



Plugged  
In

## FALL SMALL GROUPS



WASHINGTON STREET  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Fellowship Groups

*Throughout scripture we note that being a disciple of Jesus requires intentional moments of fellowship and reflection in community.*

## **Supper Club—Sharing Meals and Sharing Life**

*(each group meets once a month)*

*Facilitators: Carol Fowler and Sam Waldrep*

**First Gatherings: Week of September 18**



Many of us have great intentions to get together, to reach out, to get better acquainted with other Washington Street members beyond the pew that we sit in or our own Sunday School class. But sometimes our follow-through needs a little help! Whether making new friends or digging deeper with old friends, meeting over

a meal binds people in special ways.

Supper Clubs are gatherings of six to eight people who meet monthly in homes, restaurants or other places. Through this intentional group ministry, couples, families and individuals can connect with guests and members of WSUMC in the warmth of a casual setting while sharing a meal and fellowship. The meal, while nourishing, is not the focus—the focus is on hanging out, making new friends and digging deeper with old friends. As we hear each other's stories, we build trust, and eating together binds people in special ways. Gatherings are engaging, inclusive, participatory and serve to help us grow in our relationship with God and one another as names and faces become friends and prayer partners. When we meet each other in less formal, compassionate conversation, we learn how to love better. This love will help us grow into a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus. Groups are encouraged to meet for six months.

We will help you assemble your group and plan your first meeting where you can decide together the locations and formats for the gatherings in the months that follow. **A Zoom meeting for temporary leaders of each group will meet on August 29.** For more information, contact Carol Fowler at [cfowler@fowlercommunications.com](mailto:cfowler@fowlercommunications.com), or Sam Waldrep at [swaldrep@sc.rr.com](mailto:swaldrep@sc.rr.com).

## **Kid's Choir**

*Facilitators: Sarah-Kate Gravely and Licia Jackson*

**Sundays (starting in September); 5:30-6:30 pm; Children's Choir Room (3rd floor)**



Children's Choir will begin this fall on Sunday evenings. Kids ages 5-12 are welcome to join in! We will have fun learning silly songs and hymns. We will learn songs throughout the fall that we will sing in a Christmas Celebration during Advent.

Children are invited to come early to eat dinner with the youth group from 5:00 to 5:30 pm.

In the Bible, we see the importance of music, from the Song of

Miriam (Exodus 15), to the account of Jesus and his disciples singing hymns after the last supper (Matthew 26:30), to Paul and Silas singing while in prison (Acts 16:25-34). The vision for this engaging and energizing ministry is to foster the love of Jesus Christ through music and provide an experience that allows children to connect to the church, discover new talents, and develop lifelong skills for worship.

If transportation or work conflicts are hindering your child from participating, please contact Sarah-Kate at [sarahkate@wsmethodist.org](mailto:sarahkate@wsmethodist.org).

## **Youth Group**

*Facilitator: Sarah-Kate Gravely*

**Sundays; 4:30-5:30 pm; Tuesdays; 6:00-7:00 pm;**

**Youth Room**



Youth Group will begin meeting twice a week this fall. Our meetings on Sunday evenings will be shorter than our previous schedule and will include dinner. Youth are then welcome to attend the Children's Choir time following dinner. Youth will meet again on Tuesday nights for a lesson, as well as games and activities.

Youth Group is a time for students 6th through 12th grade to get connected to a faith family. Youth provides space to learn about the Bible and how it relates to our lives as well as connect with other young Christians who may be experiencing the same things at school or at home. Youth volunteers are Safe Sanctuary Certified.

We seek to provide teenagers with a safe space to be themselves. When we meet together, we spend time connecting the Bible to our own personal lives and we also incorporate fun and friend connections in our time together.

If transportation or work conflicts are hindering your child from participating, please contact Sarah-Kate ([sarahkate@wsmethodist.org](mailto:sarahkate@wsmethodist.org)).

