

THE CONNECTION

Digital Edition | May 13, 2021

“It’s great to be back!”

That is what I tell members and colleagues who have asked about our recent return to in-person worship. And it is. It is different but is wonderful to worship in this sacred space and to see one another face to face. For those of you who have not attended, the difference is that we do not have a full choir, everyone remains masked, and we have pews that are designated for seating so that we can maintain a distance from one another as recommended by the CDC. In addition, we do not sing hymns together, but one of our soloists gives voice to our hymns and provides us with a beautiful solo each week. We are so grateful for their contributions and for the diligent and tireless efforts of Dr. Rick Frierson, Louis Shirer, and our Director of Music, Nicholas Shumate in all our services.

We are currently doing one indoor in-person worship experience each week at 11:00. When our numbers increase to 80% of socially distanced capacity (74), we will add an indoor in-person service at 9:00. In addition, we are offering an outdoor worship experience generally twice per month. Our next outdoor worship service will be May 16 at 5:00. That time may shift as we move into the warmer months of summer. We will continue the outdoor services until the attendance numbers or surveys indicate that fewer people feel a need to worship outside.

We will continue to offer our virtual service for those who are unable to or uncomfortable with participating in congregational gatherings for worship. That service is released at 8:00 each Sunday morning.

It has been a long fourteen months, but we have been blessed by the work of our outstanding staff and volunteers and by the amazing grace and power of our loving God. Even as we recover and move towards more normal lifestyles, we remember our friends around the world for whom the virus continues to bring sickness and death and for whom the vaccine is not readily available. Let us continue to pray and to labor together for the healing of the world.

Patricia

WSUMC Room Capacity

(Please refer to this chart when considering any indoor meetings or small groups. These are the maximum capacities for our rooms.)

CLASS/ROOM	MAX. CAPACITY	CLASS/ROOM	MAX. CAPACITY
John Harper	9	Paul Harmon	9
2&3 yrs.	13	Open Door	10
4&5 yrs.	23	Grace	17
5&6 grade	18	Joy	17
1&2 grade	17	Children’s Choir	6
Dawsey	17	Threath Hall	84
3&4 grade	10	Wesley Room	18
Aldersgate	18	Holroyd Prayer Room	3
Traxler	18	Disciple Conf. Room	10
Youth (large room)	36	Chapel	41
Youth (small)	7		
Girl Scouts room	7		

*In-Person Services
in the Sanctuary!
Every Sunday @ 11:00 am*

**PREREGISTER ONLINE AT EVENTBRITE!
OR WSMETHODIST.ORG/IN-PERSON
SEATING LIMITED TO 95!**

Prayer List

Pete Bailey	Alisa Liggett
Martha Brooker	Karen Lowrimore
Sally Christian	Beverly McClanahan
Mickey Epting	Angela Powers
Charles Garren	Rick Rowe
Bud Harrelson	Boyd Saunders
Karen Horne	Stephanie Saunders
Geneva Hutchinson	Nan Self
Lisa Johnson	Sarah Threatt
Rev. Judy King	Our homebound

Rev. Patricia Parrish as she prepares to transition into retirement, Rev. Becky Shirley as she prepares to transition to WSUMC

Gifts

IN MEMORY OF ADA SUMMERS STILLWELL
to Epworth Mother's Day Offering
Given by Donna S. Gullede

IN HONOR OF ANNAH GULLEDGE HIERS
to Epworth Mother's Day Offering
Given by Donna S. Gullede

IN MEMORY OF MARION T. BURNSIDE, JR.
to the Foundation
Given by T.Y. & Sue Willard and T.Y. Willard, III

SAVE THE DATES!

- Friday, May 14th from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Game night for all ages
- Thursday, June 10th from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm High school small group
- Monday, June 14th from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Middle school small group
- Friday, June 25th from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm "Pathways to Social Justice" on Human Trafficking



ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

• **Aldersgate Class** will start back to class on June 6th. We will begin a 6-week program on Simon Peter by Adam Hamilton. Everyone is welcome to attend.

