

What is the Methodist Student Network (MSN)?

by Tom Wall

I have a badge on my door that says, “John Wesley was a campus minister.” You probably know the story of how John and his brother, Charles, gathered a group of students and teachers together on the campus of Oxford University in England and the rest is history. In short, the Methodist movement was born as a campus ministry and the Methodist Church is still on campus raising the next generation of the church. It's in the college years that young adults are exceptionally open and exploring the big questions of faith and meaning and purpose and belonging. The United Methodist Church exists on campus as the Wesley Foundation (Methodist Student Network at USC) to be a place and community where students can openly explore these issues without coercion or manipulation. No question is out of bounds. We think a good question is better than 100 answers. The tough issues about relationships, human sexuality, other faiths, theological

hardballs, and social issues are engaged. Students want a relevant and practical faith.

The building where MSN is housed has had many occupants and partners over the years but the latest configuration is that of the Carolina Faiths

MSN hosts an interfaith Thanksgiving meal.



Center where MSN shares the building with Hillel, a Jewish student group. As such, we are the first interfaith campus center in South Carolina. The Center is one of the university's prayer rooms that Muslims can use for their daily prayers. MSN is very much involved in promoting interfaith dialogue and understanding.

There are typical activities such as worship (though done a little differently, and on Sunday evenings), small groups facilitated by students, and bible study. Covenant discipleship groups often form a good model of how we do Christianity at MSN. Worship is a mainstay but personal devotion and growth are encouraged. The several retreats each year help with this growth, as well. But there is also equally a big emphasis on serving others in acts of compassion. We have traveled to many Latin American countries and to several countries in Africa offering health clinics and working with local churches. Several years ago, Washington Street and MSN traveled together on a mission trip to Brazil. We have been to many hard-hit areas of the USA doing service work. We traveled to the Gulf Coast more than 20 times after Hurricane Katrina and to the Sea Islands near Charleston many times. MSN also engages the big social issues through justice work, trying to understand and address structural injustice and sin. Students are passionate about



MSN builds handicapped ramp during spring break.

tackling homelessness, immigration, child poverty, and gun violence.

Many students have learned about hunger and homelessness through serving at the Soup Cellar. They have become friends with and heard the stories of many of Columbia's homeless. And some students have found Washington Street to be their new faith family when they graduate.

Washington Street UMC has been an incredible support and partner in ministry for the Wesley Foundation/MSN over the years. Sunday School classes and the UMW from Washington Street have provided Sunday evening meals for students and have worshipped with MSN. The Missions committee has been very supportive, and MSN's mission trips to Ecuador have been a springboard for Washington Street. Many Washington Street members have been on the Wesley Foundation board over the years. Truly, this has been a shared and partnered ministry. How grateful we are at MSN for Washington Street UMC. To see more photos of MSN in action, please visit our Facebook page!



MSN at winter shelter doing a Fat Tuesday pancake dinner for the patrons

Sunday School Updates

• **The Aldersgate Class:** Come join the Aldersgate Class as we study the Old Testament with Sandra L. Richter (PhD, Harvard University), Professor of Old Testament, 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 Pentateuch 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. Come join us for coffee and a pastry and listen to this exciting series. Our class meets in the Aldersgate classroom on the 2nd floor at 10:00 am. 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, March 5, we will continue our study of *Jesus' Alternative Plan: The Sermon on the Mount* by Richard Rohr. Gary Light will teach Chapter Four: "Understanding the Social Order." Next Sunday, March 12, Hunter Rentz will lead a discussion of Chapter Five: "Table Fellowship in the Christian Scriptures." 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:** We will finish the book *Do I Stay Christian* this Sunday, March 5. Nancy Whittle will lead the class. For the rest of Lent, we will discuss the "I Am" statements of Jesus in response to Becky's sermons: March 12, "I am the light of the world;" March 19, "I am the door of the sheep;" March 26, "I am the good shepherd;" April 4, "I am the resurrection and the life." Easter Sunday's lesson is pending. We will do the last part, "I am the way, the truth and the life," on April 17. Join us 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 Open Door Class is finishing a study of the 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. This study will begin next week. 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:** For the next several weeks we will be participating in 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. We are enjoying the lessons and our discussions. All are welcome to join us. If you have questions, please 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. 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 Youth Class:** Youth Sunday School Class is provided at 10:00 am in the Youth Room (on the third floor). Youth leaders use engaging curriculum that helps create dialogue for young adults about their faith. If you have other questions, feel free to reach out to Sarah-Kate Gravely at sarahkate@wsmethodist.org. Members of Washington Street are encouraged to sign up to volunteer as Sunday school leaders. The class is being currently being led by Sarah-Kate.

