Together in Mission and Ministry
News from the Greenwood District

LOVE NOTES:

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

“As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

John 13:34 (NIV)

Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Love
District Superintendent

The call to “love one another” is as important now as ever. Sometimes it seems that we lose sight of this and yet we cannot be a faithful follower of Christ without meeting this requirement. Once we accomplish this we must continue to live it out in our lives wherever we are present. I pray that this year we live out this Biblical mandate before others as never before. The stress of our times has revealed that the need is great. It also means that the harvest is plentiful for those who will commit to this commandment.

I want to thank you for the great outpouring of love shown by your missional giving (apportionments) throughout the district. This year we reached 84.54%. Well done. I also know that this is only a portion of what our churches have done to help others and to spread the love of Christ through community outreach. May you continue to be the Christian example you have been. I encourage each of us to extend our reach as we are Christ’s representatives in the world.

We are approaching the Lenten season and God is speaking. May we hear God’s voice and apply ourselves to God’s will and way, as we keep our vows to God and the church. May we live out the words spoken in John 13:34 to “love one another.” In doing this we spread Christ’s love to the world

Grace and peace,

Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Love
District Superintendent

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- District Leadership Training
- Men’s Ministry Retreat 2021
- Tables I, II, III
- Response to Racism
- ERT Training
- Lenten Resources

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- Linkedin: @gwdist
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2021 IRS MILEAGE RATES

The Internal Revenue Service has issued the 2021 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical, or moving purposes.

Beginning January 1, 2021, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car, van, pickup or panel truck are:

- 56 cents per mile driven for business use (down 1.5 cents from 2020)
- 16 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes (down 1 cent from 2020)
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations (no change)

Visit irs.gov for more information.

2020 APPORTIONMENTS UPDATE

According to the final report from the Conference Treasurer’s Office:

- 58 churches paid **100%** of their 2020 apportionments;
- 1 church paid **75-99%** of their 2020 apportionments;
- 6 churches paid **50-74%** of their 2020 apportionments;
- 7 churches paid **25-49%** of their 2020 apportionments;
- 3 churches paid **1-24%** of their 2020 apportionments; and
- 4 churches paid **0%** of their 2020 apportionments.

2021 DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Mark your calendars now for March 14 for the 2021 District Leadership Training Event. The training will be conducted via ZOOM beginning at 3:00 p.m. Information will be sent directly to all pastors and local church lay leaders and will be shared via email, Facebook, the district web page (http://www.umcsc.net/greenwood/home/), and the March newsletter.
February 26, 2021
6:30 to 8:30 pm

Mt. Horeb UMC in Lexington SC is the originating Host Church that will livestream the conference to local host churches.

**Host Church Sponsorship**

Host churches pay $1,000.00, provide setup meeting space for social distancing for 100 or more men, and provide a technical person to manage livestream. The MenNMinistry Leadership Team plans to have someone at each of Host Churches to facilitate during Event. Everyone planning to attend the event at the Host Church needs to register on Eventbrite under that church so we can honor the number of men that church can accommodate.

Download the Host Church Registration Form

**Small Church Sponsorship**

We also need smaller local churches, which pay $100.00, and they can have 10 to 20 men social distance. They will need a person to be responsible to receive the livestream and lead that group. That church will need to Register with SC MenNMinistry and provide a list of their men.

Download the Small Church Registration Form

**Individual Attendee**

There is no charge for this event.

We are excited about the upcoming event even in the changes the pandemic has forced. God is still in control and working through the power of the Holy Spirit.
DISTRICT/CONFERENCE CALENDARS ONLINE

Living into the 21st Century...the Greenwood District and the SC Conference calendars are totally online and available to you from any of your devices. If you want a printed version, you must download and print it yourself.

The Greenwood District Calendar is on our district web page. Here is the direct link to the calendar: http://greenwood.umcsc.org/home/?page_id=52. You will find a link in the breadcrumb trail at the top of the home page and also in the links on the homepage sidebar.

Conference calendar: If you visit this link, https://www.umcsc.org/plan/, on the Conference web page, you will find the following calendar resources: UMCSC calendar, 2021 Lectionary, Revised Common Lectionary, UMC Lectionary Planner, General Church Calendar, Ordering information for The United Methodist 2021 Worship Planning Calendar.

SUPPORTING GREENWOOD WESLEY FELLOWSHIP

Don’t forget our college students in the new year. Many college students are food insecure and our churches can be a good source of assistance. The Greenwood Wesley Fellowship for Lander University and Piedmont Technical College meets on Tuesday evenings in the Susannah Wesley Building at Main St. UMC, 211 N. Main St., Greenwood. The students would be thrilled with a good Southern home-cooked meal! Contact Rev. Hillary Taylor, interim campus minister, to schedule a time to provide a meal when the Spring semester begins in January.

Give to Greenwood Wesley Fellowship!

