



THE CONNECTION

October 29, 2023

WSUMC Participates in Pride Weekend

WSUMC kicked off the SC Pride 2023 weekend with a vibrant multidenominational "Celebration of Diversity Service" on Thursday, October 19, hosted at the chapel of Ebenezer Lutheran Church. This impactful program celebrated the diversity of all God's people, featuring personal stories from three LGBTQIA+ individuals representing welcoming downtown congregations—Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Reformation Lutheran Church, and Washington Street United Methodist Church.

On Friday, 30 WSUMC members gathered for fellowship and joined the Pride Parade. Sporting banners, they warmly engaged with parade spectators, distributing rainbow cross stickers and other small items.

Saturday saw WSUMC as one of five congregations at the SC Pride Festival on Main Street in Columbia. Our booth exuded an inviting and inclusive atmosphere, with volunteers greeting festival-goers from noon to 5 pm. WSUMC brochures and an array of free items, including fans, homemade bracelets, stickers, and miniature flags—all with WSUMC references—were distributed. Festival attendees also participated in a graffiti wall activity, responding to the question, "What are your areas of concern as an LGBTQIA+ person in the US today?" The insights gathered from the graffiti wall will be studied and utilized to shape goals and events for the Reconciling Next Team in 2024.

In summary, it was a fantastic weekend, during which Washington Street UMC proudly affirmed and demonstrated God's inclusive love for ALL people.



Clockwise from left to right: Vickie and Lisa Voegeli set up temporary tattoos for the festival. The Grace Sunday School class along with other WSUMC members and friends march in the Pride Parade. Rev. Alston and Cindy Cox prepare to march. WSUMC sets up it's Pride Booth on Main Street with lots of goodies for attendees. Thank you to all of our volunteers and participants!

Getting to Know...Debra Schooler

By Fran Zupan

Debra Schooler is effusive when she talks about how becoming a leader in United Women in Faith changed her life.

"I've grown in so many ways," she said. "In my faith, in my confidence, and my leadership skills. I've learned so much about the path God has put me on."

United Women in Faith used to be called United Methodist Women. In the spring of 2022, the organization rebranded itself to become more inclusive and to freshen its image.

Schooler (pronounced Shuler) said in 2012, a district officer invited her to breakfast and asked her if she would take the place of Laurely Nance on the Columbia District United Methodist Women executive team. Laurely headed the education and interpretation area, but she needed to resign because her husband was ill.

Debra demurred.

"I don't think so," she said. "I don't like to go to meetings and I don't think I am qualified." She said she would pray about it and meet her again in a week.

She intended to say no, but God pushed her. The words that came out of her mouth were, "I'll be happy to serve."

"I looked around to see if there was anybody else in the room, who might have said that," Debra said. "Then I realized it was me."

Now more than a decade later, Debra is president of the Columbia District UWF and the Washington Street UWF. She and her husband Ben joined Washington Street last October after their church, Lebanon UMC in Eastover, disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church.

Debra has plans for projects and programs at the district level and Washington Street. She started a circle for new people in the church. It hasn't been named yet, but they met and decided to work on a mission project for children at the U.S.-Texas border.

She would like all five circles at Washington Street to hold some shared meetings next year so they can fellowship and get to know each other. She also is working with past

Washington Street UMW president Deborah Rowe on a Columbia District annual meeting at Washington Street next year.

She plans to bring back the circles' information directory and to encourage nominations for Woman of the Year from Washington Street. That woman would be honored at the district's annual meeting.

And then there is Mission U, something Debra does at the state level. Mission U is an annual three-day gathering of UWF at Spartanburg Methodist College. Debra was asked to work with youths and mentor a group called Limitless.

Limitless meets twice a year to help the young women build relationships with other young women around the state. They always have a mission project at these meetings, a hallmark of Debra's leadership.

Debra was born in Lynchburg, Va., and grew up in nearby Appomattox. After high school, she went to Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond where in 1976 she earned a degree in social work. Her first job was a part-time position as a group home counselor.

Subsequent jobs included administrative assistant at the Medical College of Virginia and a paralegal position for an attorney in Delaware.

In 1990, Debra and her best friend quit their jobs and moved to the Caribbean where they worked on a 72-passenger cruise ship for five months. She remembers that on Easter Sunday, they attended a little church in the Bahamas where she was touched by the faith of a group of about 20 worshippers.

Back in the States, Debra got a call from a former co-worker now working for First Citizens Bank in Columbia. First Citizens hired her, and, she's been here ever since.

In 1991, Debra met her husband Ben in Sunday school at Trenholm Road UMC. On their first date, he took her to a University of South Carolina football game.