• **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.



EASTER HYDRANGEAS

We will be selling a limited number of hydrangeas for our Easter service again this year. These plants come in eight-inch pots, have 5-6 blooms, and measure about 22 inches tall (including the pot). They make splendid Easter gifts. The plants are \$25 each and can be ordered through **March 22**. Please pick up and complete an order form along with your payment information. Forms will be available in the narthex on Sunday, March 12, and 19.

We will also accept donations of plants to be used in the church's cutting garden that was started in 2018 by the Active Faith Small Group. This mission has allowed us to establish a source of sustainable greenery and flowers for our beautiful church arrangements.

You may pay for the plants online at wsmethodist.org/giving (Realm), by dropping the form and payment in the offering plate, or by dropping off your order form to the Church Office with your payment. **ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MARCH 22.**

"Overcoming Racial Faith: What Acts 2 Teaches Us About God." —A Small Group Discussion

Willie James Jennings, a noted theologian and author will be holding a public lecture at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary on Tuesday, March 21, at 10:30 am in Stavros Lecture Hall. The title of his lecture is "Overcoming Racial Faith: What Acts 2 Teaches Us About God." All are invited to attend.

In preparation for this talk, Melanie Dobson will be offering a small group discussion on **Sunday, March 19**, following the 11:00 am service in the John Harper classroom. This discussion will center on the second chapter of his commentary on Acts. Copies of this chapter will be available via email, on the WS website, and in the volunteer office. We hope you will come to our small group discussion and then attend the lecture. For more information contact Melanie Dobson at melanie.dobson14@gmail.com or Rev. Alston at aflippert@umcsc.org.

Prayer List

Betsy Alexander	Martha Helen King
Martha Boynton	Paul McClanahan
David Byrum	Sharon McCullough
Wendy Clark	David Middleton
Judy Ellington	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
Jean Kanes	



Dr. Willie Jennings: Tuesday, March 21

10:30 am | Stavros Lecture Hall, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

"Overcoming Racial Faith: What Acts 2 Teaches Us About God"

Committee Corner

(News & updates from WSUMC teams & committees)

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council met via Zoom on Thursday evening, February 23, with approximately 20 members present. It was the first meeting of 2023 and also the introduction to an adjusted meeting agenda format. Committee and team reports were provided and will be published for the congregation to review. Two new business items were brought to Council.

One new business item considered, discussed, and approved unanimously was motioned by the Records & History Committee so as to honor and to name the archives after Julia Hyatt Huffman. Further detail on Ms Hoffman's dedication and history with WSUMC will be published at a later date for all of the congregation to read. The other item brought to the Council details Washington Street's public statement on its intention and commitment with denomination affiliation. The precise text is still under discussion and debate and will be brought back to the Council for a vote once consensus is met and wordsmithing is complete.

Church & Society Teams

WELCOME TABLE TEAM

The Welcome Table team is hosting it's first event for our Soup Cellar patrons on Easter Monday, April 10, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm in Threatt Hall.

Volunteers and donations are needed for this event. We estimate 125+ for this popular fried chicken dinner. Publix has graciously donated \$200 in gift cards to purchase the fried chicken. The meal will include green beans, mac n' cheese, rolls, dessert, and a drink.

Volunteers are needed for the following:

Cook preps (4)
Platers (5)
Servers (5)

Cleaning crew (5)
Floaters (2)
Greeters (4)



Donations needed:

- Bottled water
- Chocolate Chip Cookies or brownies (dozen per donation)
- Hard-boiled eggs (dyeing optional) (seeking 10 dozen)

You may sign-up in Realm (scan the QR code above) or by emailing jane@wsmethodist.org.

RACIAL JUSTICE ACTION TEAM:

Updates

The committee has plans to learn more about Conservation Voters of SC (CVSC) efforts to preserve Rosenwald Schools in SC. These schools were built for African Americans prior to desegregation. The CVSC wants to raise awareness of these schools and is requesting funding from the state legislature for restoration and preservation.

