



Marching Towards Freedom



This year America celebrates the 61st anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. In May of 1963, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference joined with A. Phillip Randolph of the Negro American Labor Council to plan the march. Mr. Randolph was interested in economic equality. Rev. Dr. King was concerned about the violence in Alabama, and he was pressing President John Kennedy to push for a Civil Rights Act that would end discrimination. They wanted Americans to stand up against discrimination in peaceful protest.

They invited leaders from other civil rights organizations and faith groups to join them. Randolph's top aide, Bayard Rustin, a brilliant organizer, was tasked with planning and organizing the March that was scheduled

for August 28, 1963. He pulled together a team of 200 volunteers with funding from the Civil Rights leaders.

There were music, performances, speeches and politics. One commentator said that it was about the people who attended. Some 250,000 attended from all over the country. Blacks, Whites, Native Americans, Christians, Jews and others came. Many were poor and had to scrape up money to get there. They sang, had picnics together and heard powerful speeches. The March culminated with the epic "I Have A Dream" speech by MLK (giderlehrman.org).

The March on Washington played a significant role in the passage of the Civil Rights Act that was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on July 2, 1964. It was not easy, yet he was able to push it through Congress. The bill prohibited discrimination in public places, provided for the integration of schools and other public places, made employment discrimination illegal, and enforced the Constitutional right to vote. (from the National Archives).

I encourage you to read or listen to Dr. King's speech because the work is still not finished. I also urge you to watch the movie "Rustin" and join in the discussion of it on August 26th at 7:00 p.m.

**August 25, 2024
11 am Service**

Studying scripture is one of the most important ways we learn about God, that's why each Fall as the new school year begins, we give each third grade student a personal Bible in recognition that they are old enough to study and read the story of God for themselves.

Parents and guardians of all third grade children are asked to contact Rev. Kathy James (kljames@umcsc.org) if you have questions and to ensure that your third grader's name is listed correctly in the presentation.

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Running the Race with Team Jesus: Celebrating 2024 Vacation Bible School

In the spirit of Hebrews 12:1-2, which urges believers to run with perseverance, fixing their eyes on Jesus, Washington Street UMC embraced this theme wholeheartedly during their 2024 Vacation Bible School (VBS) titled "Team Jesus: Becoming Champions for Christ."

This annual event brought together children from the church community and beyond, including the Child Development Center, for a week of learning, fun, and spiritual growth.

Throughout the week, kids immersed themselves in stories from both the Old and New Testaments, discovering timeless lessons of faith. Music, storytelling, crafts, and games were all part of the curriculum designed to reinforce key messages:

- The importance of shining Christ's light through caring for others.
- Finding strength in God during difficult times.
- Harnessing the power of positive words to make a difference.
- Emphasizing the impact of teamwork as God works through unified efforts.

A highlight of the VBS was the children's hands-on activity of assembling trail mix bags for the Soup Cellar, embodying the spirit of service and outreach taught during the week.

The success of the VBS was not just about lessons learned, but also about the community effort behind it. Long-time leaders and newer volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure a meaningful experience for every child. Youth Helpers, Hayden Rowe, Ellis Rose, and Jacob Schatz played vital roles, embodying the enthusiasm and energy of younger participants.

As the week concluded, there was a collective sense of gratitude and accomplishment among participants and organizers alike. Each person involved, whether child, volunteer, or leader, contributed to making "Team Jesus" a resounding success. Their dedication not only enriched the lives of the children but also strengthened the bonds of faith and community within Washington Street UMC.

In closing, if you encounter any of these devoted individuals who made VBS 2024 possible, take a moment to express your appreciation for their ministry. Their efforts truly exemplify what it means to run the race marked out for us with perseverance and faith.

Looking ahead, planning for next year's VBS is already underway. Organizers are eager to set dates that accommodate family schedules and ensure maximum participation. Those interested in joining the planning team are encouraged to reach out to Kathy James at kljames@umcsc.org.



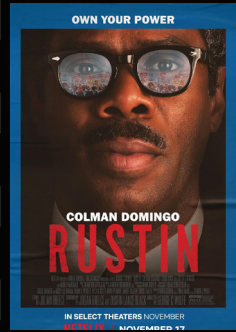


Summer Movie Discussions

AUG
26
7 P.M.

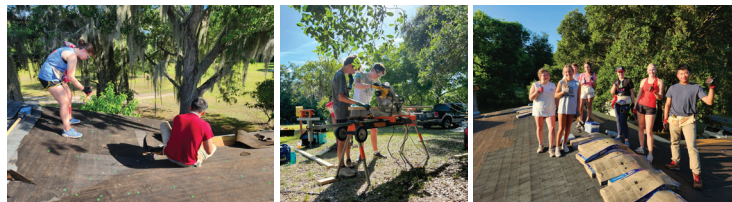
Based on the story of Bayard Rustin, the architect of 1963's March on Washington. Rustin challenged authority and never apologized for who he was, but was forgotten despite making history.