## **Adult Choir**

*Music Director: Nicholas Shumate, Organist: Louis Shirer, Pianist: Rick Frierson*

**Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm; Choir Room (Starting in Sept.)**



In the New Testament, we are encouraged, not just once, but twice (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16) to sing God's praise with hymns and spiritual songs. One of the reasons music ministry is so important in the church is because the hymns and spiritual songs we sing together serve as a three-minute, easily memorizable, deeply

biblical summary of important truths from Scripture. In other words, music ministry serves as a "Take Home Theology Lesson" that we can hold on to throughout our lives. For more information, contact Nicholas Todd Shumate at [nicholas@wsmethodist.org](mailto:nicholas@wsmethodist.org).

## **Drama Group**

Facilitator: Larry Hembree, Jane Peterson

**Start date: Aug. 26; 3:00 pm | Threatt Hall**

**Ages 10 and up**



No prior experience is necessary. Fun is mandatory!

The first meeting will consist of scheduling meetings and discussion the plans for the group. Recognizing that the Bible is not an encyclopedia of information about God but rather the dramatic narrative of God's relationship with real people told over the centuries,

using the dramatic arts/live theatre to help us tell God's story makes perfect sense. When we present scriptural stories and principles using the power of a plethora of theatrical methods developed throughout the ages, we're giving them flesh and blood—making them real to those who are performing or working behind the scenes, as well as to those who are watching. This small group will be facilitated by WSUMC member, Larry Hembree who has an MFA in Directing from the University of Georgia and has played a role in the success of several Columbia arts organizations over the past few decades. Jane Peterson, Director of Commuication will be helping to facilitate this group. Jane has many years of theatre experience and holds a BA in theatre from USC. Creating live theatre takes a village so we are looking for anyone interested in performing, as well as production folks (costumes, set design and construction, stage managers, etc.) If you have always wanted to participate in any aspect of theatre, we welcome you. For more information contact Larry Hembree at [larryhembree1@gmail.com](mailto:larryhembree1@gmail.com)

## **Sole-Mates: Walking – Running - Hiking Together**

Facilitator: Sara Wilcox

**First Meeting: Sept. 17; 3:00 pm**



Enjoy nature while building relationships through conversations as part of this new small group that will meet up at area parks and in neighborhoods to walk, run or hike. The group will be facilitated by WSUMC member, Sara Wilcox who is an exercise science researcher and professor in the Arnold School of Public

Health at USC. The heart of her work is trying to help people live healthier lives and enjoy the gift of life God has blessed us with each day. This group will meet for an organizational meeting on Sunday, September 17th at 3:00 in the Wesley Room to discuss group interests in various walking, running and hiking plans. Members can choose to engage in as many of the planned activities as they are able to and at the level that is most comfortable for them. For more information contact Sara Wilcox at [wilcoxs@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:wilcoxs@mailbox.sc.edu).

## Service Groups

### **Tabitha's Table Sewing Group**

Facilitators: Ann Jessup, Licia Jackson

**First Thursday of each month, plus one Saturday per quarter;  
Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; Saturdays 9:00-11:00 a.m.;  
second-floor children's classroom**



You do not need to know how to sew to join this group! This group's intent is to engage hands and hearts in ways that glorify God and bless others. With every stitch, participants will share smiles, conversation, love and fellowship.

Meeting once a month, the group will stitch items to be given away. The first two projects will be cooling neck cloths to be given to patrons of the Washington Street Soup Cellar and prayer cross squares to be given to worshippers during the Advent season.

At each gathering, Ann Jessup and Licia Jackson will share a brief devotional and offer a prayer for the recipients of the group's work. The group will offer Christian hospitality and a place to share our lives while cutting, sewing and assembling useful items.

The group was named for Tabitha, the woman in Acts who made clothing for the needy.

A Zoom option will be offered for those who would like to sew at home! For more information, contact Ann Jessup at [jessup.ann@gmail.com](mailto:jessup.ann@gmail.com).

