

THE CONNECTION

Sunday, August 8, 2021

WSUMC Mask Requirement Remains*

In the last issue of The Connection, we announced the suspension of a mask requirement during our 11:00 am service. This recommendation came from our Reopening Team, which has been faithfully guiding our decision-making during this COVID pandemic.

Last week, the CDC announced a recommendation that mask-wearing should be continued indoors at public gatherings for persons who are fully vaccinated. This guidance was then adopted by SCDHEC. After prayerful consideration of this new information, our Reopening Team has decided to continue the requirement for masks at our indoor worship. This decision is based on the CDC and SCHEC guidance, the increase in the percent positive cases in our area (which has been a guiding metric for the Reopening Team), and the increase in breakthrough cases that health officials believe are

likely being fueled by the rise in the Delta variant.

As much as we want to return to worship without restrictions like mask-wearing, we believe that it is in the best interest of the health and safety of our congregation and community at large to follow these safety precautions. The Reopening Team will continue to monitor recommendations from our local and national public health agencies and provide leadership for WSUMC on these critical issues. Other announcements related to worship will be communicated as they are made. We appreciate your patience and understanding, and above all your prayers, as we continue to navigate these uncertain times.

*Subject to change based on updated CDC and health department data and recommendations. Visit the website for the most up-to-date information.

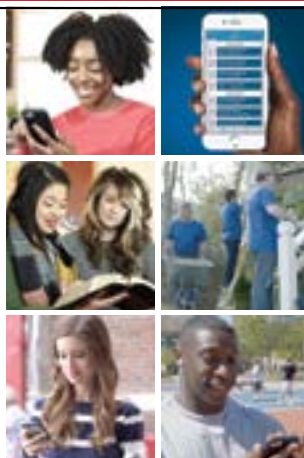
Have you CONNECTED yet?

Let's get connected. ✨

Download our Connect app today.

- 📄 Update your personal information
- 👥 Communicate with groups & teams
- 📅 Follow church announcements
- 🔍 Look up members
- 💰 Manage giving
- 📅 Create and join events

Let's be the church... together.



**DOWNLOAD APPS ONLINE AT
[WSMETHODIST.ORG/CONNECT](https://wsmethodist.org/connect)**

OR SCAN QR CODE



Connect Checklist

- ✓ Check your email for the invite and follow the link (on your computer)
- ✓ Set up a new password
- ✓ Go to your profile and check your information. You can edit any misinformation.
- ✓ **Click on Manage Privacy.** This allows you to control what others see! **VERY IMPORTANT.** You can pick and choose what others can see in your profile.
- ✓ Be sure to upload a photo!

As we build groups and teams, you will see that information show up in your profile. You can create emails to others on your teams and more!

You can always sign up online at wsmethodist.org/connect

Notes About Privacy

1. You have complete control over who can see your contact and personal information.
2. Contact information is never public or searchable on the Internet. Any information you elect to make visible to your church family is always protected behind a login.
3. Authorized staff will always have access to your profile information.
4. You and certain authorized staff may update your profile information. In some cases, your group leader may update your contact information if you have made it visible to group leaders.
5. For safety reasons, sharing contact and personal

information for children under 18 is limited. Parents determine whether or not to display their child's name in the church directory.

6. Children under 13 may not participate and will not be able to sign in.

What People May See

By default, the viewing of your contact and personal information is limited to members of groups you are in, group leaders, and staff members. If you choose to, however, you can make your information visible to the entire church. But if you prefer to be more private, you can customize how people see specific information.

- Contact Information: Name, Address, Phones, and Email;
- Personal Information: Marital Status, Family Position, Member Status

But you also have the option of sharing your birthday, gender, allergy information, and skills with people in your church. If you are a group leader or host an event, certain contact information may be visible regardless of the settings you choose.

Privacy Settings

- **Everyone**—Like a church directory listing, everyone in our church will be able to see whatever profile information is marked as visible to everyone.
- **My Groups + Group Leaders + Church Staff**—This setting means the information will only be shared with the people you are involved with at church. This is the default setting.
- **Group Leaders + Church Staff**—You would use this setting if you wanted to keep some profile information hidden from anyone who is not a group leader or on staff.
- **Church Staff Only**—This setting effectively removes you from the church directory. Your information will only be available to authorized church staff.
- **Custom Privacy**—Choose different privacy levels for specific contact fields and personal information. You can do this in two places: when you edit your profile information or when you manage your privacy settings.

