



THE CONNECTION

March 5, 2024

January Church Council Retreat Brings Initiatives

Submitted by Lee Haynes, Council Chairperson

Church Council had their 2024 planning retreat to kick off the year on February 3rd. The council retreat gave us time to welcome and introduce new committee chairs, review recent accomplishments, start a few new initiatives for 2024, and plan for other events and activities anticipated in this new year.

In 2023, the Council instituted a few initiatives to support consistency, coordination, and joint planning ... and also to be more fully transparent to all of you, the congregation. The council has now regularly scheduled meetings six times a year. We now always meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the even months. The meetings are always at 6:00 pm and are nearly always conducted via ZOOM. These meeting dates are also all published on the church calendar in Realm. Highlights from committee reports from the meetings will be published in *The Connection* to ensure each of you is aware of all the ministries and activities going on in the life of the church.

Beginning in 2024, we are posting the draft agenda on the church website ahead of each of those Church Council meetings. On the Church Council page, you will find a link to that draft agenda, plus a folder with all past meeting minutes and other council reference material. You are always invited to attend council meetings, and this new addition to the church website for 2024 is meant to provide you visibility into what topics and what business is being planned and conducted at Washington Street.

One very important topic is currently at the fore front of your council. The 2024 General Conference is planned for the end of April. This year it is in Charlotte, less than 100 miles up the interstate from here. The General Conference is a denomination-wide meeting with delegates from around the world coming together in one location at one time to consider and vote on issues facing the denomination. You most likely are all aware of many of the denominational issues that are facing the United Methodist church today, and are slated for consideration, and for vote at this General Conference. It is an important time to be a Methodist.

To support your pastors and the council leadership, I am asking for your help, and for a few volunteers from the

congregation. Council is forming a sub-committee, a single-purpose, single-focus team of five to six people. The team will actively support the pastors and the council to plan and implement ideas and programs designed to ensure accurate information is shared, and for prayer and preparation in anticipation of any effects we may feel as a result of the actions at General Conference. This temporary, short-term team will work with the pastors and church leadership, and be in existence only for the next few months, but will have the very important charge of helping to ensure the congregation awareness of the issues, and the receipt of the proper support in the days leading up to GC, and the days immediately following GC.

Please consider volunteering. If you are interested, please contact me or Rev. Becky, and we will be in touch with next steps. Thank you.

Lee Haynes, Church Council Chair

ATTENTION PARENTS OF YOUTH

THERE WILL BE A PARENT MEETING FOR ALL YOUTH PARENTS (6TH TO 12TH GRADE) ON SUNDAY, MARCH 10 FROM 4:30-6:00 PM IN THE YOUTH ROOM ON THE 3RD FLOOR

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WSUMC December Church Council Meeting Highlights

(from Dec. 13, 2023)

Finance Committee Report: (Joe Epting)

- The Stewardship Campaign, led by Christine Hait, saw a 19% increase.
- The Foundation is performing well, with the unspent balance rolling forward.
- The O2 accounts consolidation is in progress. The team is exploring moving funds to the Foundation for the interest.

Trustees Report: (Pete Liggett)

• Completed 2023 projects under budget by \$1,400.

• Projects included landscaping, Youth Room, restrooms, painting, and flooring.

• Partnership with Papa Tank Theater is progressing.

• There are plans to begin the library relocation.

• 2024 plans will include: sign replacement, stained glass windows protection, Prayer Room remodel, hallway flooring, and accessibility ramp review.



Papa Tank Theater draws large first meeting.

SPPRC Report: (Lee Smith)

• The Director of Music position was filled. The Director of Engagement search is ongoing.

• The Annual performance assessments of Reverend Becky and Reverend Alston were completed.

• An Advisory Report was submitted. A recommendation

was made for the reappointment of Reverend Becky and Reverend Alston for next year.

Clergy/Pastors Update: (Rev. Becky Shirley, and Rev. Alston Lippert)

• Special worship services for those with memory issues will be starting in January.

• There is now a Safety Team in place and they are continuing their review process.

Bull Street Sign Committee:

• Digital and non-digital sign proposals were presented to Council. It was noted that any changes/alterations must get the City's approval. The Council voted to pursue a non-digital (monument-style) sign, pending further evaluation. This will be one of the Trustees' top priority for 2024.

Announcements:

• A ministry calendar for 2024 is in progress. This is a continuous working document.