The team is hosting a small group, pre-lecture educational opportunity on March 19, to discuss Dr. Willie James Jennings' lecture on March 21, at the Lutheran Seminary. We encourage the congregation to participate in the small group which includes including a discussion of his writings and/or speeches, as well as attending the lecture. The small group discussion will be led by Melanie Dobson. *(See information on the previous page.)*

A Columbia SC: 63 walking tour of Main St is being planned for late April. This would include the tour and a picnic for participants.

A congregational educational event is being discussed for the Juneteenth Holiday, along with a possible service project. The team will also encourage participation in the June 2-3 Wear Orange Weekend and submit an article to *The Connection* about the events, along with activities for congregation during the weekend.

An interfaith dialogue/panel on issue of hate, and on ways we can work together, is being discussed. This would be a Joint effort with Reconciling Next Team. The team will continue to

ATTENDANCE

Feb. 26: 133 (in-person);
109 (online*) = 242
Feb. 19: 133 (in-person);
143 (online*) = 276;
Feb. 12: 143 (in-person);
226 (online*) = 369
Feb. 5: 156 (in-person);
131 (online) = 287

**combined numbers from
sermon-only and livestream
views*

Giving year-to-date (as of 3-2-23):

Church Budget	\$ TBD
Church	\$130,007
Soup Cellar	\$11,713
Foundation	\$500



respond to events as they arise and call for action.

MISSIONS:

2022 Highlights:

In 2022, Missions supported numerous entities, both internal to WSUMC and external. Internal: Ecuador Trip, Circle of Welcome, The Welcome Table, and Active Faith. External: Alcorn Middle School, The Cooperative Ministry (shelf stable milk for food pantry), Middle School Reading program, MSN, Epworth Children's Home (meals for foster families), and Salkahatchie.

2023 Plans/Discussions:

Currently, Missions is focused on a joint event with Active Faith to support the purchase of bags for Richland County Dept. of Social Services Foster Care Program. These bags will be given to children who are removed from their homes due to abuse/neglect. In addition to purchasing the bags, the team will hold a community drive-thru to collect items to go into the bags, ie, underwear, pj's, toothbrush/toothpaste, socks, diapers, soap, books or small toys, etc. The Drive n' Drop event is planned for Friday, April 28, from 12:00 to 4:00 pm, and Saturday, April 29, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, in the parking lot of the church.

Missions is completing a commitment to the current family we are supporting through the Circle of Welcome at the end of April. At that time, the committee will assess whether to continue to support this family, and in what ways, and will determine whether/when to be matched with a new family.

The team is supporting the June 10-17 Penn Center Salkahatchie. They are also working to refresh membership, solicit new ideas, meet more regularly and often, and to have more active community building activities.

It was recently announced that the Ecuador trip for 2023 has been canceled. After careful consideration, the decision was made to postpone the trip to Ecuador for this year. As of now, we don't have people interested/committed to go, and it will be better to focus on a domestic trip instead. Missions proposes, instead, to organize a social justice/volunteering trip to the U.S./Mexican border on the same dates that we set for Ecuador. (June 12-21). Mackin and Tom Wall have been to the border to work with local UMC churches, and the team believes this can be a good opportunity for our congregation to see a reality that hits closer to home.

ACTIVE FAITH:

Updates on Plans/Discussions:

First Year Teacher Closet: The group is collecting gently used clothing to be distributed to college graduates going into the classroom. More casual clothing may be donated to the clothes closet at Columbia College for their students who may need clothing. (*Now through March 31*)

Financial support will continue for the Soup Cellar's FreeLittle Hygiene Pantry and the Koala Closet at Columbia College.

Plans are in the works to partner with the Racial Justice Action Team to conduct an event in late summer or early fall. The team will also continue its support of Cooperative

Ministry with contributions (amount to be determined) and to sponsor another Undie Sunday in December. (Underwear will be given to Cooperative Ministry for distribution). They will also continue their support of Mrs. Grant's home daycare and possibly sponsor an additional home daycare operator.

Another initiative being discussed, and may be considered later, is supporting Palmetto Place. Ways in which to help the low-income elders in our community are also being explored.



Drive 'N Drop

A supply drive for the Richland County Dept. of Social Services Foster Care Program

NEEDS: diapers (all sizes), unscented baby wipes, new packages of children's underwear and socks (all sizes, boy, and girl), toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.

Drive into our parking lot to drop off your donation! A volunteer will take your donations directly from your car!

