



wsmethodist.org



THE CONNECTION

February 18, 2024

WSUMC Plans for Lent & Easter

The Lenten season is in full swing, and we're excited to share the wonderful events and services happening at Washington Street United Methodist Church.

Last Wednesday marked the beginning of Lent with our Ash Wednesday celebration. We started the day with a delightful soup and sandwich lunch in Threatt Hall, followed by a beautiful Ash Wednesday service in Christ Chapel. Throughout Lent, join us every Wednesday from 11:45 am to 12:25 pm for a nourishing soup and sandwich lunch. Our midday services, held in Christ Chapel, commence at 12:30 p.m. Additionally, a special service led by WSUMC Youth takes place at 6:00 p.m. in Christ Chapel.

Starting on Wednesday, Feb. 21, the WSUMC Players will be presenting monologues inspired by characters from the Bible at the Lenten Lunch services. These performances promise to be inspiring, and we invite everyone to join us on the following dates: Feb. 21, Feb. 28, March 6, March 13, and March 20.

On Wednesday, Feb. 14 (Ash Wednesday) the Reconciling Next team premiered a 40-day video devotional series based on the book *Transfigured: A 40-day Journey through Scripture for Gender-Queer and Transgender People* by Suzanne DeWitt Hall. WSUMC members and friends have submitted these devotions to share with anyone who would like to watch them. You can find these videos on our Facebook page (facebook.com/washingtonstreetumc) and YouTube Channel (youtube.com/c/washingtonstreetumc). No Facebook account is needed; simply scan the QR codes provided to access these sites.



Our Lenten Sermon Series, "Questions We Ask God," will explore thought-provoking topics on the following dates:

Feb. 18: Who is God | 1 John 4:7-19

Feb. 25: Is the Bible Reliable? | Hebrews 4:12-14

March 3: Why Should I Go to Church? | Psalm 100

March 10: Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People? | Psalm 137

March 17: How and Why Do I Forgive? | Matthew 6:9-15

March 24: (Palm/Passion Sunday) Why Is Jesus Special? | Mark 11:1-11

If your child or grandchild is interested in participating in the **Palm Parade** during the Palm Sunday service, please contact Swann Adams at adamss@mailbox.sc.edu.

Special services are scheduled for **Maundy Thursday, March 28, and Good Friday, March 29, both at 6:00 p.m. in Christ Chapel.** Save the date for **Easter Sunday, March 31**, with a potluck breakfast at 10:00 a.m. in Threatt Hall, followed by a meaningful Easter Service in the sanctuary. Bring something to share with our church family, and let's celebrate together!



Dr. Catherine Nance performs a harp and vocal solo during the Ash Wednesday service. She was accompanied by Dr. Rick Frierson.

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Getting to Know... Catherine Stapleton Nance

By Fran Zupan

The most important thing about Washington Street, according to Dr. Catherine Nance, is the joy.

"It's a very joyful place," our new director of music said.

Three times, in particular, seem to have been Catherine's most joyful times at Washington Street.

In 1991, Catherine had a career in opera and musical theater in New York City. Among other productions, she played Susanna in Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" and toured France as Maria in "West Side Story." She had married a fellow musician who died of cancer after a short illness.

In December 1992, Catherine made a visit to Columbia, where her father, Dr. John Stapleton, was the senior minister at Washington Street.

At the Christmas Eve service, she sang "O Holy Night."

"I had put it out to God: I really would like to meet someone in church," Catherine said recently.

Tom Nance, who grew up attending Washington Street, asked his mother Laurely Nance to introduce them. They started dating.

After the holidays, Catherine went back to New York, and she and Tom dated long distance for a while, but in May she came back to Columbia and sublet her apartment in New York.

After living in New York for 13 years, Catherine decided to marry Tom and move back to South Carolina.

They married on Dec. 10, 1993, in the sanctuary at Washington Street. Officiating were Catherine's father and the Rev. Toni White, who had worked with the youth when Tom was growing up. John Stapleton had also been Toni's mentor during his time as her pastor at First UMC Easley, Toni's home church. Catherine said her 5-year-old nephew "reluctantly" walked her down the aisle.