• **The Dawsey Class:** *The Dawsey Class is continuing our study of Faith after Doubt* by Brian McLaren. This Sunday, May 16, Grant Jackson will lead a discussion of Chapter 13, "Spiritualities of Harmony for the Rising Generations." On May 23, Mary Slade will teach Chapter 14 "Harmony as a Survival Strategy," and Joe Slade will teach Chapter 15, "A Civilization in Doubt." The class will continue to meet through FreeConferenceCall.com at this time. Class members should call in before 9:15 a.m., but not before 9:05 a.m. The call-in number is (425) 436-6321. The access code is 326159#.

• **The Grace Class:** The Grace Class is exploring a film series from *The Work Of The People* titled *Hospitality and The Stranger: Welcoming The Divine* through the end of May. We are continuing broadcast over Zoom at this time due to internet issues. All are welcome, and if interested in joining us, contact Jim Lane at jlane@columbiasc.edu for the link.

• **The Joy Class** On May 16th, we will resume in-person meetings at 10 am in our 3rd floor classroom and we invite everyone to join us!! Thorne Barrett will lead the lessons on the 16th & 23rd. 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:** The class is continuing its study of *How Happiness Happens* by Max Lucado. The class will resume in-person classes this Sunday, but will also be continuing online Zoom opportunity as well. All are welcome to join. For Zoom dial-in information, please contact Ann Jessup at jessup.ann@gmail.com.

• **YASS, John Harper, and Paul Harmon Class:** will be continuing its study of Acts through May will be reading parts of the book of Acts. All are welcome. For information, or to get a Zoom invitation, email Reverend Alston at aflippert@umcsc.org.

• **WSUMC Youth Class:** Sunday, May 16th - Youth will watch the NOOMA video by Rob Bell "Breathe" - "With everything that we've got going on every day, how many of us ever think about our breathing, about the meaning of breathing? Yet, for thousands of years, people have understood that our physical breath is a picture of a deeper spiritual reality. In the Bible, the word for "breath" is the same as the word for "spirit." There's an inherent dilemma at the core of what makes us human. We've all been created in the image of God and possess immense power and strength. And at the same time, our lives are incredibly vulnerable and fragile. Maybe if we had more insight into the meaning of breathing, we would better understand how God created us as human beings." Sunday, May 23rd via Zoom - Disappointment. Matthew 11:1-6. John the Baptist's moment of doubt can teach us a few lessons about how to deal with disappointment. Beginning on May 31st, all Sunday School meetings will be offered in person or on zoom at 10:00 am. To participate, please email Mackin Wall at mackin@wsmethodist.org.

Dear Washington Street Family,

I LOVE my Chi-Rho-Alpha-Omega cross! It is beautiful and will be perfect to wear with my robe! I've been wanting a cross like this for a while but have never seen such a beautiful one. I will enjoy wearing it, and it will always remind me of the love and support of this congregation.

*Fondly,
Alston*

Sunday Dinner on the Grounds

The Sunday Dinner Team will be hosting the next Dinner on the Grounds on May 23 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in the parking lot. Masks will be required and social distancing guidances will be observed. Meals for those in need will be served by Denean the Coffee Queen and her Mobile Cafe, who was the vendor for our successful Brunch on the Grounds. Tables will be set up for those who wish to sit and eat, and these tables will be distanced at least 6 ft apart.



In addition, DHEC will be providing COVID vaccines indoors in Threath Hall along with the Free Clinic who will be providing Blood pressure screenings. No appointments are necessary. The first 25 persons (ages 16 and up) will receive a free meal! Please help us spread the word so we can help close the gap of those who have been vaccinated in our community.

We will also be joined by My Neighbors Closet (Sisters Encouraging Sisters) who will be handing out men's, women's, and children's clothing in the parking lot. Several other organizations may also be on site to participate.



