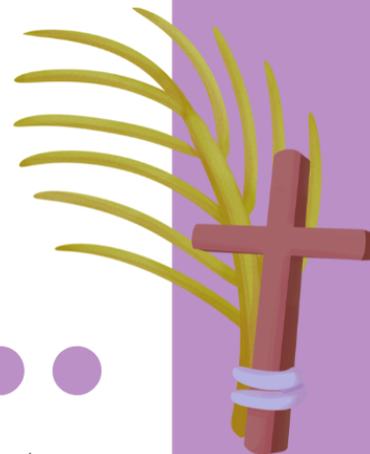


~THE ST. JOHN'S POST~

March 2026 Edition



I remember when I was young in my faith and began to understand the meaning of Lent, I thought the most significant element was what you would give up. Each year, I would try to decide what I would be willing to sacrifice during Lent. After a few years, I discovered that giving up chocolate was not the spiritual discipline I thought it was; it only made me crave it more after Easter. Lent is not simply a season of giving something up; it is a journey toward the cross and the empty tomb. It is a holy invitation to slow down, examine our lives and open ourselves to God's transforming grace.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, when we hear the solemn words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. These words remind us of our mortality, our need for repentance, and our dependence on God. It also reminds us that we belong to a God who breathes life into dust. For forty days, we walk with Jesus toward Jerusalem. In the Wesleyan tradition, as we have learned from John Wesley, Lent is a season to practice the means of grace, including self-examination and repentance, prayer, fasting, self-denial, reading holy scripture, and works of mercy.

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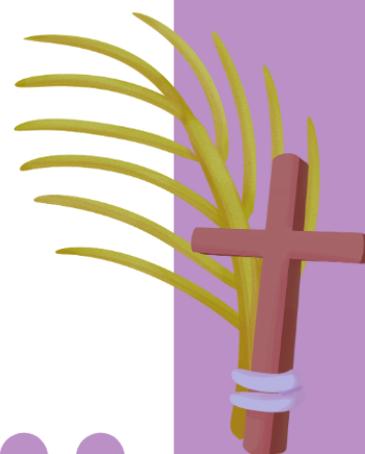
For me now, Lent is far more than simply giving up my favorite food or activity. What matters most is not the sacrifice itself, but the heart behind it. Lent is a time that calls us to turn away from distractions and turn toward God. It calls us to a deeper love of God and of neighbor. As United Methodists, we understand that grace is always at work. Lent is not about earning God's love, it is about responding to the love that is already present. As we confess our sins and seek renewal, we begin to learn to trust that God's mercy is greater than our failures.

As we continue our journey through Lent, we will arrive at Holy Week, where sorrow and hope will stand side by side. We will remember the suffering of Christ, but as Easter people, we will never lose sight of the promise of the resurrection. Lent helps prepare us not only to mourn the cross but also to rejoice fully in the Easter joy.

May this season of Lent be a time for all of us to engage in honest reflection, courageous repentance and continue to renew our commitment to always follow Christ where he leads us.

May our Lenten journey carry us into a profound Easter joy.

Shalom,
Karen



March Events & Reminders

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



Sunday Schedule:

8:30 am Worship Service
9:30 am Hospitality
10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service

March 2

Book Club Meeting
7pm (MBC)
"Your God Is Too Small"
by JB Phillips

Exercise with Avis:

Monday-Wednesday-Friday
11:00am-11:30am (FC)

Upcoming Meetings

March 4 @ 6pm - Missions Committee (MBC)

March 22 @ 12:15pm - Care Team (MBC)

March 22 @ 12:15pm - Finance Committee Meeting (MBC)

✓ March 8-Communion Sunday

Offering supports Rise Against Hunger. Your donation will help us host a Meal Packing Event during Kindness Week.

✓ March 15-UWF Call to Prayer & Self Denial

The UWF Call to Prayer and Self-Denial @ 2pm. This year the event will be held at Philadelphia United Methodist Church off Hwy. 160 in Fort Mill. All ladies are invited to attend.

