



THE CONNECTION

November 12, 2023

Fall Festival a Great Success!

No deceptions here! We had a fantastic time at the Fall Festival on Sunday, October 29th, right in the parking lot. A total of 11 trunks got in on the Trunk or Treat action, each decked out in unique styles—from Susan Caskey's "Who Let The Dogs Out" doggie-themed trunk to Rev. Alston's Farmer Trunk, along with Barbie, Under The Sea, and even a Cruise Director! Over 150 people strolled through the parking lot, enjoying activities like bouncing in a bounce house, getting their faces painted, and playing games like ring toss and cornhole. There was even a prize wheel where everyone snagged a special item as a reminder of God's love. Big thanks to all the volunteers who got into costume and joined in the excitement! A shout-out to those who generously donated bags upon bags of candy for the event, and a special mention to our youth group members who lent a hand at the games tables. This year's Fall Festival created a wonderful opportunity for families in our community to come together for a Halloween full of safe and delightful fun!



Children's Christmas Nativity Announced

We've got an exciting Children's Christmas Nativity coming up on Sunday, December 17th, at the 11:00 am worship service. Rehearsals kick off during Sunday School at 10:00 am on December 3rd, 10th, and 17th. To get your child involved,



shoot an email to Sarah-Kate at sarahkate@wsmethodist.org, and she'll send you a permission form. This form covers permission for your child to be part of the live stream, featured in videos and photos on our Facebook page, and helps us update our allergy list. If your child wants in but can't make some or all of the rehearsals, let Sarah-Kate know ASAP. Any questions? Reach out to Sarah-Kate (sarahkate@wsmethodist.org) or Andrea McAtee (acmcafee21@gmail.com) for more info!

Sing-Along Messiah
Monday, Dec. 11, 2023
7:00 pm | Sanctuary
Reservations Now Open!
wsmethodist.org/sam
singalongmessiah.eventbrite.com
or call 803-256-2417

Highlights & Briefs from WSUMC Church Council & Committees

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Safe Sanctuary Policy & Training

Volunteers working with children and youth have undergone ongoing Safe Sanctuary Training, with recent sessions held on June 4th, September 24th, October 7th, and October 15th.

Yard Sale Success

The Youth Yard Sale on September 29th & 30th was a hit! Thanks to our incredible volunteers, the youth raised over \$5,100. These funds will support youth attendance at spiritual retreats, with detailed discussions on fund usage scheduled for upcoming Youth Council meetings.

Fall Festival

The Fall Festival, held on October 29th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the church parking lot, saw approximately 150 guests in attendance. The event featured creatively decorated trunks with abundant candy, a popular bouncy house/slide, and engaging face painting. A big thank you to all our volunteers!

Winter Bible School

Mark your calendars for December 14th to 16th (5:00 to 6:30 p.m.) for Winter Bible School, a unique program created by Sarah-Kate Gravely. Dive into the Christmas story with songs, crafts, and more! Stay tuned for additional information and sign-up details.

Ongoing Children & Youth Programs

Join us for Youth Group Sundays (4:30 to 5:30 p.m.), led by Sarah-Kate. Sessions include engaging Bible lessons, shared dinners, and exciting games.

Recently, the Youth held elections, with three outstanding young women taking office:

- President: **McCullough Adams**
- Vice President: **Alayassa Peterkin**
- Historian: **Janae Bell**

The Youth Council now has access to a special leaders' lounge in the youth room and are actively participating in planning decisions for the entire youth community.

Kids Choir

The newly established Kids Choir with Licia Jackson and Sarah-Kate has been a hit. It is featuring classics like "Deep and Wide" and "Lord I Lift Your Name On High." To accommodate scheduling conflicts, Christmas songs on CDs will be provided for children to learn at home and perform at the Christmas Program.

ACTIVE FAITH

All Saints Sunday Roses

This year, Active Faith sold 120 roses memorializing those individuals who had passed since the last All Saints last October.

Supporting Home Daycare Centers

Our awesome team continues to visit and provide essential resources to two Home Daycare Centers in our community.

Undie Sunday Drive

Undie Sunday was a great success as usual. We collected lots of adult and children's undies for Cooperative Ministries.

Seniors' Food Drive

Join us for a food drive in collaboration with Richland County Senior Resources supporting seniors on the Meals on Wheels waiting list. The drive will take place in the parking lot of the church. Nov. 16th from 3:00-5:00 p.m., and on Nov. 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Volunteers will take the items from your car for you.

MISSIONS

Welcoming New Families

We recently supported three families from Congo and Afghanistan. Kudos to Active Faith and Missions for spreading kindness!