Children ages 2-4 will meet in the 2-3 year-old room on the first floor. Children ages 5 and up will meet in the 2nd-3rd grade class on the second floor.

**REGISTER FOR
TODDLER & KS
IN-PERSON SUNDAY SCHOOL!**

Space is limited, so register early!
wsmethodist.org/cdc/childrensss

vol•un•teer

/ˌvɒlənˈtɪr/

agent of change

**SUNDAY DINNER
on the Grounds**

May 23, 2021
4-6 pm

Volunteers are needed to help with the distribution of meals, goodie bags, and greeting and directing our guests to what is available. Volunteers are asked to be at the church by 3:15 pm. Register at wsmethodist.org/sunday-dinner.



**Saturday
9 am - Noon**

Financial donations also gladly accepted.
Give online at wsmethodist.org/giving

Drive n' Drop
for babies!

Benefiting Nazareth Baptist Church Food Pantry

DRIVE UP AND DROP OFF YOUR DONATIONS!

• DIAPERS • WIPES • FORMULA • BABY FOOD • TP •
PAPER TOWELS • NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS!



Greetings in Christ,

On behalf of the Staff Pastor Parish Committee and the Church Council, we want to send you this note as we look forward to celebrating Reverend Patricia Parrish's ministry

here at Washington Street as she prepares for retirement.

A reception is planned for Sunday, June 13th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in the courtyard at the church. It will be a time that each of us can say thanks and wish well to Patricia. To ensure persons are safely distanced, reservations are requested. Reservations will be made in 15-minute blocks of time over the two-hour period. Please call the church office or visit the church website at wsmethodist.org/reception to register.

We will be providing an opportunity for all to submit gifts to a love offering that will be presented to Patricia before her departure. Contributions to the love offering may be given online at wsmethodist.org/giving, by mail to the church, or may be placed with the offering at any of the worship and fellowship services prior to June 20th.

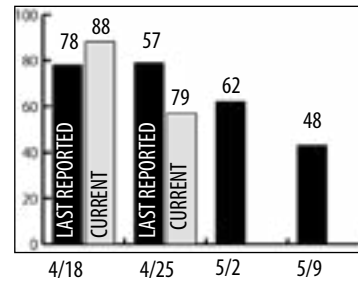
Of course, these are just two ways that we as a church body can show our appreciation to Patricia for her leadership and service to us, and we would encourage you to bring a card expressing your appreciation for her ministry.

Lee Haynes, Chair of SPPRC

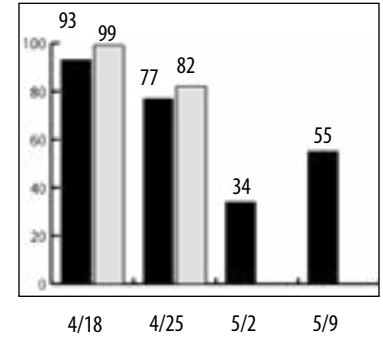
Ricky Rowe, Chair of Church Council

ONLINE VIEWS/ATTENDANCE/GIVING

DIGITAL SERVICE VIEWS



CHILDREN'S MOMENTS VIEWS/REACH



IN-PERSON/INDOOR

ATTENDANCE: 5/2: 75; 5/9:

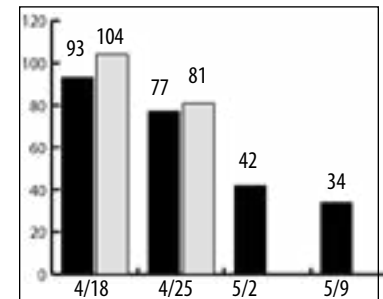
51

OUTDOOR ATTENDANCE:

4/18: 57; 5/2: 38

WORSHIP MOMENTS

W/TERENCE VIEWS/REACH



GIVING

(FROM 4/28 to 5/12):

Church: \$20,453

Foundation: \$100

Soup Cellar: \$6,050

GIVE ONLINE TODAY! SCAN TO GIVE!



