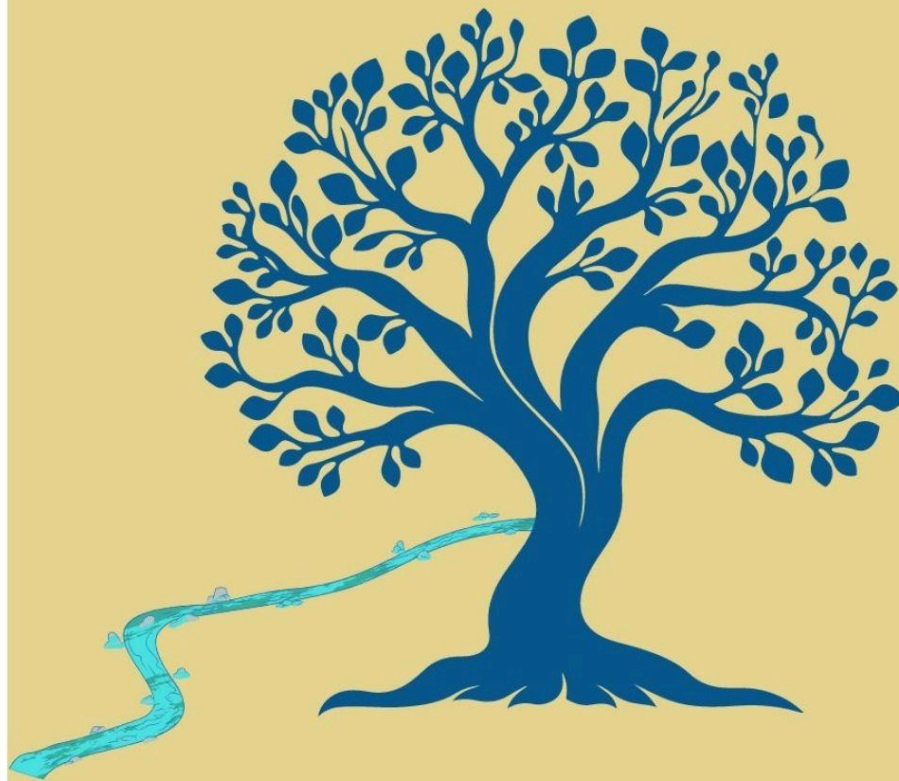


MADE TO THRIVE



Small Groups 2024/25

Adult Choir

Contact: Catherine Nance at catherine@wsmethodist.org

Music Director: Catherine Nance, Organist: David Turner, Pianist: Rick Frierson

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm and Sundays, 9:30 to 10:30 - Choir Room

Washington Street is known for its music ministries, not just as a way to reach the congregation but as a deeply spiritual experience for those who participate in choir. In the New Testament, we are encouraged, not just once, but twice (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16) to sing God's praise with hymns and spiritual songs. Often, music can permeate our hearts and minds in ways that words cannot. Singing together is a wonderful way to enjoy deeply meaningful fellowship with other Christians. Also, it is just plain fun! We urge you to try choir!

Handbells

Director - Bob Evans RVEvans28@gmail.com

Our handbell group will begin to rehearse on certain Sunday mornings from 9-9:30. If you have good music reading skills, especially with rhythm, please let us know and we will provide a schedule of rehearsals and appearances in worship.

Children's Music

Directors - Catherine Nance at catherine@wsmethodist.org and Alysa Smith at alysarsmith58@gmail.com

We will be coordinating with the leaders of children's church to provide time for music with the children. Occasionally, the children will be singing in the worship, either as a group or with the Sanctuary Choir.

Food With Friends

Contact Carol Fowler at cfowler@fowlercommunications.com

Many of us have great intentions to get together, to reach out, to get better acquainted with other Washington Street members beyond the pew that we sit in or our own Sunday School class. But sometimes our follow-through needs a little help! Whether making new friends or digging deeper with old friends, meeting over a meal binds people in special ways.

Small groups, 6 to 8 people who meet monthly in homes, restaurants, or other places, get to know each other in the warmth of a casual setting while sharing a meal and fellowship. The meal is not the focus – the focus is on hanging out, making new friends, and digging deeper with old friends. We truly hear each other's stories and we build trust. Gatherings are engaging, inclusive, and participatory; they help us grow in our relationships with God and one another as names and faces become friends and prayer partners. When we meet each other in less formal, compassionate conversation, we learn how to love better. This love will help us grow into a personal relationship with Jesus. Groups are encouraged to meet for at least 6 months.

Some ideas for gatherings include meeting in group members' homes, at local restaurants or parks, or even at WSUMC. Some groups prefer backyard cookouts while others like potluck dinners and others might want to have Sunday brunch at a different home each week. We will help you assemble your group and plan your first get together, where you can decide the locations and formats for the gatherings in the months that follow.

