



# THE WISDOM PYRAMID

*Wisdom Whispers to Us*

**September 19, 2021**



**WASHINGTON  
STREET**

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The congregation of Washington Street UMC praises and serves God from the heart of the city in ways that reach our neighbors near and far. We welcome and affirm all who seek the love and mercy of Christ regardless of race, creed, age, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic status. We honor traditions as rooted in our history, our expression of worship, and our respect for theological curiosity. We nonetheless see vital change and ongoing renewal as essential for spiritual growth.

WASHINGTON STREET  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 19, 2021

11:00 AM - Sanctuary

Liturgical Color: Green, symbolizing our growth in Christ

*(As our worship begins, please silence any electronic devices. Portable hearing devices are available in the Narthex.  
Please ask an usher for assistance.)*

**GATHERING IN THE NAME OF CHRIST**

PRELUDE

Allegro from Concerto in G Major, BWV 592  
Louis Shirer, organ

Johann Ernst/Johann S. Bach

WELCOME

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Today we take time to be still and listen for the voice of God.

**Many: In this time together, we put aside productivity and open our lives to wonder and worship.**

One: Our worship reminds us that the world does not revolve around us.

**Many: The wise understand that we revolve around God and God's goodness and grace.**

One: Come, let us worship our wise and caring God!

\*HYMN 421

*Make Me a Captive, Lord*

DIADEMATA

Words: George Matheson, 1890 (Eph. 3:1)

Music: George J. Elvey, 1868

\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #884

An Affirmation of Faith of the Korean Methodist Church

**We believe in the one God, creator and sustainer of all things, Father of all nations,  
the source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and love.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh,  
our teacher, example, and Redeemer, the Savior of the world.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength.**

**We believe in the forgiveness of sins, in the life of love and prayer,  
and in grace equal to every need.**

**We believe in the Word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments  
as the sufficient rule both of faith and of practice.**

**We believe in the church, those who are united in the living Lord  
for the purpose of worship and service.**

**We believe in the reign of God as the divine will realized in human society,  
and in the family of God, where we are all brothers and sisters.**

**We believe in the final triumph of righteousness and in the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*GLORIA PATRI 70

Words: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th Century

MEINEKE

Music: Charles Meineke, 1844

OPENING PRAYER (In Unison)

**God of wisdom and love, morning by morning, day by day, continue to teach us your ways. Open our ears to the struggles around us; open our voices to speak out for justice; open our hearts to welcome the forgotten; open our treasures so they may be used to care for all your children. This we pray in the name of Jesus the Messiah. Amen.**

### LISTENING FOR GOD

ANTHEM	<i>We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight</i>	Michael Costello
FIRST LESSON	Proverbs 2:1-6	
CHILDREN'S MOMENTS		Ann Jessup
SECOND LESSON	2 Timothy 4:1-13	
PROCLAMATION	"Wisdom Whispers to Us"	Rev. Becky Shirley

### RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM	<i>Children of the Heavenly Father</i>	DAN FORREST
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OFFERING OUR THANKS TO GOD

*As we go into the world, we offer ourselves to God in loving service as we offer our gifts to the ministries of the congregation. Financial contributions may be placed in the offering plates located in the Narthex, online at [wsmethodist.org](http://wsmethodist.org), or through the mail. Thank you for supporting the ministries of this congregation with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.*

### GOING FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN 191	<i>Jesus Loves Me</i>	JESUS LOVES ME
	Words: St. 1 Anna B. Warner, 1860; Sts. 2-3 David Rutherford McGuire	
	Music: William B. Bradbury, 1862	

\*BENEDICTION

Please remain seated until the pastors have cleared the aisle. Please remember to practice social distancing when exiting.

*POSTLUDE	Presto from Concerto in G Major, BWV 592	Johann Ernst/Johann S. Bach
	Louis Shirer, organ	

*\*Congregation standing. If standing is uncomfortable, please remain seated and continue your participation.*

***When our worship ends, our service begins!***

**Reverend Becky J. Shirley**Senior Pastor  
rjshirley@umcsc.org**Reverend Alston Lippert**Associate Minister for Nurture & Disci-  
-pleship Development  
alippert@umcsc.org**Nicholas Todd Shumate**Director of Music  
nicholas@wsmethodist.org**Felicia Yockel**Director of Child Development Center  
felicia@wsmethodist.org**Robbie Douglas**Business Manager  
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abbie@wsmethodist.org**Mackin Wall**Director of Family Ministries  
mackin@wsmethodist.org**Jerry Sumpter**Director of Maintenance  
jerry@wsmethodist.org**Terrence Chisholm**Soup Cellar Manager  
tee\_chisholm@yahoo.com**Louis Shirer**Organist  
louis@wsmethodist.org**Rick Frierson**

Pianist

**WASHINGTON  
STREET**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**PRAYER THOUGHT**

Our prayers don't have expiration dates. God will eventually deliver.

**PRAYER LIST**Thom Berry  
Martha Boynton  
Martha Brooker  
Sally Christian  
Mickey Epting  
Frances GrimesBud Harrelson  
Karen Horne  
Geneva Hutchinson  
Lisa Johnson  
Rev. Judy King  
Beverly McClanahanDavid Middleton  
Lauren, Greg, and Nora  
Blair Middleton and  
family  
Rick Rowe  
Boyd SaundersStephanie Saunders  
Sarah Threatt  
Heidi Wall  
Peggy Weston  
Our homebound**FLOWERS**

The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God and in loving memory of Carol H. Clements by her parents, Rick and Deborah Rowe.

**IN MEMORIAM**Dr. Richard G. Hepfer (Rick)  
September 12, 2021*"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord..."***CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY**

Rev. Becky Shirley joins the entire staff and Washington Street Church family in expressing our deepest sympathy and Christian love to Kitty Hepfer and family. In the passing of her husband Dr. Richard G. Hepfer (Rick), father of Sloan and Glenn Hepfer.

**SERVING TODAY**Children's Moments  
Usher  
Sound/Video  
Visitor Cards  
Pew MaintenanceAnn Jessup  
Tommy Betenbaugh  
Grant Jackson/Spencer Stevens/  
Charles Garren  
Suzanne Joye  
Finance Committee**STEWARDSHIP REPORT****Giving to-date** (as of 9-16-21)  
Church YTD \$452,049  
Soup Cellar YTD \$53,332  
Foundation Gifts YTD \$31,661  
Attendance on 9/12/21: 80