

THE CONNECTION

Sunday, February 20, 2022

WSUMC Ministry Minutes

The following are highlights from WSUMC's various committees and teams, including events and successes of some of our missions.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thanks to our wonderful and generous congregation, as well as the diligent work of our Finance Committee Chair, Eddie Sullivan, and Rev. Becky Shirley, we were able to reach our fundraising goal for WSUMC and make up the \$20,000 deficit we were expecting at the end of the year. The committee reported that we will end the 2021 year with a nearly \$30,000 surplus.

SPPRC

Staff Parish/Pastor Relations Committee announced the resignation of Abbie McKenzie. The committee is grateful to our current staff and office volunteers who are helping us ensure nothing falls through the cracks as they begin the hiring process.

TRUSTEE REPORT (Oct-Dec 2021)

The trustees applied for a second phase of a Dominion Energy match program to upgrade lighting to LEDs. In this phase 2, all the CDC overhead lights, lights in several of the meeting rooms and classrooms as well as the EXIT sign lighting will be upgraded. In Phase I we paid about \$870 for



Sunday, March 27 | 5:00 pm
Washington St. UMC
1401 Washington St. • www.wsmethodist.org
803.256.2417



over \$7000 worth of work. Phase II should be of similar cost and be completed during the spring. New LED lighting was added to the Museum as well. However, we were unable to upgrade 2 CDC bathrooms due to contractor unavailability.

Pete Liggett has agreed to chair the Trustees for 2022. Their first meeting will be scheduled soon.

CHURCH REOPENING TEAM

The group continues to meet every few weeks as Covid numbers and the situation changes. They are monitoring the numbers carefully and will keep the congregation updated.

FACE UPDATES

(Faith Formation, Administration, Community Life, Engaging God's World)

FAITH FORMATION

Sam Waldrep (Faith Formation Coordinator) reported that we had a very successful Advent, and the committee was very pleased with the beautiful decorations that Sam and his "elves" graced our beautiful church with during the Advent and Christmas Season. Both Christmas Eve services were well attended.

Rev. Shirley and the Worship Team have announced plans for the Lenten and Easter seasons. There will be an Ash Wednesday Service in the Chapel at 12:30 pm on Ash Wednesday, March 2, to kick off the Lenten season. Community Life will provide a take-out lunch on Ash Wednesday. For \$5 per person, you will receive soup, sandwich, and cookies/brownie. Lunches will be handed out after the service.

There will be a 12:30 service each Wednesday through April 6 in celebration of Lent. The Palm Sunday service will be on April 10. It will be followed by a Maundy Thursday service to be held on April 14 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Rev. Becky Shirley along with Rev. Alston Lippert and others will present *In the Upper Room*, a dramatic presentation depicting the story of the Last Supper. Jane Peterson will direct the production and will be asking for volunteers to participate in the production. Then, for the first time in quite some time, WSUMC will be having a Good Friday service at 7:00 pm on April 15 in the Chapel. This service will include a series of musical selections and reflections on the stations of the cross helping us understand the significance of Jesus' walk down the Via Dolorosa. It will be followed by a glorious traditional Easter service on Sunday.

Ann Jessup will be leading a 6-week online Lenten Study, *Witness at the Cross* by Amy Jill Levin starting on Wednesday, March 2, at 7:00 pm on Zoom, and Rev. Alston Lippert is planning a book discussion on Kate Bowler's book *Everything Happens for A Reason and Other Lies I've Loved*. You may join in the discussion in the Wesley Room on Monday, Feb. 28, at 10:30 am or via Zoom on Tuesday, March 1, at 7:00 pm. You may sign up through Realm or email Ann Jessup and Rev. Lippert to participate in one of those studies.

Sam Waldrep will be handling the sales of our Easter hydrangeas again this year. The sale for this will start soon, so



WSUMC Active Faith member, Carol Fowler, drops off the collection from Undie Sunday to Cooperative Ministry.

keep a look out for order forms to be out soon.

