

CONNECTION

June 10, 2018

THE

1401 Washington Street - Columbia, SC - 29201

Monday - Friday

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

803-256-2417



Psalm 113:3

"From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised."

Summer is in session! That means it is time for long days and short nights. When I was growing up, summer meant...

- ... long days of handstands in the shallow end and high dives in the deep end at Garden Hills Pool (Atlanta)
- ... afternoon biking around the neighborhood with friends thinking we were all grown up because our parents let us loose, when in all actuality they were not far behind and always keeping a close watch on us
- ... and grabbing two quarters when we heard the music of the ice cream truck so that we could get our favorite frozen treat.

Rev. Pafford

But most of all, it meant heading off to an all girls summer camp for 5 weeks of fun (think Haley Mills a la the "Parent Trap"). That's right, 5 weeks away from mom and dad. 5 weeks in the Cumberland Plateau of middle Tennessee. 5 weeks of gaining independence, meeting new friends, and learning new skills. 5 weeks of silly camp traditions like walking backwards to your cabin on chocolate pie dessert days, sitting on boat cushions while cheering on your team to victory at tennis matches, and dressing up as a lion for the annual camp circus.

What I remember and love most about camp is that the long days were so packed with activities and fun that it was hard to have time to be homesick or to think about what you might be missing out on with your friends back home. It was difficult to get stressed or overwhelmed.

The days were for celebrating the gifts of God's creation through swimming in the lake, hiking to Junior Camp, or petting a possum in the Nature Center. The days were for sharing in fellowship with new friends during free time, team meetings, and drama class. The days were for giving thanks for growing in new skills like galloping on a horse, learning new knots in sailing, and passing your lines and landings in a canoe. Those long camp days were full of praise, thanksgiving and celebration.

Nowadays, summer takes on a different meaning for me. It often gets busy in a different way with summer ministry programs, Annual Conferences, family vacations, and ALL the birthdays (seriously, everyone in my family has a late spring/summer birthday). Admittedly, sometimes a packed summer schedule doesn't mean fun like it used to mean. But instead of being overwhelmed or stressed by the busyness of summer, I hope to return to the mindset of those good old camp days. With intentionality, I anticipate:

- ... celebrating God's gifts in creation
- ... sharing in fellowship with my family and friends
- ... giving thanks for growing in new and unexpected ways
- ... and praising the Lord from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Won't you join me?

2018 South Carolina Annual Conference

This past week, clergy, delegates, and leaders from all United Methodist Churches across South Carolina gathered in Greenville for the South Carolina Annual Conference. Thank you for joining us as we prayed for discernment from the Lord as they made decisions to serve His purpose.

We are especially grateful for our very own Lay Delegates: Mike & Charlotte Broome, Don & Carol Fowler, and Rick & Deborah Rowe. We appreciate their willingness to serve not only the conference, but also our congregation.

Continuing reports and remarks from Annual Conference will follow in further communications. Below is an article shared by the South Carolina Conference from the first day which includes highlights from Bishop Jonathan L. Holston's opening sermon. For more information and highlighted moments from the conference, visit *umcsc.org*.



Photo of Bishop Jonathan L. Holston taken by Matt Brodie

AC 2018 | Sunday, June 3, 2018

GREENVILLE – In a rousing sermon, Bishop L. Jonathan Holston opened the 2018 South Carolina Annual Conference by calling on clergy and lay delegates to remember – against a backdrop of doubt from within and without – why the church was built.

"I say to those inside the church who might have given up on your church – maybe looking to find some kind of gracious exit? – and to those on the outside who have already written the church's obituary: Jesus still draws." Bishop Holston said. "God says all you've got to do is show up. Show up with grace, show up with love of God – just show up.

"There is nothing that will separate us from the love of God. Nothing will separate you, neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow – not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. Neither our addictions nor our narcissism, neither our appointments nor disappointments. Neither schism nor rumors of schism.

"So, tonight we commemorate. Tonight we celebrate. Tonight we lift up holy hands to the one who tells us that the church was built for God's purpose – oh, yes it was – for God's purpose, for God's hope."

