

Inman United Methodist Church Informer

November 2025

Rev. Joe Blackwelder, Pastor

From Vicki McCartha, Lay Leader

Bill and I returned about a week ago from three weeks in Ireland, a trip that Bill had been planning for a year. We were delighted to be able to report on our return that we truly had a wonderful trip. For me, that meant that no one in our party had been sick enough or hurt badly enough to have to seek medical care in a foreign country. (That had been my biggest worry, with four folks in their fast-fleeting 70s.) Beyond that, we saw quite a lot of Ireland, cities and countryside, castles and churches, and met some interesting, often amusing folks. We got a feel for Ireland and the Irish, and they did not disappoint.

Our daughter Molly was with us for ten days and, in fact, drove a rental car across the country, a country about the size of South Carolina, on the left side of the road from a steering wheel on the right. None of us septuagenarians wanted to try it. There was a flat tire and a couple of anxious moments, but we went across country and back, and on a week's worth of day trips, five adults tightly packed, without serious incident.

As we age, these kinds of trips seem riskier, yet more compelling. We take our achy joints, or our titanium joints, our pacemakers, our rather hefty stash of prescription and over-the-counter meds, ointments, and sleep aids. We have friends in our bridge club in their 90s who still travel, one who travels to Hawaii and to Europe at least once a year. I am impressed and inspired.

One of the highlights of our trip was that our friend Nancy connected with a first cousin that she had recently discovered through Ancestry, and we all shared a meal with him and his wife. He walked us around his small town and told us about the town we were headed to. It was special!

We have not traveled a lot, but some. And while I'm always happy to come home, this is not a "there's no place like home" story. This is about how travel makes the world seem – well, not smaller exactly, but closer, more personal. It helps us find common connection with people we never would have met otherwise, people with far different back stories and perspectives, all of us random passengers on the same spinning planet, each of us a child of God.

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Above: Bill at the sheep farm. (MB lamented that he wouldn't be able to get his new buddy through customs.)

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Connecting to people across borders and oceans is not unlike connecting to visitors who walk into our own church on a Sunday morning. We know nothing about them, but we recognize them as fellow humans and we welcome them, ask them questions about themselves and share a little about ourselves. A former pastor used to say, “The Divine in me recognizes the Divine in you.”

I am so proud that our church is known for the warmth with which it receives visitors. My family felt it the first time we walked through the doors (somewhat by accident, although that’s another story) back in 1992, and I saw it again last Sunday when two “newbies” came to check us out. Thank you for being that congregation. Thank you for connecting with the stranger. Thank you for looking for the Divine in others, near and far.

Special Session Reduces Districts, Staff (from advocatesc.org, October 27, 2025)

By Jessica Brodie

COLUMBIA—South Carolina United Methodists have approved two changes that impact how the denomination is structured in this state.

During an online called special session of Annual Conference Oct. 18, more than 700 lay and clergy delegates approved reducing the number of districts from 12 to 10 in South Carolina. They also approved eliminating a Cabinet-level position in creating the new Office of Congregational Excellence, which will oversee the work of the Office of Congregational Development and the continuing work of the Office of Connectional Ministries.

Both changes were submitted by the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church’s Jeremiah Teams, created by Bishop Leonard Fairley last year to assess and transform how the conference is structured, how it operates and how it aligns with its priorities.

Two of the four Jeremiah Teams submitted recommendations for a vote at the called special session.

The District Alignment Team moved that the conference reduce the number of districts from 12 to 10 by July 1, 2026, with further assessment to be overseen by the bishop. Lay and clergy delegates voted 582-39 in favor of the motion.

The Conference Staff Alignment Team moved that the responsibilities of the Office of Congregational Development (currently a Cabinet-level position) be merged with the continuing work of Connectional Ministries, creating the new Office of Congregational Excellence, and that the current full-time Extended Cabinet position of Director of Congregational Development become a non-Extended Cabinet, part-time clergy appointment with the title of Director of Innovation and Strategy supervised by the Director of Congregational Excellence, which is formerly known as the Director of Connectional Ministries. Lay and clergy delegates voted 563-39 in favor of the motion.

A full recording of the proceedings can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/@TheUMCSC>.

Offerings and Other Income for Inman UMC October 2025

Food Pantry	\$ 483
General Budget Monthly Need 2025	\$11,310
Offering to General Budget for October	5,615
Gym Rental for October	510
Budget Short Year-to-Date (end of Oct.)	\$ 26,305

Memorials

Memorials have been given to the church in memory of Marcine Anderson and/or Betty Scott from:

Lewanna Caldwell and MB Ulmer
Pam Morgan
J.E. and Betty Riddle
Jens and Sheryl Slaton
Jay and Cheryl Monk
Steve and Amelia Smith
Don and Jeanne Alverson
Bill and Vicki McCartha
Cathy Stokes
George Scott

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Inman United Methodist Church

November 2025



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Blue Indicates Birthdays				Charge Conference- October 30 6 p.m. Church of the Covenant		1 10-12 Narcotics Anon. 5:30 - 9:30 Roadhouse Band
2 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Worship Finance Comm. meets after church	3 8:30-9:30 Coffee at Bojangles 10 – 11:30 Line Dance 6–7 Zumba	4 8–10 Food Pantry Bible Study @ IUMC 11:00 in Parlor Kaleidoscope Learning 1:30-3:30 7–9 Sq Dance Lessons	5 10 – 11:30 Line Dance Bible Study @ Aldersgate 6:30 Choir Practice	6 6 – 7 Zumba	7	8 10-12 Narcotics Anon. 5:30 - 9:30 Roadhouse Band
9 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Worship 5:00 Admin. Council Meeting	10 8:30-9:30 Coffee at Bojangles 10 – 11:30 Line Dance 6–7 Zumba	11 Bill McCartha 8–10 Food Pantry Bible Study @ IUMC 11:00 in Parlor Kaleidoscope Learning 1:30-3:30 7–9 Sq Dance Lessons	12 10 – 11:30 Line Dance Bible Study @ Aldersgate 6:30 Choir Practice	13 6 – 7 Zumba	14 Peach Blossom Sq Dancers 7-9:30	15 Lee Alverson 10-12 Narcotics Anon. 5:30 - 9:30 Roadhouse Band
16 Buren Martin 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Worship	17 8:30-9:30 Coffee at Bojangles 10 – 11:30 Line Dance 6–7 Zumba	18 Don Alverson 8–10 Food Pantry Bible Study @ IUMC 11:00 in Parlor 7–9 Sq Dance Lessons	19 10 – 11:30 Line Dance Bible Study @ Aldersgate 6:30 Choir Practice	20 6 – 7 Zumba	21	22 10-12 Narcotics Anon. 5:30 - 9:30 Roadhouse Band
23 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Worship	24 8:30-9:30 Coffee at Bojangles 10 – 11:30 Line Dance 6–7 Zumba	25 8–10 Food Pantry Bible Study @ IUMC 11:00 in Parlor 7–9 Sq Dance Lessons	26 10 – 11:30 Line Dance Bible Study @ Aldersgate 6:30 Choir Practice Narcotics Anon. Meal 6-9	27 	28 Peach Blossom Sq Dancers 7-9:30	29 10-12 Narcotics Anon. 5:30 - 9:30 Roadhouse Band