



# THE CONNECTION

May 14, 2023

## WSUMC Holds Several Successful Events!

Within the last few weeks, WSUMC and its mission teams have been very busy planning and executing three very successful events.

On April 28th and 29th, Active Faith held a Drive n' Drop for the Richland County Foster Care program. With the help of local news anchor, Dawndy Mercer Plank from WIS, the committee collected hundreds of items for the cause. Diapers, wipes, socks, and so much more were collected from the community as well as WS members.

On April 30th, the Racial Justice Action Team hosted a very successful Columbia SC: 63 Civil Rights Walking Tour in downtown Columbia. Over 35 individuals took part in the hour-long walk from the State House to Boyd Plaza in front of the SC Art Museum on Main Street. The tour was led by the Columbia SC: 63 group based out of the University of South Carolina.

Then, on Saturday, May 6, Active Faith sponsored Stringtime Duo, a fundraiser concert for the people of Ukraine. Over 100 individuals joined us in Christ Chapel for an amazing concert featuring Ukranian musician Marina Alexandra, and Russian domra player, Angelina Reed. With delightful banter, and very skilled musicianship, the performers delighted the audience with a number of rousing classical guitar pieces during the evening. Along with sponsors, and the money raised during the evening, the team raised over \$5,000 for the people of Ukraine. The money will be distributed between Charlotte for Ukraine, and UMCOR.



# Getting to Know...The Rev. Alston Lippert

By Fran Zupan

The first time Alston Lippert went on the Walk to Emmaus, a three-day retreat intended to renew and strengthen one's faith, she thought she heard God call her to go into the ministry, but she ignored it.

A couple of years later, in 2013, while leading Companions in Christ, a small group on spiritual formation, Alston heard the call more distinctly and discussed it with her pastor.

When Alston met with the district superintendent to discuss her candidacy for ministry, she started backpedaling on her commitment. She talked about ways she would do ministry without becoming a pastor. And that is what she did at her home church, Northeast UMC. She volunteered with youth and children. She chaired church committees. She taught Sunday school and led small group studies. She visited the sick and the homebound. And more.

The next time Alston went on the Walk to Emmaus — in 2016 — she was on the organizing team. Once again she heard God telling her very clearly, “you need to go into the ministry.” She realized it was three years, almost to the day, since she heard the call the first time.

This time, her reaction was different. She met with the district superintendent and began the process for ordination into the United Methodist Church. She attended a candidate's retreat and enrolled in the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

Alston said she didn't want to wake up in three more years and hear the call again.

“From that point on, the doors swung open,” Alston said. “Every time I might pull back, there would be something that would let me know I was in the right place, doing what God wanted me to do.” That knowing gave her peace and contentment, she said.

Alston has been at Washington Street since 2017. She is the associate pastor for nurture and disciple development.

Alston is a lifelong Methodist who grew up in Union, S.C. She was named Nora Alston after her mother and her grandmother. Over the years, she has known a handful of people named Alston. Half were men, and half were women, she said.

When Alston left Union, she went to the College of Charleston. She planned to major in accounting, but after her first economics course, she changed her major to economics. She loved economics in high school, and she found that economic principles, such as the laws of supply and demand, made sense to her.

Following graduation from college in 1986, she attended the University of South Carolina to pursue a doctorate in economics, which she earned in 1990. She became a teaching assistant and taught summer school beginning in 1987.

Her goal was to teach economics at the college level.

“I had some great teachers who formed me,” Alston said. “I taught off and on for 30 years.”

Alston met her husband at USC.

He was pursuing a doctorate in finance, and they were on

the same floor in the business school. They married in 1993 and had two children 18 months apart: Alston Lee and Catherine.

Their separation in 2005 “rocked my world,” Alston said.

She said the divorce, which was final in 2006, was the catalyst for her faith journey, which led to her ministry.

“I had the curse of feeling I was fairly self-sufficient, that I didn't need God,” Alston said.

She signed up for a Disciple Bible study course, and her relationship with the Lord flourished. She went on the Walk to Emmaus.