She thought he was shy, "but we didn't have any trouble talking and



getting to know each other," she said. Debra was impressed that Ben smoked a salmon for their tailgate.

They married in August 1992.

The Schoolers live on Lake Dogwood, off U.S.601 near Eastover. They have a dock and kayaks.

"Some people swim in (the lake), but I don't because of the alligators and snakes," Debra said.

Debra has a brother and sister-in-law who live in Seattle. They have four grown children.

"We are blessed that they have always included us in their lives, and we are very close to our niece and nephews," she said, adding that his family loves to travel.

Last year they all went to Spain for Christmas; another year they went to England.

Debra and Ben are looking forward to a trip in a few days. They will travel to Paris to see the Gamecock women's basketball team play the University of Notre Dame on November 6.

"We are so excited," Debra said. They are scheduled for a tour of the Louvre Museum and plan to see the sites via a "hop on, hop off" bus. Debra ticks off all the things they are doing: brunch with the team, a river cruise with the team, and staying at the team's hotel.

They already have their itinerary and the excitement is building.

Youth Group Yard Sale— A Super Success!

Many thanks to all those who brought donations, came to help sort and price, and purchased items from the recent Yard Sale in Threatt Hall. The Youth Group worked hard organizing all the items and were busy on the day of the sale helping run the checkout as well as carrying sold items to cars and trucks all morning. We are pleased to update our final total from the sale as: \$5,143.51!! A special thank you to the members of the Active Faith team who gave us help and advice throughout the process. The youth council will be meeting to discuss how best to use the funds, including plans for a spiritual retreat for our youth. We are very thankful for your support.

Sarah-Kate and the Youth Group



Know Your Church Technology Resources

As a member of the church, and especially if you are a small group leader, committee chair, or event coordinator, there are several resources you should be aware of to aid in your events.

The church now has two (2) Zoom accounts, so it is possible to host two concurrent Zoom events. Contact jammie@wsmethodist.org to schedule your events and receive login information.

Secondly, a designated large-screen TV can now be used for meetings, etc. The TV, along with a connected DVR player, is mounted on a rollable cart and kept in the John Harper classroom.

The church now has two laptops (one PC and one Mac) that can be borrowed to prepare presentations and used to connect to TVs or a church projector. They are kept in a locked case in the copier room. Ask Jammie, Robbie, or Lynn for the access code. There is a signout sheet inside the box. Make sure to sign out what you use.

There is a portable sound system stored in a locked closet inside Threatt Hall. Building manager, Jerry Sumpter, can set up this technology which is normally used in Threatt Hall.

Lastly, most of the available technology is stored inside a third-floor storage room, located in a left-side storage room accessed from inside the Museum (see image below).

If you find that you have technology needs that aren't readily met, or you have questions about the process, reach out to someone on the Communications & Technology Team (Lynn Shirley, Jane Peterson, Pato Aravena, Grant Jackson, Tracy Powers, Susan Caskey, Ed McClain, or Eleanore Langley).



Volunteer assistance needed for Epworth Children's Home

Childcare assistance is needed for Epworth to conduct Foster Parent Training on three Saturdays in November.

Scheduled for November 4th, November 11th, and November 18th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. , the training is on the Epworth Trenholm Campus at the Walker Building.

It is rare that everyone can attend every week, but if every foster family needing training were to show up, there would be 14 children about evenly divided between babies, toddlers/preschoolers, and elementary-aged. Four adults per Saturday would be ideal, but having three adults and a couple of teenagers could also work.

The training is held in the same building as the childcare rooms, so volunteers need to know that the parents and staff leading the training will be close by.

Volunteers must have been trained in the WSUMC Safe Sanctuary policy.

Contact **Andrea McAtee**, chairperson of the WSUMC Missions team (acmcaatee21@gmail.com) if interested in volunteering.



Welcome Table to Hold Luncheon for the Food Insecure

The Welcome Table Team will host a luncheon for the food insecure on Monday, Nov. 6 from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. in Threatt Hall. The planned menu includes baked spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert. Water, lemonade and tea will be served as well.

The team is asking for volunteers to help with serving, plating, greeting and cleaning up. You may sign up through Realm or by contacting Jane Peterson at jane@wsmethodist.org. Volunteers would need to arrive at the church no later than 11:00 a.m. to help out. Anyone signing up for clean up should arrive no later than 12:15 p.m.