Bishop Holston also led some 3,000 clergy and lay delegates in a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the United Methodist Church, which was created in 1968 when the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church united to form a new denomination.

"On April 23, 1968, some 18,296 days ago," Bishop Holston said, "in the midst of cultural upheaval, in the midst of racism, in the midst of sexism, in the midst of ageism, in the midst of the Orangeburg Massacre, in the midst of the assassination of Martin Luther King, in the midst of Chicago, these words were spoken: 'Lord of the church, we are united in thee, in thy church, and now in The United Methodist Church.'

"In the midst of our time of remembrance, we recognize that unification and ratification never happen all at once. We have to struggle to find our way. We didn't really come together until 1972. It's like being married: You think you know what to do, until somebody says, 'I do,' then you realize you've got a long way to go."

Bishop Holston reminded delegates of the value of the United Methodist Connection.

"As we gather tonight to be God's people, as we gather to seek God's way, as we gather to share in this humbling experience in being in conference together," he said, "we know that we can do more together than by we can do by ourselves. You are the definition of what it is to be in connection.

"Even though we may not think alike, we love alike."

Bishop Holston equated the Holy Spirit's role with that of a paramedic who comes alongside us and helps us be the people God has called us to be: "Even when our hearts may not be right, God sends someone to give us a resuscitation."

He walked those gathered at the TD Convention Center in Greenville through a litany of ways the church has been in mission on God's behalf.

"The church was into education before the government even started talking about it," he said. "That's why we celebrate Claflin University. That's why we celebrate Wofford College. That's why we celebrate Spartanburg Methodist. That's why we celebrate Columbia College. That's why we celebrate Africa University.

"The church was feeding our hungry long before the community decided to do something about it. Healing the sick by transforming lives and restoring health and giving identity where needed. As a church, we've got more going on than what we think we do.

"Sometimes we think of the church as nothing but bricks and mortar, but the church is defined by people who have committed their lives to Jesus Christ, people who are dedicated to service in their community and wherever God leads them."

Bishop Holston said people have been "bamboozled and hoodwinked" by one of the misguided messages propagated by today's society.

"Most of us are engaged in a frenzy of self-improvement," he said. "We have become more narcissistic. We are victims of our own inflated sense of self-importance – me, myself and I. We think we are a bag of chips and more. We have sold out to the self-improvement gospel.

"But here's the truth" From dust we come, to dust we will return."

Article written and published by umcsc.org

Thank you from the Misssions Committee!



With your donations and contributions, the Missions Committee was able to give

165 books

to Alcorn Middle School!

The school will distribute all of the books to students for their summer reading. The administration was sincerely appreciative of the generosity shown by Washington Street.

Thank you for your continuous support of the missions of the church!

Pizza, Popcorn, and Pelican's!

We had a great time kicking off the start of summer with Family Movie Night! Thank you to everyone who came out to join us for a night of fellowship and fun. Special thanks to Pelican's SnoBalls of Rosewood for being the crowd-favorite movie snack!

To learn more about the fun opportunities we have for children, youth, and families this summer, visit our website - www.wsmethodist.org/family/suummer





Thank you from the Confirmation Class!

The 2018 Confirmation Class would like to thank the congregation of Washington Street UMC for the kind gifts and the amazing support they received during Confirmation Sunday and the WSUMC Celebrates lunch. We are thankful to be members of a congregation that is so welcoming and supportive and we pray that you all will continue to support us as we move into Youth Group next year!

Sincerely,

Vivian Akre, Mary Brooks, Roxie Floyd, Natalie Hefelfinger, Jude Langley, Emmi Lee, Hunter Leitner, Mary Catherine McNair, Meredith Miramonti, Spencer Stevens, and Samuel Schatz

Announcements

<u>HAVE YOU CLAIMED YOUR DISH?</u> There are several serving dishes left in the Church Kitchen after our covered dish luncheon in May. If you haven't had a chance to pick yours up, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you!

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 June and July. Please contact Susan Brown (803-422-9394 or sbrown13@sc.rr.com) if your child would like to serve.

