

The St. John's Post

JANUARY 2026 EDITION

BREAKING NEWS....

Church Council Chair: Justin Isenhour

Lay Leader: RW Edmondson

Lay Leadership:

Courtney Bonéy

Joy Honeycutt

Steve Siebert

Melanie Edwards

Martha Sides

Tevis Vandergriff

Elaine Cryderman

Sarah Robertson

David Helms

Judy Tilly (Annual Conference Delegate)

Karen Radcliffe (Pastor)

Committee Chair/Co-Chair:

Amy Bartholomew-Missions

Charlene Williams-Care Ministry

Nancy Rivers-Education

Melissa Morse-Stewardship

Bill & Beth Hozey-Worship

Ashley Helms-Children

Suzanne Fisher-Youth

Barri Helms-Connections

Denise Holland-Connections

Lay Members

to the Annual Conference:

Barbara Gaither

Judy Tilly

Nancy Rivers

Les Spencer

Susan Spencer

Alternates:

RW Edmondson

Steve Siebert

Minda Siebert

Lise Turner

Trustees:

Kirk Hardymon

Gilbert Anderson

Bill Hozey

Matt Edwards

Ann Troiano

Lori Vidonic

Kristi Vandergriff

Jon Turner

Nancy Rivers

Finance Committee:

Jason Creel-Committee Chair

RW Edmondson

Justin Isenhour

Wayne Bouldin

Judy Tilly

Melissa Morse

Minda Siebert

Beth Meador

Terry Helms

Russ Williamson

At Large Members to Finance:

Brennan Reavis

Blair Skelton

Tim Burwell

Amber Boan

Staff Parrish Relations Committee:

Wayne Bouldin-Committee Chair

David Cameron

Brent Meche

Martha Sides

Phyllis Helms

Paige Harroff

Nancy Stark

Beverly Anderson

Jan Patterson

R. W. Edmondson-Lay Leader

Barbara Gaither-Annual Conference Delegate

At Large Church Council:

Lauren Meador

Bri Natoli

Lou & Margie Singer

Robyn Grant Lori Vidonic

Josh Honea

Bryan Edwards

Lizann Rex

Patty Robinson

Beverly Anderson

Patrick Edmondson

Emily Lee

Mandy Shamblin

Welcome to 2026!

Welcome to January 2026! As we begin a new year, we have so much to be thankful for. Each year, through the work of our Lay Leadership Committee, individuals are selected to serve in key areas of ministry and leadership. Today we recognize those who have completed their service in the following leadership roles:

Lise Turner, Lay Leader
R.W. Edmondson, Church Council Chair
David Harroff, Chair of Finance
Martha Jones, Chair of Stewardship
Nancy Stark, Chair of Worship
Les Spencer, Chair of Trustees
Joan Pate, Co-Chair of Connections
Steve Siebert, President of the United Methodist Men

St. John's extends heartfelt appreciation for the service and dedication you have given to our church during this season. We have truly been blessed by your commitment.

Our newly elected leadership team will begin serving on January 1, 2026:

R.W. Edmondson, Lay Leader
Justin Isenhour, Church Council Chair
Jason Creel, Chair of Finance
Melissa Morse, Chair of Stewardship
Beth & Bill Hozey, Chair of Worship
Denise Holland, Co-Chair of Connections
Tevis Vandergriff, President of the United Methodist Men
To Be Elected, Chair of Trustees

As we begin our year together, I want to invite everyone to Dreaming and Planning 2026 on Monday, January 19th, beginning at 8:30am with coffee and pastries. This day will be filled with listening, dreaming, and discerning where and how each of us can serve our church and community as we respond to the call of God on our lives. We will hear from the ministry areas of Children, Youth, Education, Worship, Care Ministry, Connections, Stewardship, and Missions to gain a fuller understanding of the scope of their ministry.

We will have multiple listening sessions where each person will have the opportunity to share their ministry goals for this year and a time to share these goals with the larger group. After lunch, we will have breakout times to meet in committees or in the ministry area or areas you would like to be involved in for 2026.

