



Together in Mission and Ministry

News from the Greenwood District

LOVE NOTES

THE FAST THAT WE CHOOSE



Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Love
District Superintendent

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noon-day. ¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Isaiah 58:8-12

On February 1, 2023, I attended a community prayer service of worship. Power of God at work through the prayers of the believers remains powerful for tearing down strongholds. Lent begins inviting us to take a journey with Jesus Christ toward the Cross. During this

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Lead Like Jesus Training Workshop
- 2023 Lay Servant Ministries School
- February Clergy Meeting

Connect with Us

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time many will enter into a time of fasting, prayer, reflection and self-examination. Spending this time helps us individually to draw closer to God and to be in God's will as we live out our life's purposes. Sometimes our distractions can lead us to lose sight of the importance of this special time with God. I ask each of you to join me as together we enter in this time of prayer and fasting for the Holy Spirit to guide us that we all may fulfill our calling and be used in ways that lead to the up-building of the kingdom of God. Isaiah 58 gives us the image of a broken community that lies in ruins, a community that needs attention, much like our communities. The prophet calls the people to a fast, a focus that positively impacts the lives of others. We are reminded, when we seek the Lord in all things and position ourselves in His will, then when we call on Him, He will answer, when we cry out to Him, He will say "here I am."

When we respond to the will of God and then call out to Him for guidance, He will say here I am. In the midst of the community needs in the parched places "here I am." In the midst of building relationships and moving beyond the walls of the church, "here I am." In the midst of the uncertainties that are a part of making disciples, "here I am." This is good news!

¹¹*The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.* ¹²*Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.*

We may be overwhelmed sometimes with the amount to be done and the little time in which to do what needs to be done. Remember that you are not alone and that the same God who brought us to these moments will bring us through. Then church, then laity, and pastors, we will be called the repairers of the breach, because God has called us to this task. Is this not the fast that we choose?

Grace and peace,



Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Love
District Superintendent

Happy Birthday

Happy Belated Birthday to:

January 13	Graham Bennett
January 18	Lynda Counts (Jimmy); Laura Barnett (Ben)
January 20	Cheryl Remchuk
January 22	Durand Hall
January 23	Christopher Richardson (Amanda)

February 1	Darlene Kelley
February 3	Tim Jones
February 6	Mark Remchuk (Cheryl)
February 8	Bill Rogers
February 11	R.T. Bowling
February 14	Steve Brown
February 16	Mike Evans
February 17	Bobbie Jean Rogers (Bill)
February 20	Shawn Armstrong Tamra Evans (James)



January 1	Jesse and Mimi Rogers
February 8	Mark and Cheryl Remchuk
February 15	Stephen and Mamie Love



Greenwood District Lay Servant Ministries has announced the dates of the 2023 Spring Lay Servant Ministry School: March 19 (2:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.) and March 26 (2:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.) The Spring School will be at First UMC, Laurens.

Courses offered are *Living Our Beliefs; Polity; Discover Your Spiritual Gifts; Ministry with the Forgotten; and Opening Ourselves to Grace*. The cost is \$30 per course.

Registration is online or by mail. [Click here to register online](#). Registration **deadline** is March 3. Any registration sent by mail must be postmarked no later than March 3.

Full details have been shared with pastors, current lay servants, and are on the [Greenwood District webpage](#).

Lent begins on February
22, Ash Wednesday



MARCH 2023 CLERGY MEETING

The March Clergy Meeting is set for **February 14, 10:00 a.m. via ZOOM**. The link will be sent to all pastors via email.

Mark your calendars now for March 13. Remember that all pastors, appointed and assigned, are expected to attend these monthly clergy meetings.

SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING



When was the last Safe Sanctuary training event held at your church? One year ago? Two years ago? Never? Well now is the time to schedule a training event. Why not contact the other churches in your area and schedule a joint training session.

The Greenwood District currently has two trainers: [Rev. Nona Woodle](#) and [Martha Alewine](#). Contact one of them to schedule the training for your church/charge.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE BREATHE AND BELIEVE, HEWING HOPE

[Check out the Annual Conference information online](#). Hotels are filling fast!! The preliminary agenda is also available.



Check-in begins at 8:00 a.m.
Shotgun starts at 9:00 a.m.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES MEETING

The March meeting of Connectional Ministries is set for Thursday, March 16, 7:00 p.m.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

DCOM will meet on **Monday, March 20**. Please note the change in meeting days for this meeting.

CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR TEAM?



WE KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP.

Picture This: Leaders in every walk of life who practice love-based leadership. These are leaders who lead like Jesus, who love their colleagues and followers, and who strive to get them to where God wants them to go.

Love-based leadership can be a reality for pastors and church leaders when everyone learns to *Lead Like Jesus*.

- Align your heart, head, hands and habits with the transformative leadership model of Jesus
- Discover the difference between power-based and love-based leadership
- Learn practical skills for coaching those you lead
- Uncover how pride and fear are inhibiting your individual and church effectiveness
- Establish meaningful goals rooted in your vision and core values
- Build daily habits that foster personal growth and drive long-term change

WHERE CAN YOU GET THE LEAD LIKE JESUS TRAINING?

March 10-11, 2023 Friday: 5:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. Saturday 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Belvedere UMC
202 Rhomboid Place
North Augusta, SC 29841

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration is required to ensure adequate materials for all participants.

*Churches are encouraged to bring a team that includes the pastor and church leaders.
(Individuals are also welcome)*

COST: \$10 per person; \$50 for a team of 6-10); \$70 for a team of 10 or more

Registration Deadline: March 3, 2023

Click here to register online: [Greenwood District Registration - Lead Like Jesus - South Carolina UMC](#)

SAVE THE DATE!!

Carolinas Black Clergy Leadership Retreat



"Come, experience Christ's healing, wholeness and presence"
May 22-26, 2023 | Kingston Plantation Resort | Myrtle Beach



Registration is now open:

[2023 Carolina Black Clergy Leadership Retreat - South Carolina UMC \(umcsc.org\)](https://umcsc.org)

Clergy \$150 (in person) Laity \$100 (in person) Online \$75 Spouse \$75
No refunds after April 15, 2023

Registration includes dinner Monday at the Original Benjamin's Calabash Seafood and lunch on Wednesday.

Hotel reservations must be made through the hotel by April 15., 2023.
Register for the event first and then you will receive an email with a link to book your hotel room.