SUMMER CHOIR: Our Sanctuary Choir has moved to their Summer schedule! That means the choir will only practice on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM and then sing for worship at 11:00 AM. WE NEED YOU! This is vacation season and summer break for many of our members. Please help us to continue to lead worship in a meaningful way. You are welcome to just show up on a Sunday morning when you're available, or you can contact our Director of Music, Angela Powers, to reserve your music, robe, and seat. (angela@wsmethodist.org or 803-622-0308)

CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM: Do you have a heart for others? Would you like to participate in the care of members of our congregation? The newly formed Congregational Care team is looking for people who are willing to send cards, make phone calls, or go visit members of our congregation. You can choose which of these forms of care is best for you. If you are interested, please contact Beth Matthews. (mtthws@msn.com or 803-260-6214)

CHRISTMAS IN JULY: Mary's Maidens are seeking donations of sunscreen, flip flops, toothbrushes, toothpaste, snack crackers, granola bars, and small cans of Vienna Sausages. We will be filling 200 gift bags to be given to Soup Cellar clientele in July. Monetary donations are welcome. Thank you to the congregation for supporting the mission projects of the girls in Mary's Maidens.

<u>CHRISTMAS IN JULY SOUP CELLAR GIFT BAGS AND ECUADOR HEALTH KITS:</u> Thank you to everyone who has contributed items for the Soup Cellar gift bags and the health kits for Ecuador. Mary's Maidens and the Ecuador mission team need more items to fill the bags. Monetary donations are welcome!

<u>Items needed:</u> Toiletries (travel size soap, shampoo, lotion), toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, deodorant, washcloths, sunscreen, granola bars and snack crackers, vienna sausages, and flip flops

<u>PRAYING FOR MISSION TRIPS:</u> Washington Street UMC is sending forth two teams for mission trips this summer. The Faith Formation Team would like to have someone praying for each member of the Salkehatchie Penn Center Mission Team and the Ecuador Mission Team while these team members are serving as the hands and feet of God. If you would like to pray for a team member everyday while that team member is serving, please contact Mary Lide, neaudl@aol.com.

Salkehatchie Penn Center: June 16th - June 23rd Ecuador: July 9th - 19th

WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP SUMMER SCHEDULE: The Wednesday Morning Prayer Group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays during the summer months (June, July, and August) at the regularly scheduled time of 10:45 AM in the Holroyd Prayer Room. June 13th, June 27th, July 11th, July 25th, August 8th, and August 22nd

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 25th - 29th, 8:45 - 11:45 AM
Ages 3 - rising 6th Grade
Register TODAY at www.wsmethodist.org/family/summer
OR through your Church Life App
Registration will CLOSE on Sunday,

Rolling River Rampage Registration will CLOSE on Sun June 17th.





July 16th - 20th, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Ages 4 - Rising 8th Grade

Register TODAY at www.wsmethodist.org/family/summer

OR through your Church Life App

Registration deadline to be
guaranteed a t-shirt is June 29th.



ARCHIVES NOTES 75 YEARS AGO

During World War II our church provided a recreational center, primarily for troops stationed at Fort Jackson. In the June 20, 1943 bulletin it was announced that "an average of between 5,000 ad 6,000 servicemen attend the center each month." The center was open in the afternoons and evenings on Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday.

The Records & History Committee Asks for Your Help

You might have heard that the WSUMC Records & History Committee is working to revamp our museum with a remodeled museum area, specific points of focus for the rich history of Washington Street Church, and professional display facilities. As this process has moved forward, we've identified a pressing need for more artifacts, documents, photographs--anything that YOU think might help us tell our important story. We encourage you to donate items related to the church, or, if you would be more comfortable to lend items to the R & H Committee, we promise to record carefully the proper ownership and to take good care of your possessions. Please contact a member of the R & H Committee if you wish to donate an item: Bob Beamer, Christine Hait, Richard Owen, Rozanna Pfeiffer, John Radford, Shelley Stafford, and Mike Broome. Thank you!