God blessed us in amazing ways in 2025 as we lived into our Mission Statement: *"To be Christ to all people by living out God's call to love, serve and transform the world."*

As we come together for Dreaming and Planning - and as all of our members participate, we are trusting and expecting God to show up in a big way in 2026. I hope you will join us for the meaningful day of visioning and discernment. HAPPY NEW YEAR! Shalom, Karen

JANUARY EVENTS & REMINDERS-2026

*If you have need of use of our facilities, please contact the church office for a full list of availabilities

Happy New Year!

As we step into a new year, we give thanks for each of you and the life we share as a church family. May God's grace guide your days, God's peace fill your hearts, and God's love shine through you in all you do. May it be a year of hope, renewal, and faithful living together.

January 1 & January 2 - Church Office Closed

January 4 - Epiphany Sunday/Communion Sunday

EXERCISE WITH AVIS

Mon.-Wed.-Fri.
11:00am-11:30am (FC)

January 11-UWF Winter Luncheon @ 12:15pm in the Fellowship Center

January 14-Blood Drive

Our next blood drive is Wednesday, January 14. We are partnering with OneBlood again. Register through the email link to donate!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 4 @ 12:15pm -
UWF Leadership Team (Loft)
Missions Committee Mtg. (MBC)

January 15 @ 6:30pm -
Preschool Board Meeting (FC)

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

January 14 @ January 28 @ 4:30pm

Grief Group meets in the Men's Bible Classroom to the left of the stage in the Fellowship Center.

CIRCLE MEETINGS

*Clara Phillips Circle
will not meet this month.*

January 19 - Dreaming and Planning Event

Our annual Dreaming and Planning Event will be held on Monday, January 19 in the Fellowship Center. We look forward to seeing you there!

MORNING GLORY CIRCLE

January 13 @ 10:30am (MBC)

LUNCH BUDDIES-JANUARY 20 @ 11:30AM

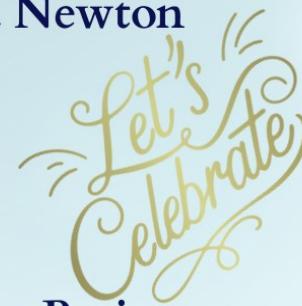
The Lunch Buddies invite anyone who enjoys good food and friendly folks to join us at 11:30 am Tuesday, January 20. We'll be gathering at one of our frequent spots - Showmar's at 9783 Charlotte Highway off Route 521 in Indian Land. Please let us know you'll be coming, by signing up on REALM or the communications table by Sunday, January 18. We look forward to seeing you there!

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

Children & Youth

- January 1 Cindy Lobo
- January 4 John E. Frick, Davis Lee & Barbara Newton
- January 6 John Lee, III & **Mari Lou Nielsen**
- January 7 Lizann Rex
- January 8 Lou Singer
- January 9 Pam Huckabee & Dr. Bill Mayes
- January 10 Jon Turner, **Audrey Johnson** & Shelley Pruitt
- January 12 Anissa Miller
- January 14 Lauren Meador, **Gwendolyn McBride** & Brent Meche
- January 15 Scott Conant
- January 16 Lauren Johnson
- January 17 Christopher Dowdy & Rachel McConaghy
- January 18 Gina Hill & Randal Kempka
- January 19 Sidney Hillhouse & Bonnie Meche
- January 20 Gloria Godinho
- January 22 **TJ Fuller** & Larry Taulbert
- January 23 Brad McDonald
- January 24 Zeke Patterson
- January 26 Crissy Anderson, Jason Damm, Pat Durgin, **Wells Johnson, Abigail Edmondson** & **Benjamin Edmondson**
- January 28 Les Spencer
- January 31 Courtney Bonéy, Scott Brown, Ed Carswell, Lori Clyburn, Tara McNitt & Nelson Odom

January 10 Bill & Beth Hozey - Happy Anniversary!
January 17 Rick & Becky Diak - Happy Anniversary!
January 24 Jason & Glory Creel - Happy Anniversary!