The use of acolytes will resume once we begin "passing the plate" again, which we hope will be soon. We have several children in our congregation old enough to serve as acolytes.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Mackin Wall reported that the online Children's Moments will continue online only for the foreseeable future. March 13 is the date that Children's Sunday School and our nursery will reopen. Bibles will be given out to 3rd and 4th graders on that Sunday. Mary Lide is planning the yearly Easter Egg hunt for April 2 at 4:00 pm at her home. For more information, contact Mary at neaudl@aol.com.

The youth will be on their much anticipated ski trip this weekend at Banner Elk.

Salkehatchie Summer Service will take place this summer, and the youth and some adults will be headed to Bishopville June 25-July 2. You can contact Mackin at mackin@wsmethodist.org for more details on Salkehatchie.

There have been several game nights, and they have been well attended. Confirmation is being planned for 8th graders as well.

The children will also be collecting Pennies for Lent, so please save your change to make your contribution to this yearly event. The money collected will benefit our Soup Cellar.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Janet Cotter (Christ Chapel Courtyard Committee Chair) announced that this year marks the 25th anniversary of Christ Chapel Courtyard. The committee will be selling another round of engraved bricks to be placed in honor or memory of friends and family. These make wonderful gifts to family members and friends as lifetime reminders of your love for them. The order forms will be available soon in the Volunteer Office and on the website at wsmethodist.org/facility/forms-and-policies.

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ENGAGING GOD'S WORLD

Nancy Whittle (EGW Coordinator) reported for the *Racial Justice Action Team*. In a partnership with the leaders of Journey Church, WSUMC will be holding a Service of Repentance and Healing on March 27 at 5:00 pm at WSUMC in the sanctuary. The service will include choirs from both churches, along with several guest pastors. Watch for more details coming soon. The service will also be available online as seating is limited.

Reconciling Next is continuing its online Happy Hour entitled Friday Unwind with members of Reformation Lutheran Church. Friday, Feb. 18, will be our second meeting with this group. All are welcome. To participate, contact Jim Lane at jlane@columbiasec.edu for the link. This group is working towards bringing some educational opportunities about LBGTQIA + issues in the near future.

Active Faith held two successful drives in January. Our Undie Sunday event collected a truck load of socks and underwear for the Cooperative Ministry. The team also collected a number of vases, baskets, and other floral vessels to sell to local florists who may be in need of these items due to supply chain issues. The money raised selling these items will be put toward future Active Faith missions and projects. The group is planning another clothing drive for the Columbia

College Clothes Closet and just delivered special Valentine's treats to residents at the Aldersgate Home.

Missions: Over 20 people, including seven youth, will be taking part in our Ecuador Mission this year. You may donate to this cause online through smile.amazon.com. Check out the wish list, place an order, and have your items ship directly to us. For more information on how to do that, contact Jane at jane@wsmethodist.org.

There is discussion about adopting a refugee family in the near future, and Mackin is looking for sponsors to help with this endeavor. Contact her at mackin@wsmethodist.org with any questions or concerns.

The Sunday Dinner Team announced that they have applied for another Richland County grant to help continue its efforts feeding those in need in our community. This year, the team is looking for ways to work more closely with our Soup Cellar. Mackin Wall has arranged for the students at the Methodist Student Network (MSN) at the Univ. of SC to provide one breakfast per month to our Soup Cellar clients. Talks are also in the works with the local YMCA to provide showers after hours for our clients at certain times as well.

You may send any announcement to be published in upcoming issues of *The Connection* to Jane at jane@wsmethodist.org.

New Small Groups Announced

Everything Happens for A Reason and Other Lies I've Loved by Kate Bowler

Rev. Alston Lippert is planning a book discussion of Kate Bowler's book *Everything Happens for A Reason and Other Lies I've Loved* both live and in person in a one-day discussion. In person will be held on **Monday, Feb. 28, at 10:30 am** in the Wesley Room. A Zoom discussion will be held the following evening, **Tuesday, March 1, at 7:00 pm**. To register, email Rev. Alston at aflippert@umcsc.org or you may register online through Realm.