Missions' Generosity

Exciting news! The Missions team approved mission trips and local service efforts for the 2023-2024 academic year. Plus, we're gearing up for a fundraising concert on March 16, 2024, supporting Ukraine.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & SUPPORT UPDATES

Monthly Donations and Support

Thanks to Elaine Ferraro, we're making a difference with monthly shelf-stable milk donations and a successful drive for Alcorn Middle School.

Mission Trip to Ecuador

Get ready for an adventure! We're in the early planning stages for a mission trip to Ecuador in June 2024. For more information about this opportunity, contact Tom Wall at WallBrodie@aol.com.

RACIAL JUSTICE ACTION TEAM & RECONCILING NEXT TEAM:

Pride Celebration

The Reconciling Next Team participated in Pride Weekend from Oct 19-21, including a special service at Ebenezer Lutheran, the parade, and festival.

Welcome Table News

A community lunch and outreach was held on Monday, Nov. 6th, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Threath Hall. More than 100 guests were served. Haircuts, toiletries, and reading glasses were handed out. Mackin Wall was on hand from the City of Columbia to help those with housing needs.

Grant Update and MSN Breakfasts

Unfortunately, our grant application from the City of Columbia wasn't approved this year, but we're still going strong! The Methodist Student Network (MSN) lead by Tom Wall will be holding breakfasts for those in need on Nov 18th, and Dec 2nd.

EXCITING HAPPENINGS AT THE CDC!

Emergency Preparedness in Action

Throughout October, our CDC has been actively working on its Emergency Preparedness Plan, including active shooter training, participating in the national earthquake drill known as "the Great Shake-Out," and enjoying a visit from Columbia City Firemen showcasing a firetruck—safety is our top priority!

Impressive Visits and Accolades

The CDC welcomed visits from SC DSS, SC DHEC, and the SC DSS Fire Marshall, receiving no deficiencies.

Picture-Perfect Moments

Picture Day is back at the CDC! Parents were delighted to receive school pictures capturing memorable moments of their children.

Gratitude Grant

A big congratulation to the CDC who was awarded a \$13,000.00 ABC Quality Thank You Grant, recognizing their dedication to quality child care. This grant will further support their mission of providing exceptional childcare services.

2023 Plans Approved

The CDC Board has given the green light to the 2023 Budget and the Holiday/In-Service Calendar. We're ready for a fantastic year ahead!

Spooktacular Halloween Fun

A good time was had by all at our Annual Halloween Carnival and Parade. The WSUMC staff, along with several volunteers, joined us on October 31, 2023. All had a boo-tiful time!

Annual Family Feast

The CDC is planning its Annual Family Feast for Monday, November 20th. This year's theme, "Christmas in Hawaii," was chosen by our wonderful CDC teachers.

DONATE TODAY TO SING-ALONG MESSIAH ONLINE OR BY CHECK!

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to make this special evening possible.



With your support, we'll be able to gather in our beautiful sanctuary to celebrate both the Christmas season and Handel's *Messiah* on Dec. 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Currently, we are just over \$2,000 short of our \$15,000 fundraising goal. Your support is vital! Donate online at wsmethodist.org/giving or by scanning the QR code above.

Volunteer assistance needed for Epworth Children's Home

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

Scheduled for 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 (acmcatee21@gmail.com) if interested in volunteering.



BAKE & SALE

Just in time for Thanksgiving!
The United Women in Faith Bake Sale will be held on
November 19th in the hallway and Wesley Room

Proceeds will go to the missions chosen by the United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith



SAVE THE DATE!

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.

New Wednesday Night Small Group with Ann Jessup

Come be a part of our Wednesday Night Small Group's online advent study, exploring *An Unlikely Advent* by Rachel Billups. Delve into the often overlooked characters of the Nativity story—Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepherds—uncovering lessons of hope, love, joy, and peace. Susan Caskey and Ann Jessup are excited to co-lead the discussion on these unexpected figures. Join us on Zoom from 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, November 29, December 6, 13, and 20. Everyone is welcome! For updates and Zoom details, reach out to Ann Jessup via email at jessup.ann@gmail.com.

Gifts

(as of 11-9-23)

IN MEMORY OF **LILLIAN MCCLAIN**
to WSUMC

Given by Karen Hostetler

IN MEMORY OF **PAUL BROWN**
to the Music Ministry

Given by Susan Brown

IN MEMORY OF **GEORGE T. WILLIAMS**
to the Grace Class

Given by Jim Lane

IN MEMORY OF **DAVID WHALEN**
TO WSUMC

Given by
Diana & Bill Westerkam

IN MEMORY OF **GEORGE T. WILLIAMS**
to Missions

Given by
Anne Sinclair & Julian Ruffin

IN MEMORY OF **DOTTIE WEBBER**
to WSUMC

Given by Elizabeth Akre

Three Upcoming Christmas Celebrations

Join us for the **Advent Festival** on **Sunday, December 3**, starting at 5:00 p.m.—a delightful gathering for all ages filled with fellowship and crafts. Get hands-on by crafting your own Advent wreath with fresh greens, and engage in crafts and a service project suitable for both children and adults. Cap off the festivities with a meal with baked potato, grilled cheese sandwiches, and salad. To secure your spot, please make reservations by reaching out to Mary Lide at neaudl@aol.com. The Oasis wreath forms and candles are available for \$15 each.