COMMUNITY MEAL

JANUARY 2026

New time begins January 7
Dinner (5:15pm-6:15pm)



January 7

Taco Bar
Ground Beef
Black beans
Mexican rice
Dessert

January 28

Pancakes
Scrambled eggs
Bacon
Sausage
Fruit

January 14

Pork loin
Mac n Cheese
Green beans
Dessert

January 21

Lasagna
Salad
Garlic Bread
Dessert



Costs

age 12 & under (free)
age 13 & older (\$8 each)
Family max (\$20)

Sign up deadline is the Sunday before the meal

Wednesday Makeover

Check out our Wed. makeover page for a new adventure beginning January 14.

Coming in January

THE GATHERING TABLE

We are excited to introduce The Gathering Table, a brand-new ministry designed to bring our church family closer—one shared meal at a time.

Every other month, members will be placed into small groups of eight to gather around a table, share a meal, and build deeper, more meaningful connections with one another and with our church community. Each group will share the joy and responsibility of hosting, whether that means welcoming others into your home or making a reservation at a favorite local spot. No matter the setting, The Gathering Table is about creating space for laughter, stories, and genuine relationship. If you're longing for a way to feel more connected and known, this is a simple, joyful invitation to pull up a chair and belong. Sign up in the communication center or online!





CONNECTIONS

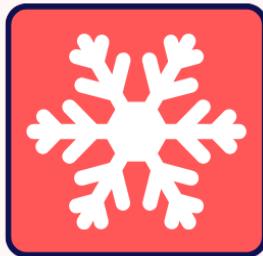
Barri Helms & Denise Holland - Committee Co-Chairs

CHURCH EVENTS:

The Connections Team is looking forward to a new year of community growth in our church. We hope to plan exciting and fun activities that will appeal to all age levels.

THE GATHERING TABLE:

We have a new ministry we are introducing in January. The Gathering Table is designed to bring our church family closer - one shared meal at a time. Check out page 6 for more detailed information. We encourage everyone to consider this fellowship option.



WEE SCHOOL NEWS



W.E.E. SCHOOL REGISTRATION 2026-2027

W.E.E. School registration for the 2026-2027 school year begins Monday, January 26th at 9:00am for currently enrolled students and their families as well as church members.

Registration will open to the public on Tuesday, February 3rd.

For more information, please contact Beth Meador at (803)548-6557 or sjumcweeschool@gmail.com

SPIRIT NIGHTS/FUNDRAISERS

Support the W.E.E. School by purchasing a Moe's dinner box for pickup on January 13th from 4pm-5:30pm in the St. John's UMC parking lot.

Boxes must be preordered, more information coming out soon.



Children and Youth News

Children and Youth Director: Mallory Capps- stjohnsumc.youthandchildren@gmail.com- (843)-504-5419

Happy New Year!!! I hope you all have a wonderful 2026! We have so many fun things happening this month! UMYF will start back on January 4th and REAL Kids starts back up on January 14th. Thank you for all your support for the luminaries and Be The Light Project this year! We look forward to all the fun and growth of the 2026 year!



UPCOMING EVENTS COME JOIN US!

REAL Kids will be starting back on January 14th on Wednesday Nights from 5:30-6:30pm This is open for all children 3 years old- 5th grade!

We will meet in the Children's Church Room #200

UMYF will start back on January 4th at 4:00pm and will be every Sunday afternoon in January.

January 25th the children will be going to the Gem Theatre directly following the 11am service. If you are interested in joining us, please let Mallory know!

"Snowball Mountain Challenge" Vacation Bible School will be June 8-12, 2026! Please plan to join us for a fun filled week as we learn about God being our strength. Registration will open in April! More information to come!



Ladies,

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

Winter Luncheon

January

11

12:15 PM

FELLOWSHIP CENTER



We can't wait to see you!
Presented by United Women in Faith

All ladies are invited! We will enjoy a delicious meal, participate in a couple of activities to help us mix and get to know each other, enjoy fellowship with other women, and present Mission Recognition Pins to church members who

have shown their love of God through mission.

