

THE CONNECTION

Digital Edition | May 27, 2021

“Come Together” Family Picnic Planned for June 12



Make plans today to join us for a family-style picnic at Sesquicentennial Park, June 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. We will be at Picnic Pad #2 by the boathouse next to the lake. Please bring a picnic supper for your family. WSUMC will provide bottled water and desserts. Expect games, water activities, playground access for the little ones. Join us for this time of food, fellowship and fun for the entire family. Make plans to join us! Watch for more details on the website and future Eblasts! For more information, email Terence Goodwin at tgoodwin@wsmethodist.org.



Drive n' Drop FOR EPWORTH FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

THURSDAY, JUNE 10 | 11:00-3:00 | FRIDAY, JUNE 11 | 9:00-12:00

Make plans to donate to the Epworth's Foster Care Program on June 10-11 to be held in the parking lot of the church. Just drive up, and drop off. A volunteer will help take your donations from the car. The supply drive is organized and sponsored by the WSUMC Missions Committee, Active Faith, and the Toni White Circle (Circle 2).

Epworth's Foster Care Program serves the entire state with 74 children in foster care and 100 families are licensed.

Active Faith will be providing fresh produce baskets for distribution, and we will be collecting the following items for the Epworth Foster families:

- Paper Towels
- Baby Wipes
- Diapers Sizes 3, 4, and 5
- Pull-Ups Sizes 2T-3T, 3T-4T, 4T-5T, 5T-6T
- Kids Shoes (new) – all sizes
- Boys and Girls Socks (new) (Toddler & Children's Sizes)
- Boys and Girls Packs of Underwear (new) (Toddler & Children's Sizes)
- Basic Home First Aid kits (new)
- Walmart, Target, or Visa Gift Cards

Questions? Contact Anne Sinclair at asinclair1@bellsouth.net.

JOIN US FOR IN-PERSON, INDOOR WORSHIP AT 11:00 AM IN THE SANCTUARY! MASKS REQUIRED. PREREGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED. PLEASE OBSERVE SOCIAL DISTANCING WHILE ON CHURCH PROPERTY.

Prayer List

Pete Bailey
Martha Brooker
Sally Christian
Mickey Epting
Charles Garren
Bud Harrelson
Karen Horne
Geneva Hutchinson
Lisa Johnson
Rev. Judy King
Alisa Liggett

Karen Lowrimore
Beverly McClanahan
Lauren, Greg and Nora Blair
Middleton and family
Angela Powers
Rick Rowe
Boyd Saunders
Stephanie Saunders
Nan Self
Sarah Threatt
Our homebound

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

Church Outside the Walls

It seems that COVID could have built barriers to fellowship, faith sharing and prayer, but the Open Door Class and Wednesday Night Small Group experienced new ways to practice these disciplines over the last year. It started with a church member offering to fund a zoom account so the class could meet each Sunday. The availability of technology not only allowed the class to meet without limits, but opened the door to a Wednesday bible study as well. The beauty of remote participation has also allowed for Open Door members and bible study participants to invite their friends and family to join. While many have experienced Zoom fatigue, this has still been an avenue for faith-building for others. Each week, participants join in from wherever they are: Atlanta, Columbia, Sunset Beach, Charlottesville and other locations in Virginia, Irmo, Lake Murray, Little Mountain, Edisto Island, the Myrtle Beach area, New Jersey, and Waxahachie, TX. We've learned the power of invitation — as most of the participants were invited by other participants to join in.

We ask how God is at work in isolation, and then we marvel at how faithful participation in study creates new friendships, holds up one another in prayer, and sustains our faith while we have waited to return to church. We sit back in wonder at the new and mysterious ways our faith binds us together when we have to stay apart, and we give thanks for how the spirit has worked in us and through us this past year.