Amazon describes the book as follows:

The prospect of her own mortality forces Kate to realize that she has been tacitly subscribing to the prosperity gospel, living with the conviction that she can control the shape of her life with "a surge of determination." Even as this type of Christianity celebrates the American can-do spirit, it implies that if you "can't do" and succumb to illness or misfortune, you are a failure. Kate is very sick, and no amount of positive thinking will shrink her tumors. What does it mean to die, she wonders, in a society that insists everything happens for a reason? Kate is stripped of this certainty only to discover that without it, life is hard but beautiful in a way it never has been before.



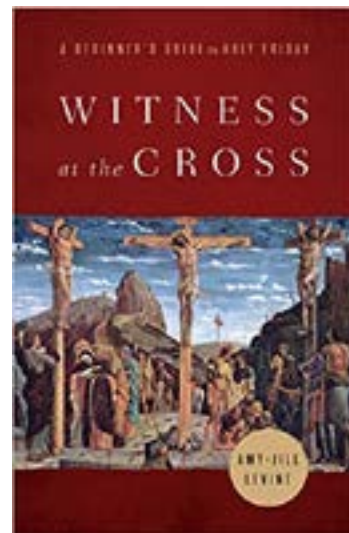
Frank and funny, dark and wise, Kate Bowler pulls the reader deeply into her life in an account she populates affectionately with a colorful, often hilarious retinue of friends, megachurch preachers, relatives, and doctors. *Everything Happens for a Reason* tells her story, offering up her irreverent, hard-won observations on dying and the ways it has taught her to live.

Witness at the Cross by Amy-Jill Levine

Ann Jessup will lead a new Wednesday night study of the book *Witness at the Cross* by Amy-Jill Levine. The study will last for 6-weeks and will take place on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 pm on Zoom. To participate, please email Ann Jessup at jessup.ann@gmail.com or sign up via Realm.

Amazon gives the following description of the book:

Experience Holy Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die: Mary his mother; the Beloved Disciple from the Gospel of John; Mary Magdalene and the other women from Galilee; the two men, usually identified as thieves, crucified with Jesus; the centurion and the soldiers; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Jews and Romans, friends and strangers, the powerful and the powerless, the hopeful and the despairing.





Special Maundy Thursday Presentation Planned

WSUMC is planning a dramatic presentation for Maundy Thursday on April 14 at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. *In the Upper Room* is a dramatic retelling of the Last Supper. Jesus and his disciples prepare for the Last Supper as Sophia (a Greek woman seeking the meaning of Christianity) and Disciples John and Mark narrate the tableau taking place behind them.

The date of the presentation is Thursday, April 14, 2022, in the sanctuary. We are asking for volunteers to be a part of this program.

We need 13 men/disciples (Jesus and his 12 disciples) to take part in the production for the portrayal of the *In the Upper Room*. THERE ARE NO LINES to learn! However, the blocking and timing of entrances and setting up the scenes will need to be practiced several times with the narration.

YOU MUST COMMIT TO ALL REHEARSALS! This is very important. We will only have four total rehearsals, the first being only reading and blocking, and a run-through.

REHEARSAL DATES/TIMES:

For convenience, we will mainly rehearse on Sundays at 1:30 after the 11:00 am service with the exception of the final dress/tech which will take place on Wednesday evening, April 13, at 6:00 pm. The first rehearsal will be on Sunday, March 27 (block and read-through with one run through.)

Other dates will be:

Sunday, April 3 @ 1:30 pm

Sunday, April 10 @ 1:30 pm

Wednesday, April 13 @ 6:00 pm (dress/tech)

PERFORMANCE: THURSDAY, APRIL 14 @ 7 PM

(cast call at 6:15)

We will also need help with costumes and props (2-3 people).

Please contact Jane at jane@wsmethodist.org for the [SignUpGenius](#) link.

ATTENDANCE (as of 2-16-22):

Feb. 13: 78 (In-Person);
107 (Online)=185

Feb. 6: 86 (In-Person); 63
(Online)=149

Jan. 30: 71 (In-Person); 99
(Online)=170

Jan. 23: 68 (In-Person);
148 (Online)=216

SCAN TO GIVE →



GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE (as of 2-16-22):

**Church Budget: TBD—
PENDING FINANCE
COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

Church Actual: \$55,382
Soup Cellar: \$9,690
Foundation Gifts: \$250

Gifts



IN MEMORY OF
MARY BETH KLUGE
to the Music Ministry
Given by
Elizabeth &
Hampton Whetsell, Jr.