One of her fellow pilgrims on the walk mentioned a small group Bible study, Companions in Christ, which has helped groups open to God's presence and guidance. Alston gathered a group of 10 people at her church and led the study.

One of Alston's areas of responsibility at Washington Street is disciple development, which is achieved through small group studies.

Another part of her job is staying in touch with the sick and homebound.

“I get to love on people who generally are going through difficult times, and I appreciate God using me in that way,” Alston said.

Both her parents had long illnesses before they died, so Alston knows from experience how important it is to have someone to accompany you through the hard times. Preferably that someone can help you realize that God is with you, she said, adding, “I try to be that person.”

When her former mother-in-law Charlotte was hospitalized last year, and her former husband rushed to her bedside in Cincinnati, Alston called him and offered to pray on the phone. When the family gathered, they asked her to pray with them all, again by phone. When Charlotte died, the siblings said they wanted Alston to do her memorial service.

Charlotte had divorced in the 1970s, during a time when the church tended not to be as accepting of divorce as it is now.

“She was a faithful person, but she didn't have a relationship with the pastor,” Alston said. “Whoever would have done the service would not have known her.”

Alston talked to her several times a year and sent pictures of





her children.

"She was a really special woman," Alston said. "Her life and her faith needed to be celebrated."

Alston Lee, Alston's older child, is working on a doctorate in plant biology at the University of Florida. She came out as non-binary about two-and-a-half years ago and uses the pronouns they/them. Catherine is working on a master's degree in earth and environmental resource management from USC. She and her husband Josh married last June.

Alston is a huge fan of Gamecock women's basketball. In 2022, she went to the NCAA Final Four in Minneapolis and watched the Gamecock women win the national championship.

She also likes to hike and has hiked the completed parts of the Palmetto Trail with a friend. The two have hiked about 400 miles of the trail which will be 500 miles long when it is completed. It will stretch from Walhalla in the Blue Ridge

Mountains to Awendaw on the Intracoastal Waterway.

This week, Alston has been on a six-day, 75-mile pilgrimage through Spain from Tui to the cathedral at Santiago de Compostela, a shrine to St. James, the apostle, who is believed to be buried beneath it. Her journey is the last leg of the Camino Portugués, or the Portuguese Way, which begins in Lisbon.

Although she went alone, Alston has been on a tour with seven other women, whom she had never met. The day after they complete their walk, they are scheduled to attend a Pilgrim Mass at the cathedral.

"For me it's about time to unplug and leave behind worldly distractions to see what quiet and solitude bring," Alston said several days before she left for Europe. She said she wanted to see what God had in store for her on the pilgrimage and to figure out how to go deeper in her relationship with God.

## Fundraising Begins for 2023 *Sing-Along Messiah!*

### Date set for Dec. 11 at 7:00 pm

Washington Street, one of Columbia's oldest houses of worship, has been home to the annual *Sing-Along Messiah* event since its inception in 2002.

This holiday event gives singers, instrumentalists, and music-lovers from across the Midlands and beyond the opportunity to join together and celebrate the season through the singing of Handel's *Messiah*. The popularity of the *Sing-Along Messiah* is ever-increasing. In fact, the 2019 performance filled the sanctuary to its capacity of more than 500!

After a three year hiatus, the date has been set for Dec. 11 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. We are very excited to announce that Dr. Lillian Quackenbush, who has been with the program for many years, will return as director. *Sing-Along Messiah* will feature an orchestra of talented local musicians.

Community like this must be fostered and Washington Street UMC is elated to be a part of this effort as we are able to keep this event free to the public. However, the ability to put on an interactive concert of this caliber requires financial support. Costs incurred include paying the instrumentalists, soloists, and conductor, advertising, sheet music and administrative/event costs. This very special downtown arts event not only displays the immense talent found in Columbia, but also invites its audience to participate.

We are asking for businesses and individuals alike to make financial contributions to *Sing-A-Long Messiah*. Your support can help us make this year's event the best yet. Together, we can continue a tradition that enables people to celebrate the season with this holiday classic.

