

THE CONNECTION

CHEROKEE SPRINGS UMC

2870 CHESNEE HIGHWAY · SPARTANBURG SC. 29303

September 2023

Dear Cherokee Springs Family,

Discerning a path or direction to take is never easy. Especially when the process is taken seriously. Discernment requires a lot of prayer, asking God to empty of us of any opinions, positions, interpretations, or knowledge that are not from Him. This way, we can approach the topic at hand with childlike curiosity and wonder. In other words, we approach the topic with hundreds of questions, rather than preconceived or presumptuous answers. The only thing we take for granted in times of discernment is God's steadfast, just, and merciful presence.

Once we've prayed for God to empty us of what we think we know to be true about either/any side, then we see what Scriptures address or touch on the topic at hand. We carefully study the Scriptures. Learning and discerning what they meant historically in the time they were written, how they have been interpreted in the past, and how that informs our interpretation today. We pray for the Spirit to guide us and give us wisdom in this work.

Only then do we look at the logic and reasoning behind each interpretation, and also to our own experiences of the topic at hand. "How do my experiences with this topic align or misalign with Scripture? How do the experiences of others compare?" If reason and logic and our experiences misalign greatly with Scripture, we pray something like: "God, I am wrestling with this thing. And I'm having a hard time reconciling your word with my limited reason and experience. Please, give me wisdom to understand it and discern it for a time such as this, so that I may walk in the way that leads to life, ever closer in love to you and my neighbors."

Discernment is a slow process when time is taken to do it right. But we all have to come to it with open hearts, minds, ears, and eyes to God. No one lives in a vacuum, and no one is without bias, but we must pray and try. The topic we will be discerning in the life our own church and denomination is no easy one. So, we would do well to spend plenty of time praying and discerning.



With Love,
Pastor Mason
mhcantey@umcsc.org
843-598-4928



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

September 9th - Adopt a Highway
8:00am

September 20th - Church Council

September 24th - Ice Cream Social
4:30pm - Mary Ann's

September 26th - Charge Conference
6:30pm

September 27th - United Women of Faith
7:15pm

Virtual services offered through our
Facebook page.



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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 - Joey Parrish
- 1 - Robert Newman
- 2 - John Hartsoe
- 10 - Donna Webber
- 10 - Jessica Farrington
- 13 - Eric Cable
- 15 - Mike Webber
- 19 - Rick Van Vleet

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE

September 3th – Who am I

Exodus 3:1-15
Matthew 16:21-28

September 10th – TBA

September 17th – How many times

Exodus 14:19-31
Matthew 18:21-35

September 24th – Burden of the day

Exodus 16:2-15
Matthew 20:1-16

Sunday Servers

Ushers: Walt Brown and Bill White

Alt: MerriElizabeth Cable

Counters: Randy Brown and Mike Webber

Acolyte: Drennan Cable

READERS

Sept 3	Pam Brown
Sept 10	Donna Webber
Sept 17	Liz Pennington
Sept 24	Sandy Houck

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

September 24th 4:30pm @ Mary Ann's
Bring your pre-churned ice cream to share.
Hot dogs provided!



Meets
weekly

Mark those Calendars



Oct 15th
3pm

*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: September 18
Updates . . . Corrections . . . Changes . . . to the newsletter? Email info@cherokeespringsumc.org*