### **Visitation Ministry**

Facilitator: Rev. Adrienne Fink

**Tuesday, Sept 12; 7:00-8:00 pm; Wesley Room and Zoom.**



Matthew 25:36 reminds us that Jesus said "I was sick and you visited me...when you did it to the least of these, you did it unto me." Members of our Visitation Ministry Group will seek to fulfill this scripture as they offer the ministries of presence and friendship to church members who are unwillingly absent from worship services and other community life events. The Visitation Ministry Group will share in making phone calls, writing cards, visiting members, serving Holy Communion at homes, and performing other acts of love. The group will meet monthly to support each other, organize visits, and update each other on the visitation needs of Washington Street. The first meeting will be a set-up meeting, which will include choosing the best time to meet each month. Contact Adrienne Fink at [ajhamm@umcsc.org](mailto:ajhamm@umcsc.org).

## Stephen Ministry

Facilitator: Rev. Becky Shirley

**First date: Sept. 10; 3:00 pm Wesley Room**



Stephen Ministry draws its name from the New Testament book of Acts. In Chapter 6, Stephen was chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need. The caring ministry has been a feature of our faith throughout history - and it is at the heart of what Stephen Ministers do.

Stephen Ministers are Christian men and women trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as

- grief
- divorce
- job loss
- marital or family issues
- chronic or terminal illness
- depression
- relocation
- separation due to military deployment

"Christ caring for people, through people" is the goal of this one-on-one, confidential caring ministry. Gifted members of our congregation who wish to be a part of this ministry group will need to commit to completing an extensive 40-hour training course and commit to giving care to those who are experiencing all kinds of life needs and circumstances. For more information, contact Rev. Becky Shirley at [rjshirley@umcsc.org](mailto:rjshirley@umcsc.org).

## United Women in Faith

Formerly known as United Methodist Women (UMW). Debra Schooler ([debrajschooler@gmail.com](mailto:debrajschooler@gmail.com)) is the leader.



United Women in Faith's (UWF) mission is to connect women together so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities. WSUMC's UWF ministry consists of small groups or circles of women. These groups meet monthly:

Circle 1: Mary's Maidens (grades 1-6). Mary Lide ([neaudl@aol.com](mailto:neaudl@aol.com)) and Kathy Wright ([rightwright@bellsouth.net](mailto:rightwright@bellsouth.net)) are leaders. Mary's Maidens meets on Sunday afternoons. **Starts September 10 at 4:00 pm.** They meet in Threatt Hall, the kitchen, and other rooms in the church.

Circle 2: Toni White Circle. MJ Fox ([mjfoxad@aol.com](mailto:mjfoxad@aol.com)) is the leader. This group meets on the **second Thursday of the month from 5:30 to 6:30 pm.**

Circle 5: Charles Pfeiffer Circle. Mary Lide ([neaudl@aol.com](mailto:neaudl@aol.com)) is the leader. The next meeting is **Sept. 12 from 6:30-7:30 pm** at various members' homes and the church.

Circle 6: Diana Westerkam Circle. Betty Cribbs (bacribbs2@gmail.com) is the leader. **The first meeting is Sept. 5.** This group meets monthly on **Tuesdays, from 10:00-11:00 am in the John Harper Classroom.**

Circle 9: Meredith Simmons (meresimmons@gmail.com) is the leader. This group will meet monthly on **Mondays, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in the Open Door classroom.** **The next meeting is August 14.**

## Study & Discussion Groups

### Disciple Bible Study

Facilitators: Rev. Alston Lippert, Lee Smith

**Starts August 20th**

**Sunday evenings at 5:15 pm; John Harper Classroom & Zoom**



Rev. Alston Lippert and Lee Smith invite you to join them on a journey of growing closer to God. The two will be leading this Bible study using a workbook, *"Becoming Disciples through Biblestudy"* beginning August 20. "This small group is one of my favorites

because it not only teaches us about God and helps us develop a vibrant relationship with the Lord but also enables us to grow closer to each other in special and meaningful ways," said Rev. Alston Lippert. Achieving both of these outcomes takes time, so the group will meet for 34 weeks—basically a school year. There will be independent readings six days a week, along with a 2-hour group on Sunday afternoons at 5:15 pm. (Note: For all the SC WBB fans, Rev. Alston has season tickets, and the time will "float" depending on the Sunday game times.) We hope you will prayerfully consider joining Rev. Alston and Lee Smith on this journey. If you have any questions, email Rev. Alston at [alippert@umcsc.org](mailto:alippert@umcsc.org).