**LLEWELLYN
EPTING,
GRANDDAUGHTER
OF
NANCY & MICKEY
EPTING
PRESENTS
BLESSING BAGS
FOR THE SOUP
CELLAR TO ROBBIE
DOUGLAS.**

Interested in helping with sound for our 11:00 am or Outdoor services?

Please contact Lynn Shirley if you have an interest at wmlynnsc@gmail.com.

Movie Discussion of Marvel's *The Black Panther*

On Tuesday, June 15 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm, Rev. Alston will lead a discussion of the spiritual themes found in *The Black Panther*. You are encouraged to watch or re-watch the movie making note of any spiritual themes that you see. We will discuss these themes and how you can find evidence of God and spirituality everywhere—even in the movies. I We hope you will join us for this Zoom discussion. To register, and receive the Zoom link email Rev. Alston at aflippert@umcsc.org. *The Black Panther* can be streamed for free with subscriptions on Disney+, Apple TV, Amazon Prime, or it can be rented from Google Play Movies.



The Girl Scouts of Troop 776 Celebrate 10+ Years!

The Girl Scouts of Troop 776 would like to thank the members and staff of Washington Street United Methodist Church for all of the loving support provided over the last decade. It's been an exciting, fun, educational, and rewarding experience to learn and grow into making the world a better place.

Started back in 2010, as a means of forming a community to keep friends together, the troop has been proud to boast membership of up to 25 girls during a season from at least 10 schools in the Columbia area. Parent and volunteer involvement has been rich and steady. Experiences, challenges, and triumphs have been many. Camping, cooking, experimenting, creating art, sharing love, marketing, managing, selling, caring, designing, constructing, leading, helping, traveling, planning, studying, caring for the environment, communicating and collaborating can all be added to the resumes of those who have been part of this special troop.

Now down to four founding members, the girls look back and forward to a life grounded in service.

Addison Lee, 17, is the oldest daughter of Chris and Kathleen Lee. Addy is a Senior at Dreher High School and leads the Blue Devil Marching Band as drum major! A Girl Scout Ambassador, Addy has earned both the Bronze and Silver Awards. She'll become a Girl Scout Alumnae when she heads off to college at the University of South Carolina this fall to consider studying engineering. The troop looks forward to securing a Lifetime Membership for Addy as a graduation gift. Congratulations, Addison!



Ella Blalock, 16, is the youngest daughter of Troy and Juli Blalock. Ella is a Junior at Spring Valley High School and was recently awarded the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award in Greenville, SC on May 5, 2021 – the highest award available to Girl Scouts! Concerned with the restrictions imposed on teachers and learners throughout the pandemic, Ella planned, procured, and executed a large-scale project to construct and bring a beautiful outdoor learning space and classroom to life for students at Brennan Elementary School in Richland County School District One. Well done, Ella!



Emmi-Elizabeth Lee, 14, is the youngest daughter of Chris and Kathleen Lee. Emmi is a Freshman at Dreher High School and is an accomplished actor, singer, dancer, and swimmer. She is a member of the Dreher Dance Company, Swim Team, and Drama Community. And, her involvement in arts and sports outside of school is extensive, already having achieved professional



credits in theater performances around the state, as well as being a member of a USA Swimming-affiliated competitive club team, Columbia Swimming. Emmi, a Girl Scout Senior, has always had a gift for sharing love. Beautiful work, Emmi!

Lydia Conte, 16, is the only child of Mike and Heidi Conte. Lydia is a Junior at Dreher High School and is kind and strong. She's an all-region runner and swimmer on the Dreher Cross Country, Track and Field, and Swim Teams, and is also a member of Carolina Aquatics, for which she routinely competes at state championship meets each year. A Girl Scout Ambassador, Lydia has earned both the Bronze and Silver Awards and has been approved to move forward with her Gold Award project, which is to install a Little Free Toiletry, (a hygiene pantry), for access by clients of the Soup Cellar at WSUMC. Lydia is thankful for all of the support she is receiving from so many to realize the goal of serving her community in this way. Way to go Lydia!