For a different experience, consider joining the **Day Trippers** for a tour of our stained glass windows in our historic sanctuary on **Wednesday, December 6th** at 11:00 a.m. The tour will be followed by a delicious lunch in the Wesley Room. The tour itself is free, and the lunch, featuring soup, sandwich, and salad, is priced at \$10. You have the flexibility to attend the tour only, lunch only, or both. Reserve your place by contacting Mary Lide at neaudl@aol.com.

Reserve your space today for **Sing-Along Messiah!** The event will be held from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Spots are going fast, so do not wait! You must have a reservation to be seated. We expect a total sell-out, and are over halfway full at this printing! Visit us online at wsmethodist.org/sam, or go directly to Eventbrite by scanning the QR code. Please note that all guests must arrive no later than 6:50 to be guaranteed a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served. Any individuals on a wait list will begin being seated at 6:50 p.m.



COMMUNITY DRIVE AND DROP FOR SENIOR RESOURCES

Drive n' Drop FOOD DRIVE

**THURSDAY, NOV. 16TH
3:00-5:30 PM**

**FRIDAY, NOV. 17TH
10:00 AM-1:00 PM**

Contact Deborah Rowe for more info!

Collecting: Pop-top cans of soup, chicken, tuna, pasta dishes, potted meats, cereal, chewy granola or cereal bars, raisins or other dried fruit, fruit cups or applesauce; peanut butter and jelly, powdered or shelf-stable milk, juice boxes, bottled water. Also accepting toiletries and household items, such as cleaning products, batteries and light bulbs.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

As of 11-8-23

General Budget: \$866,231

Church Actual	\$632,280
Soup Cellar	\$55,147
Foundation	\$14,569

ATTENDANCE (as of 11-9-23)

Nov. 5: 150 (in person); 175 (online) = 325
 Oct. 29: 134 (in person); 151 (online) = 285
 Oct. 22: 148 (in person); 131 (online) = 279
 Oct. 15: 148; (in person); 116 (online) = 263

Prayer List

Betsy Alexander
 Karen Basso
 David Byrum
 Mickey Epting
 Nancy Epting
 Pat Griffin
 Betsy Halloren
 Rev. Paul Harmon
 Karen Horne
 Lisa Johnson
 Jean Kaness

Martha Helen King
 Lin Fesperman Lord
 Beverly McClanahan
 Paul McClanahan
 Sharon McCullough
 Shawn Powers
 Genie & Ron Quinn
 Jim Tuell
 Peggy Ward
 Nancy Williams
 Our homebound

Sunday School Updates

• **The Aldersgate Class:** The Aldersgate Class is studying *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, November 12, we will continue our study of *Ancient Echoes: Refusing the Fear-Filled, Greed-Driven Toxicity of the Far Right* by Walter Brueggemann. Janelle Rivers will lead a discussion of Chapter 2: "The Discomfiting Gift of Newness." Next Sunday, November 19, Hunter Rentz will teach Chapter 3: "Do Not Let the Doctor Leave You." 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:** 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@columbiasec.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 leelandhaynesjr@gmail.com or Sylvia Stevens at sylviasaudersstevens@gmail.com.

• **The Open Door Class:** The class is currently looking at Numbers and Deuteronomy. 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:** The Paul Harmon Class, which focuses on scripture-based theological curiosity and reflection, has completed a 24-week review of videotapes by Bart D. Ehrman entitled "How Jesus Became God." Professor Ehrman's reflections on the events between the death and resurrection of Jesus and the First Council of Nicea (325 CE) reinforce the idea that "faith" and "belief" are not the same thing. In the near term, we plan to (1) reflect on our individual faith journeys; (2) discuss the dangers of a literal Christianity for our body politic; (3) review a four-hour PBS series on early Christianity; and (4) explore how fiction and poetry can inform our faith. All the while, we will remain "plugged in" to the Old and New Testaments in keeping with the chapter-a-day format of the Reverend Harmon, our namesake. 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.

