



WASHINGTON STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
wsmethodist.org

THE CONNECTION

January 8, 2023

Washington Street Prepares for 2023

Washington Street's church elected volunteer leadership team, staff members and pastors are working on some exciting plans for 2023! Our ministry team leaders, staff and pastors will gather for a Church Council Planning Retreat on Saturday, January 21, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm to begin the work of putting our plans into action.

During the retreat, Pastor Becky Shriley will help guide the group through a new structure for our teams and committees. We will discuss our 2023 goals and put together a calendar of ministry events. We will also discuss volunteer needs and budgetary needs for each of the ministry areas. The budgetary needs will be shared with the Finance Committee for review at their February meeting enabling them to finalize an expense-based budget for the year. The Finance Committee will then present a proposed budget to the Church Council to be voted on and adopted at the council's February meeting.

Following the retreat, members of the Finance Committee,

Staff Parish Relations Committee, Trustees and Council will meet during the even numbered months (February, April, June, August, October, December). Exact dates of their meetings will be finalized during the retreat and publicized via *The Connection*.

Christine Taylor and Sarah-Kate Gravely invite all persons who are interested in working with fellowship ministries, hospitality ministries, and/or with children's and family activities to join them **Monday, January 9, at 6:30 pm in the Wesley Room**. During our time together, they will share dates for some of the ministry events they are planning for the year. They will also discuss the various ways that you can use your time and talents to connect with others and help make these events possible. There will be a meal of sandwiches and a side provided. **Please contact Sarah-Kate (sarahkate@wsmethodist.org) by Monday, Jan. 9, at noon if you will need childcare to attend this event so that it may be arranged for you.** This meeting will also be held on Zoom if you are unable to join us in person. Email Christine Taylor at christine@wsmethodist.org for the Zoom link.

Have you noticed that in this modern age of quick texts, group emails and video chats, we've lost the sweetness of opening a mailed card or letter and reading someone's handwritten words? Recognizing that cards are a great source of encouragement and that encouragement is a key attribute of our discipleship Christine Taylor will be leading an information session about a new card writing ministry, on **Tuesday, January 10th, at 6:30 pm in the Wesley Room**. Please join her for this session to learn about some of the ways she has planned to help us be more intentional about reaching out with written words of encouragement.

SAVE THE DATE!

CURRENT STATUS OF THE UMC IN SOUTH CAROLINA

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023
6:00-7:30 PM | CHRIST CHAPEL

A Q&A WITH DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT REV. FRAN ELROD

The purpose of this Q&A is to share with the congregation the current status of where the denomination and specifically where the SC Conference is in regard to the ongoing debate over the Book of Discipline restrictions on same sex unions and the ordination of professing LGBTQIA persons.

As most of you know, there is an abundance of misinformation available from a plethora of resources.

Fran Elrod will share what we anticipate moving forward so that as many of us as possible will know the facts and can quell any misinformation we hear others sharing via social media or in person.

CHILDREN & YOUTH PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO MEET WITH SARAH-KATE THIS SUNDAY, JAN. 8 at 10:00 AM IN THE YOUTH ROOM TO MEET AND DISCUSS 2023 PLANS.

**YOUTH GROUP IS BACK!
THE WSUMC Youth Group will meet every Sunday starting on January 8th**

'Twas a glorious Christmas Eve at Washington Street



From upper left to right: Dr. Michael Oehler and daughter Isabel, Leila Jackson, Michelle and Joseph Graham. Bottom row: Malcolm Lemons, Alan-Jon Zupan, Nicholas Todd Shumate, Licia and Grant Jackson, and Travis Luthren.

Right: a full house for Christmas Eve. Members of the Sanctuary Choir and Reverend Alston Lippert and Reverend Becky Shirley presiding.