Made possible through a Richland County Discretionary Grant

The "WELCOME" Table

A WASHINGTON STREET UMC MISSION FOR THE FOOD INSECURE

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

Monday, Nov. 6th

11:30 am to 12:30 pm | Threatt Hall

Scan QR code or contact Jane at jane@wsmethodist.org

Haircuts for our guests provided by Kevin Noble owner of Gifted Hands Barber Lounge in Columbia



Wednesday, Dec. 6th | 11:00 a.m.

Tour of the Washington Street stained glass windows led by Pete Liggett Washington Street Sanctuary
Lunch afterwards in the Wesley Room
Contact Mary Lide, neaudl@aol.com to sign up for the tour, lunch, or both.

Gifts

(as of 10-26-23)

IN MEMORY OF JAMES POLK

VAUGHAN

to the Soup Cellar
Given by John & Lynda Galloway

IN HONOR OF ROSEMARY ARAVENA'S BIRTHDAY

to the Soup Cellar
Given by Sunny M. Leppard

IN HONOR OF THE ARAVENA CHILDREN

to the Soup Cellar
Given by Edward & Anne Hutchison

IN HONOR OF ROSEMARY ARAVENA'S BIRTHDAY

to WSUMC
Given by William Snodgrass

IN HONOR OF ALMA LOUISE, ROSEMARY, TEDDY

to the Soup Cellar
Given by Pato & Elizabeth Aravena

In Honor of Teddy Aravena's Birthday

to WSUMC
Given by Megan Telencio



All Saints Sunday, Nov. 5

The Roll of Remembrance and the Procession of the Memorial Banner will be reminders of Washington Street members, loved ones, and friends. You are invited to hang a bell in memory on the banner (at no cost). The banner is located outside of the Chapel.

Sunday School Updates

• **The Aldersgate Class:** The Aldersgate Class has started a new study of the 12 apostles based upon the book, *The First to Follow the Apostles of Jesus* by John R. Claypool. One of the first things that Jesus did in his ministry was to reach out to 12 individuals and draw them into a circle of close companionship with him. This series is about those 12 apostles, their relationships with Jesus and with each other, and what the dynamics of that community can teach us. Jesus did not wait for people to be perfect in order to call them into the circle of God's love. As we look at those who Jesus called, and consider ourselves as part of that ever-enlarging circle, we gain not only a deeper sense of our own reality but also a deeper sense of how Christ wants to work with us. Come join us for a lively discussion, a cup of coffee, and a pastry. All are welcome! 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, October 29, we will continue our discussion of "Why I Left, Why I Stayed: Conversations between an Evangelical Father and His Humanist Son" by Tony Compolo and Bart Compolo." There will be a class discussion of Bart's: "It's All in Your Head: How I Became a Religious Naturalist," and by both authors: "A Joint Conclusion." Next Sunday, November 5, we will begin our new book

Ancient Echoes by Walter Brueggemann. Tom Wall will teach the Preface and Chapter 1: "The Possibility of Good Governance." Class members who join from home will use FreeConferenceCall and should call in between 9:50 and 10:00 a.m. 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:** On Sunday, Vickie and Lisa Voegeli will continue to lead a book discussion of *It's Not Supposed to Be This Way* by Lysa Terkeurst, president of Proverbs 31 Ministries and *New York Times* bestselling author. This study will end on Nov. 5. Jan Baker will lead class in November. The title for these lessons is "Thankful," perfect for the Thanksgiving season. Join us in person on the third floor, or contact Jim Lane at jlane@columbiasc.edu for the Zoom link. We 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 or meet with us in the classroom on the

first floor by the elevator.

• **The Joy Class:** The Joy Class is continuing to partner with Solomon's Porch in a study of Psalms. If interested, please contact Lee Haynes at lelandhaynesjr@gmail.com or Sylvia Stevens at sylviasaudersstevens@gmail.com.

• **The Open Door Class:** The Open Door is continuing its study of the *Bible Project's Torah Series*. We will finish Exodus and begin Leviticus over the next two weeks. Visitors are always welcome! The class meets 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:** John Adams will be leading our class this month in a discussion of the minor prophets. 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:** The class is studying the book of Psalms. Anyone interested is welcome to join in. The class meets on the second floor and is led by Rev. Adrienne Fink. For more information, contact Adrienne at ajhamm@umcsc.org.

Prayer List

Betsy Alexander
Karen Basso
David Byrum
Mickey Epting
Nancy Epting
Pat Griffin
Betsy Halloran
Rev. Paul Harmon
Karen Horne
Lisa Johnson
Jean Kanes
Martha Helen King
Lin Fesperman Lord
Beverly McClanahan
Paul McClanahan
Sharon McCullough
Shawn Powers
Genie & Ron Quinn
Peggy Ward
Nancy Williams
Our homebound



*Sing-Along
Messiah*

WASHINGTON STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Monday, December 11, 2023
7:00 pm | Sanctuary
***Reservations open Nov. 1**

Scan QR code or visit
wsmethodist.org/sam
803.256.2417



*Only those with reservations are guaranteed
a seat. You must arrive no later than 6:50
to hold your seat!*



WSUMC Small Groups in Full Swing!

