

THE CONNECTION

Sunday, November 14, 2021

Fall Festival Welcomed Over 300 Participants

This year's fall festival welcomed over 300 guests to the parking lot here at Washington Street. Festival-goers enjoyed Trunk or Treating, a huge inflatable slide, pumpkin decorating, face painting, a dunking booth, cake walk, and more on Halloween. The weather was perfect and it seems the community was ready to enjoy a family friendly event.

Thanks to Mackin Wall and her youth team for manning the stations and to all of our Trunk or Treat participants for helping to make this event a big success. This year's participants were Rev. Becky and Richard Shirley, Rev. Alston and Alston Lee Lippert, Susan and Travis Lutheran, Ann and Harvey Jessup, Jane and Chris Peterson, Mackenzie Shannon, Susan Caskey, Jennifer and Grant Jackson, Kristi Rowe, and Heidi, Mike and Lydia Conte. And the winners were:

First place - Jennifer and Grant Jackson

Second place - Susan and Travis Lutheran

Third place - Ann and Harvey Jessup

These lucky folks are the winners of gift cards, so pop over to the church office to collect your prizes!

We hope you will take a few moments and view all of the great photos (thanks Eleanore Langley!) of our event. There were so many great costumes worn by the young and young at heart! Check them out on our Facebook page at facebook.com/washingtonstreetumc.



Top right: First place—Jennifer & Grant Jackson; above: Second Place—Susan & Travis Luthren; Third place—Ann & Harvey Jessup.

Sunday School

• **The Aldersgate Sunday School Class:** Hal Hanlin will lead a class discussion on Nov. 14. The class is looking into a new study to begin soon. All are welcome. For more information contact David Anderson at danderson@richardsonplowden.com.

• **The Dawsey Class:** This Sunday, November 14, we will continue with our study of Julian of Norwich: Wisdom in a Time of Pandemic -- and Beyond by Matthew Fox. Tom Wall will lead a discussion of Chapter 1, "Facing the Darkness." On November 21, Carl Evans will teach Chapter 2 "Goodness, Joy, Awe." 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. For more information about the class, contact the class president Mary Slade at marydslade4@gmail.com.

• **The Grace Class:** Grace is studying *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. On Nov. 14 Nancy Whittle will lead Chapters 22-25 (pages 203-225). On Nov. 21, Melanie Dobson will lead the discussion of Chapters 26-28 (Pages 226-258). Join in person or contact Jim Lane at jlane@columbiasec.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 currently studying the Book of James. Later in November, we will be doing an Advent series, with each week led by a class member. We invite all to join us as we learn and grow together to shine Christ's light and love on the world. If you are interested, please contact Lee Haynes at lelandhaynesjr@gmail.com or Sylvia Stevens at sylviasaundersstevens@gmail.com for more information.

• **Open Door Class:** Open Door is continuing its study of Lisa Whittle's *The Hard Good*. The class meets both in person and via zoom each week. 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 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:** For the month of November, the youth will be studying *The Teachings of Jesus* with the guidance of "The Fathom Series" student journal. To participate, please email Mackin Wall at mackin@wsmethodist.org.

Important Announcement from the Reopening Team

On **Sunday, Dec. 12**, the church will move to a new mask policy. Any **vaccinated** individual may opt-out of wearing a mask while on church property. However, any non-vaccinated individuals are asked to still wear a mask while inside the church. Masks are welcomed for our older and immunocompromised members or anyone else that chooses to continue wearing them. Social distancing and hand washing are still encouraged as precautionary measures. Masks will still be available for anyone who needs one. Anyone who may contract COVID while at any church function is asked to contact the church office.