IN MEMORY OF
MARY BETH KLUGE
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Ellen &
Douglas Senter

IN MEMORY OF
MARY BETH KLUGE
to WSUMC
Given by Sam Waldrep

IN MEMORY OF
MARY BETH KLUGE
to WSUMC
Given by Helen
& Richard Daeger

IN MEMORY OF
MARY BETH KLUGE
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Brenda Leich

IN MEMORY OF
MARY BETH KLUGE
to WSUMC
Given by Virginia Vaughan

IN MEMORY OF
MARY BETH KLUGE
to WSUMC
Given by Charlotte &
Mike Broome

IN MEMORY OF
LAURA HOLLADAY
to the Foundation
Given by Cheryl &
Carl Evans

IN MEMORY OF
LAURA HOLLADAY
to the Foundation
Given by Robin &
David Anderson

IN MEMORY OF
LAURA HOLLADAY
to WSUMC
Given by Betsy &
John Halloran

IN MEMORY OF
LAURA HOLLADAY
to WSUMC
Given by Charlotte &
Mike Broome

IN MEMORY OF
LAURA HOLLADAY
to the Good Samaritan Fund
Given by Dee Gulledge

IN MEMORY OF **LYN BAILEY**
to the Foundation
Given by Carol &
Kevin Duggan

IN MEMORY OF **LYN BAILEY**
to WSUMC
Given by Charlotte &
Mike Broome

IN MEMORY OF **LYN BAILEY**
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Charlotte &
Richard Owen

IN MEMORY OF **BY COLLINS**
to WSUMC
Given by Betty Cribbs

IN MEMORY OF **BY COLLINS**
to WSUMC
Given by Virginia Vaughan

IN MEMORY OF **PAUL BROWN**
to WSUMC
Given by Charlotte &
Mike Broome

IN MEMORY OF
HOMER FESPERMAN
to the Homer Feserman Fund
Given by Clelia Perri

IN MEMORY OF **DORIS HARLEY
SALLEY & ANSEL ARTHUR
SALLEY**
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Lynda &
John Galloway

IN HONOR OF **ALSTON LIPPETT**
to WSUMC
Given by Malissa Burnette

IN HONOR OF **ALSTON LIPPETT**
*to the Ministers Discretionary
Fund*
Given by Charlotte &
Richard Owen

IN HONOR OF **JOHN HOLLADAY**
to the Foundation
Given by from Robin &
David Anderson



• **The Aldersgate Sunday School Class:** will continue with *The Power and Significance of The Prayer Jesus Thought*. The series discusses each line of the Lord's Prayer and provides an informative perspective as we study this prayer and the meaning that it has for our Christian Journey. We welcome all for this in-person experience each Sunday prior to the 11:00 am service. Our class normally starts shortly after 10:00 am. Should you have any questions, please call David A. Anderson (mobile 803-318-8821) or danderson@richardsonplowden.com.

• **The Dawsey Class:** This Sunday, February 20, we will conclude our study of *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter* by Sue Monk Kidd. Anne Sinclair will teach Part Four: Empowerment, (pp. 227-265), and A Conversation with Sue Monk Kidd, (pp. 267-273). Next Sunday, February 27, we will begin a new book, *The Difficult Words of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings*, by Amy-Jill Levine. Hunter Rentz will lead a discussion of the Introduction and Chapter 1: "Sell What You Own." 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:** On February 20 and February 27, Dr. Charley Bryan will lead a PowerPoint discussion on Race and Racism in the South. Beginning March 6, Christine Hait will lead the class for Lent in a discussion of the book *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence* by Diana Butler Bass. This study will take us through April 10. Join in-person or contact Jim Lane at jlane@columbiasc.edu for the Zoom link to gather Sunday mornings at 9:45 am for fellowship and at 10:00 am for spiritual reflection.

