

WELCOME TO OUR

Weekly Update

thanks for stopping by!



SpiritShore 2026 Retreat

May 18–May 22, 2026

Kingston Plantation & Resort
9800 Queensway Blvd.
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29528

*Registration closes on May 11.
On-site registration will be available.*

Vision • Voice • Victory

Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time...though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

Habakkuk 2:2–3 (NIV)

Formerly known as the Carolina Black Clergy Leadership Retreat, this renewed name – SpiritShore – reflects the deep and abiding power of gathering at the shore.

At the shore, the waves return again and again – steady, faithful, and life giving. So too does God’s presence meet us here, calling us into renewal, restoration, and recommitment. As an African proverb reminds us, *“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”* SpiritShore is a place where we journey together – as leaders, learners, and beloved community.

This retreat is for **both clergy and laity** – from across the Carolinas and beyond. All are welcome. It is a space for mutual learning and leading, where wisdom is shared across generations and contexts. We will gather around the powerful vision of The United Methodist Church:

Love Boldly | **Serve Joyfully** | **Lead Courageously**

Conference registration is now open:

<https://www.umcsc.org/spiritshoreregistration/>

The Hilton Kingston Plantation Resort is the exclusive lodging partner. The retreat rate link will be provided after your registration is complete. Single, double, triple, and quad occupancy are available. Inquire about the lodging scholarships that are available.



Update on the 2026 Apportionments

As of April 22, this is where the district stands with apportionment payments:

0% paid: 12 churches
1-10% paid: 10 churches
11 - 25% paid: 8 churches
26-50% paid: 8 churches
51 - 75% paid: 2 churches
76-99% paid: 0 churches
100% paid: 3 churches

Special thanks to **Kings Chapel UMC, Sharon UMC, and Trinity, Greenwood** for paying 100% of their 2026 apportionments!

When you give to your local United Methodist church, part of your offering goes beyond your congregation to support important ministries and mission work across the country and around the world. This shared giving, called "apportioned giving," allows United Methodists everywhere to work together to care for others and spread hope where it's needed most.

Generosity unites us in impact and is how we live out our faith to make a real difference. United in impact, we do more together than we ever could alone.



<https://www.umc.org/en/how-we-serve/umcgiving/apportioned-funds>

Find all information about Annual Conference 2026 online at umcsc.org/ac2026

Volunteers are still needed as greeters, at the check-in tables, and as shuttle drivers. Check out the available areas that need help and sign up for a date and time that works for you. On the Annual Conference webpage, click on the link for **Volunteers**.

What to do if your lay delegate to Annual Conference changes?

- You should notify the district office of the change and include all contact information for the replacement delegate. **Note:** The deadline for submitting change forms is May 27.
- A Lay Delegate Change Form will be created for you and the D.S. will sign it.
- The Change Form will be submitted to the Conference Secretary via email.
- You will receive a copy of the submitted form.
- You should give a copy of the change form to your new lay delegate.
- The Lay Delegate should take that change form with him/her to Annual Conference.
- You should remind your new Lay Delegate to register for Annual Conference.
- ***If neither the Lay Delegate nor Alternate can attend, Church Council may elect a new delegate. Follow the above steps for creating a Lay Delegate Change Form.***



On Tuesday, June 9, during Annual Conference in Greenville, all clergy and laity are invited to join together to pack 125,000 meals with Rise Against Hunger.

Let us gather to love boldly, lead courageously, and serve joyfully in this Annual Conference Mission Project!

There are 2 important ways to get involved:

1. **Sign up to volunteer** on June 9 - set up, pack meals, or clean up shifts available - all ability & mobility levels can participate!

2. **Give!** We need to raise \$53,780 to cover the cost of the food, packing materials and shipping fees. (Give online or send checks to the conference office, made to UMCSC, for "Rise Against Hunger")

For more information, including volunteer registration and online giving, please visit: <https://www.umcsc.org/ac2026/>



Annual Conference registration ends on May 27.



Registration for the summer camps is now open.

[Click on the REGISTRATION link.](#)

Camps for the week of July 11-18 include Columbia, North Augusta, and Emerald City (Greenwood).

Camps for the week of July 18-25 include Calhoun County.

Camps for the week of July 19-24 include Newberry.

All camps are listed on the [webpage](#). Scroll down the page to the camp information.



Use this article, [Taking Stock of Your Social Media Stack](#), by Rebecca Ervin, to assess how well your church is represented on the most popular social media platforms.

- Are you using Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, X (Twitter)?
- Who is engaging/interacting/following your social media accounts?
- Do your posts reflect the life and ministry of your church?

How do you feel about this illustration?



According to the [Barna Group](#), practicing Christians and pastors disagree on the growing influence of AI:

- 66 percent of practicing Christians say AI is improving their lives, yet 57 percent also say AI is a threat.
- Pastors differ sharply from the Christians they lead with 72 percent saying AI is a threat.

Where do you stand in this AI divide? Is AI something to embrace or should we be cautious, leary even, of the rising ubiquitousness of AI?

Read the article, [Christians View AI as a Gift—and a Threat](#), published April 14, 2026.

Leadership Education at Duke Divinity School has officially changed its name to Forum for Congregational Life. [Read the announcement here.](#)