Several of our Small Groups are in full swing. **Tabitha's Table** had successful and productive meetings. The group is busy preparing special Advent gifts for our congregation. Members honed their stitching, pressing and cutting skills while enjoying fellowship at the same time. Our next meetings will be:

Thursday, November 2nd at 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 7th at 11:30 a.m.

All ages and skill levels are welcome!

Sole Mates has met and will be continuing their walk, run, and hike group. The next meeting will be Saturday, Nov. 4, as they participate in Paws for Elee 5K Walk/Run, 8:00 a.m., Saluda Shoals Park. Fee to participate is \$35. You can register online at www.pawsforelee.com.

If you have any photos from recent Small Groups, please send them to Jane at jane@wsmethodist.org



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

As of 10-26-23

General Budget: \$866,231

Church \$608,628

Soup Cellar \$51,855

Foundation \$14,569

ATTENDANCE (as of 10-26-23)

Oct. 22: 148 (in person); 104 (online); = 252

Oct 15: 148 (in person); 112 (online); = 260

Oct. 8: 133 (in person); n/a (online); *due to a technical difficulty there is no online version this week.*

Oct. 1: 155 (in person); 248 (online) = 403

Circle of Welcome

Are you interested in helping refugees arriving in Columbia? There are a variety of ways you can assist these families, who are fleeing from dangerous situations in their home countries. Contact Andrea McAtee at acmcaatee21@gmail.com or 803-727-9518 if you would like to know more about joining our Circle of Welcome team or financially support our efforts.

We will meet at 12:15 pm in the Wesley Room on Nov. 5th, and Nov. 12th.



2023 GALA

KILLINGSWORTH
transforming women

"CHANGING LIVES ONE RESIDENT AT A TIME"



NOV. 9th

6pm @ Seawells.

REGISTER ONLINE AT

<https://www.killingsworth.org/gala>

Get Ready to Shop for Christmas at Epworth!

Guess what? Christmas is almost here! At Washington Street, we have a tradition of spreading joy to the kids at Epworth Children's Home by giving them gifts.

Our "Giving Tree" will be set up soon, and Jennifer Jackson is leading the charge in 2023. Keep an eye out for the deadline to send your presents to Epworth. You can either ship them straight to Epworth or drop them off here at the church, just like in previous years.

Here's how you can join in on the fun:

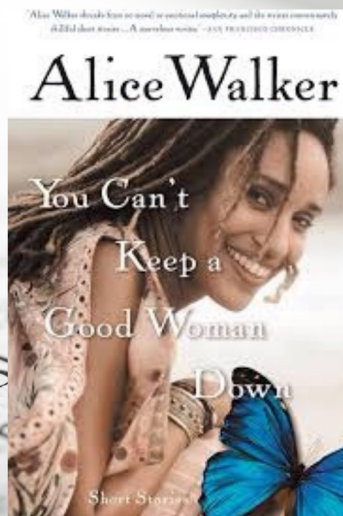
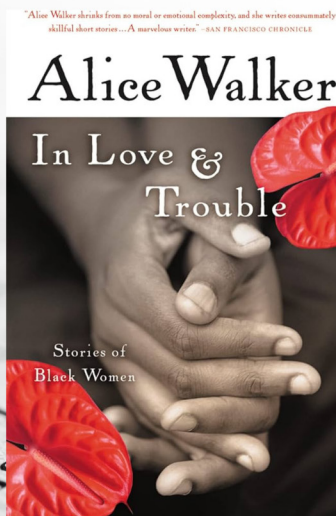
Pick a wish from the "tree" and write down in the booklet with all of the gifts what you plan to give, along with your name and email address (feel free to give more than one gift!). The tree will be located just outside of Threatt Hall in the hallway.

Buy the gift from any store.

Take it to the church without wrapping, along with a note saying who it's for and your name. Alternatively, you can have it sent directly to Epworth at 2900 Millwood Ave, Columbia, SC 29205.

Got questions? Reach out to Jennifer Jackson at whetstonejackson@gmail.com. Easy peasy!

New Book Studies Coming Soon...