Madison Matthews - Eagle Scout Project

Madison Matthews, son of Gene and Beth Matthews, is in the process of completing his Eagle Scout Project. Recently, the Finance Committee allocated funding from our "Scouting" fund to aid Madison in completing this effort. Under the guidance of Washington Street member and Epworth Representative, Beth Robinson, he is working to build cubbies for residents of Epworth Children's Home in their gym for them to store their gym bags, backpacks, drinks, etc. He is also repairing holes in the walls, removing scuff marks from the floor, and painting the room.

Madison is seeking assistance with painting in order to complete his project. If you are available and willing to help, he would appreciate it! On Friday, June 15th, beginning at 9:00 AM in the weight room of Epworth's Gymnasium, the final steps in completing the project will take place. Madison will provide drinks and snacks! If you have any extra paint brushes or drop cloths to contribute, please bring them. If you are able to help, please let Madison know! 803-616-1303

Trike-A-Thon & Red Nose Day Success!



Our Child Development Center set a goal of raising \$1,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and with your generous support, they were able to exceed their goal and raise \$1,500! The children had a BLAST participating in their Trike-A-Thon to show their support for the children who benefit from St. Jude's care. They were also able to fill their collection bin of canned goods to donate to Harvest

Hope Food Bank on Red Nose Day.



Thank you for your continuous support of Washington Street's Child Development Center!

Very often you hear the names of our growing staff and dedicated volunteers, but there's always an opportunity to get to know them better!

Getting to Know Jim Lane

As he neared his 40th birthday, Jim Lane told himself he had to come to terms with his sexuality.

Not out to anyone, the past two decades had been a hard, lonely time for him.

"I told myself, 'You spent the last 20 years of your life missing out on things because you're not honest with yourself.' I finally decided that had to change," he said.

It was a time of big changes. He was completing his Ph.D. in educational leadership and policies from USC. He left his job as principal of H.E. Corley Elementary School in Irmo and took a job as professor of elementary education at Columbia College.

He moved downtown. And, he started looking for a more accepting church than the one he had attended. One of the churches he visited was Washington Street.

After several visits, he met with senior minister Mike Alexander.

"I need to be in a church where I can worship openly as a gay man," he told Mike. Mike said he thought Jim would be accepted, and it was after that conversation that Jim joined the church.

He became a leader in the newly formed Grace Sunday school class, which he describes as "a really strong, supportive group of people." The Grace class was the first group at Washington Street to affiliate with the Reconciling Ministries Network, a national group of United Methodists working for full inclusion of LGBTQ individuals in the church.

The RMN has two major foci, according to Jim, who has been chair or co-chair of Reconciling Ministries South Carolina for the past five years. The first is to remove the clause from the Book of Discipline which states "that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching." The second is to allow the ordination of all who are called to ministry, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

There are eight reconciling communities in South Carolina and four of them – the Grace class, the Dawsey class, the Toni White Circle and Circle 9 – are at Washington Street.

"Growth in South Carolina is slow, but momentum is growing," Jim said. Recently almost 150 people attended the Reconciling Ministries breakfast at Annual Conference. Nationally, there are 905 reconciling communities and 35,000 reconciling individuals.

Differences over human sexuality have divided the United Methodist Church for years. The last General Conference in 2016 voted to have the Council of Bishops appoint a Commission on the Way Forward to come up with a plan to move the denomination through these differences.

The Council of Bishops will recommend The One Church Plan, one of three considered by the commission, at a special General Conference Feb. 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis, Missouri.

The COB said the One Church Plan "reflects the wide diversity of theological perspectives and the global nature of the UMC." It removes the incompatibility clause from the Book of Discipline and adds assurances to pastors and conferences who, because of their theological convictions, cannot conduct same-sex weddings or ordain self-avowed, practicing homosexuals.

The One Church plan would move the questions concerning LGBTQ issues closer to the district and church level, Jim said. The final draft of the plan is being edited and will be released before July 8.

Jim grew up in Chesterfield, where he was confirmed at St. Paul United Methodist Church. His father was an educational administrator. His mother did not work outside the home after he was in kindergarten. He has an older brother and a younger brother. His younger brother is Bob Lane, a member of Washington Street.

