

## FOLLOWING CHRIST FROM CITY CENTER

### Letter from the Pastor

Wally Cedarleaf, former Boston Harbor Chaplain, wrote an article on how we can see the world that I would like to share.

We can go out our front door, and we see either stars or mud. Seeing stars is when we observe God's grace in the world that is in all things. From that, we give praise and live graciously. The other point of view is seeing mud. Our vision is totally consumed by what we see as bad in our world. We become blind to the grace of God that is with us each day. From that, we live a life of grievance and complaint. Cedarleaf concluded that we must ask God to send his Holy Spirit upon to help us to get our heads up and see the stars.

I remember Rev. Cedarleaf's wisdom as we approach this Independence Day Holiday. Often, we can get into a stars or mud situation when it comes to our view of the nation. We can see mud—what we perceive as wrong. We can see the stars. We can discern the good things (there are many) that are happening. As for me and I hope that you will join me. I will be looking to the stars. I will be looking at the good things and praising God that I live in this wonderful nation called the United States of America.

Grace and Peace,

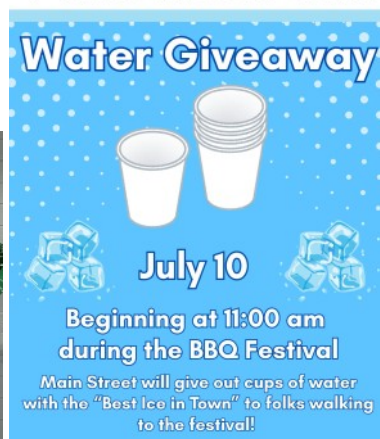
Rev. Ralph T. Bowling, III



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We will set up in front of the Museum. Let the office know if you would like to help! Thank you!



**Water Giveaway**

July 10

Beginning at 11:00 am during the BBQ Festival

Main Street will give out cups of water with the "Best Ice in Town" to folks walking to the festival!

Reminder: The office is closed on Monday, July 6th. Have a happy and safe long weekend!



Vacation Bible School ~ 2026

### Flowers for our Worship Services

- July 5 Sunni Bond
- July 12 Available
- July 19 Available
- July 26 Available



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

### Stewardship and Finance

#### Financial Report as of June 28, 2026

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
YTD Contributions:	\$348,582	\$262,205	(\$86,377)
YTD Expenses:	\$348,582	\$280,259	\$68,323

**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.

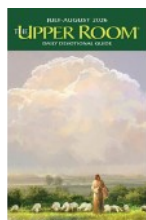
### Member Support Team

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. Fresh peaches were delivered and enjoyed. Please let the church office know if we can help in anyway.



**Susanna Circle**  
Tuesday, July 7 th  
10:00 am ~ Wesley Commons

**Celebration Circle**  
**No meeting in July**  
Have a great 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



All students, teachers, and educators are encouraged to bring your backpacks to the 11:00 service.

### Music @ Main Street



On Sunday afternoon, May 31st, Main Street hosted a free concert for the community. What a great success! The Member Support Team and Family Ministries worked closely with our choir director, Gina Crooks, to make this an amazing event. We were blessed with talented musicians: MSUMC choir and handbell ensemble, Cody Beard, Richard Thomas, Sara Bowen, Stan Culbert and Blaire McClendon. To conclude the afternoon, everyone was invited to enjoy ice cream in the fellowship hall. Hopefully, this will be an annual event..



# ELEVATE

MAIN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STUDENT MINISTRIES

Stay Updated on Elevate Youth!

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

### July 2026 Youth Activities

Save these dates for our summer fun this year!



**ELEVATE**  
MAIN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STUDENT MINISTRIES

## YOUTH SUMMER 2026

**WHITewater CHARLOTTE OUTING** **JUNE 11**  
Sign up by June 6  
Cost: \$25 per person

**VBS JUNE 15-19**

**CAROWINDS JULY 8**  
Sign up by July 3  
Bring ticket!

**TOP GOLF AUGUST 1**  
AND Ronald McDonald House  
soda tab delivery  
Sign up by July 28

PLUS weekly Sunday School in the Youth Room! 10-10:45 am

"FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE GATHER IN MY NAME, THERE AM I WITH THEM."  
-MATTHEW 18:20

QUESTIONS? CONTACT PRESTON!  
preston.goforth@mainstreetgreenwood.org 864-993-0463



### Vacation Bible School

Thank you to all of our youth volunteers for Vacation Bible School! We had a great week on June 15-19!



### 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.



**We extend Christian love and sympathy to:** Debbie Tharpe and family on the death of her brother, **John Harr** of Chapin, on June 24, 2026.