Gifts



IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Gwen & Mike Harmon

IN MEMORY OF CLAY NEBHUT
SAUNDERS
to the Organ Fund
Given by Stephanie & Boyd Saunders

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to WSUMC
Given by Sam Waldrep

IN MEMORY OF FRANCES GRIMES
to WSUMC
Given by Sam Waldrep

IN MEMORY OF PETE BAILEY
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Marcia & Frank Robinson

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Robin & David Anderson

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Kay & Charles Garren

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to the Organ Fund
Given by Kay & Charles Garren

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Patsy & Mike Burkhold

IN MEMORY OF FRANCES GRIMES
to WSUMC
Given by Karen & Henry Lovett

IN MEMORY OF FRANCES GRIMES
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Circle 6

IN MEMORY OF RICK HEPFER
to the Foundation
Given by Sara & Ed Fisher

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to WSUMC
Given by James Salley

IN MEMORY OF RALPH BARRETT
to WSUMC
Given by Nelle Peterson

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to the Soup Cellar
Given by James Eugene Klugh

IN MEMORY OF
GRACE McALISTER
to the Organ Fund
Given by Laurely Nance

IN MEMORY OF FRANCES GRIMES
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Ms. Nancy Buchanan

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Ms. Deborah Bise

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Jamie Gerald

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Elizabeth & Mack Ouzts

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to the Organ Fund
Given by Chip Williams

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Nancy & Larry McWhorter

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to WSUMC
Given by Virginia Vaughan

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Mary Ann & Tommy Betenbaugh

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to the Organ Fund
Given by Chip Williams

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to the Choir Fund
Given by Sara & Ed Fisher

IN MEMORY OF RICK HEPFER
to WSUMC
Given by Whit Moore

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Allen Stokes, Jr.

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Karen, Andrew & Lyndsay Johnson



Coolers for Kitties



YOUTH



WSUMC Youth are collecting old coolers in order to make winter shelters for our kitties. Please email Mackin at mackin@wsmethodist.org if you have one or more to donate!



Christmas Poinsettias

Order your Christmas poinsettias now to enhance our worship during Advent and Christmas.

Poinsettias are \$25 each

Completed order forms and payments are due by NOON on Monday, Nov. 22nd.

Send completed forms (available in the office and in the Narthex) with payment to the Church Office or drop them off in the Narthex on Sundays through Nov. 21st.

Plants may be picked up after the 5:30 pm Christmas Eve service.

Once you've filled out this form, visit wsmethodist.org/giving or text "connections" to 73256 to complete your payment. Make sure you select the "Poinsettia" fund when completing your payment. If ordering online, this form still has to be turned into the Church office or it can be emailed to abbie@wsmethodist.org.



The WSUMC Nursery Has Reopened!

The nursery will be open from 9:30 am-12:15 pm every Sunday morning for all infants to 2 year olds. For more information contact Mackin Wall at mackin@wsmethodist.org.



Calling All Volunteers!

We are in need of volunteers for the nursery during our Sunday School and worship hours. The more volunteers we have, the better. If you are interested in volunteering in this capacity or with our children or youth, you need to participate in Safe Sanctuary Training. Training sessions will be held **via Zoom** on **Monday, November 22 at 7:00 pm** and on **Wednesday, December 1 at 6:30 pm**. For more information or to register, please email Rev. Alston at aflippert@umcsc.org or Mackin Wall at mackin@wsmethodist.org.



Wreath Kits—\$10 each

Register & pay online in Realm® Connect
or email Mary Lide at neaudl@aol.com

(Checks may be mailed to the church. Please write Advent in the memo field)
Drop off your "greenery" donations for the event in Threath Hall on Nov. 21.

Take-out dinner available:
\$5/adult and \$2.50/child (3-11 years)
Baked potatoes, grilled cheese sandwiches, salad,
and cookies and a drink



The Transgender Day of Remembrance is November 20. Please take a moment on that day to pray for the 44 transgender victims of murder in the US this year. WSUMC continues to support and affirm equality in all areas of life. The banner will hang on the Bull Street fence through the month of November.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Sunday, Nov. 14

1:30-3:00 pm | Mary's Maidens
| Kitchen
4:00-6:00 pm | Sunday Dinner
| Parking Lot

