

# ~The St. John's Post~

May 2026 Edition

## I Am Doing A New Thing

As we prepare to turn the calendar to a new month—one filled with meaningful celebrations like Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, graduations, Confirmation Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, and Memorial Day—we want to celebrate a special group of people in our community. On Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, I am inviting everyone 50-plus to a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 11:30 am. Come as my guest and enjoy a time of fellowship, good food and meaningful conversation.

We will be honored to welcome Mr. Arthur Spriggs, Executive Director of Camps and Retreats for the United Methodist Camp in South Carolina. He will share an inspiring message centered around the theme, "Doing A New Thing."

*50+ Luncheon  
May 7  
11:30 am  
Fellowship Center*

*Isaiah 40:13*

*Reflection*

This gathering will be a wonderful opportunity to reflect on how God continues to move in fresh and meaningful ways in our lives and in our community.

The theme for the day is reflection on Isaiah 40:13. Of new beginnings and renewal, "See, I am doing a new thing." As we enter our fifties, life begins to make transitions, like becoming empty nesters, upcoming weddings, and changes in family dynamics. We all experience times when we feel tired and burdened by life's challenges. It is during these moments that we must remember the promises God makes of new beginnings and renewal. When we feel lost or stagnant, the Bible reassures us that God is always at work creating fresh opportunities for growth and transformation in our lives. By believing in God's promises, we open ourselves to receive the blessings that God has planned for us. Isaiah 40:13 reminds us that change is not only possible but also beautiful when it is rooted in faith.

Whether you are new to our church family or have been with us for years, this gathering is a chance to connect, be encouraged, and look ahead with hope. I would love for you to join us and be part of this special time together. Please come and bring a friend, and enjoy the blessing of fellowship as we explore what it means to do a new thing together.

Please make sure you sign up by May 4<sup>th</sup> and May the 4<sup>th</sup> be with you on that day.

I am looking forward to seeing you on May 7<sup>th</sup> as we move forward in doing a new thing!

Shalom,

Karen



# May Celebrations

**May 1:** Lily James, Dave Robertson & Bri Natoli  
Jon & Jaimie Young (Happy Anniversary)

**May 2:** Glory Creel

**May 3:** Beverly Anderson & Owen Isenhour

**May 4:** David & Kindle Fisher (Happy Anniversary)

**May 5:** August DeTombeur

**May 7:** Darby Johnson  
Rob & Patty Robinson (Happy Anniversary)

**May 8:** Bill Davies, Jennifer Hardymon & Minda Siebert  
Don & Mary Fortier (Happy Anniversary)

**May 9:** Katelyn Fisher & Michael Miller

**May 10:** Jan Patterson & Jamie Lewis

**May 11:** TC Fuller

**May 12:** Harriett Bouldin, Linda Spinks & Russ Williamson

**May 13:** Lisa Henley & Terri Honea

**May 14:** Jason Creel, Richard Stark & Nick Starnes  
Steve & Bri Natoli (Happy Anniversary)

**May 16:** April Brown & Sarah Robertson

**May 20:** Rhett Crocker

**May 21:** Joe & Suzanne Fisher (Happy Anniversary)

**May 22:** Charlotte Adkins & Kenny Rouse

**May 23:** R.W. Edmondson, Larry Sweatt & Paige Williams  
Brad & Heidi McDonald (Happy Anniversary)

**May 24:** Staci Smith

**May 25:** Warren Anderson & Parker Harroff  
Nelson & Judy Odom (Happy Anniversary)

**May 26:** Cathy Damm, Whitt Harroff & George Rhinehardt

**May 27:** Gilbert & Beverly Anderson (Happy Anniversary)

**May 28:** Betty B. Ervin  
Tom & Marilyn Turner (Happy Anniversary)

**May 30:** Robyn Grant  
Jimmy Wolfe & Joan Pate (Happy Anniversary)

**May 31:** Steve Natoli

# May Events & Reminders

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

[www.stjohnsfm.org](http://www.stjohnsfm.org)