✓ March 21-Bethel Shelter Day The Saturday Project (see the Missions Team Page)

✓ March 17-Lunch Buddies

Lunch Buddies will meet at 11:30am on Tuesday, March 17. The restaurant is TBD. Look for the information in one of our daily emails or end of the week announcements soon!

✓ March 27-WEE School Spring Event (see WEE School Page)

✓ March 29-Easter Cantata (Both Services) Palm Sunday 5th Sunday Breakfast @ 9:30am

Circle Meetings

March 9 @ 5pm - Clara Phillips Circle

March 10 @ 10:30am - Morning Glory Circle (MBC)

March 29-Easter Egg Hunt
Easter Jam!
3:30pm-4:30pm



MARCH CELEBRATIONS!

March 1 James Easterling
Hayes Harroff

March 2 Meaghan Iannoni

March 5 Wayne Bouldin
Jason Shamblin

March 7 Joan Pate

March 8 Doris Massey

March 9 James Wolfe

March 13 Reggie Adkins

March 15 Nancy Stark
Anne Purcell
Michele Gainey

March 16 Lise Turner

March 17 Greg Bonéy
Cru Young
Johnny Myers

March 18 Sarah Ochoa-Hughey

March 19 **Tyler Edwards**

March 22 Brianna Messer Ott
William Isenhour

March 23 **Joe Brown**

March 24 Ruth Orwig

March 25 Chip Heemsoth
Luke Henley

March 26 Tracy Olinger

March 27 David Hord
Emory Mae Creel

March 28 Phyllis Helms

March 29 Rob Robinson

March 31 Leslie Nielsen



March 2 David & Rachel Cameron

March 10 John & Mary Vaughan

March 11 Steve & Minda Siebert

March 20 Zeke & Jan Patterson

March 22 Benny & Joyce Patterson
Michael & Anissa Miller

ANNIVERSARIES



BIRTHDAYS

-  College Students
-  Children & Youth

BIBLE QUIZ

submitted by Rev. Bob Romanello



PEACE:

Spring is fast approaching, and that means blooms on the Red Bud, Dogwood, Locust, Peach, Apple, Pear, and Crepe Myrtle trees will share in the signs of new life that spring up around us. If we are wise enough to turn off the news about a troubled world, drive to a park or a favorite spot in the countryside and just sit there admiring nature's beauty, we can bask in the sense of peace the moment brings as a gift to us.

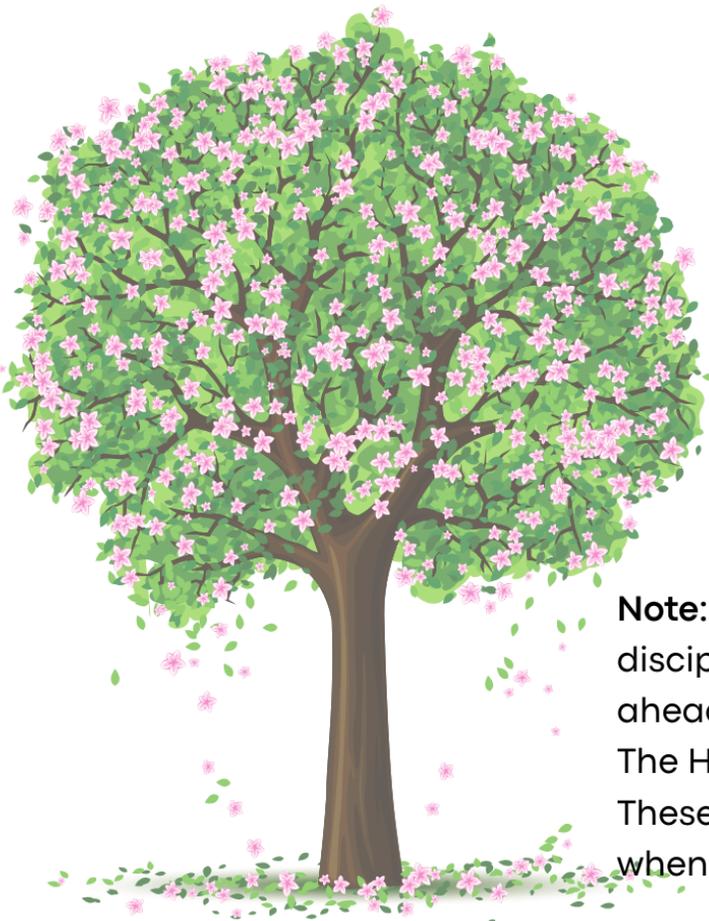
My question for you today is, "Where may a Christian find another source of peace in a troubled time?"