More than 200 individuals celebrated the birth of Christ at Washington Street this past Christmas Eve. The early service featured the play *Preparing the Way* with WSUMC members helping to tell the story of the birth of Jesus based on the book of Luke. It was followed by a lovely traditional Candlelight, Carols, and Communion Service featuring the WSUMC Sanctuary Choir. If you were unable to join us in-person, or livestream you can still watch online at youtube.com/@washingtonstreetumc.



Congratulations to Ms. Brenda Percy!



The WSUMC Child Development Center (CDC) is proud to announce that Brenda Percy received an ABC Quality Childcare Heroes Certificate, and will be recognized at center court at the Feb. 4, 2023, Gamecock basketball game. Brenda has been with the CDC for over 25 years. She has shown true dedication

to our mission of providing quality childcare to area families.

The ABC Quality Childcare Heroes Certificates were awarded to centers and childcare teachers that were able to continue providing parents with a safe and healthy environment for children during the COVID crisis.

ABC Quality Childcare recognizes the CDC as an A+ childcare facility in the state of South Carolina. The ratings are based on evidence-based criteria and aspects of the programs that support the healthiest child development. Programs are evaluated and earn ratings from A (the best) to C (better than average). Simply having an ABC Quality rating means a program exceeds expectations for the care they provide to children. Every ABC Quality program must be current on first aid/CPR, complete 15 hours of pre-service training or complete Early Child Development 101 and confirm adherence to the ABC Quality Code of Ethics.

REVOLUTION

Revolution is coming up at the end of January! Each year at Revolution, more than 2,000 youth experience a powerful weekend of worship and music and messages focused on sharing God's love in a relevant way.

This youth event will be held at the Township Auditorium on January 27, 28, 29th. The theme for this year is "GLOW" based on John 1:5 with speaker Nathalie Nelson Parker and the band Stars Go Dim! Washington Street Youth will meet together at Washington Street on Friday, Jan. 27, at 4:00pm and head over to the event after dinner. The Saturday session lasts all day and begins at 9:30 am. Revolution requires a lot of planning, so be sure you have signed up to attend this weekend! You can sign up with Sarah-Kate at the parent meeting on January 8, or at Youth Group. She will be sharing more details about the event at that time.

Sunday School Updates

- **The Aldersgate Class:** The class is studying a series based on a message from Max Lucado, *Because of Bethlehem: Love is Born, Hope is Here*. We welcome anyone who would like to join us for a short video and lively discussion. Our class meets in the Aldersgate Class at 10:00 am with coffee and a pastry. If you have any questions, please call David A. Anderson at 803-318-8821 or email him at DAAnderson@richardsonplowden.com.
- **The Dawsey Class:** This Sunday, January 8, we will continue studying *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Birth* by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Janelle Rivers will lead a discussion of Chapter 5, "An Angel Comes to Mary." Next Sunday, January 15, Carl Evans will teach Chapter 6, "In David's City of Bethlehem." The class meets in the Dawsey Classroom on the 2nd floor. Class members who desire to join from home use FreeConferenceCall. Class members should call in between 9:50 and 10:00 am. 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:** Nancy Whittle will lead the class in the last part of *Embodying Advent* from The Work of The People website, which will be used through January 8 as the basis of our time together. January 15—topic of choice. On January 22, we will start the book, *Do I Stay Christian?* by Brian McClaren. 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 is doing a study based on the video "The Bible Project." The subject is the character of God. Visitors are always welcome! 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:** On Sunday January 8, Charles Bryan and Randy Elswick will lead our discussion of Chapter 6 in Kalas' *Parables from the Backside*. We will also discuss plans for our study during Lent. On January 15, Lois Lovelace Duke will lead our discussion of Chapter 7. All are welcome. For more information contact Suzanne Joye at sjoye@sc.rr.com.
- **The John Harper Class:** The John Harper class discusses lessons from Adult Bible Studies published by Cokesbury. The January focus is Power and Belonging. Lessons include "Grace and Awareness for All" from Luke, "In the World, Not of It" from John and Ephesians, "Controlled by Peace" from Colossians and "A Seat at the Table" from Matthew. For more information, contact Tracy Powers at tjpowers65@gmail.com or meet with us in the classroom on the first floor by the elevator.
- **The WSUMC Youth Class:** The youth are continuing reading and analyzing the book *Walk With Jesus* by Henri Nouwen. The class is being led by Beth Robinson (bethcaskey@gmail.com.)
- **NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS:** A new class is starting this Sunday, Jan. 8, and will meet in the Traxler Classroom. The class will be led by Christine Taylor. The first study will be a slow-read through the Gospel of Luke. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join!