Another joyful period began for Catherine. She was a paid soloist in the sanctuary choir "where (choir director) Arletta Raley was a big part of my life," she said, adding that Arletta was her mentor and her inspiration. All the while, Catherine and Tom lived in Aiken, about 30 miles from his job at the Savannah River Site, and commuted to Washington Street for choir events.

Catherine taught voice and music appreciation at USC Aiken, which served her well while her children were little.

Catherine and Tom's first child was born in 1995. They named him John Luke after both grandfathers (John Stapleton and Luke Nance). Today, John Luke is married and



is communications director for an engineering firm in Aiken. He also plays bass for his church there.

Their daughter was born in 1996. They named her Sophia Catherine Nance. That is the name of a 28-year-old woman who died in 1853 and is buried under the church. Her coffin has a window so those who loved her could admire her beauty whenever they wanted. Through the years, many of the church's young people made the subterranean trip on their hands and knees to view Sophia's face.

So did the Nances name their daughter after the woman under the church?

"I loved the name Sophia always," Catherine said. "When I heard the name of the woman under the church 'Sophia Catherine Nance,' I thought it was meant to be."

Today Sophia works as an emergency room doctor at UCLA.

In 2001, Catherine became director of music ministry at St. John UMC-Aiken. Her first Sunday was September 9, 2001, two days before 9/11, "an abrupt beginning to my time there," she said.

About a decade ago, Catherine began work on a doctorate in worship studies from the Institute of Worship Studies in Jacksonville, Florida. The program involves two weeks of intensive studies at the school twice each year plus quality distance learning.

"It has opened my eyes to many different ways people are transformed by the worship experience," Catherine said. "It

continued on next page

has helped me to concentrate on the reasons we worship, how we might make the choices we make, and to answer the questions surrounding the overarching theme of 'why' we worship. The approach explores historical case studies, biblical origins, and theological foundations to the area of worship."

In planning music for a worship service, Catherine said she starts with a sermon plan, if one is available.

"I read the Scripture, and I do my best to develop music that supports it," Catherine said, adding that that includes hymn selection.

Catherine received her Ph.D. in 2019 and she remains a teaching assistant and a part-time member of the admissions and enrollment team for IWS.

Catherine has entered another joyful period of her life at Washington Street. Having resigned from St. John's after serving there for 21 years, she and Tom visited Washington Street one Sunday morning. That day she told senior minister Becky Shirley she would be interested in interim work if Becky knew of any. A couple of weeks later, Catherine became our church's interim choir director, and several months after that, she became permanent.

Catherine said her favorite thing in the world is to work with the choir.

"It's what God most wanted for me," she said. "I think when we do what God most wants for us, we're the most joyful."

Catherine spends a lot of time on the road, most often listening to a book on tape – a recent favorite was "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus. It takes

an hour "door to door" to make the trip between Aiken and Columbia. Their home in Aiken also is two blocks from the home to which her parents retired.

In 1999, Catherine and Tom bought a historic home in downtown Aiken. The three-story, four-bedroom house with a wraparound porch was built in 1895. Their renovation is taking longer than expected because the contractor discovered extensive fire damage. Now

the completion date is likely to be next September.

On their 30th wedding anniversary, Catherine and Tom, who sings bass in the choir, had lunch between the 11 a.m. worship service and rehearsal for the Sing-Along Messiah. The restaurant they chose was California Dreaming, where they had had their first date.

Foreword by Rev. Dr. Paula Stone Williams

TRANSFIGURED
A 40-day journey through scripture for gender-queer and transgender people
Volume 2 of the When I Hear I am I series

SUZANNE DEWITT HALL

WASHINGTON STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**WSUMC Reconciling
Next Team
presents**

**Devotional Readings from "Transfigured: A
40-day journey through scripture for
gender-queer and transgender people"
by Suzanne DeWitt Hall**

**CHECK THEM OUT ON OUR FB PAGE
AND YOUTUBE CHANNEL
STARTING FEB. 14!**

MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP

WASHINGTON ST. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Winter/Spring
Using Our Gifts & Talents

Featured Film:
Mr. Holland's Opus

Sign up on Realm by scanning the QR code or email
aflippert@umcsc.org

If you have previously attended a movie discussion, you do not need to sign up.

