

THE CONNECTION

Digital Edition | January 7, 2021

Can Anything Good Come Out of 2020?

As we move into the season of Epiphany, we find ourselves leaving the cradle of Jesus and joining him by the River Jordan. He will be baptized and then he will “show” us who he is as he calls disciples, heals the sick, feeds the hungry, and challenges the status quo. One of my favorite passages of Jesus calling disciples is found in the second chapter of John. He invites Phillip to follow him to Galilee, and Philip goes to find Nathaniel. Upon hearing Phillip’s description of Jesus as a man from Nazareth, Nathaniel asks, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

His words resonate with me as I think of 2020 and all the ways that this Pandemic has impacted our lives and our life together. Yes, it has been painful not to gather for worship on Sunday mornings. I still battle my emotions on Sunday morning struggling to overcome that feeling of “I am not where I am supposed to be”.

Yet, when we stop and think about it, we have learned some important things about ourselves and our congregation. Who knew that we could do virtual worship before March of 2020? I didn’t. In fact, even though we were already live streaming, I rarely

watched our services online. After the first Live Stream in an empty sanctuary, our worship teams decided that an empty sanctuary was not the image we wanted to share. We created a team of folks, which has been expanded, who are now providing visual arts, filming, editing, and critiquing of every virtual worship experience. Some of you who would never have read a lesson in church have videoed yourselves and learned how to send the video to Jane, our Director of Communications and Editor in Chief! Even I recorded devotions! You may not realize the extent of new skills that Dwight had to develop to produce our musical selections each week. Filming and editing and using the new programs to do it were challenging. In addition, he directed a virtual choir and put it together. It’s a massive undertaking!

And who could forget Zoom meetings? We have been able to connect with one another online to plan and execute the ministries and business of the church.

I have learned that we are truly adaptable and that in the worst of circumstances, the people at Washington Street will adapt and strive for excellence!

We have also proven to be resourceful with our talents and our financial gifts. We have held Drive ‘n Drops, created online videos for our children and we have availed ourselves of the loans made available to us by the government. We have used all the gifts that we received in ways that enriched our ministries and enabled us to be as adaptable as we have been.

Good things have come from 2020. What we know about 2021 is that we will need to remain flexible, adaptable, resourceful, vigilant, and hopeful. Change is expected. Let us prepare our hearts to embrace the change and to welcome all that God has planned for us in 2021.

Patricia

WSUMC Online Views & Outdoor Service Attendance

as of 1/7/21

YOUTUBE SERVICE (LAST RPT.)

Dec. 6: 132 (116)

Dec. 13: 122 (99)

Dec. 20: 114

Dec. 27: 104

Jan. 3: 89

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS VIEWS

Dec. 6 with Dane Waund: 23 (22)

Dec. 13 with Beth Matthews: 12 (9)

Dec. 20 with Ann Jessup: 43

Dec. 27 with Susan Caskey: 35

Jan 3 with Dane & Darby Waund: 18

Christmas Eve Digital Service: 164

Outdoor Service Online Views

Nov. 15: 71; Dec. 6 : 26; Carol Sing-Dec. 20: 13; Christmas Eve, Dec. 24: 14

Outdoor Attendance

Oct. 18: 88; Nov. 1: 98; Nov. 15: 51; Nov. 29: 67; Dec. 20 (Carol Sing): 56; Christmas Eve: 50

K-5 Sunday School with Terence Goodwin

Dec. 6: 30; Dec. 13: 14; Dec. 20: 12; Dec. 27: 12; January 3: 9

Income from 12/1 to 12-15

Church \$ 22,813

Soup Cellar \$6,875

Foundation \$350

ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

As COVID 19 continues in our lives, we rejoice in our ability to gather and study together online and through conference calls. We hope that very soon we will be able to gather together in our normal classrooms at the church, until then...we'll see you online!

• **The Dawsey Class:** The class is studying *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi* by Amy-Jill Levine. On January 10, John Evans will lead Chapter 1, "Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, Lost Son." On January 17, Sue Dillon will lead the discussion on Chapter 2 "The Good Samaritan" The class meets by FreeConferenceCall.com. Class members should call in before 9:30 a.m., but not before 9:15 a.m. The call-in number is (425) 436-6321. The access code is 326159#.

