

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



## Doors and Windows Glow

Walking down my road at Christmas  
Doors and windows glow.  
I want to peek behind then all  
To see which picture each will show.

Christmas tree  
Twinkling star  
Day by day  
Door by door  
Gingerbread  
Nativity  
One by one  
'Til twenty-four

Like an Advent calendar  
With rectangles of golden light  
Houses filled with Christmas love  
Whisper miracles tonight.

-Amy LV



TikTok just launched a feature that lets you control how much AI-generated content shows up in your For You feed. You can dial it up, dial it down, or leave it as-is. It's basically a volume knob for the robot stuff.

Honestly? We're impressed TikTok is giving users the choice. Meta and OpenAI are going all-in on AI-only feeds, while TikTok's like, "hey maybe people still want to see actual humans doing dumb dances."

Actually, more important than that, many young people use TikTok as their defacto search engine. If that terrifies you, congratulations! You're old! We asked someone this week if they "TikToked" like we Google...and their answer "for quick answers" was a 100% "yes." So [it might be a good thing that] you can tune down AI content now if you're using [TikTok] as your #1 source of information!

Also, the company is testing "invisible watermarks" that only TikTok can read, making it harder to strip AI labels when content gets re-uploaded. Smart move, because those C2PA Content Credentials everyone uses disappear faster than our motivation on Monday mornings.

Reprinted from *The Neuron*, November 24, 2025. [Read \*The Neuron\* online.](#)

## Direct Billing Savings

Beginning January 1, 2026, the ACH direct billing discount will increase from \$15/month to \$1800/month. Sign up today for the automatic draft to pay your direct billing. Read about it on page 24 of this month's *The Advocate*. Still have questions? Contact Stephanie Ponds Henry ([spondshenry@umcsc.org](mailto:spondshenry@umcsc.org) or 803-735-8795).



## Advisory Response Forms

REMINDER: The Advisory Response Forms from clergy and PPRCs are due in the District Office by December 15. The forms were sent to all clergy and all PPRC chairs in November. You may submit the completed forms by email ([gwdist@umcsc.org](mailto:gwdist@umcsc.org)) or through the mail (Greenwood District, PO Box 49968, Greenwood 29649). Please do not include our street address on the envelop because the Post Office will return it to you.

If another copy of the Advisory Response Forms is needed, please contact the district office.

**ALL members of the PPRC must sign both forms. The pastor must sign both forms.**



## District Christmas Gathering

It's not too late to let us know you will join us for the 2025 Christmas gathering.

December 18  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Inn on the Square  
104 Court St. East  
Greenwood

Fun and laughter are guaranteed with our White Elephant gift exchange. Please bring **one wrapped gift per person to swap**. The gift should cost no more than \$12. Be creative, wacky, tacky, and aiming for laughter. The more "white elephant" your gift the better!



Santa has your white elephant gifts ready!

Contact the district office to make your meal reservations by **December 8**.

We look forward to seeing you on December 18.

**RETURN TO BETHLEHEM**  
AN IMMERSIVE NATIVITY EXPERIENCE  
**DECEMBER 10-13, 2023**  
ADA DRIVE-THRU... 6 - 6:30 P M  
GUIDED TOURS... 6:30 - 8:30 P M  
GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
639 GEORGIA AVENUE, NORTH AUGUSTA, SC  
803-279-7525 | [WWW.GOTGRACEUMC.ORG/BETHLEHEM](http://WWW.GOTGRACEUMC.ORG/BETHLEHEM)

*If you would like to share information about Advent events/activities at your church, just send the information with any pictures to the District Office. We publish the newsletter each Monday. Thank you for letting us share what's happening at your church.*