

Church Council Committee/Team Reports

CHURCH COUNCIL PLANNING RETREAT

The members of this year's Church Council met on Saturday, January 21, for an organizational retreat. The group reviewed the structure of the Church Council which includes four Ministry Pillars (Worship, Age-Level, Community Life, Church & Society), supported by eight Administrative teams. Each Ministry Pillar and Administrative team has a Volunteer Coordinator and a staff contact.

Members of the Council in late 2022, approved the appointment of a Visioning team tasked with updating the WSUMC strategic plan. Noting the need to move forward with ministries that meet emerging and ongoing needs while a visioning team gets to work, Rev. Becky noted that the current ministry teams may feel as if we are building the plane while we fly it. To keep the congregation up to date on the many different ministries taking place throughout the year, we will be publishing regular ministry updates in each edition of *The Connection*.

Church Council:

Church Council will meet during the third week of each even month, starting in February. To streamline Church Council meetings, Ministry Teams will submit written reports, which will be compiled and circulated to Church Council for review. This will allow Church Council meetings to focus on items that require discussion and/or action.

Budget discussion:

The Church Finance Committee will meet during the second week of each even month, beginning in February. There are two components of the WSUMC budget—recurring funds (tithes) and one-time funds (i.e. grants, fundraisers.) The one-time funds are often restricted for specific use. At the council retreat, each Ministry Team was encouraged to be aspirational in setting ministry goals and to develop corresponding budget proposals for consideration. While there is no guarantee that every ministry dream will indeed be funded in the current year, Rev. Becky asked council members to not limit their ministry efforts to doing what we have always done or used to do but to be open to what new things God may be calling us to do.

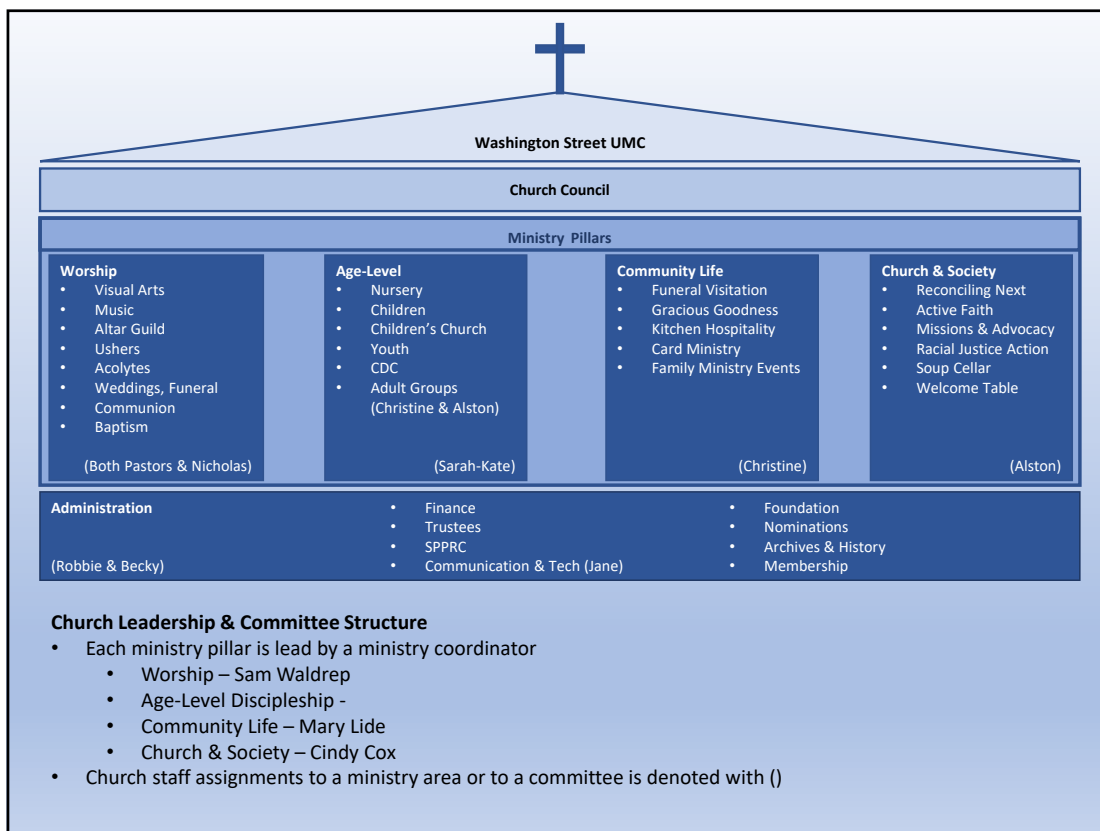
Scheduling:

In an effort to more effectively communicate Ministry team meetings and ministry events, anyone wishing to hold a

meeting or event is asked to contact Jammie Watters (jammie@wsmethodist.org). She will be the point person to coordinate meeting locations, set up ZOOM links, and reserve dates on the church calendar.

Ministry Moments:

Ministry Moments will be featured during worship throughout



the year to highlight the work of the various ministry teams. These mini-testimonies will inform worshipers about what God is doing in our midst through the many ministry events taking place each week. It is hoped that as a byproduct of each ministry moment, we will see an increase in the number of persons participating in various ministries and the number of volunteers serving in those ministries.

There is a recognition by Church Council and our church leadership, that the work of each ministry team is vital to us fulfilling our mission to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As Rev. Becky recently reminded us — many people are hurting in our denomination right now and looking for a place like WSUMC.

This month we want to share the latest updates from The Church and Society Ministry Pillar

ACTIVE FAITH

Active Faith continues to be on the front lines of hands-on ministry supporting activities and ministries to answer the needs of our local community. Here are some of the ways Active Faith shared their faith most recently:

- Thanks to the efforts of Jean Kanes a wonderful Creche Display was enjoyed by worshipers in December;
- A Christmas party was coordinated and help by Diana Westerkam, Marsha Ward, and Jim Lane at the home daycare of Mrs. Grant, whom we support through Interfaith Community Services.

According to Deborah Rowe, one of the founding members and current Chairperson of this ministry, the group decided early on not to ask for budgeted church funds to support this ministry tea but to be self-funded. She noted that it provides the group a sensitivity to choosing projects that can be conducted with volunteer services/limited funds and gratitude for the vision and resources that God provides for the success of our efforts.

- Possible revenue streams for 2023 include:*
1. Sell roses for All Saint Sunday;
 2. Selling donated vases to local florists;
 3. Receiving Memorials and Honorariums;
 4. Selling a meal prepared by active Faith members after Sunday Services;
 5. Holding a silent auction with a dinner (early Fall).
- Regarding different ministries/projects Active Faith may support this year, Deborah Rowe said: “Historically, God provides the vision in God’s time and we respond.” As we begin 2023, the group will engage in the following initiatives:
1. First-Year Teacher Closet — collecting gently used clothing to be distributed to college graduates going into the classroom. More casual clothing that may be donated will be given to the clothes closet at Columbia College for their students who may need clothing. (Now through March).
 2. Provide a donation per quarter to the Soup Cellar’s Free Little Hygiene Pantry;
 3. Provide a donation per semester to the Koala Closet at Columbia College;
 4. Partner with our Racial Justice Action Team to conduct an event in late summer/early fall;
 5. Contribute funds to support Cooperative Ministry (amount to be determined);
 6. Sponsor “Undie Sunday” in December — collect new underwear to be given to Cooperative Ministry for distribution;

7. Continue to sponsor Mrs. Grant’s home daycare as well as sponsor an additional home daycare operator. (Ongoing.)
 8. Partner with the Missions Committee and Mary’s Maidens to provide Foster Care bags to SAFY Foster Care Agency. These bags will be given to children when removing them from their homes due to abuse/neglect. A community drive-thru will be held in the spring to collect items to go into the bags, ie, underwear, pj’s toothbrush/toothpaste, socks, diapers, soap, books, or small toys, etc.
- Other initiatives were discussed and may be considered later including supporting Palmetto Place. The group is also exploring ways in which to help low-income elders in our community.