The answer is in **John 14:27** (NIV). The peace spoken about there is made possible by Calvary. Use the fill in words below to help you complete this verse.

" _____ I leave with you; _____ peace
I _____ you.
I do not give to _____
as the _____ gives.
Do not let your _____
be _____
and do not be _____.

Fill in words: Peace, give, my, world, you,
troubled, afraid, hearts

Note: Jesus spoke these words of comfort to his disciples while knowing that troubled times lay ahead for them because his crucifixion was near. The Holy Spirit was also sent to comfort them. These words reach forward to comfort us as well when adversity comes our way.





WEE School News

Registration 2026-2027

We still have spots available for the next school year. Please pass along to your family and friends. We would love to have them join us at W.E.E. School. For more information or to register please contact Beth Meador by email at: [**sjumcweeschool@gmail.com**](mailto:sjumcweeschool@gmail.com)

● **Spring Event:**

Please join us on March 27th from 5:30pm-7:00pm in the fellowship center for a Birthday Party! W.E.E. School is celebrating 20 years! Our spring event will include games for the children and concessions and our silent auction returns this year with items to bid on from local businesses. This event is open to everyone; we would love to have you join us for an evening of family fun.



● **W.E.E. School Fundraising/Spirit Nights**

Mark your calendars and come out and support our W.E.E. School!

March 24th (3pm-7pm) Abbott's Fort Mill

April 14th (4pm-9pm) Brixx Kingsley

● **Scholastic Book Fair:**

Our Scholastic Book Fair will be held May 4th-6th in the Fellowship Center and will be open during the Community Meal.

March 2026

Children and Youth News

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

This month will be filled with meaningful activities as we prepare for Easter! We'll be growing our butterflies and getting ready for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt—March 29th.

Looking ahead, Vacation Bible School (VBS) is coming soon! Mark your calendars for June 8-12, and consider volunteering to help make this a fun and faith-filled experience for our kids. Let's make this season one of growth, service, and celebration!

Registration for church members will open on April 13th and to the public on April 20th.



UPCOMING EVENTS COME JOIN US!

REAL Kids will be March 4th, 18th, and 25th at 5:30. We will have a time of music, fun, and learning about God together.

This is open for all children ages 3- 5th grade!

UMYF will be on March 1st, March 8th, March 15th, & March 22nd at 4:00pm-5:30pm.



COMMUNITY MEAL

Dinner served from 5:15pm-6:30pm

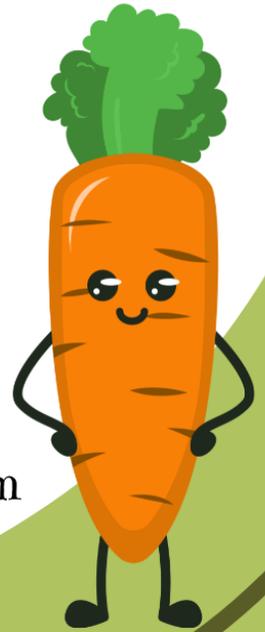
MARCH 4

Taco Bar
Black Beans
Mexican Rice
Dessert

Free
age 12 & under

\$8/person
age 13 & older

\$20
Family Maximum



MARCH 11

Roasted Pork Loin
Mashed Potatoes
Green beans
Dessert

*Chicken Nuggets
available for kids

MARCH 18

Irish Beef Stew
Rolls
Salad
Dessert

*Chicken Nuggets
available for kids



Small Groups:

5:30pm Prayer Group (LBC)

5:45pm Bible Study (MBC)
The book of Matthew

6:00pm "The Chosen"
Discussion Group (Zone)

MARCH 25

Spaghetti
Garlic Bread
Salad
Dessert

Voyages of Paul

12 Day Voyages of Paul on Celebrity Infinity September 15, 2026 - September 26, 2026

Walk the same ancient roads where the gospel first took root in Europe while enjoying the comfort and simplicity of an all-inclusive cruise.