If you didn’t observe the Give to Greenwood Wesley Fellowship Sunday on February 7, don’t despair. You can still observe that special giving Sunday. All donations should be sent to Greenwood Wesley Fellowship, 211 N. Main St., Greenwood SC 29646. Contributions will be used to support our college campus ministry and to begin working toward funding a full-time campus minister.
BIRTHDAYS

January 1: Durand Hall
January 18: Laura Barnett (Ben)
          Lynda Counts (Jimmy)
January 20: Cheryl Remchuk
January 23: Susan Maddox
          Christopher Richardson (Amanda)
January 27: Karen Hightower (William)
January 31: Cameron Levi

February 1: Darlene Kelley
February 3: Kathy Hudson; Tim Jones
February 6: Mark Remchuk (Cheryl)
February 8: Bill Rogers
February 11: R. T. Bowling, III; Kay Smyth (Dan)
            Ann Sayre (Bruce)
February 14: Steve Brown
February 16: Mike Evans
February 17: Bobbie Jean Rogers (Bill)
February 20: Shawn Armstrong
February 26: Valerie Mireb

ANNIVERSARIES

January 23: Merle and Susan Maddox
January 24: Dick and Ann Goldie
February 8: Mark and Cheryl Remchuk
February 15: Stephen and Mamie Love

Please note that this month we are sharing January and February birthdays and anniversaries. Due to the COVID infection of the district office staff we did not publish a newsletter in January 2021.

ATTENTION: MENTORS AND MENTEES

Reminding you that as soon as your mentor sessions are completed, your mentor report should be sent to the district office. The Mentor Report form is available on the Clergy Services web page.

Mentees, it is your responsibility to complete this form, get your mentor’s signature, and submit to the district office. Doing this at your last mentor session is a lot easier than waiting until June and then trying to get the form submitted by the June 15 deadline.
FRIENDLY COMPETITION SPONSORED BY THE ADVOCATE

- **What:** A friendly competition in the districts to encourage churches in each district to participate with the Advocate by either being a part of the Clergy 5 for $35 Plan AND/OR the Advocate Print or Online Church Plan for its congregation.

  The Clergy 5 for $35 Plan is where clergy get to select five people in their congregation to receive the Advocate for just $35, which is $7 apiece instead of $15 apiece. All five can also go to their church welcome center.

  The Advocate Print or Online Church Plan is a plan where a larger number of your church members get the Advocate at a bulk price. The online plan is $1/member/year based on your church’s average weekly membership per the Journal, and the print plan is $10/member/year with at least 10+ members participating.

- **Who:** All 12 districts in the UMCSC

- **Why:** Reading the Advocate helps our churches be more connectional, vital and healthy, and have more resources at a time when we need unity and increased passion for building community and sharing ministry ideas.

- **When:** December 2020-May 2021, with acknowledgement at AC2021 and in the June Advocate and the dessert prize sometime in 2021 at the clergy meeting of the district’s choosing.

  **Three winners:**
  - District with the Most Clergy 5 for $35s
  - District with the Most Church Plans
  - District with the Most Church Plans and 5 for 35s

  **Prizes:**
  - Dessert for your clergy meeting courtesy of the Advocate,
  - Recognition in the Advocate
  - Recognition with a certificate at the next Annual Conference (onstage if possible, plus via an award and picture with either the Advocate or bishop if possible) and a rotating trophy for the overall winner

We believe the Advocate is an extremely important tool for connectionalism, which is good for Jesus, good for the denomination and good for our churches as they try hard to stay connected during COVID and other constraints.

Calling all Greenwood District Pastors! Let’s work together to get our churches enrolled in a subscription plan for The Advocate so we can celebrate when Greenwood is recognized and awarded the certificate of recognition at the 2021 Annual Conference.
SUPPORTING EPWORTH CHILDREN’S HOME RESIDENTS THROUGH MEAL DONATIONS

During this time of Covid-19 many people are calling and asking what they can do to help Epworth. The campus is not yet opened for volunteer groups; however, one way you can continue to support Epworth is to provide a meal for the residents and staff on duty. Volunteers/church groups can sign up for an assigned date, prepare a meal or order from a local restaurant, and deliver to campus. All meal dates and times are listed online and deliveries will take place at Epworth’s campus dining hall. Please use the link below to sign up for a meal. If you have any questions, you can contact Beth Robinson, Volunteer Coordinator, at brobinson@epworthsc.org.

Click here to find information regarding ordering and delivery of the meals: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084daeea28a1f49-epworth1

DO YOU READ THE ADVOCATE?

The South Carolina United Methodist Advocate is the monthly print newspaper focusing on the United Methodist church and its people throughout South Carolina. Delivered to your mailbox as a hard copy, and also available online, the award-winning Advocate was founded in 1837 and is the oldest newspaper in Methodism. It is a newspaper ministry with a prayer-driven mission to inform and connect South Carolina Methodists by reporting news, engaging readers, providing a forum for dialogue and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is independent but receives funding from the South Carolina Conference of the UMC and other sources, including subscriptions, ads and donations. It also operates a successful Christian book publishing arm.

