

WELCOME TO OUR
Weekly Newsletter
we're so glad you're here!

Not More Thanksgiving Trivia!

Approximately how many people plan to use AI to help with Christmas shopping this year?

How much are people projected to spend online on Black Friday 2025?

What was the first retailer to sponsor a Thanksgiving Day parade?

Which turkey gobbles? Male or Female

Which Native American tribe shared that first Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims?

What is considered the classic dessert for Thanksgiving?

When was the first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade held?





DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING



Sunday, November 16, 2025

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

St. Paul UMC
102 E. Butler Ave., Saluda

Sessions Include:

- Alternate Church Organization – Rev. Millie Nelson Smith
- Church Council – Rev. Joe Long
- Finances – Ms. Beth Westbury
- Lay Leadership – Ms. Sandy Shaffer
- Nominations and Leadership Development – Rev. Joseph James
- S/PPRC - Rev. Christopher Lollis
- Outreach and Nurture
- Trustees

Who Should Attend:

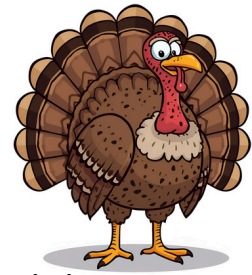
- Church Council Chair and Members
- Finance Chair, Financial Secretary, Members of Committee on Finance
- Lay Leaders and anyone interested in ministry of the laity
- Members of the Board of Trustees
- Chair of Outreach and Nurture Committees/ Work Areas
- S/PPRC Chairs and committee members

No registration is required

Healthflex

Open Enrollment

October 29 - November 13



Trivia Answers

Check your email (remember we only use your Conference email address) for more information regarding the Open Enrollment period and any possible action you may need to take regarding your health insurance.

Complete directions are in the email. If you have questions about your health insurance, contact Stephanie Ponds Henry (sponds@umcsc.org or 803-735-8795.)

- 54% plan to use AI to help with Christmas shopping this year.
- Online shoppers are projected to spend 10.5+ **billion** dollars on Black Friday alone.
- Gimbel's Dept. Store in Philadelphia sponsored the first Thanksgiving Day Parade in 1920.
- Macy's first Thanksgiving Day Parade was held in 1924.
- The Wampanoag Tribe shared Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims.
- Pumpkin Pie is considered the classic Thanksgiving Day dessert.
- Only male turkeys gobble.



call to **ACTION**

**GCFA-SPONSORED WEBINAR
NOVEMBER 12
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (EASTERN TIME)**

[Click here to register](#)

Whether your church has a full website or none at all, there are simple ways to create a meaningful online presence. This webinar is designed for United Methodist churches and ministries looking to improve, or establish, how they're represented online. We'll walk through four key options—from leveraging the UMC's Find-A-Church tool and using Facebook as your primary site, to partnering with third-party church platforms or building on platforms, like Wix or WordPress. Join this webinar to see which option fits your church's needs, tech comfort level, and budget.

This webinar might be a good lead-in to the topic of AI at Clergy Orders.



The positions are for Saluda, Edgefield, and Orangeburg counties.

The full job description and where to send an application/resume is [available online](#).

Please share this information with anyone you know who may be qualified and interested in working in one of these counties.

Meet the Author

The Reverend Robby Lybrand, associate pastor at St. Mark UMC in Greenwood and faculty member in the USC College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management, has published three books, *Radical Hospitality: Creating a Culture of Welcome in the Church*, *If God Said Yes*, and *Sacred Chaos: Finding Grace and Purpose in the Messy Middle of Parenting*.



How can churches create a ministry of hospitality by using a spiritual lens? What if God said “Yes” to what you had prayed for? How can a parent love Jesus and their children in the throes of everyday life?

Your answer to these questions might just be found in [Robby's books](#).

Make This a Tradition for Your Advent/Christmas Celebrations

The poster is for the "Return to Bethlehem" event. It features a dark, atmospheric background with warm, golden light. At the top, the text "RETURN TO BETHLEHEM" is written in large, bold, yellow capital letters. Below this, in smaller white capital letters, is "AN IMMERSIVE NATIVITY EXPERIENCE". The dates "DECEMBER 10-13, 2023" are prominently displayed in large, bold, yellow capital letters. Below the dates, the times "ADA DRIVE-THRU... 6 - 6:30 PM" and "GUIDED TOURS... 6:30 - 8:30 PM" are listed in white capital letters. At the bottom, there is a photograph of the event, showing people in a nativity scene. Below the photo, the text "GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH" and "639 GEORGIA AVENUE, NORTH AUGUSTA, SC" is written in white. At the very bottom, the contact information "803-279-7525 | WWW.GOTGRACEUMC.ORG/BETHLEHEM" is displayed in white.

