



WASHINGTON STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
wsmethodist.org



THE CONNECTION

Dec. 10, 2023—Christmas Edition

Washington Street Prepares for Christmas!

The halls of Washington Street have been "decked" thanks to two great teams of worker elves! We would like to thank the following volunteers for helping create the beauty of the Advent season you see around you in our church. Monday's helpers were:

Deborah Rowe	Alan-Jon Zupan	Marcia Lane
Ellen Carruth	Mary Lide	Sam Waldrep
Pam Jenkins	Debra Schooler	Jerry Sumpter
Susan Brown	Beth Matthews	
Lynn Shirley	Susan Caskey	

On Wednesday, a second set of worker elves created and put up all of the Christmas wreaths. Thank you to:

Janet Cotter	Ann Jessup	Jerry Sumpter
Suzanne Hurley	Sam Waldrep	Ellen Carruth
Debra Schooler	Pam Jenkins	Beth Matthews



From left: Ellen Carruth, Pam Jenkins, Beth Matthews, Sam Waldrep, Suzanne Hurley, Janet Cotter, Debra Schooler, and Ann Jessup.

Advent Festivities

On Sunday, Dec. 3, a group of Washington Streeters met for food, fellowship and fun in Threatt Hall for the Advent Celebration. Advent wreaths were created, and volunteers served up soup, baked potatoes and grilled cheese sandwiches for guests. The event was led and organized by Mary Lide. Fun was had by all!



From top: Heidi Conte, Kathy Wright, and Cathy Hooker help in the kitchen; Dr. Ute, and Debra Schooler show off their advent wreaths; the children work hard on crafts; Melanie Dobson, along with Licia Jackson and others participate in the wreath making.



Santa's Helpers (Grant Jackson and Anne Sinclair) have the sleigh loaded and are delivering gifts to Epworth. The church gave generously and these gifts are sure to be a blessing!

Winter Bible School Starts Next Week! Sign up now!

Kids can grab a ticket to this year's Winter Bible School! The theme is Wonder and it's all about Mary's journey to Bethlehem to have baby Jesus. We will sing, play, and craft. All you need to do to sign up is email Sarah-Kate at sarahkate@wsmethodist.org to let her know you will be attending in person. Winter Bible School is **Thursday, Friday, and Saturday — December 14, 15, & 16 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm in Threatt Hall.**

**Please join us
in the Chapel
during the
Sunday School
hour on
December 24th
and 31st for a Carol Sing.**



Gail Besser will provide piano accompaniment on the 24th, and Jim Tuell will lead the singing with his guitar on the 31st.

WSUMC Offices will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25; Tuesday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Jan. 1 in observance of Christmas and New Year's holidays. The Child Development Center will be closed Dec. 25-Jan. 1.

A Special Christmas Eve at Washington Street UMC Sunday, December 24, 2023

11:00 am | "Deck the Halls with Love"

5:00 pm | A Service of Carols, Candlelights & Communion featuring The Washington Street Sanctuary Choir with "Three Steps to Freedom: The Christmas Spirit(uals)"

presented by the Washington Street Players with musical assistance from Elizabeth & Mike Cameron, Brianna Grant, Janet Hopkins, and Emmi Lee

Sunday School Updates

• **The Aldersgate Class** is continuing its study of *The First to Follow the Apostles of Jesus* by John R. Claypool. On Dec. 24th and 31st, the class will take part in the Carol Sing in the Chapel with other classes. 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, December 10, we will continue our study of *Ancient Echoes: Refusing the Fear-Filled, Greed-Driven Toxicity of the Far Right* by Walter Brueggemann. Mary Edmonds will lead a discussion of Chapter 6: "A Sufficiency Other Than Our Own." Next Sunday, December 17, Tom Summers will teach Chapter 7: "Bread Shared with All the Eaters." On December 24, John Evans will lead a discussion of the Advent celebration. On December 31, the class will look back on what we studied in 2023 and forward to what we may study in 2024. The class starts at 10:00 am. 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:** Melanie Dobson will be leading "Step Back and Step In" this Sunday. Christine is leading next Sunday, "The God That is Coming". On the 24th and 31st, class will be joining others in Chapel for sing along carols. We will pick up the "Work of the People" series on: January 7. 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. On Dec. 24th and 31st, the class will take part in the Carol Sing in the Chapel with other classes. If interested, please contact Lee Haynes at lelandhaynesjr@gmail.com or Sylvia Stevens

at sylviasaudersstevens@gmail.com.