**Friday, April 28
12:00-4:00 pm &
Saturday, April 29
9:00 am-1:00 pm**

WASHINGTON STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**IS YOUR TEAM CONSIDERING
HOLDING A DRIVE OR FUNDRAISER?**

**PLEASE LET US HELP COORDINATE
YOUR EFFORTS!**

**CONTACT JAMMIE WATTERS AT
JAMMIE@WSMETHODIST.ORG
TO CHECK THE CALENDAR FOR
CONFLICTS.**



WSUMC Youth News!

Shout Outs from our Youth Programs: Thank you to those who came out to support our youth at the Shrove Tuesday

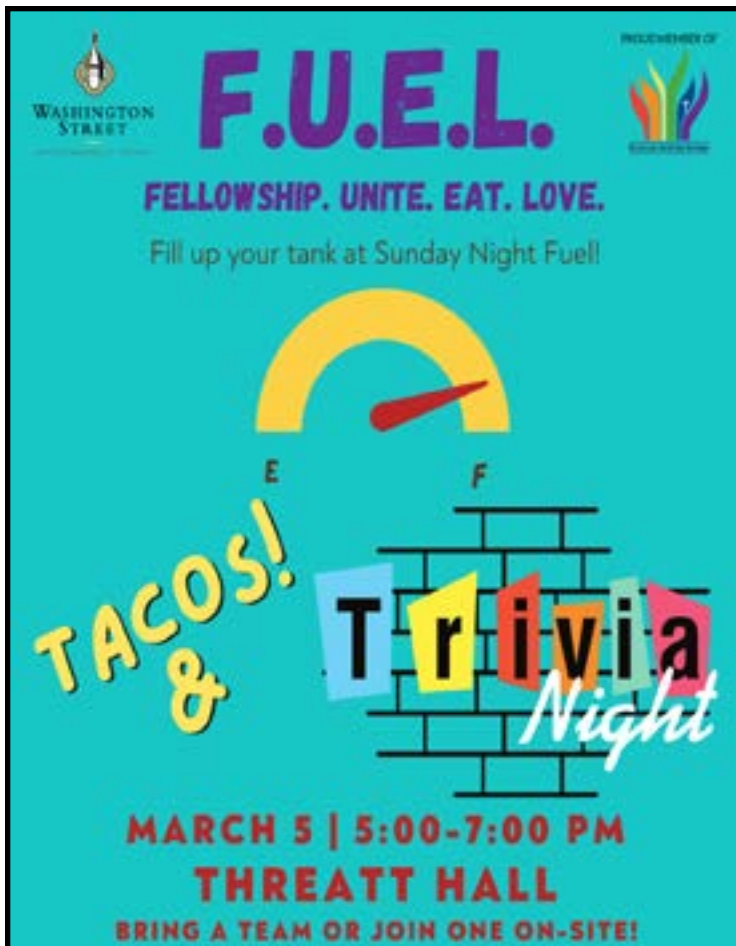
Pancake Supper! We had over 50 attend

this event and wonderful participation from the youth of Washington Street. We look forward to having pancakes again next year! Also, many thanks to those of you who attended our special Young Person's Ash Wednesday Service. McCullough Adams sang for the service, and Anthony Yanneti helped by leading a prayer for the service. We are blessed to have such amazing young people.

Confirmation: If you have a child in 8th grade interested in participating in Confirmation this year, please get in touch with either Pastor Becky or Sarah-Kate for more information. We will be holding a Confirmation class for 8th graders beginning the week of April 16th and ending during Pentecost. The class



Top: Folks lined up for pancakes for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! Left: the Robinsons and the Halls, enjoy a pancake dinner hosted by our youth. Bottom: McCullough Adams, Christine Taylor, and Sarah-Kate sing during the Young People's Ash Wednesday Service.



format and other information will be provided to parents soon. If you are interested in being a Confirmation Mentor, please reach out to Sarah-Kate at sarahkate@wsmethodist.org.

Youth Sunday School: The Youth Sunday School class is using a curriculum by *Illustrated Ministry* called *Mini Revolutions* that connects to the liturgical calendar. The class is led by Sarah-Kate, Beth Robinson & Susan Caskey, and Jean Leitner. Grades 6th-12th are welcome to join in on Sunday's at 10:00 am in the Youth Room.



