



THE CONNECTION

May 26, 2024

1401 Washington St., Columbia, SC 29201 | 803-256-2417

National Gun Violence Awareness Day is June 9 Wear Orange to show your support!

On Sunday, June 9, we're encouraging Washington Streeters to wear orange to church to show their support for National Gun Violence Awareness Day. This first full weekend in June has been designated by Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, a national group dedicated to gun safety, as a time for the community to come together and demonstrate our collective power in addressing gun violence. This year marks the 10th year the group has taken such action.

There are three ways you can act to bring the importance of firearm safety and anti-violence to the forefront during Wear Orange to End Gun Violence weekend, June 7-9:

1. **Wear Orange:** Please consider wearing orange that weekend, especially to Washington Street's Sunday Service on June 9.

2. Attend the "**BE SMART Presentation**" on Sunday, June 9, at 9:45 a.m. There will be a presentation in the chapel by BE SMART, an educational campaign on gun safety. All Sunday School classes are invited to attend in lieu of their regular class that Sunday.

This program is designed to encourage adults to safely store and handle firearms. As parents and grandparents, it's crucial to know where our young ones are in relation to our own guns, as well as the guns stored in our children's friends' houses. The role gun storage plays in suicide prevention will also be emphasized. You will learn how to identify political candidates who support legislation promoting gun safety. There are steps we can all take to raise and support our personal stances on the role of guns in our society. This program is highly engaging and informative. There will be a Q&A session and time to review useful written materials. The session will end in time to attend the 11:00 a.m. service.

Why Orange?

On January 21, 2013, Hadiya Pendleton marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade. One week later, Hadiya was shot and killed on a playground in Chicago. Soon after this tragedy, Hadiya's friends commemorated her life by wearing orange, the color hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others. Wear Orange is now observed every June. Thousands of people wear the color orange to honor Hadiya and the more than 43,000 Americans who are killed with guns and the approximately 76,000 more who are shot and wounded every year.

3. **Join the "Wear Orange Walk":** Mark your calendars for **Saturday, June 8**. Wear orange and participate in the "Wear Orange Walk." If you're a member of Sole-Mates (Washington Street's walking/running/hiking group), or just love to walk, we would especially love for you to take part in this opportunity to gather with us and with other individuals for a one-mile walk between two nearby downtown churches for a good cause. The walk will begin at 9:00 a.m. at Antioch Baptist Church, and conclude at Bethlehem Baptist Church, where there will be a community unity celebration.

The National Gun Violence Awareness programs during the weekend of June 7 are being conducted so that we, as concerned citizens, can learn actions to reduce gun violence in our community. We often feel there's little we can do. It's hoped you leave these programs realizing you can make a difference.

--MJ Fox
Racial Justice Action Team

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 1	National Gun Violence Awareness Day
PAGE 2	Congratulations Grads! Memorial & Honorary Gifts
PAGE 3	Sunday School Updates Prayer List Summer Movie Discussions
PAGE 4	Meetings/Events Birthdays

Congratulations 2024 WSUMC Grads!



Mary Elizabeth Brooks graduated from SC Whitmore School. She is the daughter of Laurin and Scott Clark (stepfather), Aaron Brooks (father), and granddaughter of Suzanne Joye. She will be attending Midlands Tech in the fall. **Natalie Hefelfinger** graduated from River Bluff High School with honors. She plans to pursue a BS in Respiratory Therapy through Midlands Technical College and Newberry College. She is the daughter of David and Susan Hefelfinger. **Sam Schatz**, a Dreher High School graduate, is the son of Sara Wilcox and Jeff Schatz. He will be attending the University of Iowa in the fall, majoring in Nursing. **Kirby Leitner, Jr.** from AC Flora High School is the son of Jean and Kirby Leitner. He will be attending Clemson University in the fall, majoring in Criminal Justice. **Spencer Stevens** from Irmo High International School of the Arts is the son of Sylvia and Gary Stevens and grandson of Boyd and Stephanie Saunders. He will be attending USC Honors College, majoring in Theatre with a concentration in Design and Technology. **Ana Sophia Hait** graduated from the University of South Carolina with a B.A. in English and is the daughter of Christine and Steve Hait. **Erin Suzanne Johnson** graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law with two degrees: a J.D. in law and an M.H.R. (Masters in Human Resources). She is the daughter of Emily and Robin Johnson and granddaughter of Suzanne and Jack Hurley. **Jake Johnson** also graduated with a J.D. degree from Tulane University School of Law. He is the son of Emily and Robin Johnson and grandson of Suzanne and Jack Hurley. **Catherine Lippert Min**, daughter of Rev. Alston Lippert, received a Masters in Earth and Environmental Resource Management from USC. **Linnea Westerkam** earned her MD from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, and is the granddaughter of Bill and Rev. Diana Westerkam.