Please feel free to contact Nicholas Todd Shumate, Director of Music, at [nicholas@wsmethodist.org](mailto:nicholas@wsmethodist.org) or 803-448-7361 if you have questions or need more information.

You may also contact our church's Business Administrator, Robbie Douglas, at [rdouglas@wsmethodist.org](mailto:rdouglas@wsmethodist.org) if you wish to support this event. You can give online at [www.wsmethodist.org](http://www.wsmethodist.org).

[org/giving](http://www.wsmethodist.org/giving) or by using the QR code. Be sure to select *Sing-Along Messiah* as the designated fund.

Donations are now being accepted!



Five of our young people are working their way through the Confirmation process and will be recognized on Sunday, May 21st during Confirmation Sunday. Each student will have a bucket near the main office for us to support these young people by writing cards or giving small gifts of encouragement.

Please be sure to write a message to them so that they feel the love of their Washington Street family.



WASHINGTON STREET  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



# Sunday School Updates

• **The Aldersgate Class:** The Aldersgate Class continues its study of the Old Testament with Sandra L. Richter (Ph.D., Harvard University), Professor of the Old Testament, at Wheaton College. Dr. Richter leads 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](mailto:danderson@richardsonplowden.com).

• **The Dawsey Class:** This Sunday, May 14, Gary Light will teach Chapter 4, "Onward Christian Soldiers" in *The Underground Church: Reclaiming the Subversive Way of Jesus* by Robin Meyers. Next Sunday, May 21, Tom Summers will lead a discussion of Chapter 5, "Faith as Radically Embodied Trust." The Dawsey Class meets on the second floor. Class starts at 10:00 am. Class members who 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](mailto:marydslade4@gmail.com).

• **The Grace Class:** The class is studying *The Work of the People* by Rachel Held Evans. This study will continue through May 29. The topic of "A New Family: Opening the Doors of the Church" contains five short videos and study guides that will be used as a basis for discussions. The author, Rachel Held Evans, whose life came to an end way too early, was a voice for progressive thought in her various works. Kate Chappell will lead the class on May 14; Cindy Cox will lead the May 21st session, "The God Who Sees You." Join us in person on the third floor or contact Jim Lane at [jlane@columbiasec.edu](mailto:jlane@columbiasec.edu) for the Zoom link to gather Sunday mornings at 9:45 am for fellowship and at 10:00 am for spiritual reflection.

• **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](mailto:tjpowers65@gmail.com)

[com](#) or meet with us in the classroom on the first floor by the elevator.

• **The Joy Class:** The class is currently partnering with Solomon's Porch studying Luke's gospel and spending time with our neighbors. If interested, please contact Lee Haynes at [lelandhaynesjr@gmail.com](mailto:lelandhaynesjr@gmail.com) or Sylvia Stevens at [sylviasaundersstevens@gmail.com](mailto:sylviasaundersstevens@gmail.com) for more information.

• **The Open Door Class:** The class is picking up where we left off in the *Bible Project* in May. Our next topic in the Bible Project will be Shema—Listening. "Hear O Israel, the LORD our God is one." Visitors are always welcome! The class meets both in person on the third floor and via Zoom each week. For Zoom link information, contact Ann Jessup at [jessup.ann@gmail.com](mailto:jessup.ann@gmail.com).

• **The Paul Harmon Class:** The class is 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 on the third floor. If you have questions, please contact Suzanne Joye at [sjoye@sc.rr.com](mailto:sjoye@sc.rr.com).

• **Solomon's Porch:** This class is meeting in the Traxler Classroom on the second floor and is led by Christine Taylor. The class is doing a slow read through the Gospel of Luke. Anyone interested is welcome to join! For more information, contact Christine at [christine@wsmethodist.org](mailto:christine@wsmethodist.org).

• **The Youth Class:** The Youth Sunday School class will join Solomon's Porch class on May 14. The class will be led by Debra Schooler. Next week, the class will continue with the curriculum by Illustrated Ministry called *Mini Revolutions* that connects to the liturgical calendar. Grades 6-12 are welcome to join in on Sundays at 10:00 am in the Youth Room on the third floor.