RACIAL JUSTICE ACTION TEAM (RJAT)

The vision of this team is to actively advocate for racial justice within our congregation and community by inspiring and engaging our congregation and community in ways that challenge and transform unjust systems of institutional and personal power. Nancy Whittle, who serves as the Chairperson of this ministry team, notes the following accomplishments of the team in 2022:

- Completed a discernment process led by Rev. Melanie Dobson and determined that we will focus our work on food insecurity and voting issues. To this end, the team met twice with staff from Food Share SC, but at this time the team remains undecided on what population to serve. The team also met with volunteers from the League of Women Voters who staffed a booth at the WSUMC Fall Festival.
- The RJAT put together a planning team comprised of WSUMC/RJAT and Journey UMC members to plan a service of Repentance and Healing for the sin of racism. This service was conducted on March 2nd. The process of planning was beneficial in forming relationships and follow-up activities.
- In April, Rev. Melanie Dobson led us on a pilgrimage as we toured the Mojestka Simkins House.
- Rev. Becky Shirley and Rev. Mary Johnson (a member of Journey UMC) led two group studies through May and June on racism and then a second study on violence.
- The team responded to the mass shootings in May in the Buffalo grocery store and Uvelde Elementary School by participating in “Wear Orange” weekend. Becky referred to these events in her sermon, Nancy Whittle spoke in the Ministry Moment and Cindy Cox wrote an article for *The Connection*. Team members also participated in the “The March for Life” against gun violence in June. The team purchased an End Gun Violence banner and placed it on the Bull St. fence. Unfortunately, the banner was stolen a few days after placement. We also had Black Lives Banners stolen. In the Fall of 2022, Cindy Cox addressed the stolen banners in a letter to the editor of *The Methodist Advocate*.
- Charlie Calhoun wrote sample letters to state and federal legislators in support of pending gun legislation. These were placed on the website and the congregation was encouraged to send letters to their legislators.
- We met with Moms Demand Action for gun safety to learn about their organization and ways we might partner with them. Several of our team members went through their training and meetings were held at WUSMC. They also had a booth at the Fall Festival on gun safety.
- In early fall, we began the planning process with staff from the USC Center for Civil Rights History and Research

- to plan an event highlighting SC63 on Main St. exhibit and a presentation on the civil rights movement in Columbia. The event was held on November 13, and was a great success. The youth prepared a taco supper and participated in the event. We had good publicity from WIS-TV as Judy Gatson attended and included pictures and comments on her Facebook page.
- Five small Black Lives Matter pole banners were purchased to hang on the Washington Street light poles which will hang through February (Black History Month.)
- Regarding plans for 2023, the team’s action plan includes:
- Plans to meet with representatives from Conservation Voters of SC to learn more about their work priority of preserving the Rosenwald Schools in SC. These were schools built for African American Students before desegregation. They want to raise awareness of these schools and request funding from the legislature to restore those that are left. Members of the team are thinking of ways we might engage in this effort. Ideas include a letter-writing campaign to legislators, or an education event in Threatt Hall.
 - Invite the congregation to engage in a SC63 guided walking tour of Main Street. Possible dates for the walking tour are Sundays, April 23, or 30; or May 21. Plans are to take the tour together and share a picnic at Findlay Park afterwards.
 - Invite the congregation to attend a speaking engagement with Dr. Willie James Jennings at the Lutheran Seminary. Dr. Jennings is an Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Africana Studies at Yale University. His book *The Christian Imagination* won the American Academy of Religion Award of Excellence in the Study of Religion and the Grawemeyer Award in Religion. He has also published the book *After Whiteness*. RJAT members are planning to host a group discussion at WSUMC a week before the event, inviting attendees to read something from his writings, or watch a discussion by him on YouTube prior to the discussion. The Rev. Melanie Dobson and The Rev. Alston Lippert will lead this effort.
 - For the Juneteenth Holiday, plans are being formulated for an educational event and possibly a service project.
 - Promote and participate in the Wear Orange Weekend in early June.
- In addition to the ministries listed above, RJAT members are discussing the possibility of hosting, in coordination with WSUMC’s Reconciling Next ministry team, some type of dialogue/panel session with interfaith groups in the late summer or early fall around the issue of hate and how we can work together.