IN SYMPATHY

Rev. Becky Shirley joins the entire staff and Washington Street Church family in expressing our deepest sympathy and Christian love to friends and family on the death of Dan and Bessie Bagwell, longtime Washington Street members. Dan Bagwell died May 29, 2023, and Bessie Bagwell died Nov. 4.

Christmas Poinsettias

Order your Christmas poinsettias now to enhance our worship during Advent and Christmas
LIMITED QUANTITY AVAILABLE! ORDER NOW!

Poinsettias are \$25 each

Completed order forms and payments are due by NOON on
Sunday, Nov. 19th

You may pick up a form now, then send the completed forms and attached payment to the Church Office, or drop them off in the Narthex with your payment on
Sundays through Nov. 19th.

You may pay online at wsmethodist.org/giving.
Please note "poinsettia" in the memo line.

Plants may be picked up after the evening Christmas Eve service.

Join Sole Mates for Two Upcoming Events

Sat, Dec 9 - Walk at Sesquicentennial State Park
 Meet at 10 am in the parking lot by the Splash Pad
 Admission fees: \$6 adults; \$3.75 65+ & older;
 \$3.50 children 6-15; free children <6

Sat, Jan 6 - Hike at Paris Mountain State Park
 Meet at 8 am in the church parking lot to carpool
 The park is just north of Greenville
 There are trails of varying difficulty levels
 Weather permitting, more details to follow

Let's Walk & Hike!

Qs? Email Sara Wilcox @ wilcox@mailbox.sc.edu
 Please RSVP if you are interested in the Jan 6 hike.

EPWORTH CHRISTMAS GIVING

UNTIL DEC. 5, 2023

DONATE NEW TOYS, CLOTHING & OTHER ITEMS TO GIVE TO THE CHILDREN & FAMILIES OF EPWORTH

DROP OFF LOCATIONS

WSUMC FRONT OFFICE OR EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME
 2900 Millwood Ave,
 Columbia, SC 29205

1. Grab a wish and write on the list what you picked.
- *2. Purchase gift.
3. Deliver to the church OR Epworth unwrapped.

WSUMC Meeting & Event Dates

Subject to change

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

MONDAY, NOV. 13

All day | CDC Thanksgiving Feast with setup | Threatt Hall, Kitchen, and Stage
 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar
 1:00-2:30 p.m. | CDC Committee Meeting | John Harper Classroom
 1:30-2:30 p.m. | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*
 5:30-6:00 p.m. | Sign Committee Meeting | Off campus
 6:30-7:30 p.m. | Circle 9 | Open Door Classroom

TUESDAY, NOV. 14

All day | CDC Thanksgiving Feast with setup | Threatt Hall, Kitchen, and Stage
 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*
 6:30-8:00 p.m. | Private Meeting | Room varies

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15

All day | CDC Thanksgiving Feast with setup | Threatt Hall, Kitchen, and Stage
 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. | Foundation Meeting | Zoom
 6:30-7:30 p.m. | Choir Practice | Choir Room

THURSDAY, NOV. 16

All day | CDC Thanksgiving Feast with setup | Threatt Hall, Kitchen, and Stage
 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar
 1:30-2:30 p.m. | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*
 3:00-5:30 p.m. | Drive n' Drop Food Drive for Senior Resources | Parking Lot
 5:30-6:30 p.m. | Circle 2 | Wesley Room

FRIDAY, NOV. 17

All day | CDC Thanksgiving Feast with setup | Threatt Hall, Kitchen, and Stage
 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. | Drive n' Drop Food Drive for Senior Resources | Parking Lot
 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. 18

All day | CDC Thanksgiving Feast with setup | Threatt Hall, Kitchen, and Stage
 7:30-9:00 a.m. | MSN Welcome Table Breakfast | Parking lot

SUNDAY, NOV. 19

All day | CDC Thanksgiving Feast with setup | Threatt Hall, Kitchen, and Stage
 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | United Women in Faith Bake Sale | Back hallway & Wesley Room
 4:30-5:00 p.m. | Youth Bible Study | Youth Room
 5:00-5:30 p.m. | Youth Dinner | Youth Room
 5:15-7:30 p.m. | Disciple Group | John Harper Classroom
 5:30-6:30 p.m. | Kids Choir | Youth Room

MONDAY, NOV. 20

All day | CDC Thanksgiving Feast with setup | Threatt Hall, Kitchen, and Stage
 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar
 1:30-2:30 p.m. | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*

TUESDAY, NOV. 21

10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. | Staff Meeting | Wesley Room
 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*
 6:30-8:00 p.m. | Private Meeting | Room varies

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 22

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. 23 -- THANKSGIVING DAY CHURCH OFFICES AND CDC CLOSED

FRIDAY, NOV. 24 — CHURCH OFFICES AND CDC CLOSED

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