• **The Joy Class** is continuing lessons led by various members. All are welcome to join us as we learn and grow together to prepare for the season. 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:** The next two weeks, the Open Door Class will continue their study of Hebrews, loosely based on the book *Hebrews a Better Blend*. 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:** The class will not meet again until March 13 due to Covid concerns. If you have questions, please contact Suzanne Joye at sjoye@sc.rr.com.

• **John Harper Class:** is 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:** Sunday, February 20th - NO Sunday School. The youth will be returning from their ski trip. Sunday, February 27th — Influence: As Christians, we have the capability of influencing those around us by the way we live — with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness (Matthew 5:13). To participate, please email Mackin Wall at mackin@wsmethodist.org.



PRAYER LIST

The Prayer Team wants you to know that you can email us with any prayer concerns any time. Please email wsumcprayers@gmail.com.

Thom Berry
Martha Boynton
Heidi Conte
Mickey Epting
Rev. Paul Harmon
Bud Harrelson
Karen Horne
Geneva Hutchinson
Lisa Johnson
Debby Joyner
Rev. Judy King
Martha Helen King

Mike LeFever
Paul McClanahan
David Middleton
Lauren, Greg, and Nora Blair
Middleton and family
Rick Rowe
Boyd Saunders
Stephanie Saunders
Sarah Threatt
Kelly Wright
Our homebound

Fall Eyeglass Collection a Success!

As recently reported in *The Advocate*, people in Guatemala can now see clearly thanks to the glasses collection effort organized by the Columbia



District Outreach Committee. WSUMC took part in this collection, and we are happy to report that prescription, non-prescription (readers), prescription sunglasses, and cases were sent to Healing Guatemala, a United Methodist medical mission and clinic led by South Carolina pastor Dr. Luke Rhyee. The mission offers ophthalmology, dental care and basic medical needs, both at the clinic and in rural communities in the Chuisajcaba, Guatemala, region.

The clinic has been holding weekly glasses giveaways where participants get an eye exam and glasses free of charge!

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Monday, February 21

7:00 am-5:00 pm | CDC In-Service Day/Parent's Conferences | 2-3's Classroom | Threatt Hall

5:00-6:00 pm | RJAT Service of Repentance & Healing Meeting | Zoom

Tuesday, February 22

5:00-6:00 pm | USC Wesley Foundation Meeting | Wesley Room

Wednesday, February 23

6:00-7:00 pm | Sunday Dinner Team/Soup Cellar Meeting | Zoom

Monday, February 28

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Book Discussion—*Everything Happens for A Reason* | Wesley Room

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

Killingsworth Home Named 2021-2022 Catalyst Award Winner

Central Carolina Community Foundation, the Midlands' local center for philanthropy, has awarded the 2021-2022 David W. Robinson Catalyst Award to Killingsworth Home for its commitment and innovative approach to helping women emerging from crisis situations.

According to the CCCF website, Jo Ann Turnquist, president and CEO of CCCF said, "When the COVID-19 pandemic threatened certain services offered to their residents — specifically free mental health counseling — the Killingsworth staff leveraged their innovation and creativity to form partnerships with private entities, ensuring hundreds of hours of free mental health counseling for their residents." "Killingsworth Home's commitment to assisting women emerging from a crisis situation is commendable and exemplifies the type of collaboration, perseverance and leadership the Catalyst Award recognizes."

Several individuals from WSUMC are very active with

KILLINGSWORTH
transforming women

Killingsworth. Rev. Becky Shirley was one of the participants in their Stay At Home Gala last fall.

Killingsworth Home was transformed from a boarding school into a shelter for women in 1972. Key programs include Feed My Sheep, Dress for Success, Job Readiness, Life Skills and Mental Health Counseling. In 2020, these programs resulted in:

12,472 meals served to residents.

580 clothing items distributed to residents.