You may choose one of four groups: weeknight supper, weekday lunch, Sunday lunch, or weekend supper. If a group becomes too large, we will form another. We will notify you when your group is to have its first meeting.

Sole Mates

Contact: Sara Wilcox at wilcox@mailbox.sc.edu

Sole Mates is a Walking/Hiking Group for members and friends of Washington Street UMC. The group meets monthly on a Saturday morning around the Columbia area and occasionally in another part of the state. The group is open to persons of any ability. A flyer with the schedule for the rest of this year is available from Sara Wilcox.

Tabitha's Table

Contact: Licia Jackson at jacksonliciad@gmail.com or Ann Jessup at jessup.ann@gmail.com

Hands to work, hearts to God – that Shaker blessing describes the work of Tabitha's Table, sewing group. We are named for Tabitha, mentioned in Acts as a wealthy woman who met a need to sew clothes for the poor. We too seek to use our sewing skills to meet needs, while sharing God's love and blessings with each other. When we began last fall, our first two projects were Pocket Prayer Quilt Squares, which we gave to the congregation and which continue to be given to those who need extra prayer; and warm scarves for the patrons of the Soup Cellar. We are presently at work on T-shirt quilt wall hangings made from Vacation Bible School shirts over the past years. We are also helping mend the cloths that adorn the altars, tables and crosses at Washington Street. And very soon we will be making costumes for Papa Tank Theatre!

We meet the first Thursday of the month, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., in our sewing room on the second floor. Generous donations of sewing machines, tools and fabric have made our room a great place to work. We usually serve lunch at our meetings. Take-home projects and other sewing get-togethers help us get more work done!

Our meetings begin with a brief devotional word, and group members are invited to talk about their lives, their families, their faith and concerns, their hopes and dreams.

You do not have to know how to sew to be a part of this group. Please come to watch, learn, sew and share.

Active Faith

Contact: Ms. Deborah Rowe, Chair, at 803-629-8867.

Active Faith Small Group Ministry is composed of volunteers responding to God's call to help those in need within our local community. God reveals the needs; we respond through our service and provision of needed goods. Active Faith is open to all who share in the passion of local missions.

We meet in person two- three times per year, using technology as our primary source of communication. Anyone interested in learning more about Active Faith can contact Ms. Deborah Rowe, Chair, at 803-629-8867.

Book Discussions

Contact: Christine Hait at chrishait@columbiasc.edu , Andrea McAtee at acmcaatee21@gmail.com , Evelyn Middleton emiddleton@ltchs.com , Grant Jackson grant.n.jackson@gmail.com

The WSUMC Reading Club brings together members of our church who love to read. Together we share our interest in all kinds of reading—novels, memoirs, short stories, magazine articles, poetry—and we enjoy the pleasure of being with other avid readers to discuss what we have read. A Book Swap once a year gives us a chance to exchange books and talk to each other about the reading we have been doing outside of the reading club. We get to know each other not only as fellow readers but as friends. Please join us! We meet the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the Open Door Classroom

Movie Discussions

Contact: Alston Lippert at aflippert@umcsc.org

Movies are a way to connect with the culture and each other. They give us shared experiences to talk about. Our movie group meets once a month on the 4th Monday at 7:00 to discuss the movie of the month that we have all watched on our own. We will discuss how the movie pertains to the theme selected and how we see God and/or faith in the movie. The discussion lasts an hour and is held both in person the Wesley room and online.

Christian Caregiving

Contact: Becky Shirley at rjshirley@umcsc.org

We all have found or will find ourselves in caregiving roles throughout our lives. Join Rev. Becky Shirley for a bible study digging into *Christian Caregiving - A Way of Life* by Dr. Kenneth Haugk, founder of The Stephen Ministry system of lay Caregiving. The study will cover how to provide quality Christian care while maintaining our own well-being! You may choose to meet with a small group on Sundays at 5:00pm September 15 - October 20 or Mondays at 11am Sept 16-October 21.

Family and Faith

Contact: [Kathy James at kljames@umcsc.org](mailto:kljames@umcsc.org)

A noted Christian educator once said that the Christian Faith is only one generation away from extinction. This small group is for parents with children in the home to think together about how to nurture faith in their children. We will hear about research about young adults who remain active in the church after leaving home and simple activities that can be done in the home to nurture faith. The group will meet monthly, perhaps virtually, and involve parents in leadership of the group. Kathy James and others will facilitate the group.

Young Professionals

Contact: [Kathy James at kljames@umcsc.org](mailto:kljames@umcsc.org)

This group will create space for young people in the church to connect with each other. The activities will be planned by group members with the support of the church. Whether you are single or partnered, or have children, you are welcome and needed for this group! Activities may be in the community or at the church. Some will be family friendly and childcare may be provided if there is a need.

