

THE CONNECTION

Sunday, September 19, 2021

In our worship services, we are exploring a series of sermons that are encouraging us to look at what we are feeding our souls. To help you to take action on what we are learning together, we are inviting you to join us actively revamping our consumption of information over the next several weeks.

Unlike many healthy eating plans that tell you what not to eat, this wisdom challenge is less about what not to do and more about what to do.

Here's how it will work:

Our Sermon Series, The Wisdom Pyramid, inspired by Brett McCracken's book of the same name, presents six sources of wisdom: Internet and Social Media, Music/Movies/Museums, Books, Nature, Church and The Bible.

In the list below you will find five optional activities listed under each source of wisdom. During the 30 days of the challenge, September 12th- October 11th, try to accomplish at least two of the five options in each category. Share photos and reflections about your journey in this challenge by emailing us (send to jane@wsmethodist.org) or share your insights with others and spread the Wisdom30 challenge by posting on the Washington Street UMC Facebook and Instagram pages with the tag #Wisdom30.

Internet and Social Media

1. Use social media only in positive (non-complaining) ways for the entire 30-day challenge. For example: praise someone else's work, promote good movies, music, books that you love and found enriching; share insightful quotes or scripture passages, post cute cartoons to promote laughter and joy.
2. Take at least one day per week to be completely free of all social media posting and browsing.
3. Limit your outside of work screen time to one hour or less per day.
4. Post something on social media that publicly praises or expresses appreciation for a person who has modeled wisdom in your life.
5. Create a YouTube playlist that curates a collection of videos you have found helpful or edifying. Share the link to your playlist with others who you believe might find the videos beneficial as well.

Music, Movies, Museums

1. Watch *The Lord of the Rings* movie trilogy with family and friends.
2. Listen to the entirety of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* or to G.F. Handel's *Messiah*.
3. Visit the SC State Museum or The Anne Frank Center on the Univ. of SC campus.

THE #WISDOM30 CHALLENGE

Through October 11



4. Make a list of your favorite hymns and contemporary Christian music and meditate on the meaning of the lyrics.

5. Make a list of movies that have impacted your life in positive and enriching ways and re-watch some of them with family or friends.

Books

1. Re-read a book you love.
2. Make a list of five books that have most shaped your faith, write a short description of how these books impacted you, and share this list with others.
3. Read a book you will mostly disagree with or find maddening. Once finished, try to write down at least three helpful things you took away from it.
4. Read a work of fiction. Ask friends for recommendations if you aren't sure what to read.
5. Read a book of poetry or one of the classic books of literature you have always heard people talk about but never took the time to read.

Nature

1. Go on a walk outside, even if only for 15 minutes, and go totally unplugged. Leave the phone on silent, no earbuds or headphones. Listen to nature and observe your surroundings.
2. Take a notepad and find a quiet spot in nature (in a park, by a stream, in a garden, or just under a shade tree in your backyard), and just sit for an hour. Write down what you observe and a few reflections about the kind of Creator who would create the things you observe.
3. Visit a park or nature preserve with family or friends and give everyone 30 minutes to take one photo each of the most beautiful and interesting pieces of God's creation they can capture with their camera. Then share your photos with each

other and have each person explain why they took the photo.

4. Go to the farmer's market or an open-air market and then make a meal using only (or mostly) the food you picked up there.

5. Join others at WSUMC on Saturday, October 2nd, 10 am-noon, for the Blessing of the Animals and talk with people about their pets and what their pets mean to them.

Church

1. Attend worship services (online or in person) every Sunday during this challenge.

2. Each week, text someone who attends WSUMC and ask how they are doing and how you can pray for them. Then pray for them.

3. Send a note of appreciation to someone in the church thanking them for how they've led and served in ways that have enriched your life and/or the life of this community.

4. Read a short biography about a missionary, theologian, or key figure in church history.

5. Call the church office and schedule a tour of the WSUMC history museum (located on the 3rd floor of WSUMC).

Bible

1. Read through the whole book of Proverbs, one chapter a day for 31 days. Spend 5 minutes in prayer after your daily reading, asking God to grant you wisdom.

2. Pick one passage of scripture or several key verses to memorize. Some passages to consider memorizing are Psalm 1, Psalm 23, Psalm 46, Psalm 100, Proverbs 3:5-6, Isaiah 40:28-31, Isaiah 43:1-4, Matthew 5:1-16, Galatians 5:22-26, Galatians 6:9-10, Philippians 4:8-9, Philippians 4:12-13, Colossians 1:15-20.

3. Ask your family and friends if they have a favorite Bible story or passage of scripture, even if they don't know where the verses or stories are located in the Bible, tell them you just want to know what story or verses have impacted their lives in meaningful ways.

4. Spend some time thinking about what the Bible means to you and write or draw something to depict what it means and share your reflection/drawing on social media or others whom you think will be enriched by your sharing.