Monday, Nov. 15

All day | Day Trippers to
Mepkin Abbey

Tuesday, Nov. 16

5:30-6:30 pm | Missions
Committee | Zoom

Wednesday, Nov. 17

2:00-3:00 pm | Active Faith |
Zoom
7:00-8:00 pm | Advent Small
Group | Zoom

Monday, Nov. 22

6:00-7:00 pm | RJAT | Zoom
7:00-8:00 pm | Safe Sanctuary
Training | Zoom

Tuesday, Nov. 23

6:00-7:00 pm | Connections |
Zoom

Sunday, Nov. 28

4:00-5:30 pm Advent
Celebration (wreath making
with takeout meal available) |
Threath Hall

Wednesday, Dec. 1

6:00-7:00 pm | Church Council
| Zoom
7:00-8:00 pm | Advent Small
Group | Zoom
7:30-8:30 pm | Safe Sanctuary
Training | Zoom

Saturday, Dec. 4

1:30-2:30 | Records & History
Committee | Wesley Room

Tuesday, Dec. 7

4:00-5:00 pm | Reconciling
Next | Zoom
6:00-7:00 pm | SPPRC | Zoom

Prayer List

Thom Berry
Martha Boynton
Martha Brooker
Sally Christian
Heidi Conte
Mickey Epting
Bud Harrelson
Karen Horne
Geneva Hutchinson
Lisa Johnson
Rev. Judy King
Mike LeFever

Beverly McClanahan
David Middleton
Lauren, Greg, and Nora Blair
Middleton and family
Rick Rowe
Boyd Saunders
Stephanie Saunders
Sarah Threath
Marjorie Tuell
Tom Wall
Peggy Weston
Our homebound



amazon smile

Supporting WSUMC through Amazon Smile is easy:

- Download or update to the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app on your phone. You can find it in the App Store for iOS or Google Play for Android.
- Join AmazonSmile—Simply sign up by selecting WSUMC as your favorite charity.
- Turn on AmazonSmile—Open the app and find 'Settings' in the main menu (≡). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

Over one million local and national charitable organizations are supported by AmazonSmile.

- Same products, same prices, same services as the Amazon you know, and AmazonSmile donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to WSUMC when you shop!
- BONUS! If you purchase an item to donate to Washington Street off one of our wish lists not only do we get the item, but we also get a portion of the money you spent back as a donation from Amazon! It's like donating twice!

NOTE: AmazonSmile in the app is not available for iPads and other tablet devices. To shop AmazonSmile on your tablet, type smile.amazon.com into the browser.



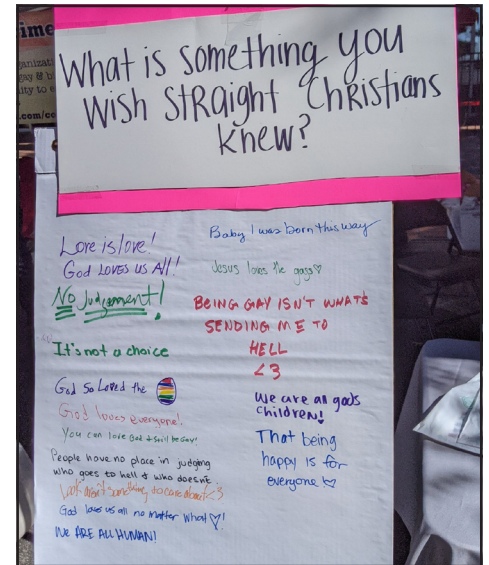
Responses to Festival-Goers Questions Asked During Pride Festival Revealed

In collaboration with Alexandra Kaufman, a Health Sciences major at the University of SC, festival-goers were encouraged to respond to two questions. These responses will be used in an upcoming listening session at WSUMC to help us continue to plan our work as a reconciling congregation.

QUESTIONS/RESPONSES

What is something you wish straight Christians knew?

