



Worshipping



Serving



Building



Welcoming

The Connection

FOLLOWING CHRIST FROM CITY CENTER

Letter from the Pastor

This devotion was shared in a staff meeting recently:

Your journey of lifelong learning starts with a choice. It's a choice only you can make. It's an incredibly important decision that'll impact your entire life. The Bible says, "*Commit yourself to instruction; listen carefully to words of knowledge*" (Proverbs 23:12 NLT). I made this commitment to keep learning when I was 15 years old. I began saying that I would learn as much as I could. For many years, I read at least a book a day. Books open the door to every subject imaginable! Your education doesn't stop when you graduate.

I've actually heard people say, "I'm glad I've finished my education so now I can start my career." Tell that one to God, and he'll laugh. God has so much more he wants to teach you. Your education should never end. Learning isn't just a stage of life. It is your life! God wants you to learn something new every day. So don't stop—ever. Start working on learning a new skill this year. God wants you to grow. You should be and can be different and better a year from now than you are today. It's in your best interest to do so.

Lifelong learning will make you a better leader, a better parent, a better spouse, and a better friend. It'll make you more effective in your job. It brings both success and profit. The Bible says, "*If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success*" (Ecclesiastes 10:10 NIV). If you've got an ax with a dull blade and you're chopping wood, it'll take a lot more energy to do the job. If your ax is sharp (which represents skill in this verse), then it doesn't take as much effort.

The Bible is saying to work smarter, not necessarily harder. You're never wasting time when you're sharpening your ax.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. R.T. Bowling, III



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Reminder: August is "Camp Meeting" Sundays. Dress casually for worship, & let's sing our favorite hymns.

H³

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, & Hymns

August 12

5:15 pm ~ Supper in the Fellowship Hall

6:00 pm ~ Hymn Sing

(Solos, small groups, and hymn shout outs)

🎵 Supper provided by the choir! 🎵

Flowers for our Worship Services

August 2 Available
 August 9 Rebecca Sherrill
 August 16 Available
 August 23 Sunni Bond
 August 30 **Sunday at the Lake**

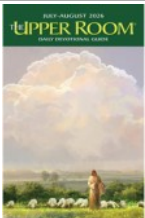


The 2026 flower calendar is on the bulletin board outside the church office. Call the church office or sign up on the calendar. Families can always share flowers if there's a special date you would like to reserve.



Susanna Circle
 Tuesday, August 4th
 10:00 am ~ Wesley Commons

Celebration Circle
No meeting in August
 Enjoy the rest of your summer, and we will see you in the fall!



The July/August Upper Room
 devotionals are available in the church office, the narthex, and side door entrance.

\$1.00 for regular print
 \$1.50 for large print

Stewardship and Finance

Financial Report as of July 26, 2026

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
YTD Contributions:	\$402,210	\$295,564	-\$106,646
YTD Expenses:	\$402,210	\$318,019	-\$84,191

Reminder: If you are going to make a legacy gift to the Foundation, the check needs to be written to Main Street Church Foundation. Thank you.

Member Support Team

The member support team continues to stay in touch with our members who have been hospitalized, our homebound, and those dealing with short-term illnesses. Please let the church office know if we can help in anyway.



For the second year, Main Street Volunteers gave out water with "the best ice in town" to visitors going to the BBQ festival. Many thanks to the museum for allowing us to have the perfect spot.

Missions

Notes from the Missions Committee

- Glenn Williams will be serving on an UMVIM mission trip to Guatemala on October 10-17. Our committee is helping to sponsor the trip. Glenn and the committee encourage others to consider joining in this opportunity. This is a combined construction and medical mission. Contact Glenn for further details. The missions committee will help with financial support if anyone else is interested in serving.
- We are sending a contribution to UMCOR for on-going relief efforts in Venezuela after the devastation from the recent earthquakes there. If you would like to donate, please mark contributions for UMCOR ~ Venezuela.
- Missions has sent a contribution to the Greater Greenwood United Ministry (GGUM) to support their critical missions in Greenwood. If you would like to learn more about their ministries, check out their website at: greatergreenwoodunitedministries.org
- Donated the chicken for the July Salkehatchie Lunch.

*As a reminder, these funds come from designated accounts—Missions and Mission trips—NOT from the budget.



On July 15th (for the eleventh year), Main Street has been blessed to welcome and serve the Emerald City Salkehatchie workers. Thank you to the missions 'committee for providing the chicken and the Dula, Drake, and Chancel Choir Sunday school classes who donated the sides and dessert. These young people left full and refreshed to carry out God's work!



ELEVATE

MAIN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STUDENT MINISTRIES

Stay Updated on Elevate Youth!

-  **Remind:** Text "@elevateyo" to 81010
 **Instagram:** @mainstreetyouth
 **Facebook:** Elevate Youth

August 2026 Youth Activities

Sunday School - 10-10:45 am in Youth Room

Wednesday Evenings:

- August 13 - 5:00-7:00 (Supper, games, & a water slide!!)
- August 20 & 27 - 5:15 Engage dinner, 6:00-7:00 Elevate

Mark Your Calendars:

- August 14 - Breakfast Club (Cost covered & transportation provided afterwards - let Preston know if you need a ride!)
- August 16 - Youth Pool Party at Steve & Cindy Skinner's (5:30-7:00)
- August 23 - Lake Day at the Painter's (4:00-8:00)



Carowinds

Our youth group had an outing to Carowinds on July 8! Thank you to Jon, Rhonda, Glenn, and Josh for your help as chaperones!