[stjohnsfm@comporium.net](mailto:stjohnsfm@comporium.net)

## Sunday Schedule:

8:30 am Worship Service

9:30 am Hospitality

10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service

## May 7 @ 11:30 am

50+ Luncheon & Guest Speaker (FC)

## Upcoming Meetings:

May 3 @ 12:15 pm-VBS Volunteer Meeting (FC)

May 17 @ 12:15 pm - Kindness Week Meeting (FC)

May 18 @ 6:30 pm - Finance Committee Meeting (MBC)

## Exercise with Avis

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

## Lunch Buddies:

Lunch Buddies will meet on Tuesday, May 19 (11:30am) at Trio Restaurant at 10709 McMullen Creek Parkway off Route 51 in Pineville. With a large variety of menu items and a great atmosphere, we have enjoyed Trio in the past. Please sign up by Sunday, May 17, to enjoy our tradition of food, fun, and fellowship!

## Sundays in May:

May 3: Communion Sunday (Offering supports VBS)

May 10: Mother's Day (Epworth Offering)

May 17: Graduation Sunday (11:00 am Service)

May 24: Confirmation Sunday (11:00 am Service)

Pentecost Sunday

May 31: Trinity Sunday/5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Breakfast

## Connections: Painting Class

Saturday, May 16 @ 10:00 am

Check out the Connections page for more information.

## FM Strawberry Festival

Friday, May 1

4pm - 10pm

Saturday, May 2

9am - 10pm

## The Saturday Project

Saturday, May 23 is the next Saturday Project.

Check out the Missions page for more details!

## Circle Meetings:

Clara Phillips Circle - Monday, May 11  
5:00 pm (handbell room)

Morning Glory Circle - Tuesday, May 12  
10:30 am (MBC)

## May 25-Memorial Day:

Church Office Closed

## May 29-Summer Office Hours

Friday, May 29 will begin our summer office hours. The church office will be open Mon-Thurs (8:30am-2:30pm) and closed on Fridays.

## Last Community Meal:

May 6 from 5:15pm-6:30pm

Hamburgers, Potato Salad, Baked Beans and Dessert

*\*This will be a FREE meal.*

# KINDNESS WEEK 2026



## This year we will be partnering with local non-profits:

- Fort Mill Care Center
- Pilgrim's Inn
- Defend the Fatherless
- Rise Against Hunger
- Classroom Central
- Operation Christmas Child
- Operation Gratitude
- Bethel Shelters
- Isaiah House
- Roof Above

## Events Coming:

- Day of Giving Back
- Lemonade Stand
- Free Car Wash
- Humble Cup Coffee Give Away
- Feeding 15,000 with Rise Against Hunger
- Operation Christmas Child Boxes
- Meals for First Responders
- Meal for the Bethel Shelter
- Gifts for Veterans and current service members
- Feeding our local bands
- Sandwiches for the homeless

July 17, 2026-  
July 25, 2026



ST. JOHN'S UMC  
FORT MILL, SC

LET US NOT LOVE WITH WORDS OR SPEECH  
BUT WITH ACTIONS AND IN TRUTH.

1 JOHN 3:18



[www.stjohnsfm.org](http://www.stjohnsfm.org)



# May Community Meal

**May 6** (5:15pm–6:30pm)

Hamburgers  
Potato Salad  
Baked Beans  
Dessert



## Small Groups

- Bible Study
- "The Chosen"

## Family Fun Night

We will have a family fun night. REAL Kids will not meet.

## **FREE**

This is our last meal of the season. There is NO COST for this meal. However, we still need folks to sign up so we purchase enough food. Sign up online or on the sign up board by the Sunday before the meal. Thank you!