• Shelley Stafford's tenure as recording secretary has concluded. Charlotte Broome has been named to take over duties.

• A Leadership planning retreat was planned for January.

• It was announced that the Chapel steeple has new lighting.

The next meeting of Church Council was scheduled for February 20, 2024, at 6:00 pm via Zoom. *(The minutes from the February Council meeting will be published after their approval at the next Council meeting in April.)*

WASHINGTON STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Marina Alexandra

Angelina Reed

String Time Duo

A FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING UKRAINIAN PATRIOT & UMCOR

EACH ORGANIZATION DISTRIBUTES 100% OF ACCUMULATED DONATIONS DIRECTLY TO PEOPLE IN UKRAINE.

UMCOR Global Ministries | The United Methodist Church

UKRAINIAN PATRIOT

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024

7:00 PM | WASHINGTON STREET UMC

1401 Washington St, Columbia, 29201

wsmethodist.org/ukraine | eventbrite.com

803-256-2417

SEATING IS LIMITED. RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

FREE CONCERT | LOVE OFFERINGS & DONATIONS ENCOURAGED

SCAN THE QR CODE TO RESERVE A SEAT/AND OR MAKE A DONATION!



EASTER BREAKFAST
SUNDAY, MARCH 31
10:00 AM | THREATT HALL
Bring something to share. Join us for food & fellowship!

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.

WASHINGTON STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

RAIN DATE: 3/30/24

DAILY DEVOTIONALS CONTINUE ONLINE THROUGH MARCH 24TH!

Devotional Readings from "Transfigured: A 40-Day Journey Through Scripture for Gender-Queer and Transgender People"

by Suzanne DeWitt Hall

WSUMC Museum Announces Formal Opening

At long, long last, the Records and History Committee is pleased to announce the WSUMC museum opening. This formal opening will be held on Sunday, March 10, between 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. During these times, Records and History Committee members will be available in the museum to discuss the museum's refurbishment, to answer questions about the history of our church, and to point out important features of our exhibits. These tours will be entirely self-guided; no docents will provide pre-planned lectures regarding the museum or WSUMC history. Our museum is located on the third floor in the Education Building (turn left upon exiting the elevator and walk to the end of the hall).



We cordially invite you to visit this important space and to experience the ministry of history in our revered old house of worship.

Blessings,
 Mike Broome, Church Historian



Travis Luthren has organized a walking club through Special Olympics. Several church members met him for a Riverbanks Zoo event. Travis has experienced improved health and strength through this club, and encourages others join in with him. To join with Travis, please email abuzzetti@so-sc.org. Pictured are Phil Jenkins, Ann Jessup, Harvey Jessup, Travis Luthren, and Pam Jenkins.

Spotlight on United Women In Faith & New Helping Hands Circle

The United Women in Faith in this church have several very active Circles and we want to help you get to know who we are and what we do. Each month, we will have an article in *The Connection* letting you know about one of our Circles, when they meet, and how they serve our church and our community.

In addition to our established Circles, we have started a new Circle, the Helping Hands Circle! We meet the first Monday of each month in the John Harper Classroom at 6:00 pm and our focus is hands on mission projects. We have a devotion and a light meal before we start working and share fellowship time and lots of laughs as we get to know each other. Our first project was making blankets for the refugee family that WSUMC has adopted, and we understand from Andrea McAtee that the family was excited to get these blankets.

We are now learning to crochet and hope to master this skill so we can make some prayer shawls and maybe some other projects to help spread our love to our Church and our community. Kelly Epting has her work cut out for her as she

volunteered to teach us. We had fun, but realized, it may take a while for us to become proficient crocheting ladies.

The Bible verse that helps keep us grounded is: 1 Peter 4:10-11 - "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Please feel free to visit us and help with our mission projects or just come by and share in the fun.

Submitted by:

Debra Schooler, President
United Women in Faith
Washington Street UMC



Preparing for General Conference

Beginning on April 23 and ending on May 3 of this year, the United Methodist Church will gather in Charlotte, NC for the first General Conference since 2019. Normally, General Conference meets once every 4 years, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 General Conference did not take place.

General Conference sets the rules and establishes procedures for virtually every aspect of the church's life. It also communicates the denomination's official position on a variety of issues and cultural challenges. General Conference is the only body that can set official policy and speak for our international denomination.