This Footsteps of Paul experience is entirely cruise-based, allowing travelers to unpack once and wake each day in a new biblical setting as they sail to the historic ports connected to the Apostle Paul's Ministry.

Guided by the pastoral heart and biblical insight of Reverend Karen H. Radcliffe, this pilgrimage invites believers to see Paul not only as a theologian but also as a missionary, pastor, and spiritual father. Shore excursions, combined with onboard teaching, worship, and fellowship, transform familiar passages of Scripture into living testimony.

The Footsteps of Paul is a journey that strengthens faith, deepens understanding, and unites the body of Christ just as Paul intended.

If you would like to go on this journey, there will be an informational meeting on February 23rd @ 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Brochures are also available in the church office.

CONNECTIONS TEAM

Barri Helms & Denise Holland (Co-Chairs)

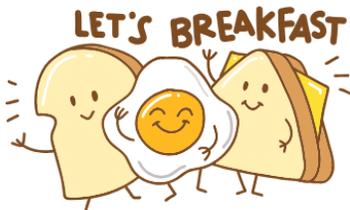
The Saturday Project

Connections is teaming up with the Missions Team for our Saturday Project: "You've Been Egged!"

Join us on Saturday, March 21 at 10:00am as we assemble special "You've Been Egged" bags filled with plastic Easter eggs and fun surprises. Each bag will also include invitations to share with neighbors and friends, inviting them to join us for Easter activities at St. John's.

This is a wonderful opportunity to spread joy in our community and personally invite others to celebrate Easter with us.

All are welcome to help – we hope to see you there!



5th Sunday Breakfast

Connections will host the 5th Sunday Breakfast on March 29 at 9:30am in the Fellowship Center.

Join us for a time of food, fellowship, and community. Everyone is invited – we look forward to sharing the morning with you!

Please note: There will be no Sunday School on March 29.

To help us plan, please sign up on REALM or the sign-up board so we know how many will attend. You may also use REALM or the sign-up board to volunteer to bring breakfast casseroles, fruit trays or bowls, juices, or your favorite breakfast item.

We can't wait to gather together!



UNITED METHODIST MEN

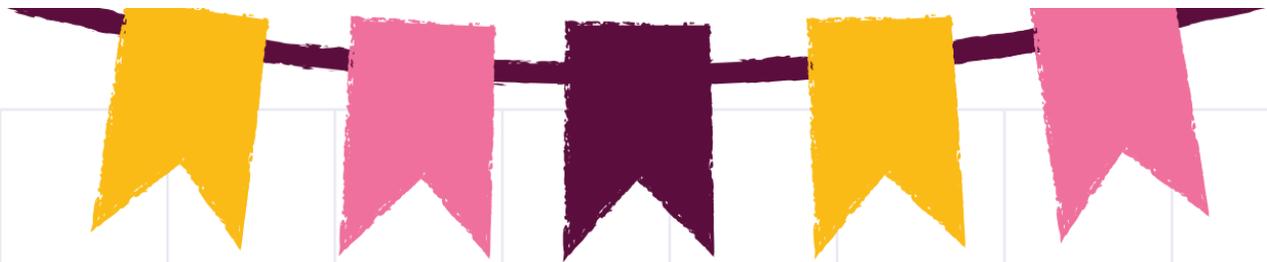
Tevis Vandergriff, President



The UMM will meet at Humble Cup on Saturday, Feb 28th
at 8am for coffee and fellowship.
This will be our February meeting.