# Bible Quiz

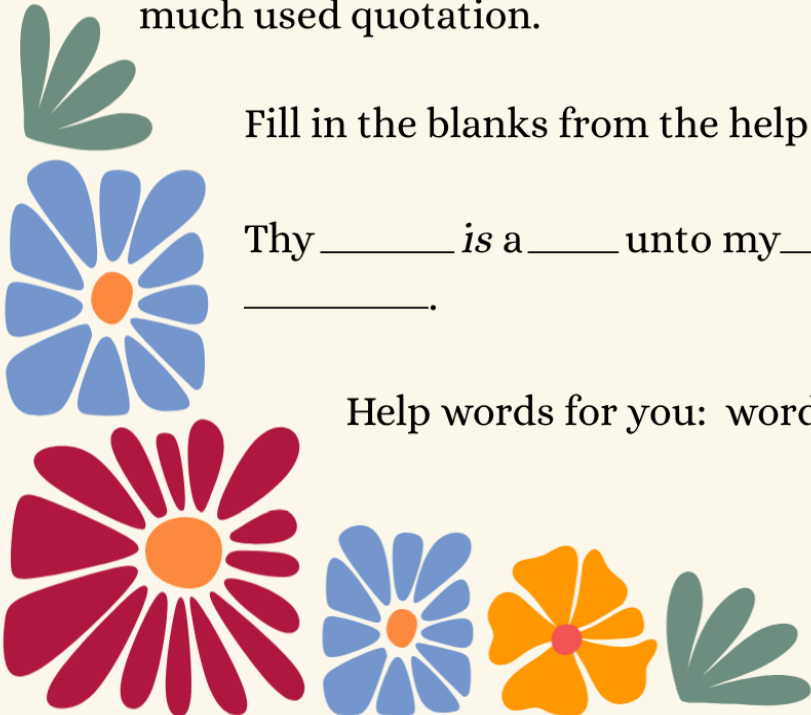
Thirty-five years ago on a quiet Sunday afternoon Betty and I left our home in Ohio for a drive through the nearby quiet Pennsylvania countryside.

At age 60, I was in my thirty-eighth year as a Bible teacher with a successful career in Industrial Engineering. I turned to Betty and said, "I will not feel my life has been complete if I do not pastor a church." She replied, "Why don't you pursue it?" It was a big change but God was in it with me for the next 20 years.

It has been my way in life to seek God's guidance. When change comes one's way, it helps to place one's faith in God's word.

My question for you is two-fold. **"Do you seek God's guidance in life?"** and **"What does the Bible say?"**

One place you find the answer is in **Psalm 119:105** (KJV) which is a much used quotation.



Fill in the blanks from the help words provided.

Thy \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_ unto my \_\_\_\_\_, and a \_\_\_\_\_ unto my \_\_\_\_\_.

Help words for you: word, path, lamp, light, feet

submitted by Rev. Bob Romanello



# CONNECTIONS

Barri Helms & Denise Holland  
Co-Chairs

## PAINTING CLASS:

The Connections Team is excited to host an acrylic painting class. Our own Ruth Orwig will lead a patriotic-themed painting session on Saturday, May 16 beginning at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Center.

This class is open to all ages and is designed to be a fun, relaxed time of creativity and fellowship.

The cost is \$6 to cover supplies, payable on the day of the class. Please sign up in advance so we can prepare enough materials for everyone.

Come join us for a wonderful morning of painting and enjoying each other's company.