Come, step away from things, let us pamper you, as we enjoy time together. Bring a friend!

Registration is possible through REALM and on the sign-up sheet in the hallway behind the sanctuary. Having an accurate count of those who will attend enables us to prepare the correct amount of food. Please, register by Sunday, January 4.

Nancy Rivers, UWFaith Unit Vice President

WEDNESDAY MAKEOVER

Where do you find time to build relationships with other Christians? How do you fit Christian education into your already full schedule? Might I suggest you join us on Wednesday evenings for our new programming. We are trying to make the evening sort of a one-stop-shop. Here is what you need to know:

- Dinner will be served through a window running from 5:15pm to 6:30pm. The cost will remain the same.
- You are always welcome to bring your own food if you prefer.
- Small groups are open to everyone. You can come for a small group and eat elsewhere if you like.
- Small groups will meet during the 5:30pm – 7pm timeframe. Each small group will operate on its own schedule – start and end times as well as the number of weeks. Some small groups will be ongoing while others may only meet for a few weeks, and anything in between! You can join a small group at any time or change between them as you wish. We want you to receive the food your spirit needs!
- Many small group participants will be eating their dinner in the small group meeting.
- Of course, you can come for the meal and fellowship without participating in a small group, if that is what you need.
- There will be no large group meeting or worship as in the past.
- A catalog of the initial offering of small groups is available in the hallway behind the sanctuary as well as in the Fellowship Center. Additional small groups will be promoted when they are scheduled.

Beginning on January 14 we will offer the following small groups:

- “The Chosen”, viewing & discussing the show – led by Amber Boan; 6pm-7pm
- The Gospel of Matthew Bible Study – led by Nancy Rivers; 5:45pm-7pm
- Prayer Group – co-led by Lizann Rex and Pastor Karen; 5:30pm-6:30pm
- Children and Youth – led by Mallory Capps and Katherine Burns. This group will be structured such that the Music Makers will meet during the small group time while other participants are otherwise engaged; 5:30pm-6:30pm

A WORD OF THANKS!

Honestly & humbly, we thank you.

We appreciate YOU and your commitment to generously giving your time, talent, and treasure to our church in 2025.

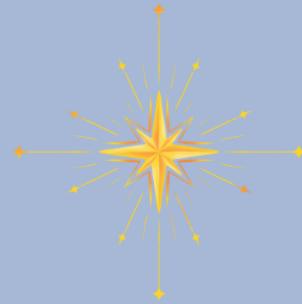
Your generosity of spirit and encouragement have greatly impacted our church; from our youth serving in our Salkehatchie community for those in dire need of home repairs, to the return of our Pumpkin Patch, which not only raises funds, but helps us take steps to be an outward-facing church.

We look forward to our ministry's growth and impact each year, but more than anything, we look forward to doing this with you, the people in our faith community. You have prayed for our church, and you have given to our church from your spiritual gifts. For that, we are thankful for each of you every day of the year!

submitted by Lise Turner
2026 Stewardship Committee Co-Chair

BIBLE QUIZ:

by Rev. Bob Romanello



In Matthew 2: 1-12, we learn of an event that would be a surprise to many people. Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea and gentile wise men followed a star to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is he that is born King of the Jews?” The great truth is God was letting the world know that salvation was coming to both Jew and Gentile. Paul later explained it in Romans 1:16-17.

My question is, “What did the gentile wise men do when the star stopped over the house where Mary and Joseph and Jesus were?” (Matt 2: 10-11)

They _____ with _____ great joy, and when they were come into the _____ they saw the _____ child with _____ his mother, and _____ and worshipped him and presented him _____.

We, like the millions of people since God sent Jesus with the matchless gift of salvation, have opportunity to rejoice with exceeding great joy now and throughout the new year and years to come. Believe it and do it.