We will also attend the "Pints and Padres" event at The Print Shop on Tuesday, March 3rd. A space for dads to come together, share a pint, enjoy some social time, and be able to talk about issues that impact them. Doors open at 6pm and the guest speaker will start sharing their experiences around 7:30pm. ALL dad's and dad figures are welcome to join this time of fellowship and conversation.

The March UMM meeting will take place at another local venue at the end of the month. Time and place to be determined. An email from the church will be sent out when the March date is set.



EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME

Here at Epworth, we love to celebrate wins — big and small. Recently, we celebrated a major milestone as a mom and her three children successfully completed the Family Care Center (FCC) program.

When Anne* first arrived, she was overwhelmed, anxious, and unsure she wanted to stay. Having grown up in foster care, experienced incarceration, and faced broken family connections, trust did not come easily. At first, the six-month commitment felt impossible.

With steady encouragement, coaching, and spiritual guidance, Anne began to find stability and support for the first time in years. As the chaos in her life slowed, she developed trust in the staff and committed herself to change.

Anne successfully completed substance use treatment, parenting classes, and life skills training. She strengthened her bond with her children through intentional activities and therapy, secured employment, and found stable housing. Her children thrived as well, learning foundational skills in a safe and nurturing environment.



Upon discharge, there were tears of joy from both the family and staff. Today, Anne and her children continue to do well and remain in touch.

The Epworth Family Care Center is a residential program supporting mothers in recovery while keeping families together. Through individualized care plans addressing emotional, physical, educational, medical, and spiritual needs, FCC provides a safe space where families can rebuild, heal, and move toward lasting stability and hope.

To read the full article visit the Epworth Children's Home website at: <https://www.epworthchildrenshome.org/carestories/family-forever/>

Katherine Burns, St. John's Epworth Representative

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!



Bethel Shelter Monthly Clean & Restock

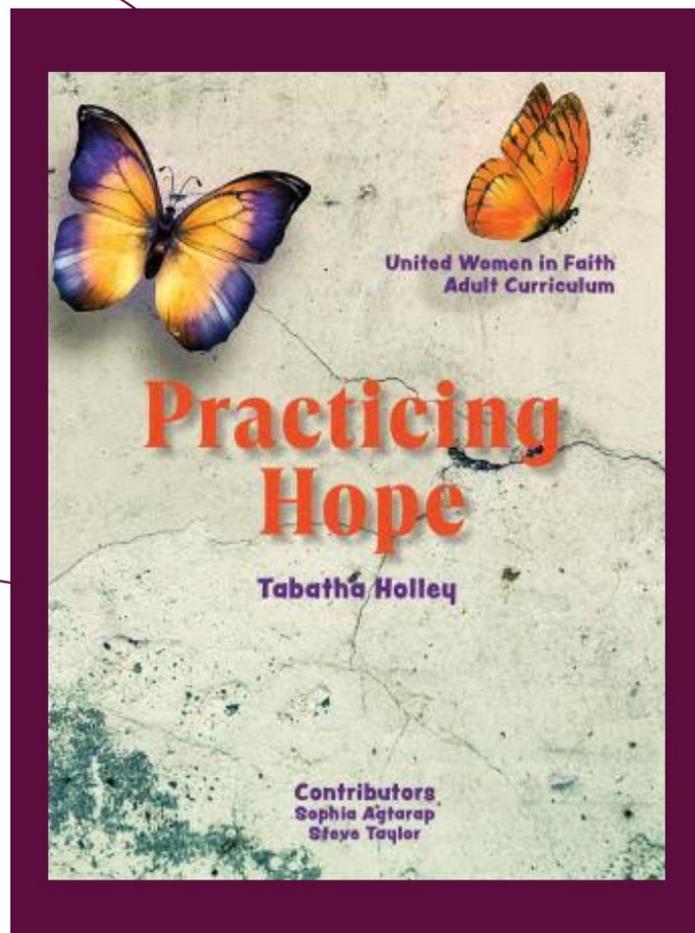


United Women in Faith



Saturday, March 7 in the Fellowship Center, all ladies are invited to attend Mini Mission u at St. John's. Join us from 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. for a wonderful day of fun, fellowship, and food as we gather to learn, grow in faith, and explore ways we can serve others in Christ's name.

