12th: Emery Sliva
May 19th: Teresa Boehme
May 26th: DeeDee Anthony

Schedule for offering counters (Sunday mornings):

May 5th: Linda McCallum; Daniel Sliva
May 12th: Debbie Jackson; Diana Deyton
May 19th: Dale Williams; Randy Hayes
May 26th: Debbie Jackson; Howard McCallum

On Sunday, May 19th we will welcome Greg and Valerie Lytton into membership of our congregation. Please take a moment to welcome them into our church family!

CORNERSTONE UNITED METHODIST

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00 pm Choir practice	2 National Day of Prayer 6:00 pm Addie McClintock Circle	3	4
5 Communion -9:45 S.S. -11 am Worship -12:15 Trustee meeting	6 10:30 am devotional study at Cornerstone	7	8 6:00 pm Choir practice	9 6:30 pm District Connectional Ministries meeting at CUMC	10	11
12 Ascension Sunday Mother's Day -9:30 Good Eats -9:45 Sunday Sch -11 am Worship Mother's Day Offering Sunday for Epworth Children's Home	13 10:30 am devotional study at Cornerstone	14 6:00 pm Wings of Faith	15 6:00 pm Choir practice	16	17	18 2-4 pm Ladies gathering at Debbie Betancourt's house
19 Pentecost Sunday -9:30 am Good Eats fellowship -9:45 am S.S. -11 am Worship -5:00 Youth	20 -10:30 am devotional study at Cornerstone -6 pm UWF Exec. Board -6:30 pm UMM meeting	21	22 6:00 pm Choir practice	23	24	25
26 Trinity Sunday -9:30 am Good Eats fellowship -9:45 am Sunday School -11 am Worship	27 Memorial Day No devotional study Office closed	28	29 6:00 pm Choir practice	30 Pastor on vacation	31 Pastor on vacation	
		<u>Offering Counters</u> 5th: L. McCallum Dan Sliva 12th: Debbie J.; Diana Deyton 19th: D. Williams Randy Hayes 26th; Debbie J.; H. McCallum	<u>Scripture Readers</u> 5th: Diane Brewer 12th: Steph Pilecki 19th: Randy Hayes 26th Ken Jones	<u>Acolytes:</u> 5th: Gavin Sliva 12th: Emery Sliva 19th: Teresa Boehme 26th: DeeDee Anthony	<u>Opening & Closing:</u> Johnny Starnes <u>Altar Guild</u> Maxine Smith	<u>Sunday Worship Schedule:</u> 9:30 am Good Eats fellowship 9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <i>-9:45 S.S. -11 am Worship -12:15 Trustee meeting</i> <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	3 <i>No devotional study</i> <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	4 <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	5 <i>6:00 pm Choir practice</i> <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	6 <i>6:00 pm Addie McClintock Circle</i> <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	7	8
9 Communion <i>-9:30 Good Eats -9:45 Sunday Sch -11 am Worship</i> <i>Annual Conference in Greenville begins</i>	10 <i>No devotional study</i> <i>Annual Conference</i>	11 <i>Building use by Board of Elections for voting</i> <i>Annual Conference</i>	12 <i>Annual Conference concludes</i>	13	14	15
16 Father's Day <i>-9:30 am Good Eats fellowship -9:45 am S.S. -11 am Worship</i>	17 <i>10:30 am devotional study at Cornerstone</i> <i>6:30 pm UMM meeting</i>	18	19	20	21	22 <i>2-4 pm Birthday party at CUMC for Anne Price</i>
23 <i>-9:30 am Good Eats fellowship -9:45 am Sunday School -11 am Worship -5:15 pm Finance -6:00 Church Council</i>	24	25 <i>Building use (if needed) for runoff election</i>	26	27	28 <i>Meal for Salkehatchie at Cornerstone</i>	29
30		<u>Offering Counters</u> <i>2nd: L. McCallum Dan Sliva 9th: Debbie J.; Diana Deyton 16th: D. Williams Randy Hayes 23rd: Debbie J.; H. McCallum 30th: D. Jackson; Vi cki Castro</i>	<u>Scripture Readers</u> <i>2nd: Steve Pilecki 9th: Diane Brewer 16th: Steph Pilecki 23rd: Ken Jones 30th: Anne Price</i>	<u>Acolytes:</u> <i>2nd: Elijah Henke 9th: Gavin Sliva 16th: Emery Sliva 23rd: Teresa Boehme 30th: DeeDee Anthonv</i>	<u>Opening & Closing:</u> <i>Johnny Starnes</i> <u>Altar Guild</u> <i>Maxine Smith</i>	<u>Sunday Worship Schedule:</u> <i>9:30 am Good Eats fellowship 9:45 am Sunday School</i> <i>11 a.m. Worship Service</i>