



# MONTHLY

November 2024

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCHUNITED METHODIST CHURCHUNITED METHODIST CHURCHUNITED METHODIST CHURCHUNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Candy Bags were a hit! CIA helped fill more than 150 bags!



### Hospitality Dates:

Every 1st of the month, we will have breakfast at 9:00 am before your Sunday School class. Anyone can bring something to share. Have fun and fellowship! The church will provide the orange juice & coffee.

Nov. 3, Dec. 1, Jan. 5, Mar. 2, Apr. 6, May 4

## From the Pastor

We have been traveling a difficult road together. Now, that journey is over.

It didn't end because you voted but because the Judicial Council made a decision of church law which ended the South Carolina Conference's use of paragraph 2549 of the *Book of Discipline* to allow local churches to leave the denomination.

The pages after this one will include a letter that your Church Council has mailed to Bishop Fairley and a letter to you. I hope that you will take the time to read and consider them.

The announcement of the end of the closure and separation process has pressed me to rewrite my November article. As I wondered what words of comfort I would offer now, I was reminded of the final words of the Rev. John Wesley. As I am sure many of you know, he and a few other men were the beginning of the Methodist movement — which some credit as keeping England from plunging into a civil war. Wesley died on March 2, 1791. His last words are said to have been, "Best of all is, God is with us!"

As you all ponder what is next, I pray that you will keep those words in mind. **God is with us.**

My prayer is that, having gone through the discernment process together, and having had discussions with each other, you will remain together as one church now that the opportunity to separate has passed.

In the third chapter of Colossians, Paul writes these words to us:

<sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

This is a confusing time, frustration will surely be felt by many. This is also a time for bearing with one another, forgiving one another, and putting on love as if it is a protective garment that can preserve our unity. This is all extremely necessary if you wish to emerge from this time still one with each other, and in love with each other. The best hope we can have is for the peace of Christ to continue to rule in our hearts and for us to continue to be in holy relationship with one another through Christ. More than anything else, that is what I am hoping for you. Do not let this break up your church family.

At the top right of this page is an image I bought for use on a website (from istock.com) some time ago. It depicts a group of people gathered so that they form the shape of a cross. If you and I continue to gather around the cross of Christ and allow our life together to be shaped by Jesus' death and resurrection for us, Paul's words of comfort are possible— we will be bound together by what Christ has done for us and by the love of God demonstrated for us in Christ's death (Romans 5:8). It is in this act of gathering around the cross that the distractions and disappointments we have experienced will cease to direct our hearts. As we gather around the cross it is possible for us to continue to be able to live together as one body even though we may disagree about whether the Church should allow same-gender weddings or ordain practicing gay Clergy. Our unity is in Christ Jesus. So, I echo Paul's words, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."

My prayers for you continue.

Pastor David





## Manning United Methodist Church

Bishop Leonard E. Fairley  
South Carolina Conference  
The United Methodist Church  
4908 Colonial Drive  
Columbia, SC 29203

October 29, 2024

Dear Bishop Fairley,

**Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.**

We write to inform you that due to Judicial Council decision 1512 and the ending of the Closure and Separation process, the Church Council of Manning United Methodist Church has determined that Manning UMC will no longer make apportionment payments.

Our Church Council held on faithfully, deciding to await a decision by the General Conference instead of rushing to enter the Closure and Separation process when it was announced in December of 2022. In 2023, we made the same decision to be faithful and wait. We acknowledge that the Conference Board of Trustees informed us that this decision was possible. Still, we are disappointed that there is now no possible way to preserve our congregation by exiting The UMC. We now anticipate that we will suffer significant loss in worship attendance, membership, and financial support.

As such, we will no longer send apportionment payments.

Ken Sexton  
Chair of Church Council

Charlie Gavin  
Lay Leader

Cc: Rev. Terry Fleming  
District Superintendent, The Florence District of The UMC



## Manning United Methodist Church

The People of Manning United Methodist Church

Re: Closure and Separation Process Ending

October 29, 2024

Dear members and constituents of MUMC,

As was announced August 1<sup>st</sup> (via email and newsletter), in the “Closure and Separation 2025” document (emailed and published to the website on August 7<sup>th</sup>), the initial Town Hall meeting on August 8<sup>th</sup>, and reiterated at the following discussion groups, there was potential for a Judicial Council (our supreme court) decision that could affect the discernment process and opportunity for churches to exit The United Methodist Church. At their Annual Conferences the Kentucky Conference and the West-Alabama Conference made requests to the Judicial Council for a ruling on the use of paragraph 2549 of the *Book of Discipline* to allow churches to exit the denomination and receive the properties.