Jim went to USC, where he earned a master's degree in education. He became an elementary school teacher. The fifth grade was his favorite because the kids were "somewhat independent and still wanted to please the teacher," he said.

He became an assistant principal for special education and then a principal.

Twenty years ago, Jim met his partner Justin Dagit online. They chatted for six months or so and met when Justin, who was from Iowa, came to Myrtle Beach on vacation.

Justin worked in retail for 37 years, but he left his job as a district manager three years ago during a reorganization of the Ascena Retail Group. He took a position as administrative assistant in the Columbia College Division of Education, thinking it would be only for a few months, until he found another job. Then he realized that, as an employee, he could take courses for free, and he began working on a degree in accounting.

A Gamecock alumnus, Jim enjoys college athletics, especially football, baseball and basketball (especially women's). Jim shared that he has been to football games in 49 college stadiums in 24 states.

Article Written by Fran Zupan

Gifts In Memory of

Shirley Mann to WSUMC

by Michael & Kay Mason by All Cutter 936 Owners

LUKE NANCE
to the Foundation
by Dr. A.O. Bishop, Jr.
to Music Ministries
by Marcia & Grady Adkins
by Central SC Alliance
by Sally Mings
by Rufus & Kathy Rogers
by Boyd & Stephanie Saunders
by Mary Sutherland
by Alan-Jon & Fran Zupan
to WSUMC
by Sam Waldrep

Roy Sutherland to WSUMC by the John Harper Class

In Honor of

Homer & Linda Fesperman to WSUMC by Lin F. Lord

> LAURELY NANCE to Music Ministries by Rufus & Kathy Rogers

Sunday School Classes

Several of our adult Sunday School classes just started new studies, and others are wrapping up previous ones. Looking for a place to go this Sunday morning? New friends are always welcome!

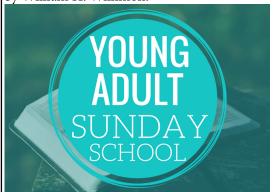
THE ALDERSGATE CLASS: Elaine Moses will continue to lead this class in discussions on the Dennis Prager's book, *Happiness is a Serious Problem*.

THE DAWSEY CLASS: This Sunday June 10, the Rev. Carl Evans will continue his series on "Rewritten Bible." The class will discuss why the Bible often has multiple and divergent accounts of the same thing. The series will conclude June 17.

THE GRACE CLASS: During the month of June, they will begin a study on the text, *Grateful: The Transforming Power of Giving Thanks*, by Diana Butler Bass. Christine Hait will lead the discussions for this study.

THE JOHN HARPER CLASS: Using New Testament texts that focus on justice, they are exploring how to implement justice toward one another in their daily lives.

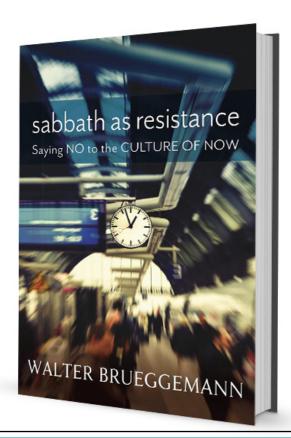
The Joy Class: They are in the midst of a study on Adam Hamilton's text, *The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul.*The Open Door Class: This summer, the Open Door Class will study Parables From the Backside Volume 1: Bible Stories With a Twist, by J. Ellsworth Kalas. This book offers a new perspective on twelve of Jesus' parables through the eyes of minor character. The Paul Harmon Class: They are in the midst of a study entitled, *This We Believe: The Core of Wesleyan Faith and Practice*, by William H. Willimon.



College students often find themselves too young for adult Sunday school classes, but have outgrown the Youth Ministry. Young adults 1-2 years out of college graduation are in a place where they're too old for college ministries, yet some ironically find themselves not "old enough" for the typical young adult ministry. So where do they go?

Washington Street's Young Adult Sunday School Class works to combine all of the uncertainties together, and create a community where age isn't the guideline, but it's the desire to engage in conversation and relationships with others. College students, recent college graduates, mid twenties - early thirties are ALL welcome and encouraged to join us for this new journey of growth and discipleship. Plus: coffee and snacks are always provided! This group continues to meet at 10 AM in the Holroyd Prayer Room.