5. Contact one of our Pastors and let them know you would like to join a Bible Study group. Give them your preference for online or in-person format and the best times to meet. Then follow up to join the group they recommend. Depending on the requests we receive, we will form new groups to meet the needs.



JOIN US!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

ALL ANIMALS MUST BE ON A LEASH OR IN A CARRIER/CRATE

Collecting donations for Pawmetto Lifeline!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2
10 AM - NOON
CHURCH PARKING LOT
1401 WASHINGTON ST.

COLLECTING:

- 39-gallon black trash bags
- 13-gallon white trash bags
- liquid laundry detergent
- gallon size zip lock bags
- sandwich size zip lock bags
- Dawn original blue dish soap
- AAA batteries
- AA batteries
- Pedigree chopped/ground wet dog food
- Friskies pate wet cat food (no salmon or fish please)
- 9-Lives pate wet cat food (no salmon or fish please)
- paper towels
- exercise pens (x-pens)
- cat dome beds
- cat and dog toys
- large tote bags
- baby wipes - unscented
- Miracle nipples (mini)
- toothbrushes (soft)
- flea combs
- puppy whelping collars - multicolor and adjustable (velcro)



Save the date!

FALL FESTIVAL!
OCT. 31 • 3:00-5:00 PM

In Christian Sympathy

Rev. Becky Shirley joins the entire staff and Washington Street Church family in expressing our deepest sympathy and Christian love to:

Mrs. Judy Bailey and family in the passing of her husband,
Mr. Walter (Pete) Phillip Bailey.
and to

Kitty Hepfer and family in the passing of her husband
Dr. Richard G. Hepfer (Rick),
father of Sloan and Glenn Hepfer

IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Walter (Pete) Phillip Bailey
September 9, 2021

Dr. Richard G. Hepfer
September 12, 2021

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord..."

Sunday School

• **The Aldersgate Sunday School Class:** is continuing 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. This includes 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:** This Sunday, September 19, the class will continue its study of *Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks* by Diana Butler Bass. Tom Wall will teach Chapter 3, "Habits of Gratitude." On September 26, Joe Slade will lead a discussion of Chapter 4, "Intentional Practice." The class will meet by Free Conference Call. 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 starting a new series: *Acts: A Theological Commentary on the Bible*. In this commentary, award-winning author and theologian Willie James Jennings explores the relevance of the book of Acts for the struggles of today. Sept. 19: Introduction: Why Acts? Why Now? The Revolution Is Here, (pages 1 – 51). Sept. 26: The Struggle of Diaspora, (pages 52 – 101). Join in person or contact Jim Lane at jlane@columbiasc.edu.

[edu](#) for the Zoom link to gather Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM for fellowship, and at 10:00 am for spiritual reflection. All are welcome to join!

• **The Joy Class** is studying the book of Romans. We invite all to join us in-person as we learn & grow together on our journey to be Christ's light in the world. If you are interested, please contact Lee Haynes at leelandhaynesjr@gmail.com or Sylvia Stevens at sylviasaundersstevens@gmail.com for more information.

• **Open Door Class:** is studying *Moses the Reluctant Prophet* by Adam Hamilton. All are welcome to join via Zoom or in person. For Zoom link information, contact Ann Jessup at jessup.ann@gmail.com.

• **The Paul Harmon Class:** Reverend Don Britt is leading the Paul Harmon Class in a study of the Apostles' Creed. All are welcome. For more information contact Suzanne Joye at sjoye@sc.rr.com.

• **John Harper Class:** is currently studying the Gospels using the Cokesbury Adult Sunday School materials. The class is led by Tracy Powers. All are welcome. Contact Tracy for more information at tjpowers65@gmail.com.

• **WSUMC Youth Class:** September 19 — Letting Go and Letting God - Isaiah 43: 18-21; September 26 — Who God Says You Are - Ephesians 2:10 and Romans 8:37. To participate, please email Mackin Wall at mackin@wsmethodist.org.

Committee News

THE CHURCH REOPENING TEAM met on Sept. 8 via Zoom and discussed current COVID positivity rates and agreed that our current protocols that were updated on July 13 to include the continuation of masking and social distancing while in the church. The passing of the offering plate is still on hold. The choir's music scholars will begin practicing in Threatt Hall in mid-September and a reintroduction to volunteer choir participation could begin as early as October 1. The choir size will be limited to 10 members. Safety protocols will be followed. We will be continuing to log in attendees at our 11:00 am service and Rev. Shirley will announce weekly instructions to contact the main office if anyone in attendance does contract COVID. Finally, the team discussed and agreed that we will not hold a Sing-Along-Messiah in 2021, but will begin a fundraising effort early in 2022.

THE SUNDAY DINNER TEAM will host an outdoor, Sunday Dinner on the Grounds on Sunday, Nov. 14 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in the parking lot. The plan is to serve baked potatoes and chili. The team will be asking for donations of cookies and brownies; as well as the recruitment of 15 volunteers to help with the event. Watch for a SignUpGenius post on our website and through Eblasts. Plans are also in the works for the WSUMC Youth to hold a Clothing/Blanket Drive so that we may distribute those items to our guests. We also hope to have both flu and COVID shots available.

