



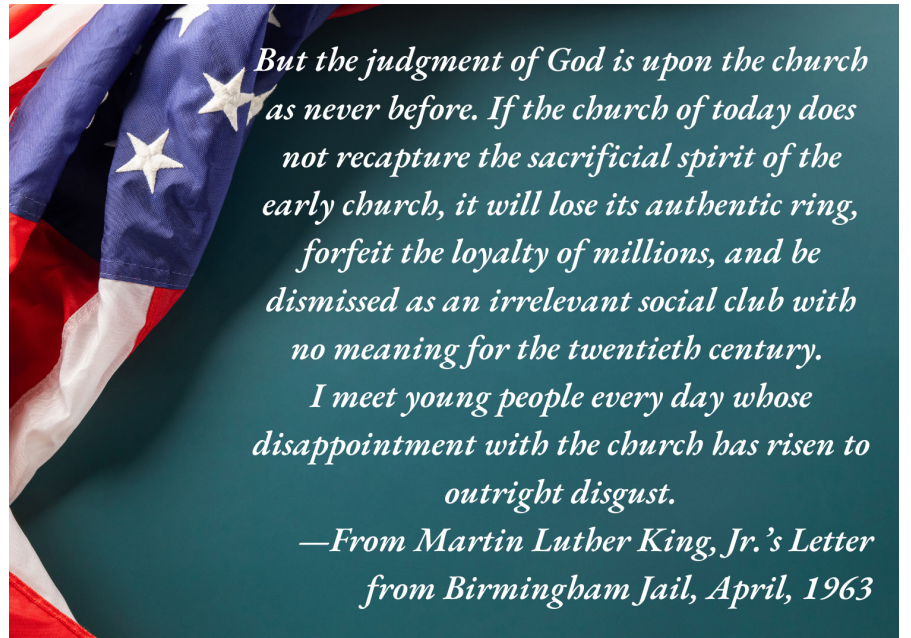
# THE CONNECTION

Jan. 7, 2024

## Special Reading to be Held Jan. 14th in Christ Chapel

The Racial Justice Action Team is excited to host a reading of MLK's Letter from the Birmingham jail on Sunday, January 14, at 9:45 am in Christ Chapel. WSUMC member, Cody Lidge will perform the reading in order to remember and honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail" is a profound and eloquent defense of nonviolent resistance to racism and injustice. Written in April 1963 during his incarceration, King responded to a group of white clergymen who criticized the timing and methods of the civil rights protests. In the letter, King masterfully articulated the moral imperative for confronting racial inequality, drawing on his deep understanding of Christian ethics and principles of justice. He emphasized the urgency of the struggle for civil rights and argued that waiting for a more convenient time would only perpetuate injustice. The letter not only addressed the specific context of Birmingham, but also became a timeless and influential piece of literature, showcasing King's intellectual prowess and unwavering commitment to the principles of equality and justice.



*But the judgment of God is upon the church as never before. If the church of today does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authentic ring, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the twentieth century.*

*I meet young people every day whose disappointment with the church has risen to outright disgust.*

*—From Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Letter from Birmingham Jail, April, 1963*

### "Moms Demand Action Advocacy Day" is Set to Begin at Washington Street UMC on January 10th.

"Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America" is a national volunteer organization of women and men working to end gun violence. You've likely seen the red T-shirts worn by Moms Demand Action members, signifying their solidarity in addressing the violence caused by irresponsible gun use. The Midlands Moms Demand Action group meets at Washington Street UMC once a month, with the Racial Justice Action Team serving as WS's liaison to this organization.

Some Moms Demand Action members/volunteers are more intimately connected to the issue of gun violence, with some

### IN THIS ISSUE

- PAGE 1 MLK's Letter from the Birmingham Jail  
Advocacy Day (MDA)
- PAGE 2 Advocacy Day (MDA), continued  
Sunday School Updates  
Circle of Welcome
- PAGE 3 Gifts  
Prayer List
- PAGE 4 January birthdays  
Upcoming events  
Special Meeting on Faith and Dealing with a Chronic, Incurable Disease  
New WELL Services

SPECIAL INSERT: Sowing to the Spirit

being survivors themselves, and others having lost loved ones to gun violence. Many of us are deeply disturbed by the less-than-strict gun laws in the United States and South Carolina. While the organization supports responsible gun ownership, it is outraged by the ongoing turmoil caused by guns in society and the despair and loss of life resulting from the irresponsible use of guns.