In its decision #1512, the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church has ruled on the Alabama-West Florida Conference request and has stated that paragraph 2549 of the *Book of Discipline* **may not be used** to allow churches to exit The United Methodist Church.

Today, Pastor David received via email a statement from our Bishop, Leonard Fairley, and the Chair of Trustees for the Conference, Rev. Shannon Bullion, stating the following:

As a connectional church, the South Carolina Conference is bound by the decisions of the Judicial Council.

The impact of this decision is that, effective immediately, the Local Church Closure and Separation Process approved by the Trustees of the Annual Conference is no longer available as a means of separation from the denomination.

This means that, though you have completed the discernment process, a church conference vote will not be taken on whether or not MUMC should leave The United Methodist Church. This decision of the Judicial Council effectively eliminates the only current option for MUMC to leave The United Methodist Church.

Both the Judicial Council decision and the statement from Bishop Fairley and the Chair of Conference Trustees have been posted to our website under the “Discernment Process” menu tab.

You may recall that Pastor David has clarified for us on several occasions that paragraph 2549 was the only paragraph of the *Book of Discipline* that was being used in South Carolina to allow churches to leave. Our Resident Bishop at the time, Johnathan Holston, had ruled that churches that agreed with the 2019 *Book of Discipline* (which did not allow either same-sex marriages or self-avowed practicing

homosexuals to be ordained) could not use paragraph 2553 to disaffiliate from the church. Instead, the Bishop and Trustees provided a process using paragraph 2549. This process was announced on December 17, 2022. Some of you may ask why we did not enter the discernment process in 2022 or 2023, we call your attention to the reasons outlined in the August edition of the Manning Monthly Newsletter or the document entitled "Discernment Process Info 8/1/2024" under the "Discernment Process" tab on our website.

Pastor David called a Church Council meeting for Tuesday, October 29 at 6:30 PM for the purpose of announcing the Judicial Council decision and the effects of the decision to the Church Council. Your Church Council has decided to take the following steps in light of the decision of the Judicial Council and that of Bishop Fairley and Trustees of the SC Conference.

1. The church council approved a motion to cease all payments of apportionments to the SC Conference of The United Methodist Church.
2. A letter was drafted to Bishop Fairley announcing the church council's decision. That letter is attached.
3. This letter was authorized for immediate release to detail the church council's actions and to announce the end of the closure and separation process.

We know that many of you will be greatly upset by this development. There are some things that we wish to remind you of. The General Conference has not forced MUMC to allow same-sex weddings or for its pastor to officiate at them. The Board of Trustees and the Church Council of MUMC had made changes to our *A Policy on the Service of Christian Marriage* to include the following provision:


"Only couples comprised of one biological female and one biological male may be married on the grounds of Manning United Methodist Church."

It will continue to be the case that the appointment of pastors to MUMC will be made in consultation with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and that their wishes will be factored into consideration regarding the appointing of LGBTQIA+ clergy.

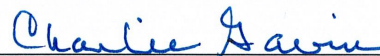
We hope that you will consider the ministry that is happening here, your relationships with other parishioners, and the fact that God has not decided to abandon MUMC. We still experience the presence of Christ through the Holy Spirit in our worship and service together. Let us not lose sight of that. We pray that you will continue to be part of the life of this congregation that has served this community for so many generations.

The Church Council intends that MUMC will continue to be welcoming to all people.

May the peace of Christ be with you all,  
The Church Council



Ken Sexton  
Chair of Church Council



Charlie Gavin  
Lay Leader

Cc: The Rev. Terry Fleming,  
District Superintendent, the Florence District of The UMC



Our Missionaries are Coming!

Save the date!

November 10th, 2024

Sara Flores & Dakin Cook will be here with a presentation during worship. We would like to welcome them with a covered dish after worship. Please call the church office and let us know what you plan on bringing.