WASHINGTON STREET  
CHURCH

## Finding Courage to Speak & Act:

### LGBTQIA+ Activists & Allies' Journey in the UMC

Join us for this special event celebrating  
our LGBTQIA+ siblings, friends, and allies with our special  
guest speakers, authors Nancy Malcom and AJ Ramirez

**Wednesday, May 24, 2023**  
Threatt Hall  
Dinner & Program / 6:00-8:00 pm  
[wsmethodist.org/courage](https://wsmethodist.org/courage)  
Hosted by the Reconciling Next Team

Please RSVP to [jane@wsmethodist.org](mailto:jane@wsmethodist.org) or scan the QR code to register online



NANCY MALCOM



AJ RAMIREZ





# Gifts (as of 5-11-23)

**IN MEMORY OF JIMMY DAWKINS**  
to the Grace Class  
Given by Lynn Shirley

**IN MEMORY OF DOTTIE WEBBER**  
to the Grace Class  
Given by Lynn Shirley

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to Active Faith  
Given by Jim Webber

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to Active Faith  
Given by Karen Rowe

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to Active Faith  
Given by Jane & Charlie Peterson

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Lee Smith

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to Active Faith  
Given by Lisa & Vickie Voegeli

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to Active Faith  
Given by Ed McClain

**IN MEMORY OF DOTTIE WEBBER**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Steve & Kay Minsky

**IN MEMORY OF DOTTIE WEBBER**  
to Active Faith  
Given by Jim Lane

**IN MEMORY OF DOTTIE WEBBER**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Amy Lehman

**IN MEMORY OF DOTTIE WEBBER**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Paula Walters

**IN MEMORY OF DOTTIE WEBBER**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Ed McClain

**IN MEMORY OF JIMMY DAWKINS**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Rebecca Elswick

**IN MEMORY OF JIMMY DAWKINS**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Jim Lane & Justin Dagit

**IN MEMORY OF JIMMY DAWKINS**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Daniel Pterski

**IN MEMORY OF JIMMY DAWKINS**  
to Active Faith  
Given by Deborah Rowe

**IN MEMORY OF JIMMY DAWKINS**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Lee Smith

**IN MEMORY OF JIMMY DAWKINS**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Ed McClain

**IN MEMORY OF JIMMY DAWKINS**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Paula Walters

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to Active Faith  
Given by Mark Rish

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to Active Faith  
Given by bhanu rai

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to Active Faith  
Given by Edward D. Singleton

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to Active Faith  
Given by Fran & Alan-Jon Zupan

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to Active Faith  
Given by Elaine & John Ferraro

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to Active Faith  
Given by Dr. Rick Frierson

**IN MEMORY OF DOTTIE WEBBER**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Dr. William Woodard

**IN MEMORY OF DOTTIE WEBBER**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Elaine & John Ferraro

**IN MEMORY OF JIMMY DAWKINS**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Elaine & John Ferraro

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to Active Faith  
Given by Cindy Cox

**IN MEMORY OF JIMMY DAWKINS**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Michael Gray

**IN MEMORY OF JIMMY DAWKINS**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Cindy Cox

**IN MEMORY OF DOTTIE WEBBER**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Ms. Jean Harvin

**IN MEMORY OF DOTTIE WEBBER**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Cindy Cox

**IN MEMORY OF DEBBIE JOYNER**  
to Active Faith  
Given by Deborah Rowe

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to Active Faith  
Given by the Grace Class

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to Active Faith  
Given by Thom & Shannon Berry

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to WSUMC  
Given by Toni White

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to WSUMC  
Given by Ned Self

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to Active Faith  
Given by Carl & Cheryl Evans