In order to educate ourselves about how decisions are made at General Conference, who votes, why it matters and how we can get involved in the process, we invite you to join us on **Sunday, March 17 at 3:00 p.m.** in the Washington Street UMC Sanctuary.

UMC **Bishop Ken Carder**, who was selected to give the Episcopal Address at the 2004 General Conference, will be our **guest speaker** for this event.

Bishop Carder was elected to the episcopacy in 1992 by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church. He was assigned to the Nashville Episcopal Area, effective September 1, 1992 and was assigned to the Mississippi Area in 2000, where he served until retiring in 2004. He is currently living in South Carolina with his wife, Norma.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

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

umnews.com
General Info

umcresource.com
Beginners Guide

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

Sunday School Updates

• **The Aldersgate Class:** The class began a new series on February 25th. It is 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, March 3, we will continue our discussion of *The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory: American Evangelicals in an Age of Extremism* by Tim Alberta. Mary Edmunds will lead a discussion of Chapter Three. Next Sunday, March 10, Hunter Rentz will lead a discussion of Chapter Four. For more information about the class, contact the class president Caroline Seigler at caroline.seigler@gmail.com.

• **The Grace Class:** The class is discussing 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. March 3: Is the Bible reliable? Hebrews 4:12-14; March 10: Why should I go to Church? Psalm 100. 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 continues 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:** In the next couple of weeks the Paul Harmon Class will be finishing up the discussion of *The First Christmas* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. After that, we look forward to Mike Broome's lessons on "Reflections on Religion and Contemporary Southern Literature." Visitors are always welcome! 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.

Gifts

(as of 2-28-24)

IN MEMORY OF MARTHA HELEN KING

to WSUMC

Given by Circle #6

IN MEMORY OF MARY SUTHERLAND

to the Foundation

Given by Sylvia & Bill Hulbert

MEMORY OF MARTHA HELEN KING

to WSUMC

Given by Fain Cravens

IN MEMORY OF HELEN CARTER

to the Soup Cellar

Given by James Carter

Rev. Becky Shirley joins the entire staff and Washington Street Church family in expressing our deepest sympathy and Christian love to Patti and John Beerman, and their family in the death of Patti's sister, Tara Spiers.

Prayer List

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

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, 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*

Tuesday, March 5

8:00 am | Daily Lenten Devotional | Facebook/YouTube
10:00-11:00 am | Circle 6 | John Harper Classroom
10:00-11:00 am | 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*
6:00-7:00 pm | Reconciling Next Meeting | Zoom
 6:00-9:00 pm | Palmetto Mastersingers | Choir Room*

Wednesday, March 6

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 Lunch Service | 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 Study Group with Ann Jessup | Zoom

Thursday, March 7

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*

Friday, March 8

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 9

8:00 am | Daily Lenten Devotional | Facebook/YouTube

Sunday, March 10

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 & livestream
4:30-6:00 pm | Youth Parent Meeting | Youth Room
5:15-7:30 pm | Disciple Group | John Harper Classroom

Monday, March 11

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

Tuesday, March 12

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*
 6:00-9:15 pm | Palmetto Mastersingers | Choir Room*

Wednesday, March 13

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 Lunch Service | 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 Study Group with Ann Jessup | Zoom

Thursday, March 14

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*
5:30-6:30 pm | Circle 2 | Wesley Room
 6:15-9:00 pm | Palmetto Chamber Orchestra*

March Birthdays

March 6 Charles Joye	March 14 Tommy Gibbs	March 20 Carol Fowler Janelle Rivers Harmon Geddes	March 28 Genie Quinn Kay Ross Rusty Poole
March 8 Kelly Epting Barbara Ann Walker	March 16 Nell Huffman	March 22 Lake Barrett	March 31 Jim Webber
March 9 Sheri Edwards	March 17 Jessica Hall Mary Elizabeth Brooks	March 23 Swann Adams	
March 10 Julian Ruffin	March 18 Robbie Douglas	March 27 Wendy Franklin Dave Mills	
March 11 Betty Moore	March 19 Steve Hait		
March 12 Layne Powers John S. Galloway			



Vacancy Announcement Director of Children and Youth Ministries

The full-time Director will oversee all aspects of children and youth ministries (birth–high school), including equipping, and celebrating volunteers and staff, and aligning family ministries with the overall vision and mission of WSUMC. Consideration will be given to dividing the position into two part-time positions, one for children and the other for youth. For a detailed job description, contact Robbie Douglas at 803.256.2417.