



DECEMBER 2023

The Connection

Monthly publication of the Trenholm Road United Methodist Church



8:45am - Traditional Worship
9:45am - Sunday School
11:00am - Traditional Worship

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

Something New Is Coming



We are drawing to the close of another year, a long year, where the world has been wracked with war and violence. The threat of the battle spreading, and we wonder if the world will know peace. And yet...

Something new is coming...

We are in the ever-shortening days of December when darkness envelops our morning and evening and freezing cold becomes the norm at night. A super El Nino offers the potential for a difficult winter. And yet...

Something new is coming...

In the midst of the darkness, Light is born. When everything seems to come apart, at just the right time, hope is born. We celebrate the seasons of Advent and Christmas because we recognize that God is not done with our world, but instead, God has drawn near to walk beside us. Where there is God, there is life, creation, and hope. God has refused to leave us lost in hurt and darkness.

Let's celebrate this gift of God with a contagious joy that shines into the lives of all we meet. Let's look forward with anticipation to what God has in store for us at Trenholm Road UMC. Let us live with faithful confidence into the future knowing that, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, something new is coming!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor James

HOLIDAY HOURS

In observance of Christmas, the church office will be closed on Tuesday, December 26 and Wednesday, December 27. The church office will be closed in observance of New Year's on January 2.

An Old-Fashioned
Christmas Luncheon
for the ladies of TRUMC

Covered Dish provided by the
Circles of the United Women in Faith

Sunday, December 10th
12:30 pm - Dining Room



**No registration required
Donations accepted*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

Prayers of the Church:

Kristin Plyler, Larry Ayers, Summers Duffie, Jeff Adams, *son of Jess & Myra Torres*, Lynn and Sophia Derrick, Shealy McCoy, Pat & John Bolin, B Jackson, Sandy Harris, Maxine Reynolds, *mother of Amy Craighead*, Eddie Drayton, Michael Reaves, Nancy Howarth, *grandmother of Nathan Cox*, Jess & Myra Torres, Stella Wilkins, Vernon Bowen, Paula Wilson, Suzanne Wise, Sharon Lentz, Robbie Bowers and Andrea Pyatt.

Christian Sympathy

To the Figueroa family, at the death of Cheryl Culbertson Figueroa, on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. A service was held Friday, November 10, at Dunbar - Devine Street.

Expectant Parents

Jess and Ben Gooding, Blythe and Kason Littlefield

October Financial Report

Annual Budget, \$1,528,470
Month-to-Date Receipts, \$133,146
Month-to-Date Expenses, \$121,640
Difference, \$11,506
Year-to-Date Receipts, \$1,098,258
Year-to-Date Expenses, \$1,246,742
Difference, (\$148,484)

Beginning with this issue, the Lay Leadership Team will highlight each month members who are using their spiritual gifts in ministry and mission here at TRUMC. It is our hope that these stories might spark each of us to recognize that our gifts can be used by God in so many ways that are making a difference and spreading the love of Christ.



Terri and Richard Strauss are founding members of the Believers Sunday School Class. This active couple has been at Trenholm Road UMC for the last 40 years, having served in a variety of roles. As church members, “We have also been a part of committees and group activities that have expanded our comfort zones and taught us how to share our love for Christ in a variety of ways. And what we have participated in has changed over the years as our needs and abilities have changed.” Richard is currently serving as the Treasurer of the TRUMC Foundation, and Terri regularly teaches the Believers Sunday School class.

Recently, Terri and Richard have become involved once again with the TRUMC Children’s Ministry through teaching the 4’s and 5’s Sunday School class once a month. “Ashlea provides crafts and lesson plans, which are given to us well in advance,” they said, adding, “When teaching the littles, we get a good story, some crayons and stickers, and the related video, and we are good to go.”

As a word of encouragement, the Strausses would like to add, “We have never been asked to do anything without having all the support that was needed. You can be as involved as you want, and we believe that if God is calling you for a particular task – and everyone is called to do something! – then it is certainly in God’s best interest for you to be successful so that His light and His glory can be shared.”

December Book Club

The TRUMC Book club will meet Monday, December 4 and discuss *The Wind Knows My Name* by Isabel Allende. The group will meet at 6:30 pm in the parlor. Newcomers are always welcome. Contact Jane Elliott for more info - jelliott24@att.net.

December Angel Tree

With this year’s Angel Tree Trenholm Road UMC will continue our support of Bradley Elementary. We have gathered a Wishlist from the teachers and staff at Bradley Elementary and each angel contains an item or items from that list. While the name of the person making the request will not be shared, please take a moment to lift up all teachers, staff and students of Bradley Elementary while you purchase the wish list item. Items do not need to be gift wrapped. Please leave your donation in the white bins in the foyer or under the angel tree.