WSUMC YOUTH EVENTS

- 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

Sunday School Updates

- **Aldersgate Class** will start back to class on June 6th. We will begin a 6-week program on *Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple* by Adam Hamilton. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information contact David Anderson at danderson@richardsonplowden.com.
- **The Dawsey Class:** is continuing our study of *Faith after Doubt* by Brian McLaren. On May 30, Jim Seigler will lead a discussion of the Afterward, "You're Not Crazy and "You're Not Alone." On June 6, we will begin a new book, *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America* by Jim Wallis. 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:** We will continue to explore The Work Of The People through the film series titled *Hospitality and The Stranger: Welcoming The Divine*. We will continue this through the end of May. The curriculum, written by Phuc Luu, challenges that salvation might not lie in the familiar, but that which comes to us as different, as the other and the stranger. As per new WSUMC guidelines, we can hold up to 17 persons in the class, so if you want to come in real life, there will likely be room for you. Others please continue to join us via Zoom. All are welcome, and if interested in joining us, contact Jim Lane at jlane@columbiasc.edu for the link.
- **The Joy Class:** Has begun in-person meetings at 10:00 am in our 3rd-floor classroom and we invite everyone to join us! If you would like to join us, please contact Lee Haynes at leelandhaynesjr@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 meet via Zoom on May 30 and June 6. All are welcome to join. For Zoom dial-in information, please contact Ann Jessup at jessup.ann@gmail.com.
- **The Paul Harmon Class** will start in-person classes on June 6 and will meet in Christ Chapel Courtyard at 10:00 am. The topic will be "What is the word of God in our time?" and will be lead by Rev. Don Britt. For more information contact Suzanne Joye at sjoye@sc.rr.com.
- **YASS, Paul Harmon, and John Harper:** will be continuing our study of the book of Acts on May 30. We will be discussing Chapters 6 and 7. There will also be a virtual class still discussing Acts for those who feel more comfortable on Zoom. For questions or to get a Zoom invitation, please email aflippert@umcsc.org.
- **WSUMC Youth Class:** 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 30, 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.



The Joy Class is all smiles about coming back to in-person Sunday School!

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 Marvel's *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. 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, and Amazon Prime, or it can be rented from Google Play Movies.





We are currently seeking help with sound for both the 11:00 am services and outdoor services. If interested, please contact Lynn Shirley @wmlynnsc@gmail.com

Unsolicited Praise for WSUMC

Last week, Reverend Parrish received a letter, along with a donation from a local individual who expressed her gratitude for our continued support of racial justice in our community. Our Black Lives Matter banner on the Bull Street side of the church was the catalyst for this letter. We have edited parts of the letter in order to keep the anonymity of the individual, who is not a member of the church.

To All Whom It May Concern:

My name is _____. I am a native of Columbia, SC. This is my first time seeing a church boldly denounce RACISM via the public [banner].

I am in awe and excitement. This state is full of racism and hatred of all kinds. I have experienced huge amounts of racism and hatred career-wise and personally.

I was amazed to see a church declare this without rhetoric, due to the "good-ol-boy" system, of far otherwise.

Thank you and continue in love.

"So often we hear criticism of the church's witness against social injustice. This letter confirms that our witness in public ways is making a positive impact," said Reverend Patricia Parrish. "We are all aware that our sign reading "All Lives Can't Matter Until Black Lives Matter" was recently vandalized. Since then, I stopped someone in broad daylight who was attempting to take it down. The world does not always recognize the evil of racism and her offspring, racial injustice. As people of God we are called to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. Let us continue our mission of working to end racism in hope," she said.



Retirement Reception
Honoring
Reverend Patricia Parrish
Sunday, June 13, 2021
3:00pm - 5:00pm
Christ Chapel Courtyard
Washington Street
United Methodist Church
1401 Washington Street
Columbia, South Carolina

Please register for the reception by using the link online at wsmethodist.org/reception or by calling the church office.

To contribute to a Love Offering for Reverend Parrish, you may mail or leave a check in the church office, or contribute online.

J U N E

Birthdays

June 1

Meredith Knoche
Jack Melogy
Margie Moore

June 2

Austin Hanlin
Jean Leitner
Hart Raley
Clifford Turner, Jr.

