

Reconciling Next Team Presents Awards

A celebration of community and love took place in Threatt Hall on May 24th. The Reconciling Next Team hosted “Finding the Courage to Speak and Act: LGBTQIA+ Activists & Allies Journey in the UMC” to honor, thank and encourage allies. The event kicked off with a delicious meal prepared by Mary Lide, Ellen Carruth, Martha Boynton, and Deborah Rowe, who also donated food. Thank you to all volunteers who helped to make this event so special!

We hosted two speakers, Dr. Nancy Malcom, Sociologist at Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA and Dr. A.J. Ramirez, Sociologist at Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA. They began working together in 2019 after the UMC General Conference to do research on the question: “Why do LGBTQIA+ and Allies stay in UMC?”

Dr. Malcom shared quotes and stories from some of the interviewees. One was an ally who said that allies need to not only offer to support but to speak up, especially when LGBTQIA+ persons can't be in the room. She also shared that by staying in UMC, LGBTQIA+ and allies can continue the work of changing the church from within.

Dr. Ramirez shared her personal story of her wife and children in finding an affirming church in South Georgia. Through the Reconciling Ministries Network, she connected with a UMC minister in Macon, GA, a strong ally. She became a lay leader with Centenary UMC, and with support from Centenary, is building a community of disaffiliated Methodists and others seeking an affirming place to worship God in their hometown.

We also honored two longtime allies in Columbia. Rev. Tom Summers presented the Inaugural Harriet Hancock

Award to Harriet Hancock for 40 years of work to assure justice for and rights of LGBTQIA+ persons and their families. Harriet is known as “The Mother of Pride” in SC. Among her many accomplishments are: founder of the first PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) in Columbia, 1980; co-founder of PALSS (Palmetto Life Support Services) in Columbia, 1985, to provide support services to those with HIV/AIDS; and co-founder of the first Pride event and parade in 1990.

Jim Lane presented the first Harriet Hancock Ally Award to Rev. Tom Summers who has worked with Harriet for years supporting the rights of LGBTQIA+ persons. Tom served as a hospital Chaplain during the AIDS epidemic. He conducted a funeral for a man who died of AIDS and whose family had abandoned him because he was gay. Tom said this “cruelty shocked and saddened him”. After that, Tom was determined to continue his ministry to LGBTQIA+ persons, and families. Tom formed a ministerial group, SC Clergy and Friends, who walked in the Pride parade for years. Tom wore his clerical collar and carried the banner.

Both Harriet and Tom are the epitome of an ally. Much love and thanks to both.



Dr. Nancy Malcom



Dr. A.J. Ramirez



Left to right: Rev. Tom Summers and Harriet Hancock receive their awards.

Observing Juneteenth

On June 19th, our nation will mark the third annual federal celebration of Juneteenth. As a historically and majority white congregation, what does it mean for WSUMC to faithfully mark Juneteenth? How can we mark a holiday that is not ours in an affirming, reconciliatory and loving way? In the spirit of transparency and growth, the Racial Justice Action Team acknowledges our own discomfort on this matter and has provided resources to help us intentionally commemorate this holiday. These resources can be found on our website at wsmethodist.org/racial-justice-action-team-2/ or scan the QR code.

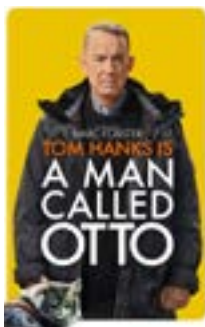
First Movie Discussion is June 26th!

Led by Christine Taylor, the first of three movie discussions will take place both online via Zoom, and in-person in the Wesley Room on Monday, June 26th from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

The first movie to be discussed is "A Man Called Otto" starring Tom Hanks. The movie is available on Netflix, Prime and for rent on several other platforms.

Based on the book entitled *Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman, the film tells the story of Otto, a grump who's given up on life following the loss of his wife and wants to end it all. When a young family moves in nearby, he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol, leading to a friendship that will turn his world around.

To participate, email Christine Taylor at christine@wsmethodist.org, or you may scan the QR code to register through Realm.