**Pastor David  
teaching CIA about  
the flood buckets.**



**Memorial Gifts:**

**John Lesemann**

given by:  
 The Chancel Choir  
 Artie & Beverly Felder  
 Billy & Betty Coffey  
 Sharon Cramer  
 Susan Elmore  
 Rock & Vicki Ouzts  
 Core & Venson Norris  
 Anne & Scott Wannamaker  
 Sandra Brewer  
 Anne McNair  
 Donnie & Neal Mahoney  
 Shaw Lumber Company  
 Whit & Robin Shaw

**Joyce Bowers**

given by:  
 Artie & Beverly Felder  
 Billy & Betty Coffey  
 Rock & Vicki Ouzts  
 Richard T. Carlin  
 Sandra Brewer  
 Alliance Consulting Engineers INC  
 Norman Bowers

**Frankie Brunson**

given by:  
 Susan Elmore  
 Artie & Beverly Felder

**Frank Fickling**

given by:  
 Susan Elmore  
 Anne & Scott Wannamaker  
 Sandra Brewer

**Bobby Stewart**

given by:  
 Mary Jo Gamble  
 Donnie & Neal Mahoney

**Carl Gamble**

given by:  
 Sandra Brewer

**Honorarium Gifts:**

**Pastor Appreciation Month**

**Pastor David**

given by:  
 Sandra Brewer

**2024 Tithes & Offering**

|                           |                      |                        |
|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Needed Each Week          | \$ 9,794.00          |                        |
|                           | Received Weekly      |                        |
| October 10                | \$ 16,396.68         |                        |
| October 13                | \$ 9,818.18          |                        |
| October 20                | \$ 5,901.57          |                        |
| October 27                | \$ 6,257.25          |                        |
| <b>Total Received</b>     | <b>\$ 385,373.68</b> |                        |
| Needed Year to Date       |                      | <b>\$ 421,142.00</b>   |
| <b>Total Received YTD</b> |                      | <b>\$ 338,574.64</b>   |
| Overage or (Deficit)      |                      | <b>\$ ( 82,567.36)</b> |

| Date           | Worship Attendance  |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Oct. 6</b>  | <b>9:30 am Sunday School— 58<br/>Worship 10:30 am — 108</b> |
| <b>Oct. 13</b> | <b>9:30 am Sunday School—48<br/>Worship 10:30 am — 108</b>  |
| <b>Oct. 20</b> | <b>9:30 am Sunday School—52<br/>Worship 10:30 am — 128</b>  |
| <b>Oct. 27</b> | <b>9:30 am Sunday School— 43<br/>Worship 10:30 am — 84</b>  |

**Flower Calendar for 2025**  
 The yellow days are available for Sign-up!

|           |   |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|---|----|----|----|----|
| January   | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |
| February  | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 |    |
| March     | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| April     | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |
| May       | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |
| June      | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| July      | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |
| August    | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| September | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |
| October   | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |
| November  | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| December  | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |

**Our Prayer List** Please remember the people below in your prayers.

**This list is in continuous rotation, if you do not see your loved one on this list please call the church office and update us on their health.**

|                           |                          |                         |                         |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Lynn Berry                | Phyllis Dickason         | Family of John Lesemann | Linda Rodgers           |
| Family of Joyce Bowers    | Family of Frank Fickling | Rick Lindsey            | Chris Sauls             |
| Family of Frankie Brunson | Margaret Gamble          | Helen Patnode           | Family of Bobby Stewart |
| Chuck Buddin              | Debbie Hanson            | Leesa Phipps            | Alex Strickland         |
| Jake Buddin               | Upcoming Election        | Harrison Poe            | Brenda Taylor           |
| Paul Butler               | Brandon Herlong          | Margaret Robertson      | Keith Wilson            |
| Travis Davis              | Howard King              | Tommy Robertson         | Jennings Woods          |

**Please remember to Pray for our members who are living away from home, in the military, or who have limited mobility:**

|                        |                        |                    |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Camrien Barrett</b> | June Davis             | <b>Wilson Lepp</b> |
| Betty Black            | Liz Denny              | Neal Mahoney       |
| Isabelle Brown         | William (Artie) Gamble | Joan Odom          |
| Dedee Clark            | Woody Haynes           | <b>Willie Sabb</b> |
| Rosella Daniels        | Margaret Lee           | Jean Schmelzle     |
|                        |                        | Cliff Toner        |



**Operation Christmas Child:**

\*Please remember to remove all packaging and tags from items - items with parts can go in ziplocks (they can reuse these) or safety pin things together (socks, gloves,etc.). If you send water bottles, fill them up!



