



THE CONNECTION

July 21-August 4, 2019

1401 Washington Street | Columbia, SC 29201 | wsmethodist.org | 803-256-2417



Be a part of something very special...

WSUMC Sunday Dinner

Sunday, July 28 | 4:00-6:00 pm

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Online @wsmethodist.org or pick up a form in the main office.



Come Together

All services at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary

August 4

“Come to the Table”
Communion Sunday

August 11

“Come to the Water”
with Chris Lee, percussion

August 18

“Come In Service & Hope”
Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday

August 25

“Come In Fellowship & Love”
with the Dick Goodwin Quintet



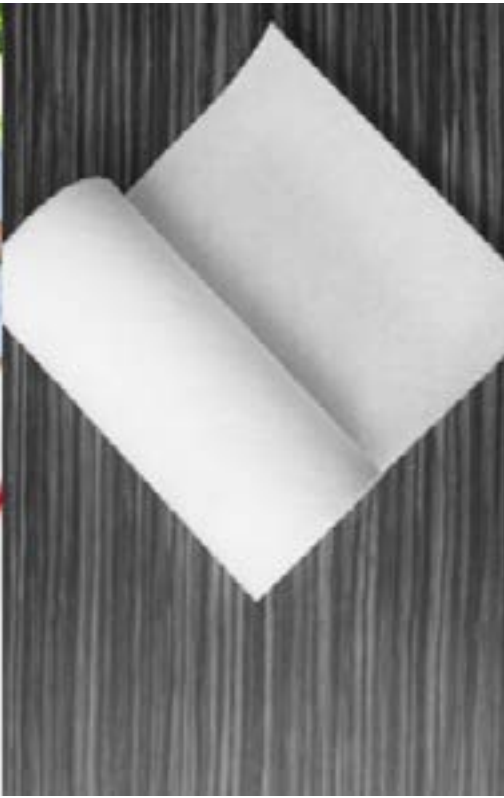
THE DAWSEY CLASS: Sunday, July 21, The Rev. Tom Summers will lead a discussion of Chapter 3, “Wave Not Ocean,” in *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor. On July 28, the Rev. John Evans will teach Chapter 4, “Holy Envy.”

THE PAUL HARMON CLASS: The Paul Harmon Class is a bible study group that has been recently blessed to have retired Methodist minister Don Britt teaching lessons on the minor prophets. He will continue the study September 8 - October 20, then will teach

Advent lessons based on the prophet Isaiah during the month of December. Visitors are welcome to join the class to hear this marvelous teacher!

THE JOY CLASS AND THE GRACE CLASS are coming together the rest of July and August for *Confronting the Controversies* by Adam Hamilton. Please feel free to join us for one or more of these weeks! Our goal is to learn how to become better listeners and to learn tools to find common ground on tough issues while showing the love of Christ to all. *Confronting the Controversies* is a 7-session group study of “tough issues” based on Adam Hamilton’s sermons on these topics. The second installment, “Creation and Evolution in the Public Schools” will be the topic for July 21 lead by the Grace Class; “On The Death Penalty” will be the third in the series on July 28 and will be lead by the Joy Class.

THE OPEN DOOR CLASS will continue its study on *New Testament Stories from the Backside* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. On Sunday, July 21 we will talk about Moses’ midlife crisis, and on Sunday, July 28, we will discuss the patron saint of the minority report. Curious? Join us!



DONATIONS NEEDED!

ACTIVE FAITH
Canned goods & non-perishables

SUNDAY DINNER
Reading glasses, individually wrapped & portable foods, bottled water

ALDERSGATE CLASS
(for Aldersgate House)
Paper products: napkins, toilet paper, paper towels, tissues

CHURCH-WIDE PICNIC!

Sesquicentennial State Park | August 25, 2019
3:00-6:00 pm

SAVE THE DATE!

