

Inman United Methodist Church Informer

March 2026

Rev. Joe Blackwelder, Pastor

Winter Challenges

With the winter storms at the end of January and the first week of February, the Friends and Seekers Sunday School Class was a little behind schedule with a project of Valentine's baskets to shut-ins, but finally got them assembled and ready to deliver the last week of February. Of course the class found time for coffee, brownies, and a little visiting, as well.



The class is also working on another project—a church-wide survey—article on page 2.

Friends and Seekers (fondly known as Freekers) meet Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. You are invited.



Many Thanks from Jean Champaign

Jean wants to thank folks for all the cards, calls, prayers, visits and memorials after Hilton's passing. And she wants to thank the church for the basket of goodies delivered to her home just this week. She sends her love to all of her church family.

Church-wide Survey Coming Your Way

During the month of February the Friends and Seekers Sunday School Class felt led to consider the state of our church, its strengths and weaknesses, and how we might better serve the needs of our parishioners and community.

We are aware that regular church attendance post-pandemic has drastically decreased, not only in our local church, but in churches throughout the country. We want our church to continue to be a vital part of the Inman community, and your input would be helpful in this endeavor.

Even if you no longer attend our church or any church on a regular basis, your responses could be helpful in determining what endeavors might strengthen the vitality of Inman UMC. So when you receive the survey in the next few weeks, please take time to respond and return it, by snail mail or email. We're all in this together.

Trinity Goes from Split to Unified to Clarity of Vision (From UMCSC Advocate, March 2026)

On Jan. 27, almost one year since Trinity United Methodist Church in Aiken experienced a church split, leaders gathered to pray and consider this new chapter of Trinity's life. The Rev. Matthew Alexander invited the congregation, saying, "If you have an interest in the future of Trinity, this day of visioning is for you."

Members spent hours sharing stories, reflecting on who they are and asking who God is calling them to be. They offered prayers acknowledging the grief and pain of the last year, both for those who left and for those who call Trinity home today. They also celebrated the many beautiful and wonderful things God has done in and through Trinity UMC throughout 2025.

Their time together culminated in identifying what they called "Our Words." With thoughtful contemplation, they answered the question, "What kind of church is Trinity aiming to be?" They went through multiple rounds of discussion, reflection and refinement, and eventually they named six things Trinity UMC is called to be: Trinity UMC is a church who embraces adaptive innovation, valuing every voice, inclusion of all people, serving courageously, growing in faith and developing leaders. In the next 90 days, they are experimenting with ways to live into these

defining traits.

Members of Trinity are invited to pray and consider how they can be a part of living into these words. Those considering whether Trinity is the community to which they are called are invited to consider the church Trinity UMC aims to be.

During a survey following the retreat, when asked to describe the momentum of the church at this time, leaders unanimously said Trinity UMC is unified. "Clarity of vision and identity creates the perfect environment into which to invite new people, and Trinity UMC has had its biggest year of new people in nearly three decades," Alexander said. "I'm blessed to serve among a congregation that truly gets it and is invested! The kingdom of God is visible in Aiken, South Carolina."

Quaker Friends Bring Special Speaker to IUMC in March *From Doris Wilson*

On March 22, following our 3:00 p.m. thirty minute unprogrammed worship, Sarah Junkin Woodard will present a talk on the Center for Development in Central America (CDCA). The CDCA is an organization that began in Statesville, NC, as Jubilee House Community, a community that worked with the homeless. The organization moved to Nicaragua 32 years ago, where they have engaged in a variety of good works. We will learn about this poorly understood country and government by someone who has lived there for decades, and hear what is in store for the CDCA. *(The Friends will meet at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, March 22, in the Friendship Classroom at Inman UMC. All are invited to attend the short worship or just the presentation described above.)*

Offerings and Other Income for January

Food Pantry	\$ 100
Offering to General Budget for January	2,430
Gym Rental	510

Offerings and Other Income for February

Food Pantry	\$ 280
Offering to General Budget for February	9,203
Gym Rental	350

Memorial

From: George Scott **For:** Hilton Champaign

Inman United Methodist Church

March 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Worship Communion	2 8:30 Coffee at Bojangles 10:00 Line Dance 6:00 Zumba	3 Jean Champaign 8-10 Food Pantry 11:00 Bible Study—IUMC Parlor 6-7 Girl Scouts	4 10:00 Line Dance 6:00 Bible Study - Aldersgate 6:30 Choir Practice	5 6:00 Zumba	6	7 10-12 Narcotics Anonymous 5:30-9:30 Road House Band
8 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Worship	9 8:30 Coffee at Bojangles 10:00 Line Dance 6:00 Zumba	10 8-10 Food Pantry 11:00 Bible Study—IUMC Parlor	11 10:00 Line Dance 6:00 Bible Study - Aldersgate 6:30 Choir Practice	12 6:00 Zumba	13	14 10-12 Narcotics Anonymous 5:30-9:30 Road House Band
15 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Worship	16 Barbara Gentry 8:30 Coffee at Bojangles 10:00 Line Dance 6:00 Zumba	17 8-10 Food Pantry 11:00 Bible Study—IUMC Parlor 6-7 Girl Scouts	18 10:00 Line Dance 6:00 Bible Study - Aldersgate 6:30 Choir Practice	19 6:00 Zumba	20	21 10-12 Narcotics Anonymous 5:30-9:30 Road House Band
22 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Worship	23 8:30 Coffee at Bojangles 10:00 Line Dance 6:00 Zumba	24 8-10 Food Pantry 11:00 Bible Study—IUMC Parlor	25 10:00 Line Dance 6:00 Bible Study - Aldersgate 6:30 Choir Practice	26 6:00 Zumba	27	28 10-12 Narcotics Anonymous 5:30-9:30 Road House Band
29 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Worship	8:30 Coffee at Bojangles 10:00 Line Dance 6:00 Zumba	31 11:00 Bible Study—IUMC Parlor				Blue Indicates Birthdays