

THE CONNECTION

Sunday, June 26, 2022

WSUMC'S New "Little Free Hygiene Pantry"

by Lydia Conte

My name is Lydia Conte. I am a member of Washington Street United Methodist Church and of Girl Scout Troop 776. I am a new graduate of Dreher High School, and a rising freshman at Furman University.

On June 12, 2022, Pastor Shirley allowed time for me to share information about a project that I and a team of partners have been working on for over a year. On this day, we dedicated the Little Free Hygiene Pantry to the Soup Cellar at Washington Street UMC.

As I was beginning to brainstorm ideas for my Girl Scout Gold Award project, I looked back on the many service projects that I had enjoyed doing in the past. Some of my favorite experiences and cherished memories have been helping in the soup cellar at Washington Street. When I was a young girl, I always loved being in the Mary's Maiden Circle. Filling up bags full of hygiene products for clients of the soup cellar around the holidays was always one of my favorite activities and I knew I wanted to do something to honor the impact that had on me under the leadership of Mary Lide and Kathy Wright. They taught me how to experience the joy of caring for others.

The pandemic has made us all more aware of the importance of keeping our bodies clean and free of dangerous germs. My idea was very simple. I wanted to provide hygiene products year-round for those in need. The soup cellar was a perfect outlet to reach this community. So, the idea of the Little Free Hygiene Pantry was born. Although its similarly

named, it's not like the Little Free Library my troop installed at Suber Marshall United Methodist in 2014, where neighbors and school children in the



surrounding area are encouraged to take a book or leave a book. Instead, it is a cabinet that I thrifted and refurbished that will be placed in the soup cellar to be stocked with ten different kinds of travel size hygiene products that people can just take on the way out of the soup cellar whenever the soup cellar team decides the time is right to open it up.

Personal hygiene is so important to not only physical health but mental health. When personal hygiene declines, it can easily lead to self-esteem issues,

which are just as dangerous and damaging for adults as they are for teenagers. Through the personal hygiene pantry, I hope to solve this problem for those in need in our community.

I'd like to thank all of the partners who have supported me in this project and pledged to keep the Little Free Hygiene Pantry stocked and open for business on an on-going basis.

Robbie Douglas is my project advisor and has been kind and generous with his patience and wisdom.

The WSUMC Soup Cellar Team supported my idea from



the start. Thank you to Terrence Chisholm, Jerry Sumpter, Lee Smith, Alan Jon Zupan, and Tommy Bedenbaugh for meeting with me and providing encouragement in those early days.

The Missions Committee has pledged to keep The Little Free Hygiene Pantry on the church's radar throughout the year, every year.

Mackin Wall and the Youth Group of Washington Street have also committed to continuously monitor the inventory and hold drives to keep supplies in stock.

Sam Waldrep and the Active Faith Ministry team always answer the call for help and are considering ways to support this mission.

And, of course, the

WSUMC Mary's Maidens Circle never misses an opportunity to model behavior for everyone in how to follow the Way of Christ and will be coming up with crafty ideas to support the Little Free Hygiene Pantry.

Jane Peterson will be sharing more information in emails and *The Connection* about how all of us can keep the pantry stocked with the easy AmazonSmile Wish List (scan the QR code below) purchasing process, where items can be shipped directly to the church, and we receive a portion of the purchase price as well as the item.

Finally, I'd like to thank Anne Sinclair, a Girl Scout Woman of Distinction, for always encouraging me on my Girl Scout journey. It's been over a decade since I started as a Daisy scout. Anne has been a steadfast cheer leader and advisor throughout.

And to everyone who bought all of those cookies, thank you. The funds raised helped bring this project to life.

All were invited to come see The Little Free Hygiene Pantry after the worship service on Sunday. We headed down to the Soup Cellar where Mary's Maidens sponsored a wonderful cookies and punch event to celebrate the dedication.

Thank you, everyone!



WISH LIST



Sunday School Updates

• **The Aldersgate Class:** The class is finishing up Pastor Chris Hodges: *What's Next? The Journey to Know God, Find Freedom, Discover Purpose, & Make a Difference*. Starting July 10, the class will embark on an 8-week study by well-known Bible Scholars, N.T. Wright and Michael F. Bird. These scholars team up to take you on a tour of the story behind the explosive story of the New Testament. You will discover things you never knew about Jesus' baptism and journey into the wilderness, the meaning behind the parables and miracles, the significance of his death and resurrection, the incredible expansion of the early church into the Greco Roman world, and how the transforming mission of Jesus can still turn the world upside down today. The sessions include video and will work through the Study Guide, *The New Testament You Never Knew: Exploring the Context, Purpose, and Meaning of the Story of God*. Come join us for fellowship and an exciting study program, Aldersgate Classroom 2nd floor of the Education building. For questions call David A. Anderson 803.318.8821 or danderson@richardsonplowden.com.