Summer Book Discussion



Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 7:30 PM in the Wesley Room June 20th - July 25th (with the exception of July 4th)

This Summer, Reverend Lippert and Beth Matthews will be leading a book discussion on the text, *Sabbath as Resistance: Saying NO to the CULTURE OF NOW*, by Walter Brueggemann. You can purchase the book from Amazon for \$13.30. If you're interested in participating in this summer study opportunity, please let Rev. Lippert know! aflippert@umcsc.org

"In this volume, popular author Walter Brueggemann writes that the Sabbath is not simply about keeping rules but rather about becoming a whole person and restoring a whole society. Importantly, Brueggemann speaks to a 24/7 society of consumption, a society in which we live to achieve, accomplish, perform, and possess. We want more, own more, use more, eat more, and drink more. Keeping the Sabbath allows us to break this restless cycle and focus on what is truly important: God, other people, all life."

Interested, but unable to attend on Wednesdays?

Summer schedules can be hectic! We still want you to be a part of the conversation. A private Facebook group will be created which will allow you the chance to participate in discussions with other participants as well as Reverend Lippert and Beth Matthews. If you're interested in being added to the private Facebook group, please let Reverend Lippert know! *You MUST have a Facebook account to participate in this option.*



Are you often out of town on summer weekends? Unable to join us for worship on Sunday mornings? We have moved our PAUSE offerings to Tuesday evenings **EVERY WEEK** of the Summer in an effort to provide an opportunity to step back from the rush of daily life and gather with the hope that in the practice of mindful Christianity, we can connect with God and one another in fresh ways. Together we will pray, read, reflect, journal, listen and use the arts as we seek to be wholly engaged with God. Beginning Tuesday, June 19th at 6:00 PM in the Wesley Room, we will meet weekly through August 14th (with the exception of July 3rd). To learn more about PAUSE, visit www.wsmethodist.org/pause/

CALENDAR OF WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday, June 10

9:00 AM Worship - Christ Chapel 9:30 AM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary

Monday, June 11

1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC 5:30 PM Board of Trustees Meeting - JHC

Tuesday, June 12

8:00 AM Prayer Group - WR 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC 4:00 PM FCGV - WR 5:30 PM AVP - WR 6:30 PM Domestic Abuse Counseling Services - DCR

Wednesday, June 13

10:45 AM Prayer Group - HPR 11:30 AM CDC Training - JHC 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC 3:00 PM Hispanic Family Tutoring Class - DCR

Thursday, June 14

9:00 AM CDC Devotions - Christ Chapel 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC

Friday, June 15

7:30 AM Father's Day Drop-In - CDC 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC

Saturday, June 16

1:00 PM Records & History Meeting - Museum/Archives

Sunday, June 17

9:00 AM Worship - Christ Chapel 9:30 AM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary 5:00 PM Active Faith Small Group - DCR

Monday, June 18

1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC 4:00 PM Palmetto Health Hospice Volunteer Summer Social - TH

Tuesday, June 19

8:00 AM Prayer Group - WR 12:00 PM Columbia Women's Choir Board Luncheon - WR 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC 2:00 PM Staff Meeting - JHC 6:00 PM PAUSE - WR 6:00 PM Parents of Murdered Children - Grace Class 6:30 PM Domestic Abuse Counseling Services - DCR

Wednesday, June 20

11:30 AM CDC Training - JHC 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC 3:00 PM Hispanic Family Tutoring Class - DCR 5:30 PM CDC Board Meeting - JHC 6:00 PM Summer Book Discussion - WR

Thursday, June 21

9:00 AM CDC Devotions - Christ Chapel 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC 4:00 PM Killingsworth Board Meeting - JHC 5:30 PM Missions Committee Meeting - WR

Friday, June 22

1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC

Saturday, June 23

No Activties Scheduled

JHC - John Harper Classroom DCR - Disciple Conference Room TH - Threatt Hall

YR - Youth Room WR - Wesley Room HPR - Holroyd Prayer Room LCR - Leavitt Choir Room SC - Soup Cellar