FEB. 26
7 pm
Wesley Room
& Zoom

WSUMC Players (Drama Ministry) to Participate in Lenten Services

The WSUMC Players will participate in the upcoming special Lenten season services. This year, the Wednesday lunch services will include stories told by men from bible stories who had encounters with Jesus. These biblical characters from the Passion Story will include:

February 21 - Pete Liggett — Malchus: Servant

February 28 – Harvey Jessup — Nicodemus: Leader

March 6 – Larry Hembree Pilate: Governor

March 13 – Jim Tuell – Judas: Disciple

March 20 – Daniel Hanlin – The Centurion: Soldier

Good Friday service, which will be held at 6:00 pm on March 29 will be a Good Friday Service of Tenebrae that is presented as a series of readings, times of reflection, and prayer.

Tenebrae, an ancient Good Friday service, increases darkness by gradually extinguishing candles to symbolize the coming darkness of Jesus' death. Readers include Jan Merchant, Susan Caskey, Melanie Dobson, Dr. Ute, and Jane Peterson.



**What is the
2024
General
Conference?
Why should it
matter?**

Find out more at these two sites:

APRIL 23 - MAY 3, 2024
**GENERAL
CONFERENCE**



**...and
KNOW
that
I am GOD**

The United Methodist Church General Conference
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

*If you have questions about the
2024 General Conference contact
Rev. Becky at rjshirley@umcsc.org
or Rev. Alston at aflippert@umcsc.org*



umnews.com
General Info



umcresource.com
Beginners Guide

Lenten Lunch & Services



WEDNESDAYS
THROUGH MARCH 20

LUNCH:

11:45 AM-12:25 PM

THREATT HALL

\$8.00 — Soup, Sandwiches,
Dessert

SERVICES

12:30-1:00 PM

CHRIST CHAPEL

*Prepared by United Women in Faith
Proceeds will go to the Soup Kitchen*



The Wednesday night study group will begin a new Lenten study on **Wednesday, February 21 at 7:00 pm** on Zoom. The group will focus on Tom Berlin's *The Third Day, Living the Resurrection*. This six-week study is a fresh look at Lent that uses storytelling and scripture to focus on new life, redemption and transformation through the experiences of the individuals around Jesus in his final days.



The Missions Committee and The Racial Justice Action Team are assessing interest within our groups in participating in a repair day. We would like to offer this opportunity to the members of the congregation, but also want to organize a core group of interested volunteers to choose an initial meeting date.

Please send an email to Andrea McAtee at acmcatee21@gmail.com to let her know if you are interested in participating in a repair day, and whether you are generally available on either Thursdays or Saturdays (or both).



***March 2, 10 am, Timmerman Trail**
- Meet behind the Cayce Tennis and Fitness Center at 1120 Fort Congaree Trail
- Free parking w/ restrooms

***April 20, 10 am, Harbison State Forest**
- There is a \$5/car fee; you drop payment in an envelope in the parking lot

Walks are open to all. Feel free to bring friends and family.
Questions? Contact Sara Wilcox (twilcox@mailbox.sc.edu)



Aracelis Kool
Marina Alexandra

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!

String Time Duo

A FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING UKRAINIAN PATRIOT & UMCOR
EACH ORGANIZATION DISTRIBUTES 100% OF ACCUMULATED DONATIONS DIRECTLY TO UKRAINE.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024 | 7:00 PM
1401 Washington St, Columbia, 29201
wsmethodist.org/ukraine | [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)
803-256-2417



RESERVE A SEAT! SEATING IS LIMITED. RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED FIRST COME-FIRST SERVED
FREE CONCERT | LOVE OFFERINGS & DONATIONS ENCOURAGED



EASTER EGG HUNT

Bring a basket & a snack to share!



Saturday
MARCH 23 | 4:00 PM

AT THE HOME OF
Lanneau & Mary Lide
1400 Sherwood Rd.