**IN MEMORY OF DOTTIE WEBBER**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by the Grace Class

**IN MEMORY OF DOTTIE WEBBER**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Kathy Wright

**IN MEMORY OF DOTTIE WEBBER**  
to WSUMC  
Given by Ned Self

**IN MEMORY OF DOTTIE WEBBER**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Lisa & Robbie Douglas

**IN MEMORY OF JIMMY DAWKINS**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by the Grace Class

**IN MEMORY OF JIMMY DAWKINS**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Kathy Wright

**IN MEMORY OF JIMMY DAWKINS**  
to the Memorial Garden  
Given by Lisa & Robbie Douglas

**IN MEMORY OF SARA THREATT**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Toni White

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to Active Faith  
Given by L. Dale Rowe

**IN MEMORY OF DEBBY JOYNER**  
to WSUMC  
Given by Joy & Lee Smith

**IN MEMORY OF DEBBY JOYNER**  
to WSUMC  
Given by Lisa & Robbie Douglas

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Nancy & Mickey Epting

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to Active Faith  
Given by Ann & Harvey Jessup

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to Active Faith  
Given by Wilma Winslow

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
to Active Faith  
Given by Sara & Ed Fisher

**IN MEMORY OF ANDREW MARTIN**  
to the Soup Cellar  
Given by Nancy & Mickey Epting

**IN MEMORY OF DEBBY JOYNER**  
to WSUMC  
Given by Beverly & Paul McClanahan

**IN HONOR OF JOHN HOLLADAY'S 100TH BIRTHDAY**  
to the Foundation  
Given by Sara & Ed Fisher

continued...

**IN MEMORY OF  
ANDREW MARTIN**  
*to WSUMC*  
**Given by Sam Waldrep**

**IN MEMORY OF  
MARJOIRE HACKNEY**  
*to WSUMC*  
**Given by Sam Waldrep**

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
**Given by Jean Kanes**

**IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE**  
*to Active Faith*  
**Given by Mr. & Mrs.  
Robert M. Kennell**

**IN MEMORY OF JIMMY DAWKINS**  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
**Given by Kristie & Ricky Rowe**

**IN MEMORY OF JIMMY DAWKINS**  
*to WSUMC*  
**Given by Sam Waldrep**

**IN HONOR OF  
REV. ALSTON LIPPERT**  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
**Given by Jean Kanes**

**IN MEMORY OF DOTTIE WEBBER**  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
**Given by Kristie & Ricky Rowe**

**IN MEMORY OF DOTTIE WEBBER**  
*to WSUMC*  
**Given by Sam Waldrep**

**DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN GIVE A  
MEMORIAL OR HONORARIUM ONLINE?  
GO TO [WSMETHODIST.ORG/GIVING](http://WSMETHODIST.ORG/GIVING)  
AND WRITE THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
IN THE MEMO LINE.**

## United Women in Faith

**T**hank you to everyone who supported our Lenten Lunches this year. Thank you to our Circle members who donated sandwiches, desserts, and their time to make the lunches a success. We were able to donate \$992.63 to the Soup Cellar.

## Prayer List

Betsy Alexander  
David Byrum  
Mickey Epting  
Pat Griffin  
Rev. Paul Harmon  
Karen Horne  
Lisa Johnson  
Jean Kanes  
Martha Helen King

Paul McClanahan  
Sharon McCullough  
David Middleton  
Shawn Powers  
Genie & Ron Quinn  
Nancy Williams  
Mary Anne Young  
Our homebound

## DAY TRIPPERS IS BACK!

**J**oin us for a day of fun when the Day Trippers return and visit the Bassett Gallery at the Arts Center of Kershaw County, where featured artist, WS

member, Boyd Saunders has an exhibit of his work.

The group will meet in the parking lot to drive over to Camden at 10:00 am on Thursday, May 25. We will have an early lunch at Camden House of Pizza, then drive over to the gallery several blocks away.

Anyone interested in joining us should email Mary Lide at [neaudl@aol.com](mailto:neaudl@aol.com). You may drive your own car and meet us either at the restaurant, or at the gallery around noon. Or, you may carpool with others in the group.

The gallery is located at 810 Lyttleton Street in the main building of the Arts Center. There is no charge to visit the Bassett Gallery.

There are several galleries about town, as well as some great antique shops for anyone interested in staying in town to enjoy the sites and perhaps visit the newly refurbished Historic Camden area on Broad Street.