• **The Grace Class:** This Sunday, we will discuss the results of a survey developed by Janais Means to get input from Grace class participants on type, content, time and length of virtual lessons in 2021. On Jan. 17, Janais Means and Kate Chappel will facilitate a discussion on "The covenants we keep: Being a child of God." The class meets on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am via Zoom. All are welcome, and if interested in joining us contact Jim Lane at jlane@columbiasc.edu for the link.

• **The Joy Class** is studying *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas* by Adam Hamilton. If you would like to join us, please contact Lee Haynes at lelandhaynesjr@gmail.com or Sylvia Stevens at sylviasaundersstevens@gmail.com for an invitation.

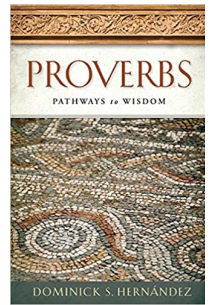
• **Open Door Class:** will continue its study of *Words of Life-Jesus and the Ten Commandments Today* by Adam Hamilton. All are welcome to join. For Zoom dial-in information, please reach out to Ann Jessup at jessup.ann@gmail.com.

• **YASS, John Harper, and Paul Harmon Class** will be learning about the Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18) All are welcome. For information, or to get a Zoom invitation, email Reverend Alston at aflippert@umcsc.org.

• **WSUMC Youth Class** will gather together, socially distanced and masked in the Youth Room after the 4:00 pm Outdoor Service on Jan. 10. We will have a devotion, games, and a snack. Mackin will be sharing her experiences with mission trips. On Sunday, Jan. 17 via Zoom at 9:45 am. The class will discuss "How can we use our gifts and talents to worship God?" To participate, please email Mackin Wall at mackin@wsmethodist.org.

Small Group Book Study!

A new study started Wednesday, January 6 at 7:00 pm. *Proverbs: Pathways to Wisdom* by Dominick Hernandez is a 4-week study that explores the context, language, and interpretation of the book of Proverbs. Each chapter covers well-known verses and examines prevalent themes throughout the book. It's not too late to start this group! To join this study, contact Ann Jessup at jessup.ann@gmail.com.



Prayer List

Martha Brooker
Alice Brown
Jimmy Dawkins
Mickey Epting
Nancy Epting
Linda Fesperman
Charles Garren
Frances Grimes
Bud Harrelson
Karen Horne

Geneva Hutchinson
Lisa Johnson
Rev. Judy King
Beverly McClanahan
Braxton Murphy
Angela Powers
Rick Rowe
Nan Self
Sarah Threatt
Our homebound

MLK Day Service



January 18
Noon



Shared on  & 

@ColumbiaDistrictUMCSC

bit.ly/ColaMLK

Diverse voices from around the
Columbia District UMC sharing thoughts on

truth | accountability | reconciliation

Discussion participants include Rev. Dr. George Ashford,
Rev. Jeff Kersey, Rev. Tiffany Knowlin Boykin, Rev. Lex McDonald,
Rev. Kenneth Middleton and Rev. Elizabeth Murray.