RAIN DATE:
3/30/24



Gifts (as of 2-14-24)

Sunday School Updates

- IN MEMORY OF RON QUINN**
to the Foundation
Given by Robin & David Anderson
- IN MEMORY OF MARTHA HELEN KING**
to WSUMC
Given by Virginia Vaughan
- IN MEMORY OF MARTHA HELEN KING**
to the Foundation
Given by Robin & David Anderson
- IN MEMORY MARTHA HELEN KING**
to WSUMC
Given by Barbara DeHamer
- IN MEMORY OF MARTHA HELEN KING**
to WSUMC
Given by Ed McClain & Jim Blanton
- IN MEMORY OF RON QUINN**
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Jane & Charlie Peterson
- IN MEMORY OF DAVID BYRUM**
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Susan Brown
- IN MEMORY OF RON QUINN**
to the Soup Cellar
Given by the Charles Pfeiffer Circle
- IN MEMORY OF JENNIE CURTIS**
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Virginia Vaughan
- IN MEMORY OF MARTHA HELEN KING**
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Ruth Johnson
- IN MEMORY OF MARTHA HELEN KING**
to WSUMC
Given by Barbara & Bobby Williams
- IN MEMORY OF MARTHA HELEN KING**
to the WSUMC
Given by Kelly Barron
- IN MEMORY OF MARTHA HELEN KING**
to the WSUMC
Given by Myra Bristol
- IN MEMORY OF MARTHA HELEN KING**
to the WSUMC
Given by Betty Cribbs

• **The Aldersgate Class:** The class will begin a new series on February 25th based upon the Netflix Series *The Chosen: Season One*. This discussion will center around the various events during the life of Jesus Christ. We will watch various episodes and then have a discussion regarding those scenes. Come join us for a donut, coffee and lively discussions regarding this series and the depictions of the various events as depicted in the Gospels. 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, February 18, we will continue our discussion of *The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory: American Evangelicals in an Age of Extremism* by Tim Alberta. Anne Sinclair will lead a discussion of Chapter One. Next Sunday, February 25, Tom Summers will lead a discussion of Chapter Two. For more information about the class, contact the class president Caroline Seigler at caroline.seigler@gmail.com.

• **The Grace Class:** Diana Westerkam is leading the Grace class on Sunday, Feb. 18. The topic is "Introduction to Lent." Starting Feb. 25, we will have lessons based on Rev. Becky's sermon series. The lesson will be held the week following the sermon so the conversation responds to that particular sermon. 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. If interested, please get in touch with Lee Haynes at lelandhaynesjr@gmail.com or Sylvia Stevens at sylviasaudersstevens@gmail.com.

• **The Open Door Class:** The Open Door Class will start our new 8-week Lenten Study — *Meeting Jesus at the Table* by Cynthia Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr. *From Amazon: Whether multiplying bread to feed a whole crowd, relaxing with his inner circle, or telling curious elites stories about even greater banquets, Jesus imparts wisdom as he shares the wine and grants forgiveness as he distributes the fish. This eight-chapter resource provides biblical insights along with thought-provoking queries regarding our own time, such as whom we should invite to Sunday dinner and who is left out and left behind in our culture today.* Visitors are always welcome! The class meets in person on the third floor and via Zoom each week. For the Zoom link information, contact Ann Jessup at jessup.ann@gmail.com.

• **The Paul Harmon Class:** The Paul Harmon Class is 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.