YOUTH *& Children's* CORNER

PRAYGROUND

During the month of August as we share in one worship service together, we are offering a children's "Prayground" in the front of the sanctuary in place of our regular children's church offering. The "Prayground" will offer coloring sheets, soft toys, books, puzzles and more to keep our youngest friends engaged. While we will not have children's church during the month of August, we will still invite the children to come forward for children's moments. We hope this is a welcoming and engaging opportunity for our youngest worshipers!



Save the Date!
Youth Ice Cream Social
Welcome our 7th Graders!

Sunday, August 18 @ 4 pm

Baked Bear | 631 Harden St.

Bring money for your ice cream and a friendly welcome for our newest youth members!

SUNDAY DINNER

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Greeters • Kitchen Assistants
- Platers • Servers
- Grillers
- Table Companions
- Gift Bag Distributors
- Kitchen Clean-up
- Threatt Hall Clean-up

DONATIONS NEEDED

- Reading glasses (1.5 to 2.5)
- 3-gal. Tubs of Ice Cream
- Bottled Water
- Ice Cream Toppings
- Individually wrapped cracker packs
- Pop-top meats, fruit, veggies

SIGN UP ONLINE
WWW.WSMETHODIST.ORG

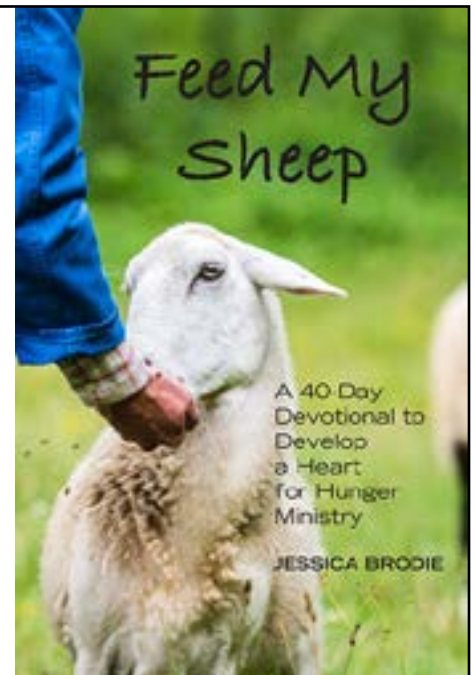


You may have noticed some signs posted around the first floor. The Faith Formation Team has developed a self-guided prayer walk designed to allow groups or individuals to give thanks and pray for our staff, laity, ministries and worship. We encourage individuals, Sunday School classes, circles, and other groups to take a walk, stop at each sign, meditate on the scriptures, and pray for our church. Guides are located under the monitor outside Christ Chapel.

Soup Cellar Featured

Washington Street and its Soup Cellar Ministry is currently featured in a new book! Jennifer Brody, editor of the Advocate has written a 40-day devotional entitled, *Feed My Sheep*. The book, just released this summer, showcases the beautiful works of churches in the South Carolina Conference doing hunger ministry. WSUMC is featured as the Day 33 devotional.

If you are interested, a paperback version (\$10) of the book, as well as the eBook (\$5) is on sale on the Advocate's website at www.advocatesc.org/feed-my-sheep-devotional/. All proceeds benefit the Advocate's nonprofit newspaper ministry.



Getting to Know Melanie Dobson

By Fran Zupan

This is the first time in the Rev. Dr. Melanie Dobson's adult life that she doesn't foresee a move.

After 16 years of serving in itinerant ministry as an ordained United Methodist elder, Melanie is now assistant professor of Methodist studies at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, where she is embarking on a six-year process to obtain tenure.

"I can really commit to this community, this seminary, Washington Street and Columbia to see what God's up to in this place, and I'm so glad," she said.

Melanie facilitated four sessions in June and July for members of the congregation to discern if Washington Street should join the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN), a nonprofit organization that promotes the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ individuals in the life of the church.

Melanie said that discernment means listening for God's leading our life, usually through a practice that involves community and silence.