While you can hide the majority of your information from most of the church, you should know that, regardless of your settings, contact data will still be visible to certain members of the church staff. The Directory page shows all individuals who have a login, along with individuals without a login who have been opted-in to the directory. Currently, individuals with a login cannot opt-out of being listed in the directory.

Family Privacy

A family member with a primary position such as "Head" or "Spouse" can change privacy settings for other members of the family and opt family members into the church directory. Birthdays are required for children (as a means to prohibit access), but it's up to you if you want to share the birth date with your church family.

Questions? Contact Robbie Douglas at rdouglas@wsmethodist.org, or Jane Peterson at jane@wsmethodist.org.

For full details, visit the website at wsmethodist.org/connect or pick up an insert from the last edition of *The Connection* available in the back hallway of the church.



• **The Aldersgate Sunday School Class** will begin a 10-week study program on Adam Hamilton's new book *Words of Life Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today*. In *Words of Life*, best-selling author Adam Hamilton brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history. He considers the commandments in their historical context, considering the meaning of each commandment in Hebrew, unpacking how Jesus reinterpreted them, and showing how every "thou shalt not" was intended to point to a life-giving "thou shalt". This study will include the use of a DVD featuring Adam Hamilton teaching from locations in Egypt as he explores the Ten Commandments followed by a discussion of each commandment. All are welcome to join this discussion which will run until October 4, 2021. For more information contact David Anderson at danderson@richardsonplowden.com.

• **The Dawsey Class:** continues its study of *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America* by Jim Wallis. This Sunday, August 8, Hunter Rentz will teach Chapter 9, "Welcoming the Stranger." On August 15, Joe and Mary Slade will lead a discussion of Chapter 10, "Crossing the Bridge to a New America" and the Afterward. The class will meet by FreeConferenceCall. Class members should call in before 9:15 a.m., but not before 9:05 a.m. The call-in number is (701) 802-5115. The access code is 7252934.

• **The Grace Class:** is enjoying their relaxed approach to Summer Sundays by simultaneously gathering in person and via Zoom during the regular Sunday School hour to share a devotional led by a class member or guest. Join in person or contact Jim Lane at jlane@columbiasec.edu for the Zoom link to gather at 9:45 am for fellowship, and at 10:00 am for spiritual reflection. Also, check out the Grace Class Summer Calendar ([available online](#)) for extra opportunities to meet up outside of class!

• **The Joy Class** is meeting in-person at 10:00 am in their 3rd-floor classroom, and we invite everyone to join us! If you are interested, please contact Lee Haynes at leelandhaynesjr@gmail.com or Sylvia Stevens at sylviasaundersstevens@gmail.com for an invitation.

• **Open Door Class** is continuing its study of *Courage: Jesus and the Call to Brave Faith* by Tom Berlin. We continue to meet in person as well as via Zoom each week. For more information about our class or the book, contact jessup.ann@gmail.com.

• **The Paul Harmon Class** will be meeting at 10:00 am in the Traxler Class which is located on the 2nd floor. On August 9 and August 15, Dr Charles Bryan will be leading our lesson and discussion on race and racism. All are welcome. For more information contact Suzanne Joye at sjoye@sc.rr.com.

• **John Harper Class:** Will be meeting in their classroom. The class will be led by Tracy Powers. All are welcome. Contact Tracy for more information at tjpowers65@gmail.com.

• **YASS** will be taking a break for the summer. We encourage you to join in with any of our other adult classes which are now meeting at the church. Please contact Rev. Alston at aflippert@umcsc.org for more information.

• **WSUMC Youth Class:** August 8— the youth will be meeting on Zoom for Sunday school at 10:00 am and discussing how to make an impact in the world. (John 13:34-35 and Acts 8: 26-40.) August 15—back in person. We will be talking about strength in our relationship with God and strength within ourselves. (2 Corinthians 12:7-10 and 1 Corinthians 1:27.) To participate, please email Mackin Wall at mackin@wsmethodist.org.