Wednesday night Bible Study

Contact: [Ann Jessup at Jessup.ann@gmail.com](mailto:Jessup.ann@gmail.com)

The Wednesday Night Small Group meets via zoom at 7:00 PM for one hour each week throughout the year. The group welcomes members from within and outside Washington Street and explores a wide variety of scripture topics using books by Christian authors. The group studies materials marking liturgical seasons such as Advent and Lent, and then engages with other topics of interest during the year. Another key component is a focus on prayer for individuals and families struggling with life challenges. Participants are always warmly welcomed to join for a topic, a season or a regular schedule with us. Contact jessup.ann@gmail.com to join this group or to receive weekly updates on studies of interest.

Washington Street Players

Contact: [Larry Hembree at larryhembree1@gmail.com](mailto:larryhembree1@gmail.com)

Do you have memories of a great time performing in your high school musical or classic drama? Is there a place on your bucket list that involves making people laugh or cry? Look no further! Join Director Larry Hembree and help create moving experiences for the congregation during Sunday services, on special holidays and perhaps in a full-scale production. The group meets throughout the year to rehearse. And no experience is necessary. We are looking for folks ages 12 to 112.

MSN Partnerships

Contact: Jad Taylor at 803-463-6655

The Methodist Student Network (MSN) is a diverse group from Columbia-area college campuses pursuing a deeper relationship with God and with each other. Our goal is to love as Christ loved and to enrich the lives of others through worship, impactful service, and friendships. We believe in the power of intergenerational relationships, so we welcome your partnership with MSN in the following ways:

- Commit to praying regularly for MSN.
- Provide a meal after the Sunday evening worship service. We invite you to join for worship as well as eat with us.
- Participate in one of MSN's local, domestic, or international service opportunities.
- Offer care and support through our Adopt-A-Student ministry.
- Give a one-time or recurring gift to support MSN's ministry.
- Have an idea for a potential partnership? Feel free to share!

Youth Group

Contact: Kathy James at kljames@umcsc.org

This year's youth ministry will focus around the word "BE." Activities will be centered around each of these four areas:

Beginning

Belonging

Believing

Becoming

In the fall, the group will meet twice a month on Sunday from 4:30-6 with a light supper included. Any student in grades 6-12 is invited to come and bring friends who want to journey together as followers of Jesus. The first meeting will be a game and pizza party on Sunday, September 8 at 4:30 in the youth room. A calendar of fall dates will be available for youth and their parents.

Disciple Bible Study

Contact Kathy James at kljames@umcsc.org

You are invited to participate in a journey of growing closer to God. Disciple Bible Study is a school-year length study of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Participants will have readings 6 days a week from the scriptures and the class workbook and will meet for a little over 2 hours weekly. Participants are organizing to determine a weekly meeting time that works for the whole class. Kathy James will teach this Bible study.

Disciple 2 Bible Study

Contact Alston Lippert at aflippert@umcsc.org

If you have taken *Disciple: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study* at any time, we invite you to join us on the journey of *Disciple II: Into the Word, Into the World* where we take a deep dive into Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Acts. This study proclaims the transforming power of Scripture while teaching Bible study skills that take participants deeper into the Scripture. The importance of keeping Bible study related to witness is reinforced while participants are encouraged to practice spiritual disciplines arising out of Scripture for the purpose of changing habits and transforming lives. The study also emphasizes the rhythm of coming to God and going for God, of being in the Word and in the world individually and corporately. This study understands the growing Christian as under discipline in community and in ministry to the world. This 32 week study will meet Sunday afternoons at 5:00. For all the SC WBB fans, who want to watch or attend the games, the time will “float” depending on the Sunday game times. Alston Lippert will teach this class.

Women in Faith Circles

The United Women in Faith is a sisterhood acting in faith to show God’s love as we work to improve the lives of women, children and youth. Churches have Circles that meet monthly to study the Bible, to work on mission projects, and to learn about issues facing women and children in our state, our nation and our world. We come together in our Districts and States to meet, learn and fellowship together. Topics can include racial justice, human trafficking, helping educate our members about childhood hunger in our state, and global issues like “Hidden children in Africa” and how we can help. We offer leadership training to our members to help them serve in their roles as leaders in their Churches. Our website uwf.org is full of information about who we are and what we do. The website also offers ways each of us can help and participate in United Women in Faith.

The United Women in Faith Circles of Washington Street UMC:

- Helping Hands Circle - meets 1st Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Contact is Debra Schooler, debrajschooler@gmail.com
- Charles Pfeifer Circle - normally meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at members houses or the church at 6:30 p.m. Contact is Mary Lide at 803-206-5014, neaudl@aol.com
- Circle 9 - meets monthly, if possible, in the evening. During the current meeting, the next meeting is scheduled. Contact is Elizabeth Aravana at 803-606-0764 elizabeth.aravana@gmail.com or Andrea McAtee at 803-727-9518, acmcatee21@gmail.com.