It is a practice she has used throughout her life and it has meant "so much" to her, particularly as practiced through spiritual direction and contemplative prayer, Melanie said.

She quoted John of the Cross, the 16th century friar and priest: "Silence is God's first language, and when we listen in silence, we can more clearly hear the voice of God."

Melanie grew up in Charlotte, where her family attended a small Methodist church. In high school, she spent her summers as a counselor at Camp Care, a camp for children with cancer. At the camp, she learned to see God in the heart of suffering, and that had a deep impact on her, Melanie said.

When she graduated from Furman in 1997 with a double major in political science and English, Melanie decided to take a year off in order to discern what her next step should be.

As part of The United Methodist Volunteers in Mission program, she went to Honduras for a year, where she taught middle school students.

When she returned to North Carolina, Melanie entered the Duke Divinity School, where she earned a master of divinity degree in 2001, and a master of theology degree in 2002. As an ordained minister, she has had a breadth of experience — in suburban churches, small town churches, city churches, as a senior pastor at a small church, and as an associate pastor at other churches.

Melanie said that in her mid-20s, her "body fell apart."

She saw lots of doctors but got no definitive diagnosis, although she was told her illness might be something that resembles multiple sclerosis. She is being evaluated to this day.

"I had deep questions around illness, suffering and what it meant to have a whole life in the midst of my disease," Melanie said. Her questions led her back to Duke, where she earned a doctorate. Her dissertation concluded that the practices we do to take care of our health are holy and lead us into the heart of God.

Some people are profoundly changed by their suffering, Melanie said, referring to the book, *Disciplines of the Spirit*, by Howard Thurman, the African-American author, philosopher, theologian, educator and civil rights leader. "Openings are made in the heart by suffering that cannot be made any other way," Melanie said, quoting from the book.

To live with strength and balance, Melanie practices yoga every morning, often using the Glo app. She is a registered yoga teacher and has taught yoga in many kinds of ministry settings.

Melanie moved to Columbia in July 2018 and began teaching at the seminary last August. She came from Myers Park UMC in Charlotte, where she was minister of faith formation.



Joe and Beth Person, members at Myers Park who previously had been at Washington Street, put her in touch with Lynn Shirley, who had been their next-door neighbor.

Lynn scouted real estate for Melanie when she was looking for a house to buy and organized a moving team of church members to help move her into her home in Rosewood.

Still, Melanie used a process of discernment to pick a church — something as an appointed clergywoman she had never been able to do. After several months of visiting to get a sense of the United Methodist churches in the Columbia area, she became active at Washington Street.

Melanie is a member of the Open Door Sunday School Class, teaches Sunday school to third- and fourth-graders and taught Vacation Bible School with Ann Jessup to rising third- through rising fifth-grade students. Her son Elijah, who will be a fifth-grader at Rosewood Elementary School, was one of the VBS participants this year.

continued

This past spring, Melanie piloted a small group – Belong – in partnership with Beth Matthews and associate minister Alston Lippert. The purpose of the group was to provide its participants with group spiritual direction.

At the seminary, Melanie teaches in the disciplines of Methodist history,

doctrine and polity, Christian ethics, theology, and spirituality.

A student body of about 70 and class sizes ranging from five to 25 enable professors to give students lots of personal attention, Melanie said.

“I know every student’s name and denominational affiliation,” she said. “I

love supporting students as they discern their callings, and teaching, forming and nurturing them for ministry.” ✠

**LGBTQIA is an acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersexed, Asexual*

ACOLYTE TRAINING

Acolytes bring the light of Christ’s spirit into the worship service. Children who are rising 4th through 8th grades are eligible to serve as acolytes. Training for prospective acolytes will be held in the coming weeks through July. Please contact Susan Brown at 803-422-9394 or by email at sbrown13@sc.rr.com if your child would like to serve.