You can subscribe at www.advocatesc.org/subscribe, calling 803-786-9486 ext. 335, or mailing a check to Advocate, 4908 Colonial Dr., Columbia, SC 29203. Cost is $15/year print and $8/year online only.

Learn more: www.advocatesc.org.
COMPLETING W-2 FORM FOR PASTORS

You will find on the Greenwood District web page a link for helpful tips and directions for completing the W-2 form for pastors. One of the resources shows what information on the pastor’s ministerial support form should be entered on the pastor’s W-2 form.

If your church secretary or finance chairperson need additional help, the Conference Treasurer’s Office recommends using the Social Security Administration’s website, Business Services Online. No special software is required. You can complete up to 50 W-2 forms and print copies suitable for distribution to your employees. If you create and file the W-2s this way, you will not need to mail paper copies to the Social Security Administration. You can find directions for getting started on the Conference web page. Pastors, you are encouraged to share this information the person, or person(s), responsible for completing your and other staff members’ W-2 forms.

TABLES I, II, III ARE DUE FEBRUARY 28

Reminder: The data you are entering into your Statistical Reports (Tables I, II, III) are for 2020. Recommendation: Log into your church’s account in EZRA to download and print a blank report. Make sure you include the 2019 information. This will be helpful in gathering the information needed to complete the 2020 report.

Login is your church’s GCFA number. Password is church123.

GCFA has published some guidelines and helpful hints concerning completing the reports. Anyone with the responsibility of completing these reports should read these guidelines and helpful hints available from the Conference Treasurer’s Office. There is a special publication with directions for counting online worship attendance. A link to EZRA is available on the Treasurer’s page.

New emphasis this year. You are being asked to enter your church’s Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) on your Tables. If you don’t know this number, it is on documents filed with the IRS, such as W-2 or 1099. As a last resort, you may call the district office for assistance.

Last thoughts: (1) Enter all dollar amounts rounded to the nearest whole numbers with no commas, dollar signs, periods, percentage signs. (2) Address all warnings that appear. Ignoring these warnings could have tremendous negative effects on such things as your apportionments!
The Conference task force working on Our Response to Racism has done exceptional work in preparing and providing resources and a curriculum for use by the local church to address racism and to “form authentic connections across racial lines.” These materials are available on the Conference web page.

The Committee developed six responses to racism and materials to facilitate discussion, activities, and events for each of these responses:

- District Clergy Meetings
- Small-Group Conversations
- Cross-Racial Exchanges
- A Season of Jubilee
- Healing Through Preaching
- A Call to Accountable Honesty in Society Beyond the Church

DISTRICT GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Don’t forget about the two grant opportunities available in the district from Connectional Ministries and from the Committee on Congregational Development. Click here to access the Connectional Ministries grant application. Contact the district office to request a copy of the Congregational Development grant application.

The application deadline for either grant is April 1. All grants are to be sent electronically to the district office (gwdist@umcsc.org).
LAY SERVANT MINISTRY SCHOOL—SPRING 2021

The Spring 2021 Lay Servant Ministry School is set for March 20, 21, 27, and 28 via ZOOM. All sessions will be 4:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m., with the exception of the March 28 session, which will continue until 7:00 p.m. to allow time for the closing service.

Courses offered are Basic; From Your Heart to Theirs; Leading Public Prayer; Living our Beliefs; Planning Worship (Prerequisite: Leading Worship). All classes are $20. Checks should be made payable to the Greenwood District and included with the completed registration form.

Registration Deadline is February 19; all registrations must be postmarked by February 19. No registrations will be accepted after the deadline date. If you need a registration form, contact Cathy Trevino, Director of Lay Servant Ministries; the district office; or check the district web page.

ERT TRAINING

Due to COVID-19 some ERT members’ badges have expired. There will be a training offered on March 13 at Edgefield United Methodist Church. The Basic class as well as the Recertification Class will be offered. Registration will be available through the Conference web page. Please remember you must also register for a background check, which you can also do from the Disaster Response page on the Conference web page. Plan now to attend this training so you will be ready when a call goes out as we move into tornado season.

Would you like to schedule an ERT training in your church? The minimum required number of participants is 10. Contact Rev. Mike Evans, District Disaster Response Coordinator, about scheduling a church training event.

If you are not able to serve on an Emergency Response Team (ERT), you can still support this ministry through your prayers and your contributions. To support the Greenwood District Disaster Response efforts, make your checks payable to the Greenwood District and mail your contributions to the Greenwood District, PO Box 49968, Greenwood, SC 29649.
LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 17

Lenten Resources are available from the UMC Discipleship Ministries - Book of Worship Calendar; UMCResource; and ReThink Church — Lent Photo-a-Day 2021 Challenge.

We hope you will consider participating in the Lent Photo-a-Day Challenge. During the 40 days of Lent, take a picture that exemplifies the word for that day (click on here to download a copy of the word list); and follow the directions for posting and tagging the photo on Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook. If you choose to participate, please also tag the district office (#gwdist) so we can also enjoy your photos as they inspire contemplation, reflection, and a prayerful journey through Lent.