**Continuing Prayer Concerns:** Suzanne Nicholson, Steve Williams, Cheryl McCord, Yvonne Rouse, Ruple Harley, Jr., Pam Dawes, the Cox and Polatty families, Brad Wenner, Betty Staples, Elaine Dukes, Marian Adams, Henrietta Morton, 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 un-

spoken prayers.

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



**ENGAGE in Small Groups**  
Engage is not just on Wednesdays~  
Options are available to  
suit your schedule.



It's time to host the **Emerald City Salkehatchie** workers on **July 15**. Main Street looks forward to feeding these young people each year as they give up a week of their summer

to be the hands and feet of Jesus. They also look forward to coming to Main Street because as Stacy Westmoreland, meal coordinator, from St. Mark says our lunch of chicken fingers and pimento cheese sandwiches is the best! If you would like to help set up, serve, or clean up, contact the church office. Thank you!

**Engage Returns ~ August 12th**  
Please consider signing up to host a meal or to lead a Program. First available date is August 19th.

**July Mission School Supply Drive**

**Items Needed:**  
Pencils, glue sticks, dry erase markers, wide-ruled notebook paper, crayons, & colored pencils

Donations may be left outside the Church Office or Fellowship Hall

**Main Street**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**Food Ministry**

1-3 pm in the Fellowship Hall

**2nd Thursdays**  
July 9 August 13  
September 10

**Needed:**  
peanut butter, canned fruit, & green beans

**Summer @ Main Street**

**Ascension Study**

Thursdays @ 11:00 am in the Church Library  
Led by Rev. Bowling

**Joyful Flock Returns**

MSUMC Ladies and guests are invited For a brief devotion, dessert & beverages

**Hostesses**  
June 9- Cathy Painter  
June 23- Lindsay Burns  
July 7- Marilyn Murphy  
July 14- Jennifer Larkins

**6:00 - 7:00 pm**

**Flock Leaders**  
Mary Kate Skinner  
mkskinn@gmail.com  
Allie Williams  
alliewilliams@earthlink.net

Contact a flock leader if you would like to lead a devotion, or provide a dessert.

**Main Street**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Main Street**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**HYMN STUDY**

A study of the history and Biblical source of some of our favorite hymns

11:00 am on Tuesdays in the Choir Room  
Beginning June 23rd!

6 Week Summer Session  
Led by Myra Greene

A new hymn each week~ Bring a friend



**Meet at the Movies!**  
 When: July 1, and July 8  
 Time: 9:40 am and pick up @11:45  
 Who: 3 year olds to 5th grade  
 Pop corn provided

Let  
 Ms. Allison or  
 Ms. Wendy know to  
 expect you!  
 864-344-1414  
 864-993-6328



**VBS Rainforest Falls  
 Wow, God!!!**



Huge shout out to our VBS participants! The children raised \$600 for our Mission Project to be split between Maxwell Farms and the Humane Society. Added benefit for the children was to see their children and youth directors get pied. See page 8 for the pictures.



# CELEBRATIONS

## July Birthdays

- 3 Charles Schulze  
Susan Polatty
- 6 Gemma Charles
- 7 Joan Smith
- 10 Marian Adams,  
Betty Staples
- 11 Lincoln McGinnis,
- 12 Rink Thomas,  
Joey Burns
- 13 Eric Oliver
- 17 Ben Harley
- 18 Dick Blosser
- 20 Holly Bracknell, Brandon Smith, Joey Plyler,  
Addy McCaslan
- 21 Bridget Tunstall, Maggie Shirley
- 23 Ann Baker, Belva Few
- 24 Andy Hartung, Joe Hartung
- 25 Georgia Sherard
- 29 Cindy Skinner
- 30 Emily King, Diana Fields
- 31 Heather Oliver



## July Anniversaries

- 2 Barry and Joanne Campbell
- 3 Wells and Ceres Massengill
- 6 Brab and Elaine Dukes
- 7 Bob and Dianna Helfrich
- 13 Brandon and Tara Smith
- 21 Gregg and Zella Moore  
Don and Rebecca Marino
- 24 Ed and Brenda Munnerlyn



### Many Thanks!

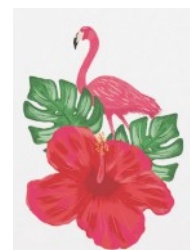


Many thanks to Preston Goforth and three young members of our church, Addy McCaslan, Ryder Larkins, and Peyton Larkins, who helped me tremendously by spreading mulch in my flowerbeds at Wesley Commons. Since I can't have the pine straw which is the usual groundcover at WC, I must not only purchase my own mulch but I must also make sure it is placed appropriately in my flowerbeds. Since I can no longer at age 87 do this myself, I was delighted to have this special crew perform this task for me!