Word Bank: rejoiced, exceeding, fell, down, house, young, gifts, Mary



MISSIONS TEAM

AMY BARTHOLOMEW
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Saturday Project

We are looking forward to our first Saturday Project on Saturday, January 17. Everyone is welcome to join us. **Options this month are:**

- Making Valentine's Day cards for nursing home residents. We will meet in the fellowship hall at 1:00. Bring a snack to share!
- Washings of Hope. Making baggies containing laundry detergent pods and dryer sheets to be delivered to a local laundromat. We will meet in the Men's Bible Classroom at 1:00. We will be sending out a Sign-Up Genius for detergent pod and dryer sheet donations.
- Bethel Day Shelter. Delivering donations and organizing the closets. You can meet at the church at 9:30 to carpool or meet at the shelter at 10:00. Contact Shawne Heeren if you are interested in volunteering that day. Please give her at least 24 hours' notice if you plan to go.

Donations

Beginning this month, lists of donation requests will be posted in the donation center beside the door to the fellowship hall. Please check there for current donation requests.

Upcoming Meeting

Our next committee meeting will take place in the Men's Bible Classroom on Sunday, January 4 after the second service. We will be planning Spring Saturday Projects. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Contact Info

If you would like to volunteer on January 27 at the Bethel Shelter, please contact Shawne 24 hours in advance @ 803-412-0852.

JANUARY SPOTLIGHT

WASHINGS OF HOPE

Years ago, during a lunch conversation, Debi Edmondson and Karen Vinson dreamed up a simple but powerful way to serve others. Aware of how expensive laundry detergent can be, they wanted to help make this everyday necessity more affordable for those in need. When the 2019 Confirmation Class began looking for a service project, they embraced this idea as a meaningful way to serve their community. One evening was spent sharing Chinese food and assembling detergent kits, which were later delivered to the laundromat near Walmart. What a blessing to others and a lasting legacy of love and service.

Fort Mill Care Center Needs



Fort Mill Care Center
December Wishlist

✓ Liquid Laundry Detergent (65 oz or smaller)	✓ Deodorant
✓ All Purpose Cleaner	✓ Lotion
✓ Toilet Bowl Cleaner	✓ Shampoo & Conditioner
✓ Glass Cleaner	✓ Razors & Shaving Cream
✓ Disinfectant Spray	✓ Tissues

In addition to the items listed above we need perishables, specifically butter, cheese, eggs and frozen chicken.

We are currently stocked on all non-perishable items.

Find our PayPal & Amazon list
at fortmillcarecenter.org
or scan here:



Education Team

NANCY RIVERS
Committee Chair

A baby as a symbol of the New Year has origins that lie in ancient Greece. The Greek god Dionysus was the god of fertility, wine, festivity, and revelry. This god was frequently depicted as a baby born at the end of the calendar year.

In the United States, this symbolizing of a New Year as a baby has been popular in holiday imagery since the beginning of the 20th century, thanks to the Saturday Evening Post.

The Apostle Paul and other New Testament authors used the imagery of a baby and its need for milk to depict new Christians as well as those who had yet to grow in their faith. Consider the following passages:

1 PETER 2: 1-3

1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

1 CORINTHIANS 3: 1-2

1 Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly - mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.

HEBREWS 5: 11-14

11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. 12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching of righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

John Wesley believed a Christian should always be working toward perfection. He instituted Sunday Schools and urged Methodists to utilize four sources to guide them in the faith:

1. scripture
2. tradition
3. reason
4. experience

We are to move on to perfection, not remain stagnant in our faith, or even worse we should not backslide! How do we do this? One way is to participate in the programs St. John's is offering. We of course have Sunday School and book studies, but we will be offering more ways to grow spiritually.

Key among plans for the 2026 year is our revised programming on Wednesday evenings which will feature several small groups. (See the Wednesday Makeover article in this newsletter.) In addition, we plan to offer more studies throughout the year. If you would like a particular study or topic covered, please, let me know. Nancy Rivers, nriversnc@gmail.com

Epworth Children's Home

Katherine Burns, Epworth Representative

Answered Prayers

Lowcountry resident Qwan Butler, 46, grew up in a large extended family and knew from an early age that she wanted children. In 2020, after moving to a larger home, she applied to become a foster parent with Epworth.