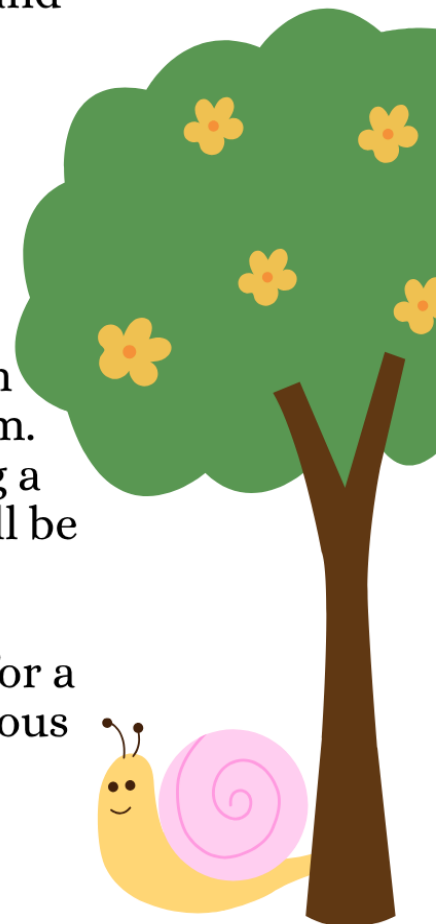
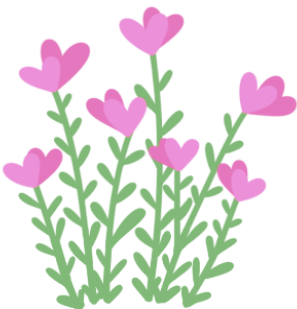
Call Barri Helms with questions at 704-458-8425.

Sign up on REALM or the sign up board!

## 5TH SUNDAY BREAKFAST:

We're excited for our next 5th Sunday Breakfast on Sunday, May 31, immediately following the 8:30 a.m. worship service. Please sign up to attend and bring a breakfast item to share. The Connections Team will be providing sausage biscuits.

We look forward to gathering together for a wonderful time of fellowship and delicious food!



# Fort Mill Strawberry Festival

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***The United Methodist Men will be coordinating parking for the Strawberry Festival this year!***

***Volunteers are needed to help make this important fundraiser a success. If you're available, please sign up to lend a hand.***

***If you have any questions, contact the church office. Lunch will be provided on Saturday, and refreshments will be available both days.***

***Thank you for supporting St. John's UMM!***

# CHILDREN & YOUTH

## He Is Risen—And So Were Our Spirits This Easter!

What a joyful Easter season we had together! From laughter and games to awe-inspiring moments of new life and celebration, our church was alive with energy and hope.

### Easter Egg Hunt Was a Blast!

Our Easter Egg Hunt was full of fun, laughter, and community! Families of all ages came together to enjoy games, crafts, and a fun Easter Egg Hunt. Whether you were hunting eggs, eating snacks or crafting the perfect Easter craft, you helped make it a joyful celebration of Jesus' resurrection!

### From Cup to Sky—Our Butterfly Watch

This year, we once again witnessed the beauty of new life as our butterflies emerged from their chrysalises right in time for Easter morning. Even with a rainy Easter setting the backdrop, children and adults alike watched their transformation with joy, a gentle reminder of hope and renewal.. Releasing them on Easter morning, in the midst of the gentle rain, made for a peaceful and meaningful moment we won't soon forget.



Thank you to everyone who volunteered, participated, and helped make this Easter season so special. From the tiniest butterfly watchers to our faithful youth helpers, you brought the story of Jesus to life in our community.



We're looking forward to celebrating Graduation Sunday on May 17 at the 11:00 A.M. service—come cheer on our amazing graduates! Our final REAL Kids gathering will be on April 29th during the Community Meal and Worship, so don't miss this special night of fun and fellowship. And to wrap up the youth season with a bang, we're going GO-KARTING!!!! We will meet up on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Keep an eye out for more information!!!



# WEE School News

Beth Meador, Director

## 2025-2026 School Year

As our school year is winding down, the W.E.E. School staff would like to thank the entire congregation for their support this school year! Your prayers have helped us be a blessing to the wonderful children that come through our doors each week! It has been a wonderful and exciting school year!

thank  
you



## W.E.E. School 2026-2027

We have spots currently available for the upcoming school year. If you would like more information, please contact Beth Meador (803)548-6557 or [sjumcweeschool@gmail.com](mailto:sjumcweeschool@gmail.com)


## W.E.E. School Fundraiser/Spirit Nights

Thank you for coming out and supporting our spirit nights this school year. Be on the lookout in September for the 2026-2027 spirit nights.