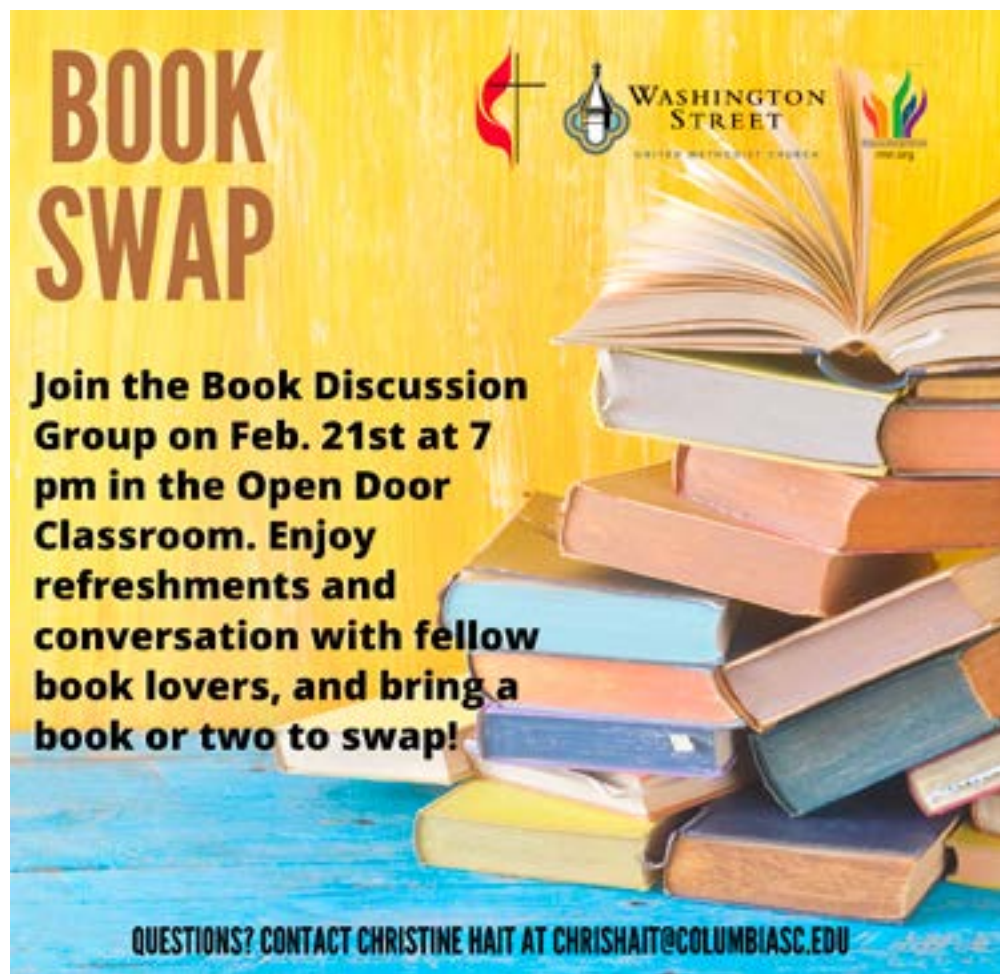
• **Solomon's Porch:** Solomon's Porch is doing an in-depth study of the Book of Genesis. In February, we'll look at stories about Cain and Abel, Noah, and Abraham and Sarah. Anyone interested is welcome to join in. The class meets on the second floor and is led by Rev. Adrienne Fink. For more information, contact Adrienne at ajhamm@umcsc.org.

Daytrippers to Tour Our Church

DayTrippers will be hosting a tour of Washington Street UMC on Wednesday, March 6. The tour begins at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Church historian, Mike Broome, will be our tour guide as we explore our historic church buildings. The tour will end up in the Museum and Archives Room.

After the tour, you are invited to the Lenten Lunch in Threatt Hall. Soup, sandwiches, desserts, and beverages will be served by members of United Women in Faith. Cost is \$8. All proceeds support the WS Soup Cellar.

Please respond to Alston Lippert, aflippert@umcsc.org, or sign up on Realm for tour only or tour and lunch. Lunch will be paid for in Threatt Hall.



Prayer List

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

Prayer Cross



*Just outside of Christ Chapel, there is a wooden cross. We encourage everyone to write a prayer on a slip of paper, fold it, and tuck it, or pin it in fabric draping on the cross.
Prayers will remain confidential.*

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.