Gifts



- IN MEMORY OF BOB BEAMER**
to the Music Ministry
Given by Charlotte & Richard Owen
- IN HONOR OF LEE HAYNES**
to WSUMC
Given by William Westerkam
- IN MEMORY OF REV. JUDY KING**
to Missions
Given by Chip Williams
- IN MEMORY OF JANET KEITH**
to WSUMC
Given by Virginia Vaughan
- IN MEMORY OF BOB BEAMER**
to Missions
Given by Chip Williams
- IN MEMORY OF BOB BEAMER**
to WSUMC
Given by Gene & Nancy Reeder
- IN MEMORY OF BOB & JOAN BEAMER**
to WSUMC
Given by Lynn Shirley
- IN MEMORY OF REV. JUDY KING**
to the Music Ministry
Given by Paul & Beverly McClanahan
- IN MEMORY OF REV. JUDY KING**
to WSUMC
Given by Lynn Shirley
- IN MEMORY OF REV. JUDY KING**
to the Music Ministry
Given by Paul & Beverly McClanahan
- IN MEMORY OF JAMES CHRISTIAN**
to WSUMC
Given by Lynn Shirley
- IN MEMORY OF HOMER FESPERMAN**
to the Fesperman Audio/Video Fund
Given by Lynn Shirley
- IN MEMORY OF BOB BEAMER**
to WSUMC
Given by Peggy Weston
- IN MEMORY OF REV. JUDY KING**
to WSUMC
Given by the Charles Pfeiffer Circle
- IN MEMORY OF BOB BEAMER**
to the Music Ministry
Given by Harvey & Ann Jessup
- IN HONOR OF DANIEL HANLEN**
to WSUMC
Given by Harvey & Ann Jessup
- IN MEMORY OF JAMES CHRISTIAN**
to WSUMC
Given by the Charles Pfeiffer Circle
- IN MEMORY OF BOB BEAMER**
to WSUMC
Given by Robin & David Anderson
- IN MEMORY OF BOB BEAMER**
to the Organ Fund
Given by the John Harper Class
- IN MEMORY OF CARROLL SUMMERS**
to WSUMC
Given by Janelle Rivers
- IN MEMORY OF BOB BEAMER**
to the Music Ministry
Given by Charlotte & Richard Owen
- IN HONOR OF RUFUS ROGERS**
to the Soup Cellar
Given by the Arlen Cotter Family
- IN HONOR OF DEBORAH & RICK ROWE**
to Active Faith
Given by Ricky, Kristie, Haden & Ellis Rowe
- IN HONOR OF THE LADY VOLUNTEERS FROM TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Ruth Tibstirany
- IN MEMORY OF BOB BEAMER**
to WSUMC
Given by Edwin Self
- IN MEMORY OF BOB BEAMER**
to the Foundation
Given by Wilma Winslow
- IN MEMORY OF BOB BEAMER**
to the Music Ministry
Given by Lisa & Jeff Honeycutt

New Sermon Series Starts January 8

Reset—a 4-week sermon series starts this Sunday, Jan. 8. The Scriptures tell us that God’s mercies are new every morning, but sometimes it is easy for us to get stuck in the same old routine. Often when a new year begins, we start to change the direction of our lives, but we struggle with wanting to go back to the familiar instead of moving forward into the unknown. This New Year let’s join together in worship each week and hit the “reset button,” so we can claim the fresh start God makes available to us. As we rediscover our true identity in the love of God, we will discover new purpose and, guided by the compass of God’s values, head off in an exciting God-given direction!