You have an opportunity to make a difference. This coming Wednesday, January 10, is the SC Moms Demand Action Advocacy Day. Moms Demand Action members and other concerned South Carolina citizens will meet at our church to learn about the upcoming bills we support or oppose. We will then walk together to the State House, where we will stand against dangerous gun policies like permitless carry and advocate for common-sense gun laws to make our communities safer. Come walk with us the half-mile to the south steps of the State House, where we will gather for a group photo and a press conference before entering the building in small groups to speak to legislators. Please put on a red T-shirt and join us! In numbers, we can make a difference as we talk to legislators about the need for their vote for gun safety.

To RSVP and/or learn more about Advocacy Day, visit [tinyurl.com/SCMomsAdvDay2024](http://tinyurl.com/SCMomsAdvDay2024).

### **Advocacy Day Schedule:**

Wednesday, Jan. 10th  
 8:30-9:15 am Sign-in WSUMC  
 9:15-10:30 am Orientation and training at WSUMC  
 10:30 am Gather outside the church for a walk to the State House (0.5 mile)  
 11:15 am Group photo on the south steps of the State House  
 11:30 am Press conference on the south steps of the State House  
 11:30 am-2:00 pm Meet with SC Senators and Representatives  
 2:00 pm Senate in session

# Sunday School Updates

• **The Aldersgate Class** The Aldersgate Class will start a 6-week lesson plan based on the PBS series "How Jesus Became Christ." This thought-provoking series includes video segments from the series, and later discussions led by Dr. Charles Bryan. Come join us for a cup of coffee, pastry, and lively discussions. This series will begin on January 7, and should run through February 11. All are welcome! If you have any questions, please call David A. Anderson at 803-318-8821 or email him at [danderson@richardsonplowden.com](mailto:danderson@richardsonplowden.com).

• **The Dawsey Class:** This Sunday, January 7, class president Caroline Seigler will lead a discussion of the framework and material the class will use going forward. What we do on Sunday, Jan. 14, will be determined by what happens on January 7. 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](mailto:caroline.seigler@gmail.com).

• **The Grace Class:** The class will continue its study of the "Work of the People" series on January 7. Christine Hait will lead "The God that is Coming." On Jan. 14, the class will meet in the Chapel for the reading of MLK's Letter from the Birmingham Jail. Join us in person on the third floor, or contact Jim Lane at [jlane@columbiasc.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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. If interested, please contact Lee Haynes at [lelandhaynesjr@gmail.com](mailto:lelandhaynesjr@gmail.com) or Sylvia Stevens at [sylviasaudersstevens@gmail.com](mailto:sylviasaudersstevens@gmail.com).

• **The Open Door Class:** The Open Door Class will finish our study of *When God Comes Down* this Sunday. On Jan. 14, we will begin a new study—*Never Quit* by Mark Ballenger. This study is based on the parable of the persistent widow from Luke, Chapter 8. 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](mailto:jessup.ann@gmail.com).

• **The Paul Harmon Class:** For the month of January, the Paul Harmon Class will be reading and discussing *The First Christmas, What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Birth*, by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. The book delves into how Jesus' birth stories "touch the deepest of human yearnings: for light in the darkness, for the fulfillment of our hopes, for a different kind of world." Visitors are always welcome to the class. If you have questions, please contact Suzanne Joye at [sjoye@sc.rr.com](mailto:sjoye@sc.rr.com).

• **Solomon's Porch:** Solomon's Porch will begin an in-depth study of the Book of Genesis on Sunday, Jan. 7. 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](mailto:ajhamm@umcsc.org).

## Circle of Welcome

Our Circle of Welcome team has been matched with a refugee family of five arriving from Burma in January! We've created a sign-up for new items they will need when they move here. Donations should be placed in the Missions Garden by January 14th. Monetary donations through the church are welcome. You may visit [wsmethodist.org/giving](http://wsmethodist.org/giving) to donate online. Note "COW" or "Circle of Welcome" in the memo section.

