

THE CONNECTION

CHEROKEE SPRINGS UMC

2870 CHESNEE HIGHWAY · SPARTANBURG SC. 29303

June 2023

Dear Cherokee Springs Family,

As many of you already know, Maggie and I will be ordained Sunday, June 4th at this year's Annual Conference. For the uninitiated, Annual Conference is when clergy and lay-delegates from every United Methodist Church in South Carolina comes together to hear and approve reports, to vote on various matters regarding the ministry of the conference, and to attend to other matters regarding the ministries of the UMC in South Carolina.

Before we are ordained, Maggie and I will stand before all South Carolina clergy to be voted on by the Clergy Session. But it hasn't been easy getting to this point. We started our ordination journey nearly 5 years ago, back in 2018. Before beginning the process of ordination, you have to be certified as a candidate, which has its own requirements we won't get into here.

Once we were certified as candidates, we began working on paperwork that answered 16 questions regarding our theology and our understanding of our calling, a 4-session Bible Study, and a sermon showing our research and reflections on the pre-determined passage. Once that paperwork was submitted, we were individually interviewed and examined by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. After passing our interviews, I was commissioned as a provisional elder and Maggie as a provisional deacon. We weren't through yet. That was back in 2021.

Last year, we completed a second round of psychological testing, paperwork answering a different set of questions, a 4-session Bible Study, a sermon with research and reflection, and this time a Fruitfulness Project as well. Once those were all finished and submitted, it was time for another interview with the Board of Ordained Ministry. This was the interview Maggie and I thankfully passed back in February of this year.

Now we will be voted on a final time by the Clergy Session of the Annual Conference, which will take place at 2:30 on June 4th. If we are accepted, we will be ordained later that evening at 7:00pm (something extraordinary would have to happen at this point for the vote not to be unanimous).

Why am I telling y'all all this? It's not to brag on either Maggie or myself. We aren't the only ones going through this process and we won't be the last. Other denominations have rigorous processes as well. I want you to have confidence in your pastors. We didn't just stumble into this vocation. I'm telling you, because I want you to trust that no one in their right mind would go through this process if they didn't feel called to it and weren't up for the challenge. We've worked really hard, because we want to be the best possible pastors we can be for God's children, for you, our brothers and sisters in Christ. We did it because we love you.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:15am

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00am

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Bible Study: Tuesday 6:30pm
Choir Practice: Wednesdays 6:30pm
Youth: Sundays 5-7pm

4th - *Mason and Maggie Ordination*
7:00 umcsc.org

13th - *Trustees Meeting*
5:30

14th - *Church Council*
7:15

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:
July 23-26 - VBS

Virtual services offered through our
Facebook page.



*Calendar changes will be announced during
Sunday services and on the
CSUMC Facebook page.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

8 –Donna Van Vleet
11 – Frances Allen
12 – Joyce Jones
14 – Gene Cantrell
20– Beth Farrington
27- Mason Cantey
30- Teri Newman

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

16- John & Dean Hartsoe
18- Bill & Melissa White
23- Mason & Maggie Cantey
27- Mike & Donna Webber

Sunday Servers

Ushers: Bill White & Bradley Newton
Alt: Randy Brown

Counters: Rick Van Vleet & Walt Brown
Acolyte: Drennan Cable

READERS

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|---------|----------------|
| June 4 | Gail Durant |
| June 11 | Mena Codespoti |
| June 18 | Rick VanVleet |
| June 25 | Pam Brown |



SUNDAY SCRIPTURE

June 4th

2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

June 11th

Genesis 12:1-9
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 18th

Genesis 18:1-15
Matthew 9:35-10:8

June 25th

Genesis 21:8-21
Matthew 10:24-39

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
See CALLIE!



July 23-July 26 6-8pm

Mark your Calendars!

Registration:

cherokeespringsumc.myanswers.com/keepers/



This Month:

June 11- Youth at New Beginnings UMC

June 25- Youth at New Beginnings UMC

June 28- The Shores of Asbury Day trip

*Please continue to pray for those on our prayer list.
If you have a new prayer request or update, please text them to 864-921-0662.*

*Deadline to submit next month's newsletter info is: June 18
Updates . . . Corrections . . . Changes . . . to the newsletter? Email info@cherokeespringsumc.org*