11/04-Donnie & Neal Mahoney  
 11/20- Ron & Alice Jordan  
 11/27- Linda & Paul Younts  
 11/28- Billy & Betty Coffey  
 11/28-Buck & Diane Sprott

# Happy Anniversary

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue  | Wed  | Thu  | Fri                               | Sat                                    |
|--|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| <br>3<br>9:00 am Coffee & Treats<br>9:30 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship   | 4<br>8-12 MUMC Day School   | 5<br>Election Day!<br>Go Vote!!  | 6<br>8-12 MUMC Day School<br>3:00 CIA<br>6:00 Choir  | 7<br>8-12 MUMC Day School                        | 8<br>8-12 MUMC Day School         | 9<br>2 9am -2pm<br><b>Craft Bazaar</b> |
| 10<br>9:00 am Coffee<br>9:30 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship<br><b>11:30 am Covered Dish for our Missionaries Dakin Cook &amp; Sarah Flores</b><br><b>2:00 pm Operation Christmas Child Packing Party</b> | <b>11 Veterans Day</b><br>8-12 MUMC Day School<br>6:30 pm United Methodist Men's Supper                 | 12<br>8-12 MUMC Day School<br>2:45 Missions Committee Meeting  | 13<br>8-12 MUMC Day School<br>3:00 CIA<br><b>6:00 pm Trustees Meeting</b><br>6:00 Choir  | 14<br>8-12 MUMC Day School<br>2:00 pm Jane Craft | 15<br>8-12 MUMC Day School        | 16                                     |
| <b>17 Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Blessing</b><br>9:00 am Coffee<br>9:30 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship<br>3:30 pm Robotics<br>4:30 pm Jr. Youth<br>5:30 pm UMYF                                  | 18<br>8-12 MUMC Day School<br>6:00 pm Men's Chancel Choir Rehearsal                                     | 19<br>8-12 MUMC Day School<br><b>9:00 am Senior Creche' Festival Trip</b><br>6:00 pm Stephen Minis-tries                   | 20<br>8-12 MUMC Day School<br>3:00 CIA<br><b>6:00 pm Finance Com.</b><br><b>6:00 Choir</b>   | 21<br>8-12 MUMC Day School                       | 22<br>8-12 MUMC Day School        | 23                                     |
| <b>24 Christ the King Sunday</b><br>9:00 am Coffee<br>9:30 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship<br><b>6:00 pm Joint Thanksgiving Service @ 1st Baptist</b>   | 25<br>Charlotte Haygreen<br>11/03 Harvin Brock<br>11/05 Bob Zambelli<br>11/06 Linsy Wells, Ladson Furse | 26<br>11/07 Kelley Brunson<br>11/08 Helene Ellis, Debra Sexton<br>11/09-Betty Wellock<br>11/14 Howard King, Carolyn Haynes | 27<br><b>28 Church Office Closed</b><br><b>8:30 am Love Feast</b><br> | <b>29 Church Office Closed</b>                   | 29<br><b>Church Office Closed</b> | 30                                     |



11/15 Bubba Wells, Cecil Rowell  
 11/16 Emma Barwick  
 11/19 Paul Younts Jr., Matthew Burns  
 11/20 Kass Varn, Scott Wannamaker, Frank Drose  
 11/22 Gary Fickling, Bo Bozard

11/23 Seth Sexton  
 11/24 Cole Ard  
 11/25 Bruce Powell  
 11/28 Gayle Davis  
 11/30 Gamble Martin



# The Back Page November 2024

On 10-26-24 we visited Boone Hall Plantation



On October 20th we hosted a youth event for all the UMC churches in our district to attend

Thank you to all who shopped at and donated to our yard sale. Thank you to all who volunteered making this event possible! We made \$4,350 + have a few unpaid tabs



Our Robotics team is hard at work

We compete December 14th in Summerville