Gifts



IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT
to WSUMC

Given by Dr. & Mrs.
Charles Strauss

IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT
to the Soup Cellar

Given by Mike &
Gwen Harmon

IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT
to WSUMC

Given by Sam Waldrep

IN HONOR OF WENDY CLARK
to WSUMC

Given by Sam Waldrep

IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT
to WSUMC

Given by Gloria & Jim Apple

IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT
to Missions

Given by Jan and Paul Harmon

IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT
to the Soup Cellar

Given by Betty Jackson

IN MEMORY OF
GLORIA TRULUCK

to the Soup Cellar

Given by Marianne Overcash

**SPRING
CLEANING**

Save the date...
March 25
ALL DAY!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We need volunteers to help us with a mega "Spring Cleaning" of the church. Stay for a few hours, or all day! We will be cleaning out a lot of spaces both indoors and out. More information coming soon!

FIRST YEAR TEACHERS CLOTHES CLOSET

Please consider donating gently used men's and women's clothing for the First Year Teachers Clothes Closet at Columbia College. Please drop off your donations to the 3rd-4th grade classroom through March 31.

Washington St. United Methodist Church, 1401 Washington St., 29201



WASHINGTON STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Lenten Lunches & Services

Wednesdays @ 11:45 am lunch
\$8 per person
12:30 pm service | Threatt
Hall/Chapel

- March 8—Rev. Becky portrays Mary Magdalene
- March 15—A service of music
- March 22—Rev. Becky portrays Pilate's wife
- March 29—A service of music



March WSUMC Birthdays

MARCH 1

Alex Morris
Lawton Powers

MARCH 4

Bill Pope

MARCH 6

Jennifer Murphy
W. Sharp

MARCH 8

Kelly Epting
Barbara Ann Walker

MARCH 9

Sheri Edwards

MARCH 10

Julian Ruffin

MARCH 11

Betty Moore

MARCH 12

Layne Powers
John S. Galloway

MARCH 14

Tommy Gibbs

MARCH 16

Nell Huffman

MARCH 17

Jessica Hall
Mary Elizabeth Brooks
MJ Fox

MARCH 18

Robbie Douglas

MARCH 19

Steve Hait

MARCH 20

Carol Fowler
Janelle Rivers
Harmon Geddes

MARCH 22

Lake Barrett

MARCH 24

Mickey Bell

MARCH 27

Wendy Franklin
Mary Leigh McEachern

MARCH 28

Genie Quinn
Kay Ross

MARCH 31

Jim Webber

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.*

Weekdays through March 31 | Active Faith First-Year Teachers Closet | Drop off in the 3rd-4th Grade Classroom; 9:30 am-12:30 pm, Sundays

SUNDAY | MARCH 5

11:00 am-12:00 pm | Worship Service | Sanctuary & Livestream
5:00-7:00 pm | F.U.E.L. — Tacos & Trivia Night | Threatt Hall

MONDAY | MARCH 6

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 | MARCH 7

10:00-11:00 am | Circle 6 | John Harper Classroom
11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar
6:00-8:00 pm | Palmetto Mastersingers | Choir Room*
6:00-7:00 pm | RNT Meeting | Zoom
6:30-8:00 pm | Private Group Meeting | Room varies*

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 8

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar
11:45 am - 1:00 pm | Lenten Lunch & Service | Threatt Hall & Chapel
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*

THURSDAY | MARCH 9

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm | Circle 2 | Wesley Room
7:00-9:00 pm | Palmetto Chamber Orchestra | Choir Room*

FRIDAY | MARCH 10

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*
5:00 pm-6:00 am | WVA UMCOR | Threatt Hall*

SATURDAY | MARCH 11

5:00 pm-6:00 am | WVA UMCOR | Threatt Hall*

SUNDAY | MARCH 12

11:00 am-12:00 pm | Worship Service | Sanctuary & Livestream

MONDAY | MARCH 13

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*
5:45-8:45 pm | Columbia Choral Society Rehearsal | Choir Room*

Coming April 1 at 4 pm!

Easter Egg Hunt for nursery through 5th grade at Mary Lide's! Email neaudl@aol.com for directions.

A WASHINGTON STREET UMC MISSION FOR THE FOOD INSECURE



EASTER MONDAY SOUP CELLAR LUNCH

Monday, April 10

11:30 am to 1:00 pm | Threatt Hall

VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS NEEDED!
(food prep, plating, greeters, servers, floaters, and clean-up crew)

COOKIES/BROWNIES, HARD-BOILED EGGS (DYING OPTIONAL)

email: jane@wsmethodist.org or register online