• **The Open Door Class:** The Open Door Class's Advent study is "When God Came Down" by James A Harnish. We will explore the meaning of the incarnation—God with us in human flesh, God's action in the person, Jesus. On Dec. 24th and 31st, the class will take part in the Carol Sing in the Chapel with other classes. 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, plans to (1) reflect on our individual faith journeys; (2) discuss the dangers of a literal Christianity for our body politics; (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 doing an Advent study entitled *Advent in Narnia* by Heidi Haverkamp looking at Advent through the lens of C.S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. The study includes the opportunity to read the story and watch the movie as we move toward Christmas. On Dec. 24th and 31st, the class will take part in the Carol Sing in the Chapel with other classes. 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.

Gifts

(as of 12-8-23)

IN HONOR OF JOHN ADAMS
to the WSUMC Youth
Given by the Paul Harmon
Sunday School Class

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE T. WILLIAMS
to WSUMC
Given by Cindy B. Williams

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE T. WILLIAMS
to WSUMC
Given by Eva Nance &
Kimberly McAlister

Main Street Yellow Shirt Ambassadors

At the church late and feeling uneasy about the walk to your car? Do you feel you need an escort to your car, or from your car into the church? The Yellow Shirt Ambassadors can help. Have you ever seen those friendly folks in the yellow shirts patrolling downtown Columbia? Well, they serve us here at Washington Street too! The Main Street District's Clean and Safe Ambassadors, affectionately known as the "Yellow Shirt Ambassadors" are ready and willing to help, just give them a call at **803-587-7831**. and they will come and assist you.

While you may have spotted them at major events like Soda City Market, their impact extends far beyond. Operating daily from 7:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., these ambassadors cover a substantial area—from Assembly to Marion, Gervais to Elmwood—and both sides of Elmwood Avenue from Bull Street to Lincoln Street, including Washington Street.

Since 2002, the Yellow Shirt Ambassadors have been the backbone of the Main Street District, safety tips, providing a lift to your destination, escorting to your care when you feel unsafe, or if you need help with someone who feels threatening, these ambassadors are dedicated to ensuring your well-being. Plus, they stay in close communication with CPD when extra support is needed. Feel safe and supported with the Yellow Shirt Ambassadors around! Read more about this great service at <https://mainstcolasc.com/yellow-shirts/>



Prayer List

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



Washington Street recognized November 20th as the Transgender Day of Remembrance by placing a banner on the Bull St. fence in November. Jim Lane, Chair of Reconciling Next, tied 33 ribbons on the fence around the banner to represent the 33 documented killings of trans persons last year in the US.

For unto us
a child is born!

Christmas Nativity Service

**Sunday,
December 17th
@ 11:00AM**

Rehearsals: 10:00 AM
Dec. 3rd, 10th, & 17th
in the Youth Room

Children and Youth Parents must email Sarah-Kate and send in the photo release form to sign their child up for this year's Nativity.
(sarahkate@wsmethodist.org)

WASHINGTON STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

As of 12-7-23

General Budget: \$866,231

Church \$665,221

Soup Cellar \$60,060

Foundation \$14,594

ATTENDANCE (as of 12-7-23)

Dec. 4: 196 (in person); 216
(online) = 412

Nov. 26: 136 (in person); 182
online = 318

Nov. 19: 147 (in person); 122
(online) = 269

Nov. 12: 146 (in person); 185
(online) = 331



WASHINGTON STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Child Development Center

Join our team as a Child Care Provider

Make a difference in a child's life. Apply now!
Email your resume to felicia@wsmethodist.org or call 803-254-8405 for more information.

For details visit: wsmethodist.org/employment

ECUADOR MISSION 2024



OVERVIEW

Members and friends of Washington Street UMC will be traveling to Ecuador in June of 2024 to be in mission and service with the Evangelical Methodist Church of Ecuador. While there, we will be engaged in several service projects including a medical clinic, reading glasses testing and distribution, Vacation Bible School, home visits, construction projects, and worship and fellowship with our Ecuadorian friends. There will also be time to explore the beautiful and diverse capital city of Quito and other areas of the country. All are welcome to join us - no experience required!

AT A GLANCE

WHEN?