6 Ways White People Can Observe Juneteenth

1. Respectfully attend or volunteer at events

Ask your local sponsor of Juneteenth events and your Black friends, colleagues, and church friends how you can help. Volunteer for the clean-up/set-up crews. Help staff information booths, if appropriate. If you attend as a guest, be respectful. Do not wear African dashikis or kente cloth without first asking permission. While you may intend it as appreciation, others may view it as cultural appropriation.

2. Preach and teach about the current face of racism

Many white people have been socialized to see racism as a challenge of the distant past. However, full voting rights and equal education for African Americans were not granted until the 1950s and 1960s. In The United Methodist Church, some annual conferences had legalized racism until the 1970s. The U.S. Church is still largely segregated in worship and work. White Christians must grapple with their role in perpetrating racism and work to heed God's call to "let justice roll down." Use sermons, worship, and church media to educate and inspire your congregation.

3. Support Black churches, charities, and businesses

Make a regular tithe or donation to a local African American church, a United Methodist campus ministry at a historically Black college or university, or community ministry or scholarship-fund supporting Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. Make deliberate efforts to support Black-owned businesses and services.

4. Listen and read

Juneteenth offers an opportunity for white friends and family to learn more about the realities African-Americans face and the contributions they make to the church, community, and world. Listen to this podcast with Jasmine Bradshaw, which further explains Juneteenth history and ways your family can celebrate the holiday.

5. Confront the history in your community

Learn about the history of enslaved Black people in your local area and state. Explore the history of your church and its leaders and develop ways that your congregations can make tangible amends and reparations.

6. Church school and small groups

Discuss Juneteenth's history and current implications for African Americans. Invite a local Black history teacher or museum curator to speak, or watch the Ava DuVernay's Netflix documentary, *13th: From Slave to Criminal* with one Amendment, which explores the U.S. journey from the enslavement of Black people to the school-to-prison pipeline. A study guide for the film from Influence Film Club is available.



SUNDAY, JUNE 25th

3:30-5:30 pm

WSUMC Wesley Room & Zoom

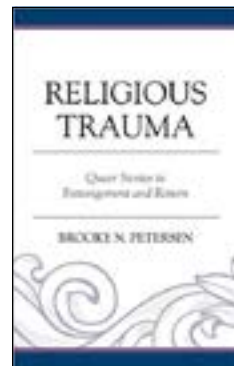
*Religious Trauma: Queer Stories in Estrangement and Return**

by Brooke N. Petersen

Facilitator: Jim Lane

Small panel format with breakout discussion groups. This book is fairly expensive. Do not feel you must purchase the book to attend.

Jim Lane will be reading and reviewing the text for our discussion. Email Jim Lane at jlane@columbiasc.edu to join in.



Sunday School Updates

• **The Aldersgate Class:** Please come and join the Aldersgate Class as we embark on a 6-week study of the book of Luke by best-selling author and pastor, Adam Hamilton. In *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*, Hamilton explores the life of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories, we find Jesus's care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus's concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today. This lesson series will be led by Hal Hanlin and David Anderson. Please join us in the Aldersgate classroom for a donut, coffee, and excellent fellowship as we dive into the Gospel of Luke. 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, June 11, Jim Seigler will lead a discussion of Chapter 8, "Jesus Followers on the No-Fly List" in *The Underground Church: Reclaiming the Subversive Way of Jesus* by Robin Meyer. Next Sunday, June 18, Joe Slade will teach Chapter 9: "The Underground Church on War, Sex, Money, Family, and the Environment" and the Epilogue: "Beyond Belief: The Manifesto of the Underground Church." 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 Caroline Seigler at caroline.seigler@gmail.com.

• **The Grace Class:** Jim Tuell will be leading discussions generated by a book by Bishop Peggy A. Johnson, *The Ever-Expansive Spirit of God: For All Who Feel Left Out*. The summary at the back of the book says it well — "Perhaps sexual orientation and gender identity are the most controversial of all the issues in family life today, and nowhere is it causing more tension and division than inside religious communities...Into this fray comes Bishop Peggy A. Johnson to share her remarkable experiences in a lifetime of ministry, which are at various times painful, courageous, embarrassing, inspiring, sad, happy, and even humorous." Bishop Johnson has had to deal with these issues both in a large-scale, public setting—debates within the Annual Conferences which she served—and in a very personal setting — her spouse of 30 years came out to her as transgender in 2010, and she kept that private until she officially retired. We will discuss how these issues have affected both our public and our private lives. Join us in person on the third floor or contact Jim Lane at 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 tpowers65@gmail.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 or Sylvia Stevens at sylviasaundersstevens@gmail.com for more information.