Lions Club Mission



Have old eyeglasses you don't know what to do with?
Drop them off at the church office!
The youth will donate to Greenwood Lions Club!



Youth Missions

The Lions Club Mission will continue going forward!
Thank you for your support.

We also have an ongoing collection of soda tabs for Ronald McDonald House as well! Soda tabs can be dropped off outside Jo's office.

Children & Youth Back to School Bash



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

5:00-7:00 IN THE COURTYARD

POPCORN, POPSICLES, GAMES,
AND A WATER SLIDE

**Wear your swimsuit and bring a towel
and change of clothes!**

BLESSING OF THE ATHLETES



DURING 11:00 WORSHIP
SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 AT MAIN STREET UMC



**All student athletes, coaches, & those in supporting roles
are invited to join for a special recognition and prayer**





Continuing Prayer Concerns: Susan Pinckney, Bob Helfrich, Phil Lucas (Lori Bassett's father) Cheryl McCord, Pam Dawes, Steve Williams, Betty Staples, Elaine Dukes, Marian Adams, Henrietta Morton, Brad Wenner, Joe Chapman, Sam Pinckney, Tommy Andrews, Devon and Peggy Aaron, Jackie Daniel, Richard Pinckney, Sara Catherine Wilkinson, our church, peace around the world and within our city and county, and any unspoken prayers.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. Philippians 4:6

In Memoriam

Ruple Harley, Jr.
July 13, 2026



ENGAGE in Small Groups

Engage is not just on Wednesdays~
Options are available to
suit your schedule.

Tuesday Hymnology Class

Back by Popular Demand!
Resumes **September 8th**
11:00 am in the Choir Room
Led by Myra Greene

Thursday Morning Ascension Study

11:00 am in the Library
Dive deeper into what the disciples did
after the Ascension
Led by Rev. Bowling

Wednesday Nights

Engage Meal: 5:15—6:00 pm

August 12 Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, & Fixings
Chancel Choir

August 19 Chicken Tenders, Pimento Cheese
Sandwiches, Baked Beans, Chips, & Ice Cream
Salkehatchie Lunch ~ Drake Class

August 26 TBD—gonna' be good
Men's Group

Looking for a fellowship and fundraising opportunity?
Sign up to host a meal.

Thank you for RSVPing by 1:00 pm on Monday each
week @ mainstreetgreenwood.org
This helps our "chefs" plan!

*****To help offset the rising costs of kitchen supplies, we
are asking each group to donate \$20 of their profits to
Account# 5701- General Kitchen Supplies. Thank you.**

Adult Programs: 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Options 1: ?????

Option 2: ?????

Contact the church office with your ideas.

Food Pantry

August 13th from 1—3 pm ~ Fellowship Hall
Green Beans, Canned Fruit, & Peanut Butter



SAVE THE DATE FOR
Sunday at the Lake
JOIN FOR WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP
Sunday, August 30

10:30 am, followed by a covered dish lunch
(Meat & drinks provided)



CAMP FELLOWSHIP
457 CAMP FELLOWSHIP
ROAD, WATERLOO, SC

Mu
for Ministry
Fundraiser

Greater Greenwood United Ministry

- * Christian Concert
- * Catered Dinner
- * Silent Auction
- * Community Impact in 2025

Saturday, August 22
5 - 7:30 pm
New Covenant
Church
(1509 Woodlawn Rd.)

Tickets:
\$30 per person
through
[Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) or at
GGUM



Engage Returns
August 12, 2026

Wednesday Evenings
6 – 7 pm

allison.wooten@mainstreetgreenwood.org 864-344-1414
wendy.hill@mainstreetwood.org 864-993-6328



Summer is OVER and school has begun! Our children enjoyed going to 3 movies over the summer. We partnered with the church on providing school supplies for teachers and students in District 50. We took up loose change for 2 months to add to that mission project. We have had our backpacks blessed and have survival kits to take with us to school to serve as a reminder that God is always with us. We are looking forward to getting back in the swing of things with Engage beginning on August 12th. Whew!

Children & Youth Back to School Bash



ELEVATE
MAIN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STUDENT MINISTRIES



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13
5:00-7:00 IN THE COURTYARD
POPCORN, POPSICLES, GAMES,
AND A WATER SLIDE

Wear your swimsuit, bring a towel, and a change of clothes.

There will be tables set up to eat outside.