**"Jesus...said,  
'I am the light  
of the world.'"**  
(John 8:12)

**VBS: July 10-14, 2023**

**STELLAR**  
SHINE JESUS' LIGHT

**Washington Street UMC | Threatt Hall**  
**9 AM to 12 PM**

**Register at:**  
**[vbspro.events/p/ea8a44](http://vbspro.events/p/ea8a44)**

**WASHINGTON STREET  
UMC**



## BIRTHDAY BAGS

### MARY'S MAIDENS IS COLLECTING FOR HARVEST HOPE! BIRTHDAY IN A BAG!

#### COLLECTING:

CAKE MIXES, FROSTING,  
CANDLES, BALLOONS  
& BIRTHDAY BANNERS

PLEASE DROP OFF YOUR ITEMS  
IN THE MISSION GARDEN  
(across from Threatt Hall)  
no later than Sunday,  
May 21st



*Mary's Maidens is a United Women in Faith Circle for young girls*

*As many of you have noted, my family has experienced multiple medical difficulties over the past 2 years including my recent surgery and my sister Debby's most recent hospitalization and passing. The multiple ways so many of you have intentionally reached out to us, especially in these days following Debby's passing, have helped us feel the immeasurable warmth of God's love wrapping around our hearts. Thank you for loving me and my family and expressing your concern in meaningful ways.*

*With deep gratitude,  
Rev. Becky*

## Mission Trip Planned

Washington Street UMC Missions is sponsoring a trip to the US-Mexico border to learn first hand about the complex dynamics of immigration (and secondary issues) and how our Christian faith informs such issues. There will also be several service opportunities to work with immigrants who have just crossed the border. The trip may also include crossing into Reynosa, Mexico, to immerse and serve with a UM missionary.

The trip will be based in McAllen, TX, where our hosts will guide and inform our experience. This short trip, June 18-22, will be an excellent introduction. Approximate cost is \$550 and evening meals. Feel free to contact Pato Aravena ([Patricio.aravena@gmail.com](mailto:Patricio.aravena@gmail.com)), Mackin Wall ([mackinwall4@gmail.com](mailto:mackinwall4@gmail.com)); or Tom Wall ([WallBrodie@aol.com](mailto:WallBrodie@aol.com)) for more information.

## WHERE IS MY CHURCH DIRECTORY?

Did you know you can use the Realm website on a computer/tablet or the Realm app on a smartphone to access the church directory for addresses, phone numbers, email, etc?

If you need help setting up Realm, contact Lynn Shirley at 803-422-3368. Or Jane Peterson ([jane@wsmethodist.org](mailto:jane@wsmethodist.org)), or Robbie Douglas ([rdouglas@wsmethodist.org](mailto:rdouglas@wsmethodist.org)).

## SAVE THE DATE! WSUMC's Wear Orange Sunday is June 4!

We wear orange for a future free from gun violence.

This year, we once again unite in our call to end gun violence as we come together for Wear Orange. We honor the communities shattered



by gun violence alongside the 120 people who are shot and killed, and hundreds more who are wounded, every day in our country. Together, we call for meaningful action to save lives.

We should not have to live in fear that gunfire can ring out at any moment, whether it's at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, while grocery shopping at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York, a party in San Bernardino, or at graduations across the country. We deserve more. Raise awareness by participating in Wear Orange online, in your community, and here at Washington Street!

**WEAR ORANGE ON JUNE 4!**

# UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

*Subject to change. \*Denotes non-member event; blue type indicates WSUMC events. Please contact Jammie Watters at [jammie@wsmethodist.org](mailto:jammie@wsmethodist.org) to schedule an event.*

## MONDAY | MAY 15

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 | MAY 16

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar  
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar\*  
6:00-8:00 pm | Palmetto Mastersingers | Choir Room\*  
6:30-8:00 pm | Private Group Meeting | Room varies\*

## WEDNESDAY | MAY 17

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar  
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar\*  
6:30-7:30 pm | Choir Practice | Choir Room  
7:00-8:00 pm | Freeing Jesus Small Group | John Harper Classroom & Zoom