2024 Family Promise of the Midlands Information Sessions

As Family Promise of the Midlands (FPM) approaches its 10th anniversary, Trenholm Road, as one of FPM’s founding congregations, has continued to support the mission of serving families with children who are experiencing homelessness in our community. There are exciting changes in how FPM will operate in 2024. Please join us on Sunday December 17 immediately following each worship service for a 15-minute information session in the sanctuary to learn about the new Big-12 Model that features multiple ways that you and Trenholm Road can support this critical missions effort.

If you are unable to attend and would like more information, please contact Walter Caudle at waltercaudle@gmail.com.

Our annual **Hanging of the Greens** service will be held on Sunday, December 3 at 5 pm in the Sanctuary. Youth and children's choirs will lead us in worship as we enter the Advent season with Scripture, readings and music. Following the service, you are invited to join us for cookies and cider in the Dining Room.

Lessons and Carols - The Sanctuary Choir will present its annual Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols, accompanied by a string quartet, on Sunday, December 17, at both the 8:45 am & 11:00 am services.

Christmas Eve - Join us on Sunday, December 24, as we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent in traditional worship with the Palmetto Brass at 11:00 am. A Children's Christmas Eve service will be held at 3:00 pm in the sanctuary, and our Christmas Eve Candlelight service with communion, candles and choir will begin at 5:00 pm in the sanctuary.

Children & Youth



Come and join us for during the holiday season!

- Children's musical Dec. 3 at 11:00 & Hanging of the Greens Dec. 3 5:00
- Wednesday, December 6 - Discipleship: Gift making with children.
- Sunday, December 10-Middle School Boy's Bible Study, 4:00 p.m.
- UMYF (United Methodist Youth Fellowship): Ornament making -Family Promise 5:15-7:00 p.m.
- Birthday Party for Jesus Dec. 13 5:30 (last Wednesday night until Jan. 7)
- Sunday, December 17- UMYF Christmas Party 5:15- 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, December 22- Youth Game Night (more details coming soon!)
- Sunday, December 31- One Sunday School class- wear your PJs!
- Sunday, January 7- UMYF resumes.
- Monday, January 8- Youth Core 6:00 p.m. (off site)
- Wednesday, January 10- Wednesday Night Activities Resume

December Wednesday Meals

The congregation will gather Wednesday evenings (December 6 and December 13) at 5:30 p.m. in the gym for a delicious fellowship meal. Both kids and adults can enjoy specially prepared meals. Adult meals are \$10. Kids meals are \$7. Family meals are \$27. Following the meal, there will be a variety of activities to participate in.

December 6 meal

Adults: Chicken tetrazzini, vegetables, bread, salad and dessert Kids: Marco's pizza, corn, carrots, apple slices and dessert

December 13 meal

Adults: Chicken gyro or chicken sandwich, assorted sides and salads, dessert Kids: Mini turkey sub or PB&J Uncrustable, fruit snacks, grapes, chips and desserts

The final Wednesday night meal will be served on December 13. The Wednesday meal returns January 7.

Retirement Reception

All are welcome to congratulate Reverend David Day on his retirement as Congregational Care Pastor of Trenholm Road UMC. The reception will be held in the Dining Room on Sunday, January 7, after the 11:00 am worship service. Join us as we thank him for his ministry to our congregation. David and Annie will continue their membership at TRUMC.





Trenholm Road

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Columbia, SC 29204

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MONTHLY MEETINGS

- Dec. 3 - Congregational Care Meeting - 3:30 pm - MB 113
- Dec. 4 - Prayer Team - 11 am - MB 110
- Dec. 4 - Mission Core - 5 pm - MB 112
- Dec. 4 - Youth Core Committee - 6 pm - MB 113
- Dec. 4 - Church & Society - 6 pm - MB 110
- Dec. 4 - TRUMC Book Club - 6:30 pm - MB 110
- Dec. 5 - SPRC - 6 pm - MB 113
- Dec. 9 - Saturday Sisterhood - 10 am - MB 114
- Dec. 11 - Stephen Ministry - 6 pm - MB 112
- Dec. 12 - United Women in Faith - 10 am - MB 114
- Dec. 12 - Major Way to Faith - 11:30 am - Dining Room
- Dec. 12 - Trustees - 6 pm - MB 113
- Dec. 19 - Finance - 6 pm - MB 114

All meetings and locations listed or planned are subject to change. Contact your group leader for details.