Gifts

(as of 5-20-24)

IN MEMORY OF JUNE DERRICK

to the Soup Cellar

Given by Anna and Will Haltiwanger, Jr

IN MEMORY OF JUNE DERRICK

to the Soup Cellar

Given by Carole & Frank Burke

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT "BOB" HANLIN

to the Foundation

Given by Sarah & Ed Fisher

IN MEMORY OF DEREK JOYE

to the Paul Harmon Class

Given by Dotsy & Marshall Colcord

IN MEMORY OF LIN FESPERMAN LORD

to the Fesperman Fund

Given by Clarice Howell

IN MEMORY OF LIN FESPERMAN LORD

to the Fesperman Fund

Given by Liz & Michael Reynolds

IN MEMORY OF LIN FESPERMAN LORD

to the Fesperman Fund

Given by Wendy & Joe Clark

IN MEMORY OF

DR. WILLIAM BOGGS

to the Foundation

Given by Wendy & Joe Clark

IN MEMORY OF DEREK JOYE

to the Foundation

Given by Wendy & Joe Clark

Sunday School Updates

• **The Aldersgate Class:** The class has began a study of *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith* by Adam Hamilton. Join us while we study this book and listen to Adam Hamilton discuss this topic by way of a DVD. All are welcome! Join us for coffee and donuts and listen to this exciting series. 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, May 26, we will continue our discussion of *The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory: American Evangelicals in an Age of Extremism*. Anne Sinclair will lead a discussion of Chapter Twelve. Next Sunday, June 2, Melanie Dobson will lead a discussion on General Conference. Class members who join from home use FreeConferenceCall and should call in between 9:50 and 10:00 am. 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:** The class is discussing topics of choice. This Sunday, Joel Jones will lead the class. On June 2, Christine Hait will lead. 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 Open Door Class:** The Open Door is currently studying Max Lucado's *In the Footsteps of the Savior*. This series gives the reader glimpses of the Holy Land during Jesus's ministry. 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 class continues lessons with Dr. Mike Broome on "Reflections on Religion and Southern Literature." Some of the writers we will study are Rick Bragg, Bailey White, Fannie Flagg, Flannery O'Connor, Harper Lee, Maya Angelou, William Faulkner, and John Crowe Ransom. Visitors are always welcome. If you have questions, please contact Sally Mings at sallymings@gmail.com.

• **Solomon's Porch:** Solomon's Porch continues with their in-depth study of the Book of Genesis. 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.

Prayer List

Ann Bell
John Benfield
Ron Bowden
Sue Dillon
Mickey Epting
Nancy Epting
Carl Evans
Pat Griffin
Karen Horne
Lisa Johnson

Jean Kaness
Beverly McClanahan
Paul McClanahan
Sharon McCullough
Ellen Parker
Shawn Powers
Peggy Ward
Nancy Williams
Our homebound

Movie Discussions: Summer 2024 — Discrimination and Civil Rights

We live in a world where some people think they are better than others. This notion often leads to discrimination against individuals who look or act differently from those in positions of power or authority. Such categorization of people contradicts God's vision of the Beloved Community, where everyone is equally loved and valued.