## THURSDAY | MAY 18

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 | Missions Committee Meeting | Location TBD  
7:00-9:00 pm | Palmetto Chamber Orchestra | Choir Room\*

## FRIDAY | MAY 19

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar  
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar\*  
May 19 (2:00 pm)-May 20 (5:00 pm) | Confirmation Retreat | Location TBT

## SUNDAY | MAY 21

11:00 am-12:00 pm | Worship Services/Confirmation & Graduate Sunday | Sanctuary & livestream  
4:00-5:30 pm | Mary's Maidens | Kitchen  
4:30-6:00 pm | Youth Group | Youth Room

## MONDAY | MAY 22

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 | MAY 23

10:00-1:00 am | Staff Meeting | Wesley Room  
11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar  
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar\*  
3:30-5:00 pm | Cinnamon Roll Tuesday | Youth Room  
5:00-6:00 pm | RJAT Meeting | Zoom  
6:00-8:00 pm | Palmetto Mastersingers | Choir Room\*  
6:30-8:00 pm | Private Group Meeting | Room varies\*

## WEDNESDAY | MAY 24

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar  
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar\*  
6:00-8:00 pm | Finding Courage to Speak and Act (registration required) | Threath Hall  
6:30-7:30 pm | Choir Practice | Choir Room  
7:00-8:00 pm | Freeing Jesus Small Group | John Harper Classroom & Zoom

## THURSDAY | MAY 25

10:00 am-3:00 pm | Day Trippers to Camden | Camden  
11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar  
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar\*

## FRIDAY | MAY 26

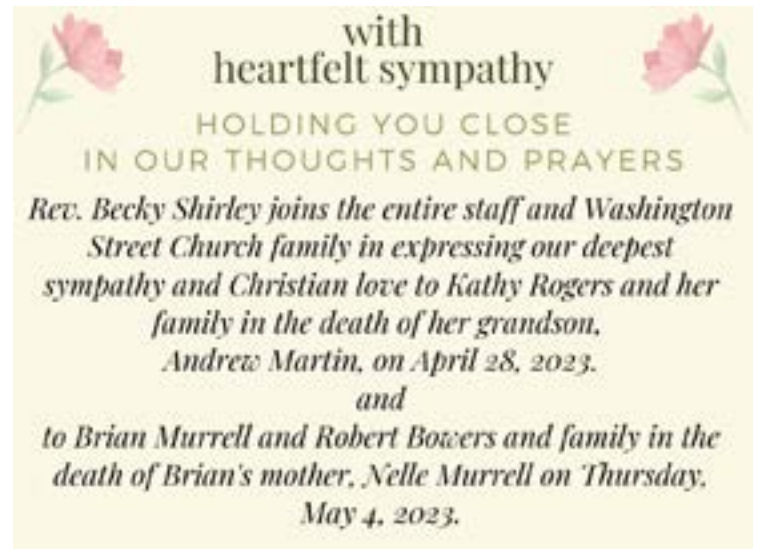
11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar  
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar\*

## SATURDAY | MAY 27

6:00 am-12:00 pm | YMCA Race to Remember 5K Run/Walk | Parking lot\*

## SUNDAY | MAY 28

11:00 am-12:00 pm | Worship Service | Sanctuary & livestream  
4:30-6:00 pm | Youth Group | Youth Room



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you would be willing to volunteer for Reconciling Next's upcoming "Finding Courage" Dinner and Program on May 25, please contact Nancy Whittle at [ncwhittle@aol.com](mailto:ncwhittle@aol.com).

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

As of 5-11-23

Church Budget: \$866,231

Church Actual \$243,047  
Soup Cellar \$32,223  
Foundation \$900

## ATTENDANCE

May 7: 144 (in-person); 131 (online) = 275  
April 30: 157 (in-person); 223 (online) = 380  
April 23: 147 (in-person); 177 (online) = 324  
April 16: 132 (in-person); 199 (online) = 331