RECONCILING NEXT(RNT)

- Members of the Reconciling Next team, led by Jim Lane, continue to focus on the two goals identified by Church Council for the team when the church became a reconciling congregation in 2019:
- To lead advocacy and information efforts within WSUMC; and
 - To build ministries of compassion and justice within and for the LGBTQAI+ community.
- Some of the ways team members plan to work on these goals in 2023 include:
- Looking for a new location to host a SAFE space for LGBTQAI+ persons. In 2022, RNT established of a SAFE Space for LGBTQAI+ persons to attend on Sunday mornings at WSUMC. After several months of hosting, the RNT team

- members discussed the low attendance and reasons for the lack of attendance despite outreach efforts in the community. The recommendation was made to try to find a location off-campus to hold the SAFE space and build relationships. The team wants to keep the location downtown relatively close to WSUMC.
- Friday Unwind is a time for fellowship with persons who self identify as LGBTQAI+ and allies join together via ZOOM. This ministry is offered in partnership with Reformation Lutheran Church and is held on the third Friday of each month at 6 pm.
 - An Ally Event is being planned by a subgroup of RNT members (Jennifer Jackson, Nancy Whittle, and Jane Peterson). Discussions continue on what this event might look like and when it might be held.
 - RNT plans to once again promote and plan for WSUMC’s participation in SC Pride weekend, Friday, Oct 20 and Saturday, Oct 21, 2023. A Thursday evening service (Oct 19) of healing, similar to one we held in 202, is also being planned.
 - As the new year gets underway, RNT members are considering ways we might recognize Transgender Day of Remembrance which is annually held on November 20, and ways in which RNT and RJAT might co-sponsor an educational event around the issue of hate in our world.

THE WELCOME TABLE

- Originally known as “The Sunday Dinner Ministry,” this team, chaired by Lee Haynes, has been engaged in providing an opportunity, beyond our weekday Soup Cellar ministry, to feed the soul as well as the bodies of those who are homeless, and the working poor in the heart of the city. In conversations with the WSUMC Soup Cellar ministry team and based on attendance patterns for the Sunday dinners in 2021, it was decided that there is a greater need among our neighbors for a hot nutritious breakfast than there is a need for Sunday evening dinners. Primarily because no other group in the area is offering breakfast on a regular basis and several groups have been organizing “pop-up” Sunday dinners. This team has received some funding for the meals though a Richland County Discretionary Grant. Thanks to this funding, the team offered two warm breakfasts inside Threatt Hall, supported by the efforts of students from the Methodist Student Network at USC (MSN), led by Rev. Tom Wall, in offering five breakfasts. In addition to those meals, the Welcome Table team of volunteers partnered with the Soup Cellar team to serve a large fried chicken lunch in the Fall of 2022.
- Our partnership with MSN will continue at least through May of this year, as the students serve four or five breakfasts between now and the end of this school year. The next meal fully sponsored by the Welcome Table team is tentatively planned as a an lunchtime on Easter Monday, April 10. They are planning another Saturday breakfast in the late May/Early June time-frame.

WORSHIP PLANS FOR LENT

Lent is a season when we are called to respond to Christ’s love by turning and returning to God. This year, members of our Worship team have been working with our Pastors and Staff to offer some new ways for us to grow in our love for God and for one another. Here is an overview of the ministries we have planned:

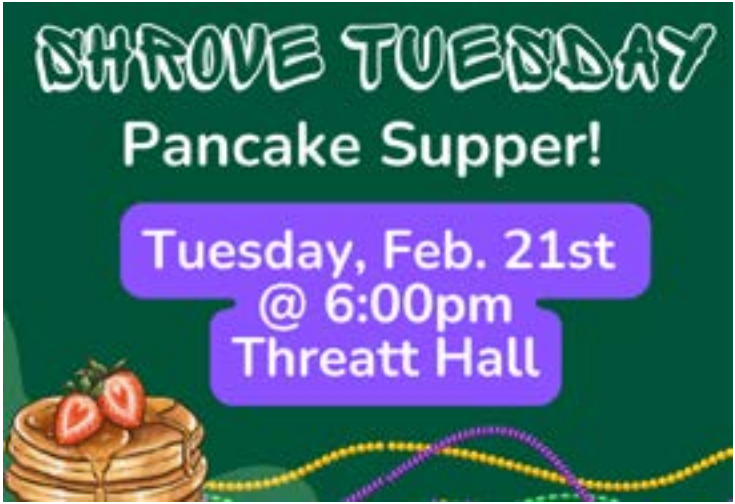
- **Tuesday, February 21 | 6 pm | Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.**
This is an amazing time of great food and fellowship for all ages.
- **Wednesday Lunches**
Lunch will be served in Threatt Hall starting at 11:45 am (soup, sandwich, dessert, and drink). Cost is \$8 per person with proceeds benefitting the Soup Cellar.
- **Wednesday Services**
Worship with us in Christ Chapel at 12:30 pm on the following Wednesdays
- **Februaryy 22, Ash Wednesday**
Rev Alston and Christine Taylor will lead us in a traditional Ash Wednesday service as we receive the imposition of ashes, and reflect, repent and begin our journey to Easter.
March 1 - A service of music
March 8 - Rev Becky portrays Mary Magelene
March 15 - A service of music
March 22 - Rev Becky portrays Pilate's wife
March 29 - A service of music
- **Sunday Morning Sermon Series - "Who is Jesus?"**
What did Jesus claim about himself? Who did Jesus say that he was? Over the season of Lent, we are going to look at John's gospel to see what Jesus had to say about himself, his "I am" statements. Seven times Jesus declared "I am." He said, "I am the bread of Life (6:35,41,48,51)," "I am the light of the world (8:12; 9:5)," "I am the gate (10:7,9)," "I am the good shepherd (10:11,14)," "I am the vine (15:1,5)," "I am the way, the truth, and the life (14:6)," and "I am the resurrection and the life" (11:25).
Rev. Becky has invited some of WSUMC's other clergy to



help lead these services offering to us their insights on how each of us can grow in our relationship with Jesus.

Holy Week Services

- **Palm Sunday Worship**
Children of all ages are invited to join Sarah-Kate for a palm branch processional as we begin the special service of worship and enter Holy Week.
- **Maundy Thursday Service** — A Dramatic Reflection on "The Last Supper;" April 6, 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary.
- **Good Friday Tenebrae Service**
April 7 - 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary
- **Easter Sunday - April 9**
 - Special Music is being planned
 - Photo Booth in Christ Chapel Garden



Sunday School Updates

- **The Aldersgate Class:** Until February, the class is studying Max Lucado's book *He Chose the Nails: What God Did to Win your Heart*. This is a 6-week bible study exploring the many gifts that Christ provided to us at his crucifixion. These include not only the gift of the cross but also the gift of the thorns that pierced his brow. The nails that tore his flesh. The seamless robe that he removed for us. The empty tomb where he forever defeated sin and death. The Hill of the Cross is rich with the gifts of God's grace. These were the gifts he didn't have to give. The only required act for our salvation was the shedding of blood, yet God did so much more. So, as we unwrap these gifts, we need to pause and listen for his voice. As we do, perhaps we will hear him whisper, "I did it just for you." On February 26, we will embark on a 12 -week study by Sandra L. Richter (PhD, Harvard University) Professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College. This study, "The Epic of Eden" is designed to take participants on a journey into a deeper understanding of the Old Testament. Imagine traveling to a different place, a different time, and a different culture. We all come to this journey from different places—how much we already know about the Bible, our current time commitments, and the depth to which we want to dive into this study. The Old Testament of the Bible can feel like a junk drawer—a disorganized collection of important stuff we don't want to lose, yet don't know what to do with. From the Petateuch to patriarchs, and from kings to prophets, it can feel like a puzzle we've tried to put together but wind up putting back in the box because it is too complicated. Dr. Richter will lead us through a video study and text to show us how Old Testament understanding leads to fresh depths of New Testament faith for everyday life in the real world. Our class meets in the Aldersgate classroom on the 2nd floor 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 DAnderson@richardsonplowden.com.
- **The Dawsey Class:** This Sunday, February 5, we will conclude our study of *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Birth* by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Gary Light will lead a discussion of Chapter 9, "Joy to the World." Next Sunday, February 12, we will begin a new book, *Jesus' Alternative Plan: The Sermon on the Mount* by Richard Rohr. Tom Wall will teach the "Introduction: How to Read the Bible, Getting Ready to Hear Jesus" and Chapter One: "Jesus' New World Order. " 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:** The class is studying the book, *Do I Stay Christian?* by Brian McClaren. Diana Westerkam will lead the group on Feb. 5. Kate Chappel will lead the class on Feb. 12. This study continues through Feb. 26. 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 next two weeks, the Open Door Class will study overviews of the gospels of Matthew and John from *The Bible Project*. This is in preparation for our Lenten study—*Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws* by Adam Hamilton. 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 February 5th we will begin a study from The Great Courses titled "How Jesus Became God" by Professor Bart D. Ehrman at the University of North Carolina where he is the James A. Gray Distinguished Professor. Dr. Ehrman is a New Testament scholar who focuses on the origins and history of early Christianity. 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 Collossians 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:** Sarah-Kate is working on building a volunteer schedule for youth Sunday School and Sunday night Youth Group. If you are interested in helping out, please reach out to her. Right now the youth Sunday school class is in flux as we do not currently have enough volunteers to teach. Please keep watching for updated information!