Come a little early @ 5pm

CELEBRATIONS

August Birthdays

- 1 Ryan Sprouse
- 6 Betty Stockman
- 7 Olivia Sprouse
- 8 Tommy Tunstall
- 10 Danny Hoy
- 14 Joanne Campbell
- 15 John Williams,
Brad Wenner
- 16 Don Marino, Susan Albon, Betty Pinckney
Blair McClendon
- 17 Karen Bowliing
- 18 Bobby Driver, Lour Walters, Sam Crooks
- 20 Jean Osborne, Dakota Leopard
- 21 Ronda Mauldin, Sanders Rogers
- 22 Ellesor Holder
- 24 Josie Shirley
- 31 Brab Dukes



August Anniversaries

- 2 Brandon and Brittany Smith
- 5 Kevin and Wendy Hill
- 6 Phillip and Barbara Gates
- 9 Mark and Kathy Murff
- 10 Jared and Brooke Styron
- 16 Michael and Lena Meredith
- 17 Eric and Heather Oliver
- 22 Hunter and Rachel (Jolly) Vandyke— Wedding Day
- 29 R.T. and Karen Bowling



Congratulations to Glenn and Allie Williams who were recognized as Paul Harris Fellows through the generosity of Isaac Shaffer and Rosemary Bell of the Emerald City Rotary. A Paul Harris Fellow is one of Rotary International's highest honors. It recognizes individual who have made significant contributions to the humanitarian, education, and peacebuilding work of the Rotary Foundation. To quote Rosemary Bell, "Glenn Williams reminds us that a remarkable life is not necessarily one lived in the spotlight, but one lived in faithful obedience." As Isaac Shaffer said, "They both have a heart of gold."

News from the Flock



What a productive evening!

On July 19th, the Flock & Friends worked on Ella Bassett's project for the women in Kenya.



An additional Summer Project—Greenwood Pathway House Dear Ladies of the Flock,

Your generosity wrapped Greenwood Pathway House in kindness! Your most generous donation of personal care items, household essentials, and the huge supply of snacks proved comfort, dignity, and practical help for our residents. The snacks were a huge hit with everyone!

Thank you to the women of Main Street UMC for seeing the many little things that make a big difference. Your compassion and care are deeply appreciated.

With gratitude,
Pam Motley

August 2026

Saturday

Friday

Thursday

Wednesday

Tuesday

Monday

Sunday

							1 11:00 am Youth TopGolf and Ronald McDonald Hose Outing
2 9:00 am Early Service 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 7:30 pm Pick-up Basketball	3 5:30 pm Board of Trustees Mtg. 5:30 pm Family Ministries Mtg. 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 911	4 10:00 am Susanna Circle	5 11:00 am Member Support Committee Meeting	6 11:00 am After the Ascension Bible Study 7:00 pm Pick-up Basketball	7 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery	8	
9 9:00 am Early Service 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 7:30 pm Pick-up Basketball	10 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 911	11 9:30 am Staff Meeting	12 10:30 Celebration Circle 5:15 pm Engage Supper 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	13 11:00 am After the Ascension Bible Study 1:00 pm Food Ministry 7:00 pm Pick-up Basketball	14 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery	15 9:00 am Soup Kitchen Volunteers TEAM #1 The Albon family 	
16 9:00 am Early Service 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 7:30 pm Pick-up Basketball	17 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 911	18	19 5:15 pm Engage Supper 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	20 11:00 am After the Ascension Bible Study 7:00 pm Pick-up Basketball	21 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery	22	
23 9:00 am Early Service 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 7:30 pm Pick-up Basketball	24 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 911 6:30 pm Court of Honor	25 4:15 pm Staff Meeting	26 5:15 pm Engage Supper 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	27 7:00 pm Pick-up Basketball	28 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery	29	
30 10:30 am Sunday at the Lake Worship Service Cover-dish Lunch immediately after the worship service	31 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 911						We hope to see you at our events! Call the Church Office with any questions. 864-229-7551



Children's Ministry Volunteer List

Email Mary Kate Skinner to be part of the rotation at mkskinn@gmail.com

Acolytes and Crucifer:

August 2 Bernie Bautista, Addy McCaslan
August 9 Crawford Burns, & Cory D'allesandro and Josh Albon
August 16 Campbell & Finnley Smith and Peyton Larkins
August 23 Diana Fields and Mary Margaret Skinner
August 30 Sunday at the Lake

Sunday School & Extended Session:

Allison Wooten and Wendy Hill

Nursery: Sydney Sluder & Kim Gultch



2025-2026 School Year

Our teachers and fearless leaders ready to hit the ground running!

August 3 First day of Pre-School
 August 18 Charleston Wraps Fundraiser
 August 21 No school
 August 24-28 Scholastic Book Fair
 August 27-28 G'parents' Day & Book Fair



The Connection

A monthly publication connecting members and friends of Main Street United Methodist Church.

Main Street United Methodist Church

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Rev. R.T. Bowling, III, Pastor

Gina Crooks, Director of Music Ministry

Sarah Bowen, Organist

Preston Goforth, Youth & Young Adult Director

Allison Wooten & Wendy Hill, Children's Ministry Coords

Allison Wooten, Mud Pies Creative Learning Director

Debbie Tharpe, Administrative Assistant

Jo Patterson, Office Assistant

Linda Miller, Financial Secretary

Donald Young, Building Caretaker

Michael Fisher, Custodian