So many positive results and opportunities for all of the past and present members of Girl Scout Troop 776 have only been possible because of the members of Washington Street United Methodist Church. The troop is grateful for the safe, secure, and fun place to meet and grow, as well as all of the support over the years to raise money through cookie sales to fund every chance they have gotten to improve themselves...and their world.

Please accept the thanks of current members:

From the support for all of our service projects, to the major purchases made during cookie season we are so lucky as a troop for Washington Street's support. Girl Scout Week in March celebrates the birthday of the Girl Scout organization and the ideals we were founded on; and with faith being one of the most important values, Washington Street has helped us grow to be the young women we are today. I love being a Girl Scout and how much it has grounded me in my faith; teaching me the power of God's blessings and how we can use the hands and working minds he gave us to help others is amazing. Girl Scouts has taught me to believe in my dreams and achieve my goals, and for that I am forever proud to be a Girl Scout. Serving God and my community is the coolest bonus on top of that. I've had so many wonderful experiences from camping trips to historical tours; learning how to cook and explore the earth (even though the outdoors and I aren't always the greatest mix,) and I am so happy that it was able to happen in and with Washington Street.

—Addison Lee

As a Girl Scout of 10 years, I have had the privilege to meet lifelong friends and learn amazing life lessons. From the very beginning of my scouting career, I have always loved being a part of this troop and making memories with my fellow scout. Troop 776 has given me lifelong friendships that I am forever grateful for. When I think of scouting, I think of camping trips, selling cookies, dinner and performances, and community service. I am so grateful for Washington Street United Methodist, who has provided a space for the troop to meet. Scouting has become an important part of my life. For years, I have looked forward to meeting every Sunday and seeing my friends and catching up after a long week. Girl Scouts has taught me some of the most important life lessons and allowed me to connect with my community. Volunteering and completing my Bronze, Silver and Gold Award projects have been one of my favorite aspects of scouting because I was able to give back to my community. Thank you WSUMC for all you have done for Troop 776.

—Ella Blalock

Growing up and worshiping at WSUMC has been a huge part of my development. The community and love that surrounds the church taught me the importance of kindness, and the power of love. Ever since I was a first-year daisy in Troop 776, Washington Street has supported us and helped us thrive. Not only through giving our troop a safe space to meet, but giving us opportunities for service and welcoming us into the church community. The care shown throughout the years has been incredibly generous, and I cannot thank Washington Street enough for their part in making all of us Girl Scouts futures bright. Thank you Washington Street

—Emmi-Elizabeth Lee

Over the past eleven years, I have been able to have so many experiences that would not have been possible without Girl Scouts. Washington Street has been a huge supporter of our troop since the very beginning. They have been huge sponsors of our annual Girl Scout cookie sale, as well as other troop projects. Our troop would not be where it is today without the support of Washington Street United Methodist Church and its members. We have always been provided with a space to gather as a troop and hold our meetings. Our Girl Scout room, located on the third floor, off of the youth room, has become a space where we can be creative, do service work, and plan for the future of our troop. I am so grateful for all of the many things that Washington Street has done for our troop over the past 11 years and am beyond excited to see what our troop can do to make an impact in our community, using the gifts and resources provided to us by the church. Troop 776 loves Washington Street!

—Lydia Conte

Wish the Girl Scouts well as they return to the place it all started with an End-of-Season Celebratory Trip to Savannah, GA next week, the birthplace of the organization's founder, Juliet Gordon Low. Even during a pandemic, the girls were able to sell over 1000 boxes of cookies this year to add to their coffer in order to make a Ghost Tour, a trip to the Spa, fun times on the river, and a fancy cooking class possible. Thank you!