## W.E.E. School Summer Camp

The W.E.E. School offers 6 weeks of summer camp in June and July for children 3 years old (by September 1<sup>st</sup>) through children entering kindergarten in the Fall 2026.

We still have a few spots available. If you are interested or know someone who may be interested and would like more information, please contact Beth Meador [sjumcweeschool@gmail.com](mailto:sjumcweeschool@gmail.com)



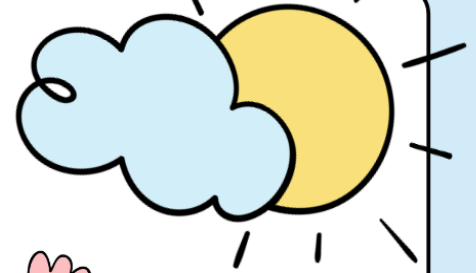
# United Women in Faith

On May 10, we will celebrate Mother's Day and remember the women who have influenced our personal life by actions, words, and example.

In the United Women in Faith, we remember the many strong leaders who have come before us and have led by example in years past.

**Clara Swain (1834-1910)** was born in New York and was the first woman medical missionary to India. She was sponsored by the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Dr. Swain worked at a girl's orphanage in India and later helped establish the first hospital in India for women and children, The Clara Swain Missionary Hospital.

**Isabel Thoburn (1840-1901)** was born in Ohio and was the first female missionary sponsored by the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. She served in North India with her brother, James Mills Thoburn. Isabel was a teacher, missionary, and college administrator.



## **Mary Gensel (1936-)**

Mom is a devoted follower of Christ who lives out her faith through service and generosity. She is "mountain strong!"--a 90 year old who is sweeping her porch, hanging laundry on the line, and going out to feed corn to the wildlife, all in less than 2 months after breaking her hip! *Nancy Rivers*

## **Ruth Nelsen Gaither (1921-1991)**

My mother served in the WSCS and UMW at our home church for many years. She traveled to Egypt with a charity providing hospital equipment and spent a month organizing the hospital's library. *Barbara Gaither*

## **Lydia Daniels**

My aunt Ekie (Lydia Daniels) taught me all I knew about the Bible. She taught me how to play "canasta" and how to be fair and generous to everyone, no matter their race, color or creed. *Brenda Little*



**Mrs. Chamberlaine** She was my 7th grade teacher in Middle School. As an upcoming teenager, she was an influence in my young life, helping to prepare me for becoming an adult. *Joy Honeycutt*



### **Essie Mae Pryor**

The most influential person in my life other than my mother and grandmother was the lady who actually “raised me”. Essie Mae Pryor arrived in my life when I was 5 years old. She physically left my life when I was around 40. But, the morals and the beliefs she instilled in me continue to direct my life daily.

*Martha Sides*



### **Julia O’Neil**

An influential woman in my life was Miss Julia O’Neil who was my 5th grade teacher (she was also my father’s teacher)! She encouraged me to keep reading and to learn all the things I could. She followed me, even to my graduation, and she sent me an encouraging note when she found out I was going to be a teacher.

*Charlene Williams*

### **Gertrude Coursen**

My grandmother was a strong and loving presence in my life. My memories with her are teaching me how to bake soft ginger cookies, having butter cookies and tea before bed, and holding her hand when we went to sleep. Going to church with her on Sundays was a blessing.

*Ruth Orwig*

### **Donna I. Smyser**

My mother, Donna I. Smyser, was born in 1905 at her home in Wichita, Kansas. She graduated from KU, married, and raised two girls. She loved to read, sew, garden, and take trips. We had a happy home, and our church played a very big part in our lives.