This summer, we'll be watching and discussing movies centered around individuals who confronted discrimination. We'll delve into the obstacles they encountered, how they endeavored to overcome them, whether they succeeded, and whether their actions made a lasting impact for future generations. We invite you to join us at 7:00 pm in the Wesley room or on Zoom for these discussions. All movies are available on Netflix.

June 24 - "Race"—Based on the story of Jesse Owens, the athletic superstar



whose quest to become the greatest track and field athlete in history propels him onto the world stage of the 1936 Olympics, where he confronts Adolf Hitler's vision of Aryan supremacy.

July 22 - "Shirley"—Based on the story of Shirley Chisholm, who made a groundbreaking bid for the 1972 Democratic presidential nomination after becoming the first Black woman elected to Congress.

August 26 - "Rustin"—Based on the story of Bayard Rustin, the mastermind behind the 1963 March on Washington. Rustin challenged authority unapologetically and, despite his historic contributions, was often overlooked. "Rustin" sheds light on the man who, alongside Martin Luther King Jr., dared to envision a different world and sparked a movement.

Email afflippert@umcsc.org or visit Realm to register.

CALENDAR OF 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, May 27—Memorial Day

Church office & CDC closed

Tuesday, May 28

10:00-11:00 am | Staff Meeting | Wesley Room

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

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

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

6:30-8:00 pm | Private Meeting | Room varies*

Wednesday, May 29

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 | Choir Practice | Choir Room

Thursday, May 30

10:30-11:30 am | Tai-Chi Class | Threath Hall*

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, May 31

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

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

Sunday, June 2

Ecuador Mission Trip (through June 11)

11:00 am-12:00 pm | Worship Service | Sanctuary & Live stream

12:00-3:00 pm | Safe Sanctuary Training |

Solomon's Porch

12:00-12:40 pm | Personal Prayer & Sharing | Christ Chapel

4:30-6:00 pm | Youth Group | Youth Room

5:00-8:00 pm | Papa Tank | Threath Hall*

Monday, June 3

Ecuador Mission Trip (through June 11)

10:00 am-3:00 pm | CDC Staff Orientation | John Harper Classroom

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

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

5:00-8:00 pm | Papa Tank | Chapel*

5:00-6:00 pm | SPPRC Meeting | Wesley Room

Tuesday, June 4

Ecuador Mission Trip (through June 11)

10:00-11:00 am | Program Staff Meeting | Becky's Office

10:00-11:00 am | Circle 6

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

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

5:00-8:00 pm | Papa Tank | Chapel*

Wednesday, June 5

Ecuador Mission Trip (through June 11)

9:00 am-2:00 pm | Gracious Goodness | Kitchen

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

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

5:00-8:00 pm | Papa Tank | Chapel*

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

Thursday, June 6

Ecuador Mission Trip (through June 11)

10:00-11:00 am | Tai-Chi | Room varies*

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

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

5:00-8:00 pm | Papa Tank | Chapel*

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

Friday, June 7

Ecuador Mission Trip (through June 11)

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

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

2:00-4:00 pm | Derek Joye Reception | Threath Hall

4:00-5:00 pm | Derek Joye Service | Sanctuary

5:00-8:00 pm | Papa Tank | Chapel*

Saturday, June 8

Ecuador Mission Trip (through June 11)

11:00 am-3:30 pm | Genie Quinn Service & Reception | Sanctuary, Wesley Room/Kitchen/Threath Hall

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

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

3:00-4:00 pm | Papa Tank Performance | Christ Chapel

CHECK OUT PAPA TANK PERFORMANCES

JUNE 8-9 | CHRIST CHAPEL | 3-4:00 PM

[/www.eventbrite.com/e/when-the-trees-sing-tickets-882918662487?aff=oddtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/when-the-trees-sing-tickets-882918662487?aff=oddtcreator)