SUNDAY, FEB. 18

8:00 am | Daily Lenten Devotional | Facebook/
YouTube
9:30-10:30 am | Choir Rehearsal | Sanctuary
11:00 am-12:00 pm | Worship Service |
Sanctuary & Live stream
4:30-6:00 pm | Youth Group | Youth Room
5:15-7:30 pm | Disciple Group | John Harper
Classroom

MONDAY, FEB. 19

8:00 am | Daily Lenten Devotional | Facebook/
YouTube
11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup
Cellar
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*

TUESDAY, FEB. 20

8:00 am | Daily Lenten Devotional | Facebook/
YouTube
10:00-11:00 | Program Staff Meeting | Holroyd
Prayer Room
11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup
Cellar
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*
6:00-8:00 pm | Private Group Meeting | Disciple
Conference Room*
6:00-7:00 pm | Church Council Meeting | Zoom
6:00-9:00 pm | Palmetto Master Singers | Choir
Room*

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21

8:00 am | Daily Lenten Devotional | Facebook/
YouTube
11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup
Cellar
11:45 am-12:25 pm | Lenten Lunch | Threatt
Hall
12:30-1:00 pm | Lenten Worship | Christ Chapel
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*
6:30-7:30 pm | Choir Practice | Choir Room
7:00-8:00 pm | Lenten Group Study with Ann
Jessup | Zoom

THURSDAY, FEB. 22

8:00 am | Daily Lenten Devotional | Facebook/
YouTube
11:45 am-12:25 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup
Cellar
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*
6:15-9:00 pm | Palmetto Chamber Orchestra | Choir
Room*

FRIDAY, FEB. 23

8:00 am | Daily Lenten Devotional | Facebook/
YouTube
11:45 am-12:25 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup
Cellar
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*

SATURDAY, FEB. 24

8:00 am | Daily Lenten Devotional | Facebook/
YouTube
1:00-3:00 pm | Moms Demand Action | Threatt Hall*

SUNDAY, FEB. 25

8:00 am | Daily Lenten Devotional | Facebook/
YouTube
9:30-10:30 am | Choir Rehearsal | Sanctuary
11:00 am-12:00 pm | Worship Service |
Sanctuary & Live stream
4:30-6:00 pm | Youth Group | Youth Room
5:15-7:30 pm | Disciple Group | John Harper
Classroom

MONDAY, FEB. 26

8:00 am | Daily Lenten Devotional | Facebook/
YouTube
11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup
Cellar
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*
7:00-8:00 pm | Movie Discussion-*Mr. Holland's Opus* |
Wesley Room & Zoom

TUESDAY, FEB. 27

8:00 am | Daily Lenten Devotional | Facebook/
YouTube
10:00-11:00 | Staff Meeting | Wesley Room
11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup
Cellar
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*
6:00-8:00 pm | Private Group Meeting | Disciple
Conference Room*
6:00-9:00 pm | Palmetto Mastersingers | Choir Room*

WEDNESDAY | FEB. 28

8:00 am | Daily Lenten Devotional | Facebook/
YouTube
11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup
Cellar
11:45 am-12:25 pm | Lenten Lunch | Threatt
Hall
12:30-1:00 pm | Lenten Worship | Chapel
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*
6:30-7:30 pm | Choir Practice | Choir Room
7:00-8:00 pm | Lenten Group Study with Ann
Jessup | Zoom

THURSDAY | FEB. 29

8:00 am | Daily Lenten Devotional | Facebook/
YouTube
11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup
Cellar
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*
6:15-9:00 pm | Palmetto Chamber Orchestra | Choir
Room

FRIDAY | MARCH 1

8:00 am | Daily Lenten Devotional | Facebook/
YouTube
11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup
Cellar
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*

SATURDAY | MARCH 2

8:00 am | Daily Lenten Devotional | Facebook/
YouTube
10:00 am-12:00 pm | Sole Mates | Timmerman
Trail

SUNDAY | MARCH 3

8:00 am | Daily Lenten Devotional | Facebook/
YouTube
11:00 am-12:00 pm | Worship Service |
Sanctuary & Live stream
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm | Youth Group | Youth Room
5:15-7:30 pm | Disciple Group | John Harper
Classroom

MONDAY | MARCH 4

8:00 am | Daily Lenten Devotional | Facebook/
YouTube
11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup
Cellar
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar*
4:00-6:00 pm | MSN Board Meeting | Wesley Room



If you're not currently in a Supper Club/Dining Group, and would like to join, we urge you to sign up now by emailing Rev. Alston at aflippert@umcsc.org. We hope you will join us in this wonderful way to meet and get to know new people.