- Love is equality
- Homosexuality was not in the Bible until like the 1900, so if the word of God is 2000 years old, somebody is a liar, and it is not Jesus. BE FREE.
- Love is Love! God loves us all!
- No judgment
- It's not a choice
- God so loved the world...
- God loves everyone
- You can love God and still be gay
- People have no place in judging who goes to hell and who doesn't
- Look(s) aren't something to care about.
- God loves us no matter what.
- WE ARE ALL HUMAN!
- We just want to be treated EQUALLY
- Love is love
- That being happy is for everyone
- We are all God's children
- Being gay isn't what's sending me to hell
- Jesus loves the gays
- Baby, I was born this way.
- LOVE period!!!
- Love conquers all!
- The word homosexual wasn't in the Bible until 1946. It was added due to hate.
- God loves ALL his children.
- I am a child of God.
- Let them live; let them love.
- That Jesus did not have hate in his heart, and unconditional love is not conditional
- We were created in His image.
- I promise the Bible isn't saying what you think it is.
- That we matter too.
- What if feels like to have a community that preaches love and tolerance shut you out immediately
- That the original translation said nothing about homosexuality
- How much pain and hurt they caused – people/kids lose their lives over it – Christian's misguidance.
- God loves all! No exceptions. No exclusions.
- When God said, "Love thy neighbor," he meant everyone.
- God transcends GENDER
- GOD LOVES everyone no matter what!!
- You can love who you want and still make the good list for (last word unreadable)
- There isn't anything in the Bible that says God hates gay people.



- God loves everyone.
- I am human too.
- The Bible says to LOVE
- I am who I am, not who you want me to be.
- Street preachers are the epitome of arrogance
- Love is equality!!
- All people are worthy of a conversation
- Don't assume we're all like "fabulous" etc.; like, we're regular people too.
- We can't change this (no matter whether you or even we, want to.)

2. How did the Christians in your life respond to you coming out?

- Parents = shock; grandmother = LOVE
- Family was very supportive and said, "God loves you and made no mistake."
- Dad said, "I love you no matter what status a person has in life."
- I was shunned by everyone in my "church family"
- Mom – "Jesus loves you, and I do too! I will still love you; you're still my kid"
- Parents = accepting; extended family = tolerant
- Lead with LOVE
- They said, "This is not God's plan for you."
- That I was possessed.
- I've always just been me; no need to explain.
- Thankfully supportive – XOXO
- "You don't love me."
- "I love you"
- Love everyone
- "You're going to hell"
- "I love you for you."
- LOVE is LOVE
- Judgment and counseling
- "OK"
- Hate

- Judgment without LOVE
- Loving and accepting; lots of questions, but open-minded
- I was kicked out and lost everything. Today I choose my family and I love myself and that is enough. God's Peace.
- I got blocked on Facebook
- Prayed the Gay Away
- "You haven't found the right man."

- BCM (Baptist College Ministry) – USC accepted me
- They weren't happy
- I was sent away for the summer to family who stripped me of all electronics, privacy, and all my friends
- "That's not real."
- I have not formally come out, but WSUMC welcomes everyone with open arms.

- "It's not how God intended."
- Changed their expectations of what dating looked like and how it made them shameful
- My dad CRIED that I was actively/consciously choosing to sin
- Said, "No, you're not."
- "You are not my kid."
- "I lost my daughter."



New Wednesday Night Small Group

The Heart that Grew Three Sizes by Matt Rawle

A new Wednesday Night Small Group begins next week that will offer an advent study — *The Heart That Grew Three Sizes* by Matt Rawle.

From Amazon.com

Rediscover the gift of Advent that comes without packages, ribbons, and bows. We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think

we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.

The study will be led by Susan Caskey and Ann Jessup. Four one-hour sessions will be offered Wednesdays from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm via zoom: **November 17, December 1, 8, and 15.** All are welcome to join. For questions, or to receive the zoom link, email Ann Jessup at jessup.ann@gmail.com.

ATTENDANCE:

October 3: 91
October 10: 94
October 17: 98
October 24: 86
October 31: 94
November 7: 89

GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE (as of 11-11-21):

Church:
Budget: \$471,497.25
Actual: \$615,907
Soup Cellar: \$69,327
Foundation Gifts: \$36,250

Give online today
wsmethodistorg/giving

Scan Me to Give!



**Or text "connections"
to 732566**



More Fall Festival Fun! See more on Facebook.com/washingtonstreetumc