- **NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS:** A new class has started and is meeting in the Traxler Classroom. The class is led by Christine Taylor. The class is doing a slow-read through the Gospel of Luke. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join! For more information, contact Christine at christine@wsmethodist.org.

College Student Addresses

The 2's and 3's and 4's and 5's Sunday school classes are preparing a Valentine surprise for all Washington Street college students. If you are the parent of a WS college student, please share their mailing address with Mary Lide, neaudl@aol.com.

Mary's Maidens Valentine & Chocolate Sale Is Here!


Sunday, Feb. 5 & Sunday, Feb. 12



The girls in Mary's Maidens have been busy creating one-of-a-kind Valentine's cards. You can purchase these cards on Sunday, February 5, and Sunday, February 12, both before and after Sunday School and after the worship service. We will be selling fairly traded chocolate bars from Equal Exchange. The purchase of fairly traded chocolate supports small farmers in South America.

All proceeds from the sale will be used for Mary's Maidens service projects.

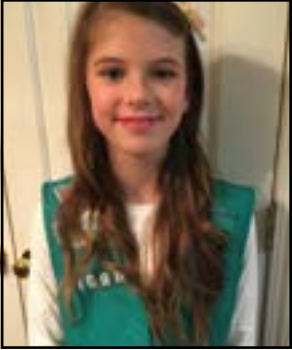
Gifts



IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT <i>to the Soup Cellar</i> Given by Circle 6	IN MEMORY OF NELLE PETERSON <i>to WSUMC</i> Given by Peggy Weston	IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT <i>to the Soup Cellar</i> Given by Gary & Denise Threatt	IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT <i>to the Soup Cellar</i> Given by Happy Henry
IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT Given to WSUMC Given by Virginia Vaughan	IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT <i>to WSUMC</i> Given by Peggy Weston	IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT <i>to the Soup Cellar</i> Given by Rufus Rogers	IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT <i>to WSUMC</i> Given by Louise Balsamo
IN MEMORY OF NELLE PETERSON <i>to WSUMC</i> Given by J. Lewis Cromer	IN MEMORY OF BOB BEAMER <i>to the Foundation</i> Given by Paul & Janice Harmon	IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT <i>to WSUMC</i> Given by Jo W. Hines	IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT <i>to WSUMC</i> Given by Charlotte Luckstone
IN MEMORY OF NELLE PETERSON <i>to WSUMC</i> Given by Kathy Rogers	IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT <i>to the Soup Cellar</i> Given by Kathy & James Wright	IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT <i>to WSUMC</i> Given by Ms. Marguerite Walker	IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT <i>to WSUMC</i> Given by Believers SS Class Trenholm Road UMC
IN MEMORY OF NELLE PETERSON <i>to WSUMC</i> Given by Carole McConkey	IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT <i>to the Soup Cellar</i> Given by Susan Brown	IN MEMORY OF NELLE PETERSON <i>to WSUMC</i> Given by Nancy Whittle	IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT <i>to WSUMC</i> Given by Marshall & Cathy Ramsey
IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT <i>to WSUMC</i> Given by Carole McConkey	IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT <i>to WSUMC</i> Given by Ned Self	IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT <i>to the Welcome Table Ministry</i> Given by Nancy Whittle	IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT <i>to WSUMC</i> Given by Carol Sharp
IN HONOR OF REV. ALSTON LIPPERT <i>to WSUMC</i> Given by Peggy Weston	IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT <i>to WSUMC</i> Given by Janelle Rivers	IN MEMORY OF NELLE PETERSON <i>to the Foundation</i> Given by Ed & Sara Fisher	