Songs of Triumph Benefit Concert Scheduled for August 4,

On Sunday, August 4 at 3:00 pm in Christ Chapel, WSUMC will host *Songs of Triumph*, a benefit concert featuring Madeline Beitel, a mezzo-soprano and member of the Washington Street choir. The concert will feature vocal numbers backed by both piano and violin. Madeline Beitel will be joined by her husband, Dr. Claudio Olivera (piano), Anna Young (voice), Nyamka Odsuren (violin), and LaToya Adams (voice).

Several years ago Beitel was bitten by a Lyme infected tick and has suffered from chronic Lyme disease ever since. Her health has been affected in many ways, and after years of confusing medical tests and mystery symptoms, she was finally diagnosed last year. Since that time, she has been baffled at how little information, reliable research, and how few treatments are available in regards to Chronic Lyme Disease. The CDC classifies Lyme disease as the fastest growing infectious disease in the United States, with 400,000 new cases diagnosed every year.

This program is designed to spread Lyme disease awareness in an approachable and artistic way.

Admission to the concert is free. However, donations will be accepted for the Global Lyme Alliance. Checks should be made out to the Global Lyme Alliance. ✠



Our Leadership

The Reverend Patricia Parrish, Senior Pastor

The Reverend Alston Lippert, Associate Minister for Nurture and Discipleship Development

The Reverend Taylor Pafford, Associate Minister for Children and Family Ministries

Angela Powers, Director of Music

Louis Shirer, Organist

Dr. Richard Frierson, Pianist

Robbie Douglas, Church Business Administrator

Abbie McKenzie, Church Secretary/Administrative Assistant

Jerry Sumpter, Property/Maintenance Supervisor

Felicia Yockel, Director of Child Development Center

Jane Peterson, Communications Specialist

Calendar of Activities

July 21 - August 4, 2019

Sunday, July 21

9:00 am	Service	Chapel
11:00 am	Service	Sanctuary

Monday, July 22

1:30	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar
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Tuesday, July 23

8:00	Prayer Group	Wesley Room
1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar
5:30 pm	Firm It Up	Youth Room
6:30 pm	DACS	Conference Room
8:00 pm	CDC Speech & Hearing Screening	2 year old Sunday School classroom

Wednesday, July 24

10:45 am	Prayer Group	Holroyd Room
1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar

Thursday, July 25

9:30 am	CDC Devotions	Chapel
1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar
5:30 pm	Missions Committee Meeting	Wesley Room

Friday, July 25

1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar
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Saturday, July 26

12:00 pm	Sunday Dinner Set-up Begins	Threatt Hall, Kitchen, Chapel
3:00 pm	Organ Practice	Sanctuary/Choir Room

Sunday, July 28

9:00 am	Service	Chapel
11:00 am	Service	Sanctuary
4:00	Sunday Dinner	Threatt Hall, Kitchen & Chapel

Monday, July 29

1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar
6:00 pm	Church Council	Wesley Room
8:00 am	Prayer Group	Wesley Room

Tuesday, July 30

1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar
2:00 pm	Staff Meeting	John Harper Classroom
5:30 pm	Firm It Up	Youth Room
6:30 pm	DACS	Conference Room

Wednesday, July 31

10:45 am	Prayer Team Meeting	Wesley Room
1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar

Thursday, August 1

9:30 am	CDC Devotions	Chapel
1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar

Friday, August 2

1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar
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Saturday, August 3

11:00 am	Stewart/Hall-Shower	Wesley Room
3:00 pm	Organ Practice	Sanctuary/Choir Room

Sunday, August 4

11:00 am	"Come Together to the Table" with Communion	Sanctuary
	<i>The first of the "Come Together" series</i>	
3:00 pm	Songs of Triumph <i>Madeline Beitel & Friends</i> —A Benefit Concert for the Global Lyme Alliance	Sanctuary

Gifts

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES T. BROWN
to Washington Street United Methodist Church
Deloris Mungo