THE MISSION TEAM will have its first interest meeting in an Ecuador 2022 Mission Trip on Oct. 10 at 9:30 in the Wesley Room. Contact Mackin for more information at mackin@wsmethodist.org.

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED TO HELP MAN THE BOOTH AT THE OCT. 23 PRIDE FESTIVAL. SEVEN SPOTS AVAILABLE! SIGN UP ONLINE AT [WSMETHODIST.ORG/EVENTS/SC-PRIDE-FESTIVAL/](https://www.wsmethodist.org/events/sc-pride-festival/)



Purchase your "Love" t-shirt in support of Pride Month (October)

\$17—Womens Cut & Regular • \$18—XXL and up

Available for purchase Sunday before and after the 11:00 am service!
(Sept. 19 & 26 only)

Also available through REALM Connect. NOTE: You must have a REALM Connect account with login. This purchase can not be made available via the Church website Giving link.

October Birthdays

October 1

Bill Allen
Dee Gullede
Karen Lowrimore
Diana Westerkam

October 2

Georgia Carnes
Tinka Coleman
Sierra Jansen
Talmage Scurry
Chip Teague
Kathy Wright

October 3

Thom Berry
Curtis Greene
Basil Hawk
Bill Riddle
Tommy Weston

October 4

Ashley Beck
Kay Brinkley
Emily Gibbs
Hal Hanlin
Buddy Knight
Paul McEntire
Cammie Reed

October 5

Iris Eliza Fowler
Lynn Luce
Debbie Patton

October 6

Louise Hooks
Billy Hucks

October 7

Carol Greene
Paul McClanahan
Christopher McElroy

October 8

David D. Jones
Harriett Singleton
David Williams

October 9

Jenna Barrett
Charlotte Broome
Cindy Cox
Alison Hendricks
Sunny Walker Woods
Tate Walker Woods

October 10

Marion DeWitt
David Dudley
Kel Jansen
Russell Jeffcoat
Peggy Ward

October 11

Deborah McCartha

October 12

Teddy Aravena
Bill Hampton
Jake Lindler
Michael Reece

October 13

Lee Dutton
Rick Frierson
Andrew Johnson
Andrea Lever
Nancy McDuffie
Evans McNair

October 14

Mike Hemlepp
Lindsey Moore
Jim Seigler

October 15

Tom Kinard

October 16

Reid Eaddy
Lin Lord
Scott Medlyn

October 17

Melissa Buffikin
Max Farmer
Sara Fisher
Caroline FitzSimons

October 18

Elizabeth A. Matthews Garrison

October 19

Bob Lane

October 20

Shannon Davis
Linda Fesperman
Leah Garland
Gene Matthews
Beth Person

October 21

Shannon Berry
Phil Jenkins
Andrea McAtee
Emily Nason

October 22

David Burnside
Wendy Clark
Lindy Walker Woods

October 23

Emily Brown
Henry Cauthen
Susan Matthews
Chip Miniard
Willie Teague

October 24

Emily Cooper
Luke Woods

October 25

Jamie Mathews
Erin Oehler
Margaret Teague

October 26

Elizabeth Burbage

October 27

Wiley Cooper
Elizabeth May
William May
Alex Rodgers

October 28

David Byrum
Michael Hudgins
Richard McEachern
Gregory R. Middleton
Adam Ruffin
Lee Smith
Anne Walsh

October 29

Paul Brown

October 30

Karen Deas
Ken Hooks, Jr.
Michael Latham
Stacey McEntire
Felix Ian Wall

October 31

Robert Peeler, Jr.
Martha Wherry

ATTENDANCE:

Aug. 1: 94
Aug. 8: 123
Aug. 15: 122
Aug. 22: 71
Aug. 29: 95
Sept. 5: 94
Sept. 12: 80

Give online today
wsmethodistorg/giving

GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE

(as of 9-1-21):

Church:

Budget: \$471,497.25

Actual: \$493,446.00

Soup Cellar: \$54,231.00

Foundation Gifts: \$31,661.00

Or text "connections"
to 732566

October is Minister Appreciation Month!

During the month of October, a basket will be placed on the table outside of the Church Office in which you can place notes or cards of thanks to our ministers. This is an opportunity for all who attend worship to express their appreciation as we observe Minister Appreciation Month.

Prayer List

Thom Berry
Martha Boynton
Martha Brooker
Sally Christian
Mickey Epting
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 Threatt
Peggy Weston
Our homebound

Gifts

IN MEMORY OF HELEN FANT
to WSUMC

Given by
Blakely H. Burnside

IN MEMORY OF HELEN FANT
to WSUMC

Given by Carolyn Johnson

IN MEMORY OF NAN SELF
to Ministers Discretionary Fund
Given by Bill Westerkam

IN MEMORY OF
ANGELA POWERS
to Music Ministries
Given by Bill Westerkam