*Elaine Cryderman*

### **Mary Louise Grimsley**

My mother was educated as a registered nurse. She stayed home with my sister and me since our father, a railroad engineer, was often away. She took us to dance and piano lessons as well as girl scouts and church activities. She also did the cooking. Her mother lived with us and often kept us when our parents were away. When I went away to college in North Carolina, she wrote letters every day, something I needed to help my homesickness. At the same time she took on the responsibilities of a volunteer at McLeod Hospital in Florence. Later, as she aged and was left alone after my father passed away, my mother lived in a senior living facility. She passed away at age 94.

*Susan Spencer*



### **Martha Hatchett (1903-1995)**

I am grateful to Miss Martha Hatchett, a second grade teacher at Carothers Elementary, who shared her apartment with me when I began my teaching career. She introduced me to an active Women’s program at St. John’s United Methodist Church, including craft fairs and bazaars.

*Joyce Kimbrell*



Stewardship

# STEWARDSHIP

Melissa Morse, Stewardship Chair

## Hello from the Stewardship Committee!

### Just a few notes to bring you up to date on the Stewardship Committee:

-We did not have our scheduled meeting in January due to the winter storms. It was rescheduled and held in March so we will not have a meeting in April. Our next scheduled meeting will be held July 26<sup>th</sup>. If you have ideas or feedback you would like to offer, please contact me directly; don't think you have to wait for a committee meeting.

-The focus of Stewardship is changing slightly to a better definition for the congregation and an easier understanding of Stewardship's role in the church. It is Give. Serve. Attend. Grow. These cover essentially the same points as before – Time. Talent. Treasure. – but I think they are better descriptors and I love the fourth – Grow. That should be one of our primary goals, growth of our church.

-Here are the activities being planned for Stewardship Committee. Again, if any of these especially appeal to you and you would like to get started on them, please do not feel the need to wait until our next meeting in July. I am happy to talk with you about them now and work with you to begin a subcommittee on that topic.

- **Justin Isenhour offered a suggestion from the Finance Committee that our committee coordinate an estate planning session for St. John's on ways church members and others can remember the church in their wills.** There are several organizations in the area that are qualified to offer this and I would like to begin the process of gathering information from them about how this can be arranged. If you know of anyone who you think should be contacted for this purpose, please let me know.

- **Welcoming New Members** could be a new priority for Stewardship Committee. New members get information about St. John's in several different ways, but it would be helpful to the church if there was a welcoming item given to all new members that encompassed several aspects of our organization all in one place. It could be a bag or perhaps a binder or maybe a disc. We should discuss the best format, and what goes into it that would give a complete picture of St. John's and all that we have to offer, and plan for it to be finalized before the end of the year. Perhaps we could even gather feedback from recent new members.

- **Stewardship Sundays.** These are Sundays that begin later in the year and we will have more conversation about them at the July meeting.

- **Who Does St. John's Support?** Do you think members of the congregation have interest in knowing more about the groups and services that are supported by St. John's and their donations? The Stewardship Committee could explore how to identify those we help and what that help does for them, how it serves their needs. We could discuss the format for presenting this as well as the timing; do we present this throughout the year or do we make it a priority toward the end of the year when members are making decisions about their annual giving? Do we create videos to be presented at services that tell these stories or do we have people present their story in person?

I'm excited about what's ahead for Stewardship Committee. If you have additional ideas you would like us to discuss, or if you want to reach me for any reason you can always email me at [melissa.kay.morse@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.kay.morse@gmail.com).



# MISSIONS COMMITTEE NEWS

Amy Bartholomew, Committee Chair

## THE SATURDAY PROJECT

Our next Saturday Project will take place on May 16. We will have two options open to everyone, including families this month:

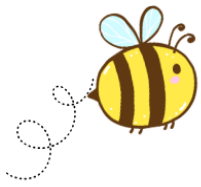
### WASHINGS OF HOPE

The bags we made earlier this year were a huge success at the laundromat in town. They were so appreciative that we've decided to do it again. We will be looking for donations of laundry detergent pods, dryer sheets, and sandwich bags. We need volunteers to meet in the Men's Bible Classroom at 10:00am to put the bags together. It will take less than an hour. People of all ages are welcome!