Prayer List

Betsy Alexander	Paul McClanahan
Martha Boynton	David Middleton
David Byrum	Nelle Peterson
Mickey Epting	Shawn Powers
Pat Griffin	Genie & Ron Quinn
Rev. Paul Harmon	Rick Rowe
Karen Horne	Sarah Threatt
Lisa Johnson	Paula Walters
Debby Joyner	Nancy Williams
Martha Helen King	Our homebound
Mike LeFever	

ATTENDANCE (as of 1-5-22):

Jan. 1: 108 (in-person); 80 (online) = 188
Dec. 25: 46 (in-person); 175 (online) = 221
Christmas Eve Attendance: 205 (in-person); 175 (online x 2 services) = 380
Dec. 18: 198 (in-person); 107 (online) = 305
Dec. 11: 176 (in-person); 192 (online) = 368

GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE (as of 1-5-22):

Church Budget	\$ TBD
Church Actual	\$4,760
Soup Cellar	\$0
Foundation	\$0



Prayer Chain Standing By

We have an active prayer ministry at Washington Street. This includes the email Prayer Chain with 85 members praying for those who send requests! If you have a prayer request for the Prayer Chain, please send it to wsaumcprayers@gmail.com. No request is too small. If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, please send this in a note to wsaumcprayers@gmail.com. Thank you!

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

*Subject to change. *Denotes non-member event; blue type indicates WSUMC events with an open invitation to attend.*

Monday, January 9
 11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar
 1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*
 5:45-8:45 pm | Columbia Choral Society | Choir Room
6:30-8:15 pm | Fellowship Volunteer Meeting | Wesley Room & Zoom

Tuesday, January 10
 11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar
1:00-3:00 pm | Volunteers to undecorate the church | Campus-wide
 5:30-6:30 pm | Circle 9 | Holroyd Prayer Room
 6:00-9:00 pm | Cooperative Ministry Meeting | Threatt Hall*
 6:00-8:00 pm | Palmetto Mastersingers | Choir Room*
6:30-7:30 pm | Card Ministry Meeting | Wesley Room
 6:30-8:00 pm | Private Meeting | Room varies*

Wednesday, January 11
 11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar
 1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*

Thursday, January 12
 11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar
 7:00-9:00 pm | Palmetto Chamber Orchestra | Choir Room*

Sunday, January 15
11:00 am-12:00 pm | Worship Services | Sanctuary & Livestream

Monday, January 16
 11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar
 1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*
 5:45-8:45 pm | Columbia Choral Society | Choir Room*
6:30-7:30 pm | Volunteer Greeter Meeting | Wesley Room & Zoom

Tuesday, January 17
 11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar
 6:00-9:00 pm | Cooperative Ministry Meeting | Threatt Hall*
 6:00-8:00 pm | Palmetto Mastersingers | Choir Room*
 6:30-8:00 pm | Private Meeting | Room varies*

Wednesday, January 18
 11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar
 1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*

Thursday, January 19
 11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar
 7:00-9:00 pm | Palmetto Chamber Orchestra | Choir Room*

Saturday, January 21
 9:00 am-1:00 pm | Council Leadership Retreat | Youth Room

Sunday, January 22
 11:00 am-12:00 pm | Worship Services | Sanctuary & Livestream
 12:00-1:00 pm | Active Faith | John Harper Classroom

Monday, January 23
 11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar
 1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*



PHOTO OPP!

Have your photo taken for our Church Directory
Sunday, Jan. 8
9:00-10:45 am
& 12:15-1:00 pm
WESLEY ROOM

We plan to produce both a printable and downloadable church directory through Realm®.