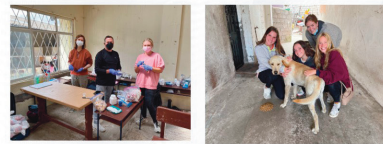
June 3 - 13, 2024

WHERE?

Otavalo and Pastocalle, Ecuador

HOW MUCH?

Around \$1,350 per person (depending on price of plane tickets) includes airfare, room & board, transportation, and meals. You will need money for one meal out + any spending cash for the market or special stops



INTERESTED?

We will have one more interest meeting on **Sunday January 14th, 2024 at 9:00am** at WSUMC in the John Harper Classroom.

The deadline to commit is February 1st, 2024.

Group leaders contact information -
Tom Wall - WallBrodie@aol.com
(803) 556-1039
Patricio Aravena - Patricio.Aravena@gmail.com
(803) 457-0589
Mackin Wall - MackinWall4@gmail.com
(803) 556-5214

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that."

Martin Luther King, Jr., 1963

KATIE AND ERWIN KAHN JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
306 FLORA DRIVE, 29224

BE THE LIGHT

THE NIGHT OF THE 8TH CANDLE OF CHANUKAH

THE JEWISH AND THE NON-JEWISH COMMUNITY WILL JOIN TOGETHER AS ONE TO LIGHT CANDLES & PUSH AWAY THE DARKNESS

BROUGHT BY ANTI-SEMITISM & HATE OF ALL KINDS

THUR., DEC. 14, 6:00 PM

Bring your own menorah and Chanukah candles.

We will have standard candles available.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

NO BAGS, PLEASE.

Please allow extra time for security

Katie & Irwin Kahn JCC | 803.787.2023

Call or email dpullen@jccolumbia.org with questions.



Day Trippers had a wonderful time of fellowship and learning as Pete Liggett told us about the history of the Washington Street stained glass windows. After the history lesson, we had a wonderful lunch provided by Mary Lide.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, DEC. 10

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Heifer International
Alternative Gift Market | Wesley Room
Hallway
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Book Sale | Narthex
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. | Worship Service |
Sanctuary & Livestream
2:00-4:00 p.m. | Mary's Maidens | Threath Hall
& Kitchen
4:30-5:30 p.m. | Youth Bible Study | Youth
Room
5:15-7:30 p.m. | Disciple Group | John Harper
Classroom
5:30-6:00 p.m. | Youth Dinner | Youth Room
5:30-6:30 p.m. | Kids Choir | Youth Room
6:00-7:30 p.m. | SAM Rehearsal | Sanctuary

MONDAY, DEC. 11

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. | Circle 9 | Open Door
Classroom
7:00-8:00 p.m. | Sing-Along *Messiah* |
Sanctuary (SOLD OUT) DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM

TUESDAY, DEC. 12

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Child Dev. Ctr. "CDC
Polar Express" | Threath Hall
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. | Dawsey Class
Christmas Lunch | Dawsey Classroom
10:00-11:00 a.m. | Staff Programming
meeting | Holroyd 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*
6:30-8:00 p.m. | Private Meeting | Room varies*

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup
Cellar
12:45-3:15 p.m. | Staff Christmas Party |
Youth Room
1:30-2:30 p.m. | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*
6:00-7:00 p.m. | Church Council Meeting |
Zoom
6:30-7:30 p.m. | Choir Practice | Choir Room
7:00-8:00 p.m. | Advent Small Group with
Ann Jessup | Zoom

THURSDAY, DEC. 14

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup
Cellar
1:30-2:30 p.m. | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*
5:00-6:30 p.m. | Winter VBS | Threath Hall
5:30-6:30 p.m. | Advent Small Group with
Mark Armstrong | John Harper Classroom
5:30-6:30 p.m. | Finance Committee | Zoom

FRIDAY, DEC. 15

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup
Cellar
1:30-2:30 p.m. | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*
5:00-6:30 p.m. | Winter VBS | Threath Hall

Tried by Fire Reprints Available

The Records and History Committee will be selling copies of *Tried by Fire* in the hallway near the Sanctuary both before and after the 11:00 a.m. service on **December 10 and 17**. Written by Dr. A.V. Huff, a former Washington Street Church associate minister and long-time academic dean at Furman University, this book is a well-researched and well-written history of WSUMC from the church's founding in 1803 through the mid-1970s. The book's cost is \$12.00 and would be good reading for those interested in the rich Methodist legacy of our old church.