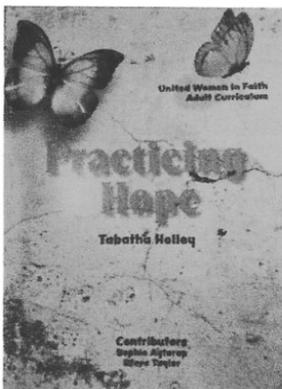
Registration form is available on the next page. Please fill out and return along with your \$25 registration fee to Barbara Gaither. We look forward to seeing all ladies of St. John's at Mini Mission u!



Mini Mission u Registration

Rock Hill District

The Rock Hill District of United Women in Faith is hosting its second Mini Mission u on March 7, 2026 at St. John's UMC in Fort Mill. All ladies are welcome! The goal for the day is to give you a taste of what Mission u is. Of course, you will miss the experience of sharing dorm suites with others.



Our Mini Mission u will be based on the 2025 curriculum, **Practicing Hope**, by Tabatha Holley. If you want to purchase the book (\$14.99), you can do so on the United Women in Faith website (See the url below) It is NOT necessary to buy the book. It is NOT recommended to buy the book.

There is a \$25 registration fee that includes coffee, juice and lunch (tea, too).

<https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=11156&catid=2176>

- 9:00 - 9:30 Check-in/Registration, with pastries, coffee and juice
- 9:30 - Noon-ish Welcome, Worship, Fellowship, Fun, Sessions
- Noon - 12:45 Lunch (includes dessert & drink)
- 12:45 - 2:00 More Worship, Fellowship, Fun, and a brief Session (including Holy Communion)

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

Church/UWF unit _____

Allergies _____

Food Restrictions/Preferences _____

Please, send your registration and \$25 fee to:
Barbara Gaither
1144 Steele Meadows Dr
Fort Mill, SC 29715

Checks payable to: Rock Hill District UWF

Nancy Rivers, Dean;
nriversnc@gmail.com;
919-618-1156

Our missions' projects have been off to a great start this year. We prepared frozen meals for Defend the Fatherless and Sunshine Bags for our district School Resource officers during our Saturday Project in February.

submitted by
Amy Bartholomew
Committee Chair

➔ January Saturday Projects

For our January Saturday Project, we made Valentine's Day Cards for local nursing homes. We also assembled laundry detergent bags that were delivered to local laundromats.



➔ March Saturday Projects

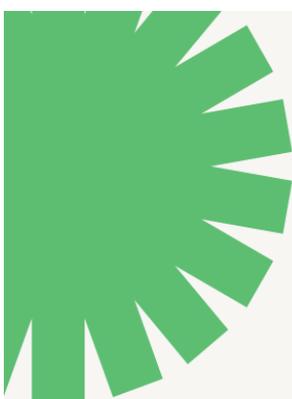
Our next Saturday Project will take place on March 21. We will have three options open to everyone:



Spruce Up Saturday: As we approach Easter, one of our most important services of the year, we will be cleaning and sprucing up both the inside and outside of the church. This preparation helps ensure that our space is welcoming, refreshed, and ready to celebrate this special season together. This activity will be great for all age levels and families. We will meet at 10:00am in the fellowship hall.

You've Been Egged: We will be assembling plastic easter eggs with fun surprises inside along with invitations that can be shared with neighbors and friends. These invitations will include how to attend Easter activities at St. Johns. If you enjoy craft making, this could be a fun and easy experience for you! All ages are welcome and encouraged to join! This activity will take place at 10:00am in the fellowship hall.

Bethel Day Shelter: This is our monthly visit to clean and restock the donation closets. You can meet Shawne Heeren in the church parking lot at 9:30am to carpool or meet her at the shelter at 10am: 546 S. Cherry Road, Suite S, Rock Hill. Please let Shawne know if you plan to attend. Everyone is welcome and it can be a good experience for families.



Please check for lists of donation requests in the donation center outside the door to the fellowship hall. We are focusing on collections for the Fort Mill Care Center. Check the donation request list in the donation center to see their current needs.