Soon after the first foster child placed in Qwan's home was reunited with her birth family, Epworth placed a playful and affectionate 5-year-old named Brianna with her. Qwan fell in love with Brianna almost from the start

"She fit right in," she said. "She seemed instantly comfortable, which was unique."

Qwan loved spending time with Brianna, playing with dolls, painting, and playing outside. When Qwan's relatives met Brianna for the first time, they all remarked how much Brianna looked like Qwan had as a child. As soon as she learned that Brianna had become available for adoption, Qwan started the pre-adoption process. To be approved, applicants must submit a great deal of paperwork, pass background clearances, and sit for in-person interviews. While Qwan was taking the steps needed to qualify, Brianna was sent to a foster family who had already been approved for pre-adoption.

Qwan missed Brianna intensely. She prayed daily, asking God to take care of Brianna and send her the child she was meant to have.

Three months to the day after Brianna left, Qwan received the answer she was looking for. The adoptive family had determined that Brianna was not a good fit for them. Qwan rejoiced when the little girl was returned to her. She reactivated her application to adopt and was approved. A court procedure made everything final.

For the next year, Qwan took a break from fostering to give Brianna her entire attention and time. Her mom, Gail, who lives with Qwan, cared for Brianna while Qwan worked each day.

Three years later, Qwan started taking in respite (short-term) foster placements and was asked to care for a 3-month-old infant. The baby, it turns out, was Brianna's biological sister. Her name is Ariella.

By then 8 years old, Brianna loved holding and bottle feeding the baby. Qwan did not tell Brianna right away that the infant was her sister, because she didn't want to cause her distress when Ariella was returned to her birth family. She took lots of photos, knowing that the baby might not be with them for long.

"Brianna was such a good big sister from the start," Qwan said. "She was very protective, coming into my room at night to make sure I was awake whenever the baby started to cry."

Within months, Qwan learned that Ariella, too, had been freed for adoption. She applied immediately. On court day, Qwan was so anxious that Charleston traffic might cause her to be late, she left her home hours early. But Qwan's court procedure went smoothly and her application to adopt Ariella was approved.

Today, as the forever mom to two beautiful little girls, Qwan says her home life is lively, fun, and full of gratitude and love.

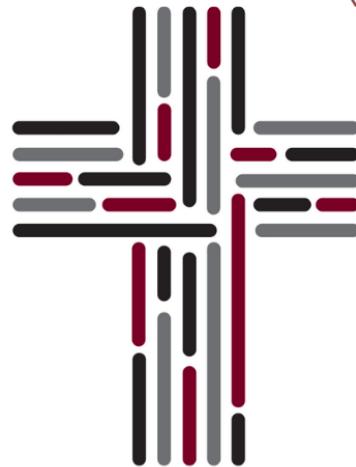
"There were some bumps along the way, mostly to do with navigating the foster care and adoption system, but I would tell anyone interested in fostering or adopting that the rewards greatly outweigh any difficulties," Qwan said.

She said Epworth did a wonderful job advocating for her and the children and helping her resolve any issues that came up.

"I always knew they were in my corner," she said.

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Reverend Karen H. Radcliffe, Senior Pastor
864-313-9348 (Cell)
khradcliffe@umcsc.org

Robert E. (Bob) Romanello	Pastor Emeritus
Lisa Henley	Administrative Coordinator
Mallory Capps	Director of Church Ministries
Beth Meador	W.E.E. School Director
Minda Siebert	Finance Coordinator
Terry Helms	Building Administrator
Sarah Ochoa	Interim Director of Music
Karen Rowe	Interim Accompanist
Nancy Rivers	Handbell Director
Jennifer Isenhour	Music Leader- Wednesday Worship
Suzanne Fisher	Kitchen Coordinator
Maggie Helms	Custodian
Katherine Burns	Music Makers Director
Amber Boan	Children/Youth Handbell Director
Oriana Gilmore	Nursery Worker

*...TO BE CHRIST TO ALL PEOPLE BY LIVING OUT GOD'S CALL
TO LOVE, SERVE, AND TRANSFORM THE WORLD.*