• **The Dawsey Class:** This Sunday, June 25, we will continue our study of *Christ in Crisis? Reclaiming Jesus in a Time of Fear, Hate, and Violence*, by Jim Wallis. Carl Evans will lead a discussion of Chapter 3, "The Image Question." Next Sunday, July 3, Janelle Rivers will teach Chapter 4, "The Truth Question." 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:** Rev. Jim Tuell is continuing his lesson series entitled "The United Methodist Church Hymnal — Its History, Organization, Diversity, and Other Things" on June 26, July 10, and July 17. He will be discussing why the sections are in the order they are, the placement of the liturgy, and how to use the various indexes. Jim led the Grace class in a similar study a few years ago, and it was excellent. He brings his guitar and leads us in some of the hymns which brings a wonderful component. We will skip July 3 since it is the holiday weekend. These classes will be held in Christ Chapel as well as through Zoom. Several other classes will be participating. 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:** The lessons are being led by various members and focused on how we can use this season to further our faith journey. Everyone is welcome to join us as we learn together. If you are interested, please contact Lee Haynes at lelandhaynesjr@gmail.com or Sylvia Stevens at sylviasaundersstevens@gmail.com for more information.

• **The Open Door Class:** The class has started a new series: *Taste and See: Discovering God Among Butchers, Bakers and Fresh Food Makers* by Margaret Feinberg. All are welcome to join. 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:** is joining the Grace Class for the Methodist Hymnal study. All are welcome. If you have questions, please contact Suzanne Joye at sjoye@sc.rr.com.

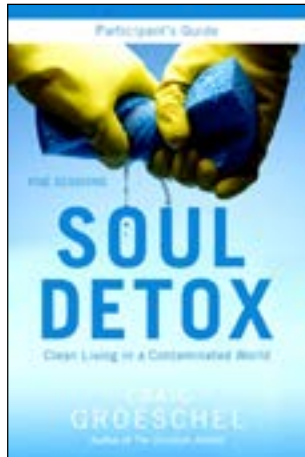
• **The John Harper Class:** is studying the Gospels using Cokesbury Adult Sunday School materials. All are welcome. Contact Tracy Powers at tjpowers65@gmail.com.

• **The WSUMC Youth Class:** Rev. Alston will be teaching the Youth Sunday School Class this Sunday, June 26. On July 3, the youth will start a new series on the Gospel of Matthew. For more information, contact Mackin Wall at mackin@wsmethodist.org.

New Online & In-Person Discussions

Several new online and in person discussions are now available for all WSUMC members, and friends.

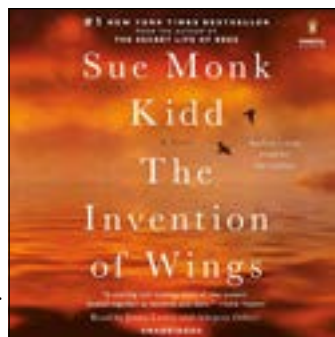
Ann Jessup has just started (June 22) a new 5-week, online study of *Soul Detox* by Craig Groeschel. The sessions are on **June 29, and July 13, 20, and 27.** This study shines a light on the dark influences, emotions, and behaviors that affect “Christian” living and teaches how to live “cleaner” lives in a toxic world. To participate in this Zoom session, email Ann Jessup at jessup.ann@gmail.com.



Rev. Becky Shirley will lead an online discussion of *Kingdom Dreams and Violent Realities* on three consecutive Wednesdays starting on June 29, from noon to 1:00 pm on Zoom as we seek an end to the violence. A free copy of the study guide is available on the website at wsmethodist.org/events, or you may email Jane at jane@wsmethodist.org for a copy. You may register online through Realm® Connect or email Jane so she can register you.

We are all devastated by the continual violent acts, not only in the United States but around the globe, that are taking the lives of innocent individuals – often children and vulnerable adults who are unable to defend themselves. Knowing that Jesus said: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called Children of God.” The General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church has developed a study guide designed to aid congregations in addressing gun violence through the lens of biblical and theological reflection. Using this study guide as a reference, it will be a time to engage in meaningful, genuine, and thoughtful reflection on the words of Micah 4: “They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

Rev. Alston Lippert will lead a discussion of the book *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd on **July 6.** There will be two opportunities to participate. An **in-person and Zoom discussion will take place from 11:00 am to 12:15 pm in the John Harper Classroom.** She will hold another opportunity in conjunction with Summer VBS/Parent’s Night Out from **6:00-7:45 pm in the John Harper Classroom. This session is in-person only.** To join in on the Zoom discussion, email Rev. Alston at alippert@umcsc.org for the link or to register for either class. You may also register online through Realm® Connect.