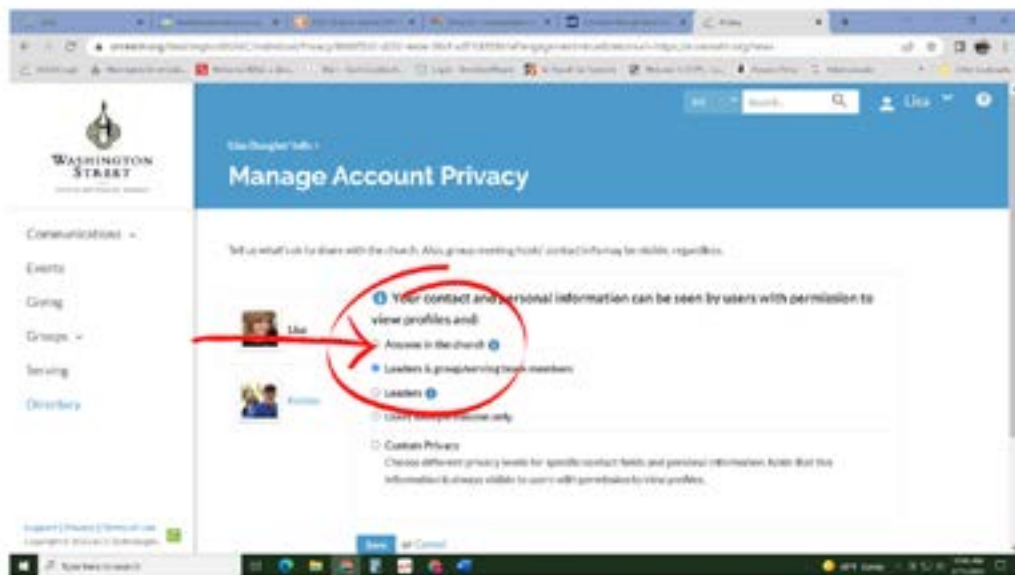
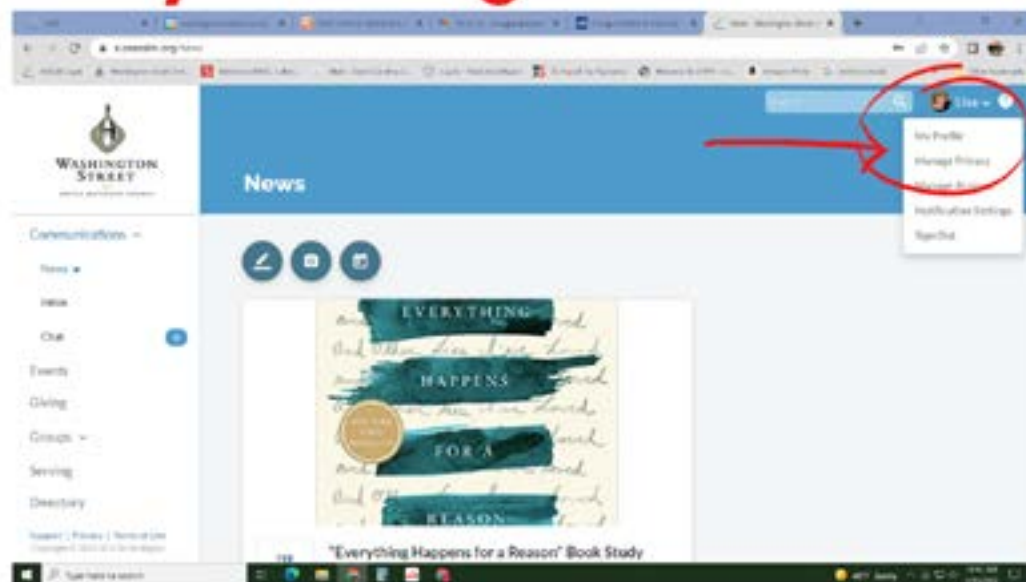
1,040 invested in career-readiness skills.

156 hours of life skills workshops.

144 hours of mental health counseling.

For more information about the Catalyst Award, visit www.yourfoundation.org/catalyst.

Are you being seen?



Pointers for setting your privacy in Realm!

1. Go to your profile and click on the top right of the screen to bring down the list. Click on **Manage Privacy**.
2. Click on your Privacy Options. If you would like for your contact information to be shared with the congregation, click on **Anyone in the church**. **REMEMBER TO SAVE!**

Questions?
Contact Jane at
jane@wsmethodist.org