The family will also need furniture when they move into their permanent home. If you have used furniture to donate, don't hesitate to get in touch with Andrea McAtee at [acmcaatee21@gmail.com](mailto:acmcaatee21@gmail.com), Anne Sinclair at [asinclair1@bellsouth.net](mailto:asinclair1@bellsouth.net) or Kay Ayers [kayayers@aol.com](mailto:kayayers@aol.com). Please keep this family in your prayers as they go through their travel and transition. You can sign up online at [www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F4CABA929A6FC1-46891933-wsumc](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F4CABA929A6FC1-46891933-wsumc)

# Gifts

(as of 1-3-24)

**IN MEMORY OF DOT & DUNK SULLIVAN**  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
Given by Eddie Sullivan

**IN MEMORY OF GEORGE T. WILLIAMS**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Ed McClain

**IN MEMORY OF GEORGE T. WILLIAMS**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Sam Waldrep

**IN MEMORY OF DAVID BYRUM**  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
Given by Emalyn Johnson

**IN MEMORY OF DAVID BYRUM**  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
Given by Lisa Smith

**IN MEMORY OF DAVID BYRUM**  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
Given by Ed McClain

**IN MEMORY OF DAVID BYRUM**  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
Given by Sam Waldrep

**IN MEMORY OF DAVID BYRUM**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Virginia Vaughan

**IN MEMORY OF DAVID BYRUM**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Robin & David Anderson

**IN MEMORY OF MARY SUTHERLAND**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Virginia Vaughan

**IN MEMORY OF MARY SUTHERLAND**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Robin & David Anderson

**IN MEMORY OF CAROL REIS**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Donna Bryan

**IN MEMORY OF JOBY ROBINSON**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Donna Bryan

**IN MEMORY OF KATHY HANDEL**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Donna Bryan

**IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Donna Bryan

**IN HONOR OF JOHN HOLLADAY**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Donna Bryan

**IN HONOR OF SUSAN & RICK UMBACH**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Cynthia Mills

**IN HONOR OF SUSAN & RICK UMBACH**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Emily Mills

**IN MEMORY OF MARY SUTHERLAND**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Holly R. Moore

**IN MEMORY OF MARY SUTHERLAND**  
*to the Foundation*  
Given by Leslie & David Lockwood

**IN HONOR OF THE TRINITY EPISCOPAL  
SOUP CELLAR VOLUNTEERS**  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
Given by Ruth Tibshrary

**IN MEMORY OF DAVID WHALEN**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Mary & Lanneau Lide

**IN MEMORY OF GEORGE T. WILLIAMS**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Mary & Lanneau Lide

**IN HONOR OF KATHY WRIGHT**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Mary & Lanneau Lide

**IN HONOR OF CATHY HOOKER**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Mary & Lanneau Lide

**IN HONOR OF ELEANORE LANGLEY**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Mary & Lanneau Lide

**IN HONOR OF TOMMY BETENBAUGH**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Mary & Lanneau Lide

**IN MEMORY OF MARY SUTHERLAND**  
*to the Foundation*  
Given by Connie & Glen Thompson

**IN MEMORY OF DAVID BYRUM**  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
Given by Judy & Hugh Pennell

**IN MEMORY OF DAVID BYRUM**  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
Given by Wanda & Rex Meade

**IN MEMORY OF MARY SUTHERLAND**  
*to the Foundation*  
Given by Georgia & Joey Vickers

**IN MEMORY OF DAVID BYRUM**  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
Given by Woodeane B. Smith  
& Ray Smith

**IN MEMORY OF MARY SUTHERLAND**  
*to the Foundation*  
Given by Peggy Weston

**IN MEMORY OF BESSIE BAGWELL**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Peggy Weston

**IN MEMORY OF MARY SUTHERLAND**  
*to the Foundation*  
Given by Wendy & Joe Clark

**IN MEMORY OF MARY SUTHERLAND**  
*to the Foundation*  
Given by Anne Sinclair &  
Julian Ruffin

**IN MEMORY OF DAVID BYRUM**  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
Given by Anne Sinclair &  
Julian Ruffin