### 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 10:00am: 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 the lists of donation requests in the donation center outside the door to the fellowship hall. We are focusing on collections for the Bethel Shelter this month. Check the list for their current needs.



# MAY MISSION SPOTLIGHT



## MAXABILITIES OF YORK COUNTY

Prior to 1960, individuals with intellectual disabilities had very limited options. They either lived with their families or in state-run institutions. There was limited access to schools or other activities that allowed them to live as included members of their home community. In 1960 a group of dedicated Rock Hill citizens started to change the status quo. Locally run and privately funded small programs started to be developed to meet the needs of families.

In 1962, The York County ARC was formed. The ARC provided services and more importantly, community education about the needs of this special group of citizens. As a result of changing mindsets and greater education, more people became involved in these efforts. Camp ARC, Betty Smith Kindergarten and New Horizons were developed.

In 1980, the York County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs was created to provide service to individuals with special needs. The service was later expanded to include trauma brain injury, spinal cord injury, and autism. In 2016, the agency rebranded its name as MaxAbilities of York County. This combined the two keywords in the agency's mission statement: Maximize Abilites.

They provide a wide array of community services for eligible individuals. They have assisted numerous individuals in accessing needed services and developing fuller, richer lives in their home community.

During Kindness Week, we will be visiting one of their adult homes. Many of these residents are older and no longer have relatives to visit them. We will spend time drawing or playing games and eating snacks. It is a wonderful opportunity.



# MUSIC NEWS

Sarah Ochoa-Hughey, Interim Music Director  
[sarahochomusic@gmail.com](mailto:sarahochomusic@gmail.com)

Join us for **Chancel Choir Rehearsals** this month!

We meet every **Wednesday at 7:00 PM** to prepare for upcoming services.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **End-of-Year Potluck (June):** A special gathering to honor everyone's hard work and contributions this year. Bring a dish to share and enjoy fellowship with fellow choir members! The date will be announced over REALM.
- **Father's Day Service:** We'll sing together to celebrate the occasion.

## SUMMER PLANS:

As the weather warms up, we're also looking ahead to summer services. If you're interested in **providing special music** for any of the summer services, please reach out to **Sarah Ochoa-Hughey** at your earliest convenience.



**NEW FOR 2026**

Esports Minecraft Academy  
Scratch Jr. Video Game Maker

K-Pop Demon Hunters  
Vex Robotics Battle Bots

Visit Our Website  
to See Our **NEW**  
Daily Schedule!

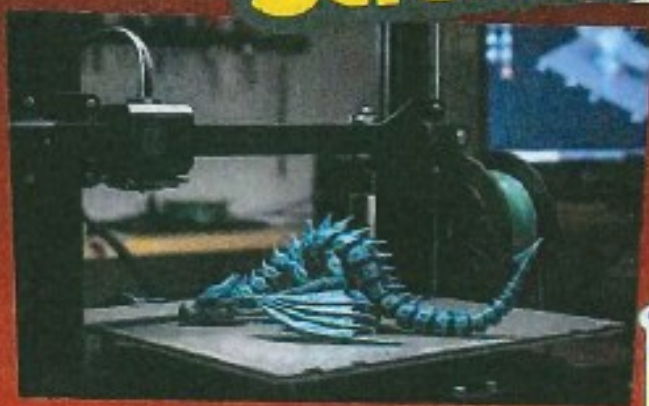
Go To Find a Camp  
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for a location near you!



# SUMMER CAMP!

## Science and Fun!



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**Reverend Karen H. Radcliffe, Senior Pastor**  
**864-313-9348 (Cell)**  
**[khradcliffe@umcsc.org](mailto: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.***