• **The Open Door Class:** This class is starting a new book study on June 11. Timothy Keller's *The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith* reveals God's prodigal grace toward both the irreligious and the moralistic and challenges both the devout and the skeptics to see Christianity in a whole new way. 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.

• **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.

• **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.

• **The Youth Class:** The Youth Sunday School will continue with the curriculum by Illustrated Ministry called Mini Revolutions which 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. Contact Sarah-Kate for more information at sarahkate@wsmethodist.org.

**VOLUNTEERS & BLUEBERRY
MUFFINS NEEDED FOR
WELCOME TABLE BREAKFAST**
(for those with food insecurity)
Threatt Hall
8:30-10:30 AM | SAT., JUNE 17
DROP MUFFINS IN KITCHEN BY
FRI., JUNE 16
EMAIL JANE@WSMETHODIST.ORG
OR SIGN UP ON REALM!

Prayer List

Betsy Alexander
Karen Basso
Martha Boynton
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
Our homebound

Gifts (as of 6-7-23)

IN MEMORY OF JIMMY DAWKINS
to WSUMC
Given by John O'Sheal

IN MEMORY OF DEBBY JOYNER
to Missions
Given by Chip Williams

IN MEMORY OF JIMMY DAWKINS
to WSUMC
Given by Joyce O'Sheal

IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE
to WSUMC
Given by Sally Mings

IN MEMORY OF RICK ROWE
to Active Faith
Given by Ellen Carruth

IN MEMORY OF JOAN
& BOB BEAMER
to the Music Ministry
Given by Mary L.
& Bob Finch

IN MEMORY OF ANDREW MARTIN
to WSUMC
Given by Ellen Carruth



STEWARDSHIP REPORT As of 6-7-23

General Budget: \$866,231

Church \$278,412

Soup Cellar \$36,798

Foundation \$900

ATTENDANCE (as of 6-7-23)

June 4: 153 (in-person); 121 (online) = 274

May 28: 126 (in-person); 126 (online) = 252

May 21: 172 (in-person); 114 (online) = 286

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Subject to change. *Denotes non-member event; blue type indicates WSUMC event or meeting. Please contact Jammie Watters at jammie@wsmethodist.org to schedule an event.

MONDAY | JUNE 12

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

TUESDAY | JUNE 13

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 Group Meeting | Room varies*

WEDNESDAY | JUNE 14

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

THURSDAY | JUNE 15

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 | Finance Committee Meeting | Zoom

FRIDAY | JUNE 16

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

SATURDAY | JUNE 17

8:00-10:00 am | Welcome Table Breakfast | Threatt Hall

SUNDAY | JUNE 18

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

MONDAY | JUNE 19

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 | Worship Coordination Meeting | Wesley Room

TUESDAY | JUNE 20

10:00-11:00 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*
6:00-7:30 pm | Church Council Meeting | Zoom
6:30-8:00 pm | Private Group Meeting | Room varies*

WEDNESDAY | JUNE 21

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

THURSDAY | JUNE 22

10:00 am - 1:00 pm | Re-Thinking Small Group Training (registration required) | Traxler Classroom
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*
7:00-8:00 pm | Psalms in the Summer Small Group (registration required) | Zoom

FRIDAY | JUNE 23

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar
12:00-3:00 pm | CDC Training | Threatt Hall
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*

SUNDAY | JUNE 25

11:00 am-12:00 pm | Worship Service | Sanctuary & livestream
3:30-5:30 pm | Religious Trauma Book Discussion | Wesley Room
4:30-6:00 pm | Youth Group | Youth Room

MONDAY, JUNE 26

11:30-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*
7:00-8:00 pm | Movie Discussion—"A Man Called Otto" | Zoom & Wesley Room