Future church leaders,  
future community leaders indeed!  
Sincerely,  
Sunni Bond

### News from the flock!

The flock is excited to share what our own Ella Bassett is up to this summer. She is leading a global health project to support women and girls in Kisumu, Kenya. Ella is working with Kenyan organizations and fellow students to conduct menstrual health education events and distribute safe sanitary pads to community members in need. You can learn more about this project by going to the website and by donating at [tinyurl.com/kisumupadproject](http://tinyurl.com/kisumupadproject). A donation of \$13 will provide one girl with a bar of soap and 6 reusable pads made to last up to one year. Because the recent demand for products has outpaced production capabilities in Kenya, Ella plans to coordinate a gathering of Flock and Celebration Circle members to sew cotton pads to be delivered to Kisumu. Of course, all are welcome to join. Look for more information on time and place! Please share this page with friends and spread the word!



Congratulations to Ashleigh Leopard and Brian Newsome on their destination wedding in Tuscany on June 26th. They are pictured with their daughters, from left to right: Addison Leopard, Ansley Newsome, Brian and Ashleigh, Morgan Newsome, and Caroline Leopard. Your church family is so excited for you and wish you all the best.

# July 2026

Saturday

Friday

Thursday

Wednesday








Tuesday

Monday

Sunday

**We hope to see you at our events! Call the Church Office with any questions.**

**864-229-7551**

<p><b>5 National Sunday</b> 9:00 am Early Service 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 7:30 pm Pick-up Basketball</p>	<p><b>6 Church Closed - 4th of July holiday</b> 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 911</p> 	<p><b>7</b> 10:00 am Susanna Circle 11:00 am Hymnology Class 6:00 pm Joyful Flock Gathering- Marilyn Murphy's</p> 	<p><b>1</b> 9:40 am Children's Movie Morning 11:00 am Member Support Committee Meeting 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</p> 	<p><b>2</b> 11:00 am After the Ascension Bible Study 7:00 pm Pick-up Basketball</p>	<p><b>3</b> 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p><b>4 Independence Day!</b></p> 
<p><b>12</b> 9:00 am Early Service 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 7:30 pm Pick-up Basketball</p>	<p><b>13</b> 5:30 pm Board of Trustees Mtg 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 911</p>	<p><b>14</b> 9:30 am Staff Meeting 11:00 am Hymnology Class 6:00 pm Joyful Flock Gathering- Jennifer Larkins</p> 	<p><b>15</b> 12:30 pm Salkehatchie Lunch</p>	<p><b>16</b> 11:00 am After the Ascension Bible Study 7:00 pm Pick-up Basketball</p>	<p><b>17</b> 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p><b>18</b> 9:00 am Soup Kitchen Volunteers TEAM #4 Barry &amp; Joanne Campbell, Ella Winfield, Judy &amp; Frankie Connell</p> 
<p><b>19 Blessing of the Backpacks</b> 9:00 am Early Service 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 7:30 pm Pick-up Basketball</p> 	<p><b>20</b> 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 911</p>	<p><b>21</b> 11:00 am Hymnology Class</p>	<p><b>22</b> 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>23</b> 11:00 am After the Ascension Bible Study 7:00 pm Pick-up Basketball</p>	<p><b>24</b> 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b> 9:00 am Early Service 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 3:00 pm Greenwood County Historical Society 7:30 pm Pick-up Basketball</p>	<p><b>27</b> 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 911</p>	<p><b>28</b> 11:00 am Hymnology Class 4:15 pm Staff Meeting</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> 7:00 pm Pick-up Basketball</p>	<p><b>31</b> 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery</p>	



### Children's Ministry Volunteer List

Email Mary Kate Skinner to be part of the rotation at [mkskinn@gmail.com](mailto:mkskinn@gmail.com)

#### Acolytes and Crucifer:

**July 5** Maggie Shirley, Josh Albon

**July 12** Crawford Burns, Mary Margaret Skinner

**July 19** Campbell and Finnley Smith, Peyton Larkins

**July 26** Bernie Bautista, Addy McCaslan

#### Sunday School & Extended Session:

Allison Wooten and Wendy Hill

**Nursery:** Sydney Sluder & Kim Gultch



It's almost time to return for the 2026-2027 school year. Our church campus will once again be filled with lots of laughter, learning, playing, and a few tears! Open house for parents will be held on July 30th with Monday, August 3rd being the first day of classes. We will blink, and it will be time for the Fall Consignment Sale in September.

Please feel free to stop by and visit. We would love for you to get to know our precious little ones by reading to them, helping with a craft, etc.

Thank you for supporting your Pre-school,  
Allison Wooten, Director



Best sports, ever! Anything for a good cause.

## 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