June 3

Karen Carr
Nancy Epting
Eddie Sullivan
Erin Westerkam

June 4

Dixon Robertson
Cynthia Tuten
Brady Zupan

June 5

Larry Hembree
Connor Johnson
Susan Luthren
Sharon McEntire
Greylan Smoak

June 7

Elaine Cranston
Harry Davis, Jr.
Andy Horne
Vickie Voegeli
Sandra Wheeler

June 8

Judith Bledsoe
Ellen Carruth
Payton Horton
Caroline Stewart

June 9

Bob Beamer
Ruby Crawford-Caciur
Sam Mathews
Mary Catherine McNair

June 10

Jan Cagle
Lynda Galloway
Mary Ann Marsh
Robert McEntire
Tracy Taylor

June 11

Joe Person
Faye Sandow

June 12

Kristie Rowe
Boyd Saunders
Doug Warner

June 13

Jimmy Dawkins

June 14

Keith Ellis
Dotsy Helms
Megan Hicks

June 15

George Down
Tracy Everly
Henry Lesesne

June 16

Joey Floyd
Cal Franklin
William Hicks
Tricia Whitener

June 17

Cathy Hooker
Joyce Pruett

June 18

James Carter
Jeanette Cauthen
Jimmy Taylor

June 19

Alice Ballard
Susan Burbage
Mary Coleman Smith

June 20

Kirby Leitner

June 22

Rachal Hatton
Deborah Rowe

June 23

Charlotte Jones
Emmi-Elizabeth Lee

June 24

Will Anderson
Sasi Balasundaram

Faith Cooper
Douglas Robinson
Andrew Ruffin
Edee Vaughan
Donna Watson
Nancy Whittle

June 25

Benjamin Epting
John Epting

June 26

Tim Connor-Murphy
Emily McCook

June 27

Pete Bailey
Blake Buchanan
Nelle Peterson
Jerry Watson

June 28

Jessica Catchings
Bill Childs
Ron Osborne

June 29

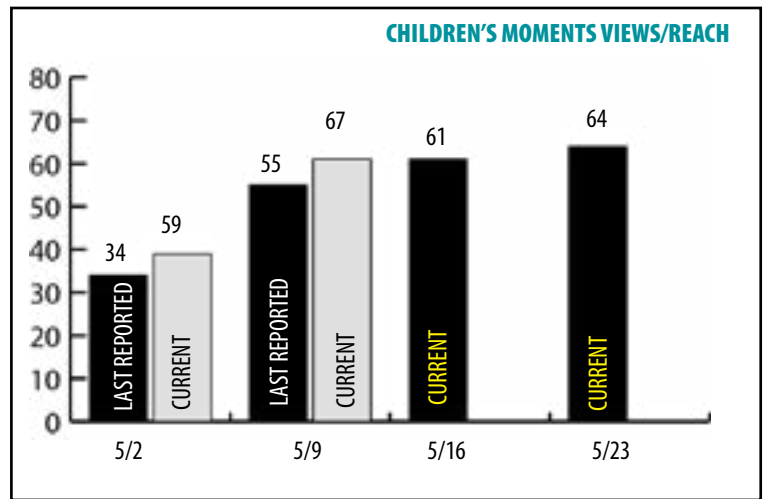
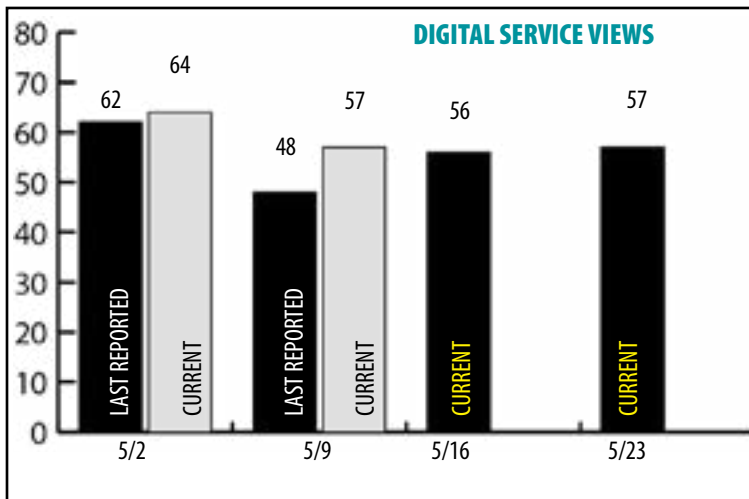
Sue Connolly-Nelson
Jeff Kremlick
Tanner Murphy
Matthew Wright

June 30

Ron Bowden
Mary Lue Finch
Meredith McElroy
Chris Riley

ONLINE VIEWS/ATTENDANCE/GIVING

IN-PERSON/INDOOR ATTENDANCE: 5/2: 75; 5/9: 51; 5/16: 53; 5/23: 44 • **OUTDOOR ATTENDANCE:** 4/18: 57; 5/2: 38; 5/16: 16
GIVING (FROM 5/12 to 5/26): Church: \$16,604; Soup Cellar: \$2,345; Foundation: 0



**NEXT OUTDOOR SERVICE: JUNE 6 @ 8:45 A.M. WITH COMMUNION
REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED. MASKS OPTIONAL.
BRING A CHAIR AND YOUR COMMUNION ELEMENTS.
PRE-PACKAGED ELEMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE.**