On Wednesday, November 8, at 7:00 pm, in the Open Door Classroom, the reading for the Small Group Book Discussion will be two short stories by Alice Walker: "Everyday Use," published in the collection *In Love and Trouble*, and "Nineteen Fifty-Five," published in the collection *You Can't Keep a Good Woman Down*.

BRING JOY TO THOSE IN NEED THIS CHRISTMAS!

SPREAD THE LOVE BY DONATING GIFTS TO EPWORTH CHILDRENS HOME!



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 3

Natalie Hefelfinger

November 4

Dane Waund

Neil Akre

November 5

Neal Foster

November 6

Robyn Rogers

Milton Harrelson

November 8

Elizabeth Ouzts

Lauren Middleton

November 9

Wilma Winslow

November 11

Donna Bryan

Madison Haynes

James Boulware

November 12

Benjamin Bledsoe

Jamie Gerald

Elizabeth Price

November 13

Grant Jackson

Nancy Williams

Sam Anderson

November 14

William Barr

Laurin Clark

November 15

Kimberly McAlister

November 16

MJ Kennedy

BreShawn McCloud-Feaster

November 17

Helen Mills

Rozanna Pfeiffer

November 18

Chris Lee

November 19

Jim Laughlin

Mackenzie Shannon

November 21

Marsha Ward

Jeff Schatz

Liam Roberts

November 22

Dottie Hanlin

November 24

Ellen Osborne

November 28

Caroline Fargher

November 29

Lily Cate Buchanan

November 30

Caroline Seigler

Joe Plough

WSUMC Meeting & Event Dates

Subject to change

**denotes non-member event; blue type indicates WSUMC events or meetings*

MONDAY, OCT. 30

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Soup Cellar

Serving | Soup Cellar

1:30-2:30 p.m. | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*

5:00-6:00 p.m. | RJAT Meeting | Zoom

TUESDAY, OCT. 31

10:00-11:00 a.m. | Staff Meeting |

Holroyd Prayer Room

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Soup Cellar

Serving | Soup Cellar

1:30-2:30 p.m. | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*

1:30-2:30 p.m. | CDC Halloween

Carnival | Church-wide

6:00-9:00 p.m. | Palmetto

Mastersingers | Choir Room*

6:30-8:00 p.m. | Private Meeting | Room varies*

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 1

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Soup Cellar

Serving | Soup Cellar

1:30-2:30 p.m. | NA Meeting | Soup

Cellar*

6:30-7:30 p.m. | Choir Practice | Choir Room

THURSDAY, NOV. 2

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Soup Cellar

Serving | Soup Cellar

1:30-2:30 p.m. | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*

5:30-6:30 p.m. | Missions Meeting | Wesley Room

FRIDAY, NOV. 3

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Soup Cellar

Serving | Soup Cellar

1:30-2:30 p.m. | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*

SATURDAY, NOV. 4

1:00-4:00 p.m. | Mother's Demand

Action | Aldersgate Classroom

1:30-2:30 p.m. | Records & History Committee Meeting | Wesley Room

SUNDAY, NOV. 5

9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. | Sunday School | Church-wide

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. | Worship Service | Sanctuary & live stream

10:00-11:00 a.m. | Circle of Welcome Meeting | Wesley Room

4:30-5:00 p.m. | Youth Bible Study | Youth Room

5:00-5:30 p.m. | Youth/Kids Dinner | Youth Room

5:15-6:15 p.m. | Disciple Group | Zoom

5:30-6:30 p.m. | Kids Choir | Youth Room

MONDAY, NOV. 6

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Welcome Table Lunch | Threath Hall

1:30-2:30 p.m. | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*

TUESDAY, NOV. 7

9:00-10:00 a.m. | Staff Meeting-Active

Shooter Training | Wesley Room

10:00-11:00 a.m. | Circle 6 | John

Harper Classroom

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar

1:30-2:30 p.m. | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*

6:00-9:00 p.m. | Palmetto

Mastersingers | Choir Room*

6:00-7:00 p.m. | Reconciling Next Meeting | Zoom

6:30-8:00 p.m. | Private Meeting | Room varies*

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 8

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Soup Cellar

Serving | Soup Cellar

1:30-2:30 p.m. | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*

6:00-7:30 p.m. | SPPRC Meeting | Wesley Room

6:30-7:30 p.m. | Choir Practice | Choir Room

To set up a meeting, please contact Jammie Watters at jammie@wsmethodist.org. For events, please fill out the event form available online at wsmethodist.org/facilities

Rev. Becky Shirley joins the entire staff and Washington Street Church family in expressing our deepest sympathy and Christian love to Kathy and James Wright on the death of her father, David Whalen, on October 24th.