### Book Discussions

Facilitators: *Christine Hait, Rev. Evelyn Middleton, and Andrea McAtee; 2nd Wednesdays: Sept. 13, Oct. 11, and Nov. 8.*



**September 13, Oct. 11, and Nov. 8; Open Door Classroom & Zoom; 7:00pm**

The first series will be entitled, "Taking Care and Paying Attention: Lessons from Literature;" Sept. 13—Session 1: *Foster*, by Claire Keegan (This is the lovely little novel that the film "The Quiet Girl" is based on);

Oct. 11—Session 2: *Selected Poems* by Mary Oliver and Robert Frost; Session 3—*Everyday Use* and *Nineteen Fifty-Five*, by Alice Walker

The idea is to look at three different genres: the novel, poetry, and the short story. The works selected convey ideas about what it means to take care of others and to be alert to their needs or what it means to pay attention to the natural world and to learn from it.

While the books this group chooses to read may include books that can be easily labeled "Christian" or "Spiritual," we recognize that the Bible itself is actually not a single book, but a library of 66 books and



it includes various genres including poetry, apocalyptic writings, and parables. Thus, by reading various genres of literature, not just within the Bible, but in other works, we will become better readers of the Bible. For example, reading books of poems, discussing, and understanding their structure, can help us read and better understand the poetry of the Psalms. While many of our Sunday morning classes regularly read and discuss books to deepen their spiritual lives, Sunday mornings can be so busy that our conversations can feel rushed. As a result, we are often left craving a deeper dialogue and relationship with others. As Karen Swallow Prior notes in her book, *On Reading Well*, "Great books offer perspectives more than lessons. Literature shows us how a different character, situation, and event seems from different angles and perspectives, and even then how inexact our knowledge remains." Thus, discussing a novel's or a short story's themes and characters, plot, and style or a poem's imagery and structure allows us to open up and engage in more personal conversations—conversations that help us to grow in our faith and understanding and strengthen our sense of community. For more information, contact Christine Hait at [chrishait@columbiasc.edu](mailto:chrishait@columbiasc.edu)

## **Movie Discussions**

*Facilitator: Christine Taylor*

**August 28: "Where the Crawdad's Sing" (2022); Sept. 25; Oct. 23; Nov. 27; 7:00 pm; Wesley Room & Zoom; movies TBD**



Exploring the plot and characters of a movie can help us to shape the journey of our own lives. Each month, group members will watch a movie on their own time. Then, we will gather around to discuss. Group members are welcome to join at church or on Zoom. This hybrid group meanders through questions about characters' conflict, emotions, choices, etc. While doing so, we will reflect on how this movie makes us think about our own lives, in the past, present, and future.

God continually calls us into relationships with God and God's people. For this small group, movies are an easy shared experience to help us foster relationships. Films give us tools to learn about one another, accompany each other on our journey, and share faith together.

Sign up through Realm, or by emailing Christine Taylor at [christine@wsmethodist.org](mailto:christine@wsmethodist.org).

## ***Interested in a Sunday morning class?***

Sunday School classes are similar to small groups. Check out the newsletter, *The Connection*, for a list of our adult classes and their current studies. We currently have eight active adult classes, plus classes for youth and children. All classes begin at 9:45 am. All welcome new-comers. There is a nursery for infants available each week. For more information contact Christine Taylor ([christine@wsmethodist.org](mailto:christine@wsmethodist.org)).