Gifts



IN MEMORY OF REBECCA CALLCOTT & NAN SELF

to the Soup Cellar
Given by W. Hardy Callcott & Nancy Spencer

IN MEMORY OF THEO LANE
to WSUMC
Given by Elaine Ferraro

IN MEMORY OF THEO LANE
to Missions
Given by Chip Williams

IN MEMORY OF BOBBY F. DEAS, SR.
to WSUMC
Given by Karen & Buzzy Deas

IN MEMORY OF TJ HIOTT
to WSUMC
Given by Wendy, Joe, Bradley & Lucas Clark

IN MEMORY OF JAMES A. PARRISH

to WSUMC
Given by Wendy & Joe Clark

IN MEMORY OF THEO LANE
to WSUMC
Given by Nancy Whittle

IN MEMORY OF THEO LANE
to the Grace Class
Given by Sam Waldrep

IN MEMORY OF JAMES POLK VAUGHAN
to the Soup Cellar
Given by John & Lynda Galloway

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.

Martha Boynton
David Byrum
Heidi Conte
Jimmy Dawkins
Mickey Epting
Rev. Paul Harmon
Bud Harrelson
Karen Horne
Lisa Johnson
Debby Joyner
Rev. Judy King
Martha Helen King

Mike LeFever
Paul McClanahan
David Middleton
Genie & Ron Quinn
Frances “Tut” Robertson
Rick Rowe
Boyd Saunders
Stephanie Saunders
Sarah Threatt
Edee Vaughan
Jim Ward
Our homebound

EXTENDING OUR CONDOLENCES.

Our Heartfelt Sympathies

Rev. Becky Shirley joins the entire staff and Washington Street Church family in expressing our deepest sympathy and Christian love to the family of Mack & Elizabeth Ouzts in the passing of Mack’s mother, Maryle Hollingsworth Ouzts who passed away on Friday, June 17, 2022.



July Birthdays

July 1

Alston Lippert
Sam Tran
Michele Owen

July 2

Mackin Wall
Ellis Rowe
Rosemary Aravena
Tracy Powers

July 3

Judy Bailey

July 5

Jenny Dalrymple
Gayle Aycock
Stephen Poe

July 6

Anne Sinclair

July 8

Candace Cain
Erica Taylor

July 10

Myra Wright

July 11

Rosa Allen

July 12

Bett Carter

July 13

Eva Nance
Ryan Stalvey
Carol Krebs

July 15

Beverly McClanahan

July 16

Madelyn Geddes

July 17

Steven Brown
Michael Oehler
Mary Tran

July 19

Sue Dillon
Mack Ouzts

July 20

Mary Ann Betenbaugh
Judy Harrelson

July 22

Sam Waldrep

July 23

Mary Lide

July 24

Bobbie Jean Chandler
Jackson Price

July 25

Terri Woodruff
Ray Cobb
Hannah Jessup

July 26

Paula Walters
Realm User

July 28

Kendall Eaddy

July 29

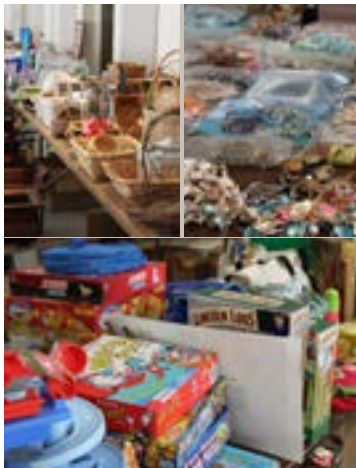
Jessica Poe
Leila Jackson

July 30

David Williams

July 31

Robert Bowers



SAVE THE DATE!

OCT. 8, 2022

7:00 am-1:00 pm

Preview night-Friday, Oct. 7
\$5 admission / Free for donors

- Now accepting boxed items
- No large items or furniture accepted until Sept. 29
- **NO BOOKS** (except children's)

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OUR YOUTH!
SUMMER VBS / PARENT'S NIGHT OUT!
Wednesday, July 6 | 5:00-8:00 pm

YOUTH GROUP RETREAT!
Epworth by the Sea | August 5-7
Email mackin@wsmethodist.org for more information!

ATTENDANCE (as of 6-9-22):

June 5: 107 (in-person);
112 (online) = **219**

May 29: 80 (in-person);
150 (online) = **230**

May 22: 121 (in-person);
150 (online) = **271**

May 15: 96 (in-person);
150 (online) = **246**

GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE (as of 6-9-22):

Church Budget:
\$865,000

Church Actual:
\$264,054

Soup Cellar: \$36,470

Foundation Gifts: \$250

SCAN TO GIVE



EXTENDING OUR CONDOLENCES.

Our Heartfelt Sympathies

Rev. Becky Shirley joins the entire staff and Washington Street Church family in expressing our deepest sympathy and Christian love to the family of Frances Graham who passed on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at age 90.