Gifts



IN MEMORY OF HELEN FANT
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Elizabeth Mace

IN MEMORY OF NAN SELF
to WSUMC
Given by Lynn Shirley

IN MEMORY OF ANGELA POWERS
to Sing-Along Messiah
Given by Lynn Shirley

IN MEMORY OF HELEN FANT
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Lynn Shirley

IN MEMORY OF NAN SELF
to Children's Ministries
Given by Lisa & Robbie Douglas

IN MEMORY OF HELEN FANT
to the Foundation
Given by Anne Sinclair & Julian Ruffin

IN MEMORY OF KATHY GUNTER & HOMER FESPERMAN
to WSUMC
Given by Linda Fesperman

IN MEMORY OF NAN SELF
to WSUMC
Given by Frances Robertson

IN HONOR OF Ms. PATRICIA L. WHITE
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Dane Waund

IN MEMORY OF FRANKIE GARRICK
to WSUMC
Given by Virginia Vaughan

IN MEMORY OF HELEN FANT
to WSUMC
Given by Patricia & Don Britt

IN MEMORY OF ANGELA POWERS
to the Music Ministries
Given by Evelyn & Scott Middleton

Back to School

For more information contact
Terence Goodwin
tgoodwin@wsmethodist.org

ICE Cream Social



SAVE THE DATE!

BASH!

Hosted by Children & Family Ministries

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14

10:00 am-12:00 pm

Threatt Hall/Outside Parking Lot

MUSIC • GAMES • ICE CREAM

plus free school
supplies available to
all ages*

**while supplies last*



Film Discussion of *Soul* with Rev. Alston



Join in the discussion on Zoom this **Monday night, August 9 at 7 pm** when Rev. Alston will lead a discussion of the Disney movie, *Soul*. She will discuss various spiritual themes you may see in the movie and what it means to you. It's available on Disney+ or for rent on Amazon prime. Please email Alston Lippert for the Zoom link to participate at aflippert@umcsc.org.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Monday, August 9

7:00-8:00 pm/Online Film Study: *Soul* with Alston Lippert/Zoom (email Rev. Alston @ aflippert@umcsc.org)

Tuesday, August 10

6:00-7:15 pm/SPPRC/Zoom

Wednesday, August 11

5:00-6:15 pm/Reopening Church Team/Zoom

7:00-8:00 pm/Small Group: *Love Like That: 5 Relationship Secrets from Jesus*/Zoom (contact Ann Jessup @ jessup.ann@gmail.com for the link)

Saturday, August 14

12:00-2:00 pm/Back to School Bash (all ages)/Parking lot and Threath Hall

Monday, August 30

6:00-7:00 pm/RJAT/Zoom

Monday, September 6

LABOR DAY/WSUMC OFFICE & CDC CLOSED

Tuesday, September 7

4:00-5:00 pm/Reconciling Next Meeting/Zoom

Sunday, September 12

4:00-5:30 pm/Mary's Maidens/Kitchen & Disciple Conference Room

Monday, September 27

6:00-7:00 pm/RJAT/Zoom

To set up any meeting, please contact Abbie at abbie@wsmethodist.org

Prayer List

Pete Bailey
Thom Berry
Martha Boynton
Martha Brooker
Sally Christian
Mickey Epting
Charles Garren
Frances Grimes
Bud Harrelson
Karen Horne
Geneva Hutchinson
Lisa Johnson

Rev. Judy King
Beverly McClanahan
David Middleton
Lauren, Greg, and Nora
Blair Middleton and family
Rick Rowe
Boyd Saunders
Stephanie Saunders
Sarah Threath
Our homebound



Youth Project Donations Needed!

Do you have an old door to donate? The youth are looking for six doors to paint and prepare this project for LBGTQI History Month in October. If you have an old door, or extra paint to donate please contact Mackin Wall at mackin@wsmethodist.org.

Cash donations may be made online at wsmethodist.org/giving

**DONATIONS ARE NEEDED BY
SEPTEMBER 6!**

ATTENDANCE:

June 27: 8:45 am Outdoor (18); 11:00 am: 70
July 4: 90
July 11: 90
July 18: 111
July 25: 108
Aug. 1: 94

ONLINE VIEWS OF LIVE SERVICE (as of 8-4)

July 4: 263
July 11: 139
July 18: 64
July 25: 64
Aug. 1: 39

GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE (as of 8-4):

Church:
Budget: \$471,497.25
Actual: \$420,726.25
Foundation (gifts): \$31,611.25
Soup Cellar: \$41,964.65

Give online today