March Meeting



Our next committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 4 at 6:00pm in the Women's Bible Classroom. Bring your meal in with you if you haven't had a chance to finish. Everyone is welcome!

Tender Hearts Ministries

Tender Hearts Ministries is a non-profit Christian organization that started in York, SC over 15 years ago to help homeless women get back on their feet. Their operation is managed with paid staff and volunteers from the community. They partner with churches, individuals, businesses, and organizations to maximize their reach.

Their goal is to break the chains of homelessness, poverty, addiction, abuse, and despair. They serve men, women, and children by providing them with a safe environment, detox referral, recovery and transformational programs, job training, and mentorship.

Their resale stores offer gently used items like clothing, accessories, shoes, bedding, household items, jewelry, glassware, toys, games, bikes, furniture, small electronics and seasonal decorations. They have locations in Clover, Chester, Rock Hill, and York. 100 percent of the money from these stores is used to support Tender Hearts Ministries such as their House of Hope Women's Shelter, Men's Shelter, Baby Care and Senior Care programs.

Each location serves as one of their job training opportunities for Tender Hearts residents in recovery. Thanks to the help and generous support of volunteers and life coach mentors, it's a winning combination that teaches service and retail skills while helping to transform lives.

The cold temperatures this winter caused pipes to freeze in their York resale store. Items in the store were damaged so they are in need of donations. Tender Hearts is one of the recipients of our Day of Giving Back donations.



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

For our Stewardship Committee message this month I'd like to reiterate the "Three T's of Stewardship."

T TIME:

Dedicating hours to prayer, worship, and serving the community.

T TALENT:

Using unique skills, such as teaching, administration, or music, to build up the church.

T TREASURE:

Financially supporting ministry through tithing and also other non-financial offerings. Strong stewardship can also help create a culture of gratitude.

I'd like to discuss "Time" this month. What does that mean, Time as a factor in Stewardship? Here are some thoughts I have found:

*Understanding that time belongs to God and is a finite resource that, once spent, cannot be recovered.

*Actively making the most of opportunities and shifting from a mindset of "busyness" to one of "purpose" and "faithfulness".



*Focusing on tasks with lasting significance, such as spiritual growth, serving others, and strengthening relationships, over purely selfish or materialistic pursuits.

*Using practical tools like planning, time-blocking, and setting boundaries (e.g., reducing social media, organizing routines) to ensure time is allocated to God's priorities.

*Incorporating regular, needed rest (R&R) to be refreshed for service, rather than working to the point of burnout.

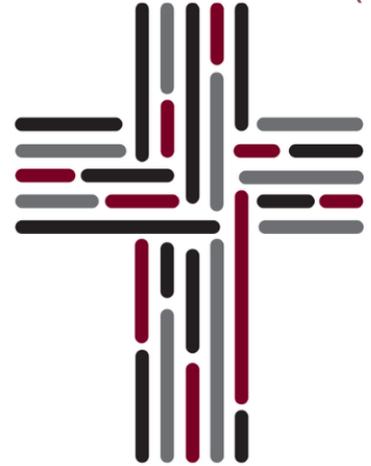
All of us can be good Stewards of our Time spent in God's world. If you would like to join our committee as we develop ideas for the benefit of St. John's UMC please contact me at melissa.kay.morse@gmail.com

The recent winter storms have created an interruption in our meeting schedule but I will announce a new meeting date and time soon and I'm happy to send that to you if you are interested.

submitted by Melissa Morse, Committee Chair

St. John's United Methodist Church
130 Tom Hall Street | P.O. Box 1298
Fort Mill, South Carolina 29716

Phone: (803) 547-7538 Fax: (803) 547-7539
Email: stjohnsfm@comporium.net
Website: www.stjohnsfm.org



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
Suzanne Fisher Kitchen Coordinator
Maggie Helms Custodian
Katherine Burns Music Makers Director
Amber Boan Golden Ringers Director
Oriana Gilmore Nursery Worker
Jenna Barino Nursery Worker

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