It's Time for Girl Scout Cookies!

Lucy Woods is selling Girl Scout cookies through Feb. 26, and is collecting boxes to donate to the Soup Cellar. Her goal is to collect 100 boxes to donate! If anyone would like buy boxes to be donated, or just to have, they can contact us at acmcatee21@gmail.com or 803-727-9518.



Join us for Exploring Membership

The journey of faith is a very personal one, but it is not meant to be traveled alone. Whether you are new to WSUMC or have been attending for some time, if you would like to find out more about who we are and what we believe, please join Rev. Becky as she leads our next new members' class on Sunday, February 5, at 4:00 in the Wesley Room. In our time together, you will:

- learn about the church
- meet new people
- learn what "membership" means and
- find out how to get plugged into ministries that excite you

Contact Rev. Becky (rjshirley@umcsc.org) to let her know your attendance plans and make plans to stay after the class to participate in our first Sunday evening fellowship meal—F.U.E.L.

WSUMC Youth Events!

There's a lot coming up for our youth and congregation!

- **Shrove Tuesday:**

Everyone's invited to a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 21, at 6:00 pm in Threatt Hall. The Youth Group will be hosting and cooking. Come enjoy pancakes and games to celebrate Fat Tuesday with us! If you want to help with this event, please get in touch with Sarah-Kate at sarahkate@wsmethodist.org.

- **Souper Bowl Sunday:** The will host a soup lunch for Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 12, following worship at noon in Threatt Hall with a Clemson vs. Carolina Showdown. Tackle Hunger's signature Souper Bowl of Caring effort is a youth-inspired movement working across the nation to tackle hunger in their local communities. Mobilizing grassroots resources including churches, schools, civic groups and caring individuals, Tackle Hunger and the Souper Bowl of Caring movement has created over \$175 million worth of



Lenten Book Group

Looking for a Lenten practice? Interested in a book group at WSUMC? Come join us! We'll be walking through *Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* by Kate Bowler. Each of the 40ish devotionals have a reflection, a blessing or prayer, and a way to practice this concept in your life.

This book is not your average Lenten devotional. Kate Bowler says plainly in the introduction—you can read one each day in order, or you can skip around as you please, doing the best you can. This book group will meet once each month during Lent to discuss our own journey through this book—whether that is a meticulous one-passage each day, or an out of order adventure.

We'll meet on February 23, March 16th, and April 6th. The in-person group will meet at 11:00 am in the Traxler Room, and a Zoom group will meet at 7:00 pm. Both groups will be led by Christine Taylor. Sign up on Realm or email christine@wsmethodist.org.



support that stays completely local to make sure no one goes without soup in their bowl. Youth will be collecting CASH donations before worship Sunday, Feb. 5th & Feb. 12th that will benefit the Washington Street Soup Cellar! You can also donate online by marking your donation "Souper Bowl of Caring" Donate toward which team you think is the best — Clemson or Carolina for this Souper Bowl Showdown. Your donation will cover the cost of your soup.

- **Confirmation Announcement:** Washington Street UMC welcomes all 8th Grade students to engage in the upcoming Confirmation Class. Confirmation is an important step in a young disciple's life where they will walk together with their peers on a journey in learning about their own Christian faith and commitment. Each young person will be paired with a mentor to help guide them on this journey. Rev. Becky and Sarah-Kate will provide lessons and guidance during group sessions and we will go together towards the end of our journey on a Confirmation Retreat. Parents or students who have questions about Confirmation are encouraged to reach out to Rev. Becky or Sarah-Kate

and once we have students signed up we will provide more information. We hope to begin Confirmation Classes towards the end of Easter.