**IN MEMORY OF MARY SUTHERLAND**  
*to the Foundation*  
Given by Ned Self

**IN HONOR OF REV. BECKY SHIRLEY**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Janelle Rivers

**IN HONOR OF REV. ALSTON LIPPERT**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Janelle Rivers

**IN HONOR OF CRAIG, WENDY, ELLA  
& ANNA BELL**  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Ann & Mickey Bell

## Prayer List

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



## January Birthdays

### Jan. 2

Leon Davis  
Mickey Epting

### Jan. 4

R. Stewart Bond

### Jan. 5

Pam Jenkins  
Michah Sonjor

### Jan. 6

Harriett Davis

### Jan. 8

Betty Bowers

### Jan. 12

Jim Ward  
Scarlett Hall

### Jan. 13

G. Larry Railey  
Carl Evans

### Jan. 14

Trisha Britt  
David Nelson

### Jan. 15

Charles Bryan

### Jan. 16

Adrienne Fink

### Jan. 17

Jacob Schatz

### Jan. 20

Hamilton Matthews

### Jan. 22

Jim Tuell

### Jan. 23

Jamie Sanders

### Jan. 24

Pete Liggett

### Jan. 25

Beth Cooper Kelly

### Jan. 26

Becky Shirley  
Lynn Shirley  
Sylvia Saunders Stevens  
Carole McConkey

### Jan. 27

Mary Watson Edmonds  
Thomas Lide

Bill Westerkam

Linda Reardon

### Jan. 29

Jennifer Laughlin

### Jan. 30

Eugenia Beach

### Jan. 31

Susan Brown

## WSUMC Meetings & Events

*Subject to change*

\*denotes non-member event; blue type indicates WSUMC events or meetings. Child Dev. Ctr. events are in bold italic.

### MONDAY, JANUARY 8

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar

1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar\*

**6:00-8:30 pm | UWF | John Harper Classroom**

**6:30-7:30 pm | Circle 9 | Open Door Classroom**

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar

1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar\*

6:00-9:00 pm | Palmetto Mastersingers | Choir Room\*

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar

1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar\*

8:00-11:00 am | Moms Demand Action

Advocacy Day | Threathall & Off Campus\*

**6:30-7:30 pm | Choir Practice | Choir Room**

**CHECK OUT THE MOST UP-TO-DATE CALENDAR IN REALM® CONNECT**

## Special Meeting on Faith and Dealing with a Chronic, Incurable Disease

The Columbia Parkinson's Group will hold a special meeting on Sunday, Jan. 28 at 3:00 pm in the auditorium at the Lexington Medical Center Park 1, located at 2728 Sunset Blvd., West Columbia, SC 29169.

The Reverend Doug Graul will be leading this special meeting and the discussion on faith and suffering with a chronic disease.

In this session, the group will explore the biblical witness that does not deny suffering, but seeks to bear witness to the presence of God through our weaknesses.

The Reverend Doug Graul is a native of the City of Fairfax, VA. He holds a B.S. in Political Science from James Madison University and a Master of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. Father Doug was Ordained by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 1995. He has served parishes in South Carolina in Peak, Spring Hill, Columbia, and Irmo. He has also worked as a chaplain in assisted living and hospice settings.

Father Doug began his time at St. Francis Of Assisi Episcopal Church in Irmo, SC as a supply celebrant and is now honored to be called as the Vicar of the Mission.

For more information, contact the Columbia Parkinson's Support Group at (803) 335-4247 or email [contact@columbiaparkinsonsupportgroup.org](mailto:contact@columbiaparkinsonsupportgroup.org). Visit the website at [columbiaparkinsonsupportgroup.org](http://columbiaparkinsonsupportgroup.org).



## A New Worship Experience In Christ Chapel

*Third Thursday of each month from 11:00-11:30 a.m.,  
beginning January 18th*

A place of worship — no matter the faith or denomination — should be a community where people can experience God's presence, be assured that God cares about them and where they know they are seen, heard, valued and not alone. It is a place where people can be reminded that they were created in God's image and that they are loved. Unfortunately, the way traditional services of worship are structured, including its length, often makes persons who are living with physical and/or mental challenges like dementia, autism, and anxiety, feel isolated and out of place. Recognizing this reality, Rev. Becky, Rev. Alston and members of the WSUMC worship team are opening the doors of Christ Chapel on the 3rd Thursday of each month and inviting everyone, but especially persons living with dementia, autism or other challenges along with their care partners to join us for a uniquely designed 30 minute service of worship. The service will be filled mostly with hymns, but will also include an interactive "Jesus story" and communion. If this sounds appealing to you, please join us. We're calling the service "The WELL", because our heart's desire is for this to be a time of Worship-Encouragement-Laughter and Love.