

WELCOME TO OUR

# Weekly Newsletter

*we're so glad you're here!*



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
**HEY, HOW ARE YOU THIS WEEK?**

A new year often feels like a deep breath after a long journey – a pause where we can look back with gratitude, learn from what's behind us, and step forward with renewed intention. It's not just about resolutions; it's about realignment.

A moment to reset – The turning of the calendar invites us to release what no longer serves us and make space for what will.

Carrying forward lessons – Every challenge from the past year becomes a stepping stone, shaping our resilience and perspective.

Embracing possibility – The blank pages ahead are not meant to be feared, but to be written with courage, kindness, and curiosity.

The beauty of a new year is that it doesn't demand perfection – only progress. Even the smallest steps forward can lead to meaningful change when taken with intention.

This year, let us welcome every day with gratitude, courage, and joy. May we trust our journey, embrace growth, and create a life filled with love, abundance, and purpose.

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13

# LET'S *connect*

## INVITING ALL

LOCAL CHURCH LAY LEADERS  
CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRS



Join us for conversation and making connections on  
January 31, 2026

11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Tranquil United Methodist Church  
1702 McCormick Hwy.  
Greenwood SC

Lunch will be provided.

RSVP to [gwdist@umcsc.org](mailto:gwdist@umcsc.org) by January 26, 2026



## January Clergy Meeting

Tuesday, January 20

Main St. UMC  
211 Main St. N  
Greenwood SC

We will welcome a special guest speaker. The topic will be church finances  
and making the most of your financial resources



# It's that time again!

## Completing Your Annual Statistical Reports

The deadline is **February 28, 2026**. Plan ahead and don't wait to the last minute to collect and enter your data.

Now is the time to begin gathering data for completing your 2025 statistical reports.

The website, ACStats ([stats.gcfa.org](https://stats.gcfa.org)), is open and ready for you.

All previous user logins have been deleted. Your **initial login** for this year is the church's GCFA number. The password associated with the church's GCFA number is *byourlove25!* (NOTE: it is case sensitive and must include the exclamation point). Once you have logged in under the church's login, you can set up your own personal login; however, the church's login will not change.

You can find resources to help you with the statistics input at <https://www.umcsc.org/statistics/>. You may also contact your district office ([gwdist@umcsc.org](mailto:gwdist@umcsc.org) or 864-223-2650).



**LIGHTS | CAMERA | ACTION**

SOUTH CAROLINA UMC  
**Lay Leadership  
Convocation**

January 9-10, 2026  
Journey UMC-Columbia 



**January 9-10, 2026**

**ALL Laity are invited and encouraged to attend.**

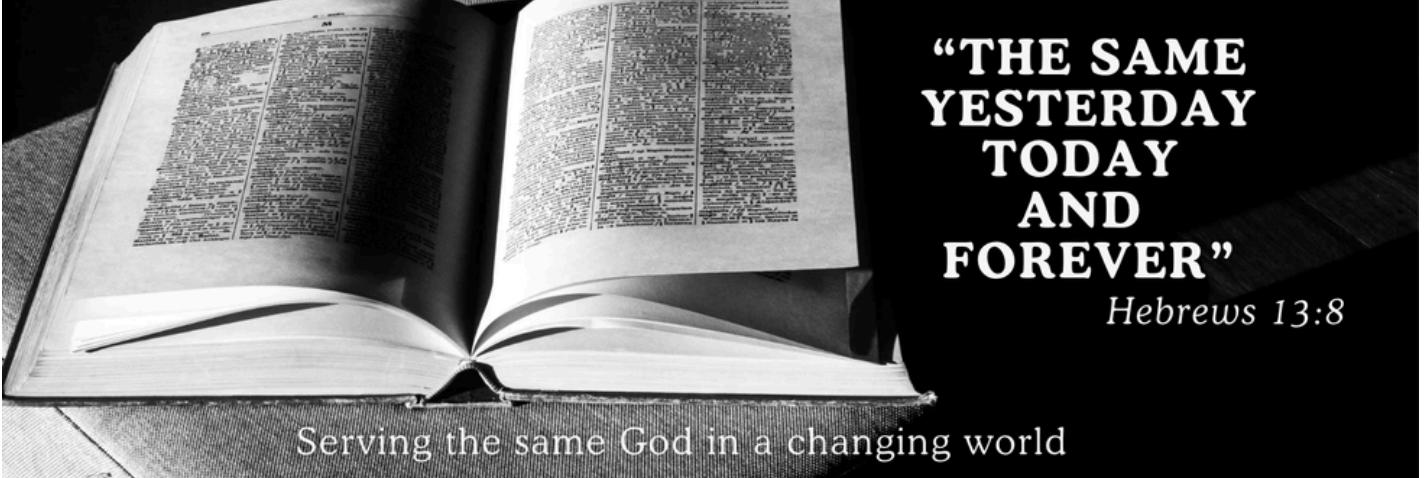
This is a hands-on learning opportunity, so please bring an electronic device (laptop, tablet, smartphone).

[Click here to register.](#)

Registration closes at midnight on January 4.

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## **The Bishop's School of Ministry**



**“THE SAME  
YESTERDAY  
TODAY  
AND  
FOREVER”**

*Hebrews 13:8*

Serving the same God in a changing world

Embassy Suites by Hilton  
9800 Queensway Blvd., Myrtle Beach  
February 3-5, 2026

[Full details available online.](#)

[Click here to register.](#)

Registration closes on January 19, 2026