• **Revolution Update:** During the last weekend in January, the youth group of Washington Street went to the South Carolina UMC sponsored event—Revolution. We had six students attend this event where the theme was G.L.O.W. which stood for God Lights Our World. Students spent time worshiping, playing games, and having conversations about their faith with their peers. Shout out to Dane and Cindy Waund and Andrea McAtee who cooked lunch for the Washington Street and Trinity UMC Youth who spent some large group time here at Washington Street. It wouldn't be possible to provide experiences like this without volunteer support!

If you are interested in helping out with youth activities, we still need volunteers for Youth Group on Sunday, Feb. 12th, and Sunday, Feb. 26th, from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. We also need volunteers for Youth Sunday School on Sunday, Feb. 12th at 10:00am. Scan the appropriate QR Code below to sign up for a volunteer slot!

YOUTH GROUP VOLUNTEER FEB. 12 or 26



YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEER FEB. 12



Prayer List

Betsy Alexander	Martha Helen King
Martha Boynton	Paul McClanahan
David Byrum	David Middleton
Wendy Clark	Shawn Powers
Mickey Epting	Genie & Ron Quinn
Pat Griffin	Rick Rowe
Rev. Paul Harmon	Jim Webber
Karen Horne	Nancy Williams
Lisa Johnson	Mary Anne Young
Debby Joyner	Our homebound

ATTENDANCE (as of 1-19-22):

Jan. 8: 135 (in-person); 90 (online) = 225
 Jan. 15: 170 (in-person); 175 (online) = 345
 Jan. 1: 108 (in-person); 105 (online) = 213
 Dec. 25: 46 (in-person); 100 (online) = 146

GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE (as of 1-19-22):

Church Budget \$ TBD

Church Actual	\$60,405
Soup Cellar	\$1,415
Foundation	0



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

*Subject to change. *Denotes non-member event; blue type indicates WSUMC events with an open invitation to attend. Please contact Jammie Watters at jammie@wsmethodist.org to schedule an event.*

Monday, Feb. 6

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

5:30-6:30 pm | Communications & Technology Meeting | Wesley Room

5:30-6:30 pm | Trustee Meeting | John Harper Classroom

5:45-8:45 pm | Columbia Choral Society Rehearsal | Choir Room*

Tuesday, Feb. 7

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar

10:00-11:00 am | Staff Meeting | Wesley Room

6:00-8:00 pm | Palmetto Mastersingers | Choir Room*

6:30-7:30 pm | Charles Pfeiffer Circle | Off campus

6:30-8:00 pm | Private Group Meeting | Room varies*

Wednesday, Feb. 8

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar

1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*

Thursday, Feb. 9

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar

5:30-6:30 pm | Circle 2 | Wesley Room*

7:00-9:00 pm | Palmetto Chamber Orchestra | Choir Room*

Friday, Feb. 10

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar

1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*

Sunday, Feb. 12

9:00-10:00 am | Communion Training | Wesley Room

9:30 am-12:30 pm | Mary's Maidens Valentines & Chocolate Sale | Church Hallway

11:00 am-12:00 pm | Worship Services | Sanctuary & Live Stream

12:00-2:00 pm | Souper Bowl of Caring Lunch | Threath Hall

4:30-6:00 pm | Youth Group | Youth Room

Monday, Feb. 13

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 Rehearsal | Choir Room*

Tuesday, Feb. 12

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar

6:00-8:00 pm | Palmetto Mastersingers | Choir Room*

Wednesday, Feb. 15

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar

1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*

6:30-8:00 pm | Private Meeting | Room varies

Thursday, Feb. 16

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar

7:00-9:00 pm | Palmetto Chamber Orchestra | Choir Room

ALL DAY THROUGH FEB. 19 | CDC Set-up for teacher conferences | Threath Hall

Friday, Feb. 17

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar

1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*

4:00 pm-Sunday Feb. 19 | Youth Ski Trip