Presented by Clergy For Racial Equality

A group of Columbia District UMC clergy dedicated to racial equality and justice

Gifts



IN MEMORY OF JIM DAVIS, SR.
to the Soup Cellar

Given by Sarah Smith

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to WSUMC

Given by Judy Craig

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to WSUMC

Bill & Diana Westerkam

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to the Soup Cellar

Given by Sarah Smith

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to the Foundation

Given by David & Robin Anderson

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to the Foundation

Given by Anne Sinclair & Julian Ruffin

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to WSUMC

Given by Gracy Justice

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to the Foundation

Given by David & Robin Anderson

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to the Foundation

Given by Ed and Sarah Fisher

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to WSUMC

Given by Nancy Higgins

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to WSUMC

Given by James Bradley

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to WSUMC

Given by Joseph Wilson

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to WSUMC

Given by Martha King

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to WSUMC

Given by Joseph & Nancy Epting

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to WSUMC

Given by Carl & Cheryl Evans

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to the Good Samaritan Fund

Given by Martha Boynton

IN MEMORY OF DONALD L. FOWLER, SR.
to WSUMC

Given by Keller H. Barron

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to WSUMC

Given by Mr. & Mrs. Charles J. Bradshaw

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to WSUMC

Given by William & Kimberly Newsome

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to WSUMC

Given by Stephen & Rhonda Leaphart

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to WSUMC

Given by David Ebenhack & Rebecca Reeser

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to WSUMC

Given by Dave & Carole Anne Stephenson

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to WSUMC

Given by Lynn Shirley

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to the Soup Cellar

Given by Ron & Lane Bowden

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to WSUMC

Given by John & Margaret Culp

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to WSUMC

Given by Don & Trisha Britt

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to WSUMC

Given by Inez & Samuel Tenenbaum

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to Active Faith Ministries

Given by Jim Lane

IN MEMORY OF DUNBAR GODBOLD
to the Soup Cellar

Given by Ann Mercer

IN HONOR OF FRANCES GRIMES
to the Soup Cellar

Given by Nancy & Robert Buchanan

IN MEMORY OF DORIS ANN PRIM
to WSUMC

Given by Ken & Christine Floyd

IN HONOR OF THE MIDDLETONS
to the Soup Cellar

Given by Allen Cook

IN HONOR OF RUFUS ROGERS
to the Soup Cellar

Given by Mrs. L. Arlen Cotter

IN HONOR OF PATRICIA PARRISH & ALSTON LIPPERT
to WSUMC

Given by Dee Gullede

IN HONOR OF MY BELOVED CHILDREN:

**ANNAH & MICHAEL HIERS, AND MY NEPHEWS JOHN, ADAM,
AND JOE STILLWELL & THEIR FAMILIES**

to Heifer International

Given by Dee Gullede

Outdoor Worship on the Grounds

Sunday, January 10, 2021

January 24, 2021

4:00 pm | Parking Lot

BRING A CHAIR & BLANKET!

MASKS REQUIRED • BE PREPARED TO SOCIALLY DISTANCE

REGISTER ONLINE @ WSMETHODIST.ORG

Important Information Regarding Upcoming Outside Services

In response to the rising Covid-19 cases in our area and to ensure the safety of those planning to attend our outdoor services, our Church Reopening Team is providing you with the following reminders and additional precautionary measures. We ask that you please take the time to read this information. Pre-registration online is highly recommended.

- We will not have a staffed registration table. A clipboard will be placed on the table for you to sign in. Please maintain appropriate distancing as you wait to record your presence. You can pick up a worship guide at this table.

- We will not be selling signs or masks at these services. You may pre-order either item online, and arrange pick-up at the service by contacting Jane at jane@wsmethodist.org.

- Practice social distancing as you come in contact with others. When you position your chair, please remember to place it at least 6 feet from others. You can move at any time if you feel uncomfortable.

- Please keep your mask on at all times while you are on the church premises, as well as when singing.

- We have a limited number of parking spaces for people to remain in their cars during the service. If you are at higher risk because of age or pre-existing conditions, the ushers will direct you where to park so that you can remain in your vehicle during our worship together. We appreciate your attention to these measures and your understanding as we strive to make our Outdoor Worship Services both safe and meaningful.

District Office Offering Virtual Leadership Training

The District Office will be offering several Virtual Leadership Training classes through Zoom on January 24, 2021. The Opening Session starts at 3:00 pm. The workshops begin at 3:30. There are 10 topics to choose from and range from reaching people in a pandemic, finance and stewardship, enhancing worship services, both live and online, as well as Children and Youth Ministry training, and more. Presenters include Rev. Alston Lippert, Rev. Kathy Jamieson, Lisa Fusco, and Rev. Gary Phillips among others. Visit www.columbiadistrict.wordpress.com/2020/12/15/virtual-leadership-training for a complete list of workshops and to register.

In Sympathy

Rev. Parrish joins the entire staff and Washington Street Church family in expressing our deepest sympathy and Christian love to Suzanne Joye and her children Lauren Brooks, and Derek Joye in the death of her former husband, and their father,
Barry Joye

The WSUMC Offices and CDC will be closed on Monday, January 18 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.