Rustin spotlights the man alongside Martin Luther King Jr., who dared to imagine a different world and inspired a movement.



Scan this QR code to register and learn more or email Alston at aflippert@wmcsc.org.

Salkehatchie 2024: RECAP



The Penn Center Salkehatchie Camp, with 54 campers in 2024, undertook the ambitious five day task of renovating 4 homes located on St. Helena and Lady's Islands near Beaufort, SC. Each day, we dedicated

8-9 hours to our tasks. We overcame obstacles, formed lasting friendships, and experienced miracles. Here's a brief overview of the work we did on each home.

Ms. Roxie, bravely battling incurable cancer, dreamed of providing stability for her teenage children. McCullough Adams, Asher Zhong, Darby Waund, and Alston Lippert stepped in to transform her home with a new roof, essential kitchen repairs, and updated appliances.

A resident of St. Helena Island, Mr. Frank's home underwent a remarkable transformation under the dedicated efforts of Maddy Foley, Dane Waund, and Micha Roth. The group provided a new

roof, repaired ceilings and walls and added thoughtful organization, Mrs. Emma and Mr. Daniel saw their home adorned with a new roof, bathroom, and upgraded kitchen facilities, courtesy of Kirby Leitner, Spencer Stevens, and Mark Catoe.

Then there was Mr. Robert, a disabled Marine battling End Stage Renal Disease, whose home received a new roof, accessible features, and thorough extermination efforts thanks to Elijah Hughes, Thompson Adams, Natalie Hefelfinger, and Leslie Leitner.

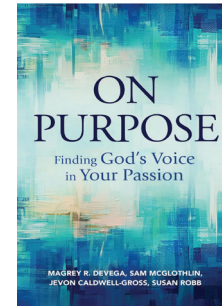
Marshall Robinson managed the kitchen, and Beth Robinson and Susan Caskey served as assistant camp directors. The entire St. Helena community shared its support and appreciation, as shown by the number of churches that provided meals and local businesses that offered free or discounted services.

Thank you to Mark Catoe and Dane Waund. We truly appreciate your ability to connect, teach, and demonstrate the work of a servant's heart.

We are thankful for the monetary donations, funding for the rental of a shower trailer, sending volunteers,

and all the much-unseen support. Thank you for supporting the Penn Center Salkehatchie Camp.

Interested in taking part in this incredible mission? We have various opportunities for you, including assisting in the kitchen, serving as a camper to work on a home, and being a runner who assists with supply pick-ups and purchases. Your talents can be showcased during the week of June 14th-21st, 2025.



On Purpose Bible Study

Starting August 7th, the Wednesday night Bible study, conducted via Zoom, will focus on the book "On Purpose: Finding God's Voice in Your Passion."

Authored by Magrey deVega, Sam McGlothlin, Jevon Caldwell-Gross, and Susan Robb, the book aims to help participants discover God's purpose for their lives, learn to hear His voice, and take steps towards fulfilling His call. Participants will explore how to align their passions with God's plan and live a purposeful life.

The study sessions will run from 7:00-8:00 PM throughout August. For more details or to join, Please contact Ann Jessup at Jessup.ann@gmail.com.



A Message from Tom Wall

Dear Washington Street UMC family,

Some of you may know that I have concluded my time as the United Methodist campus minister at USC after 34 years. For this next year, I am appointed as the pastor of Cayce UMC. I want to let you all know how very grateful I am for Washington Street UMC.

No church has supported me and UMC campus ministry as you have. Thank you! A number of you have served on the Wesley Foundation (MSN/PALM) board. Others have supported us financially, collected glasses for us, or transported us and our luggage to the airport on our mission trips. Many Sunday school classes, the UMW, Circles, and the Missions Committee have fed and supported us financially, especially our missions.

I hope you know that you have been generous and faithful partners in this vital ministry to young adults. I/we simply could not have done it without you.

And so many students have had their eyes opened and prophetic consciences pricked serving in the Soup Cellar and on Saturday mornings serving breakfast in the parking lot. Thank you! I will continue to see you and serve with you as I can. Washington Street continues to be my (and my family's) spiritual home. In the meantime....

**Every blessing,
Tom**

Sunday School Updates

Grace Class:

We will continue our summer series of individual, weekly, facilitator-chosen topics. We'd love to have you join us! Contact Jim Lane at jlane132@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Open Door Class:

We will study "A Grace-Full Life: God's All Reaching, Soul-Saving, Character Shaping, Never Ending Love" by Jorge Acevedo and Wes Olds. Themes include:

- **Prevenient grace:** God's wooing or drawing grace
- **Justifying grace:** God's saving grace
- **Sanctifying grace:** God's grace that makes us more like Jesus
- **Glorifying grace:** God's grace that welcomes us to eternity.

All are welcome to join. For further questions, please contact Ann Jessup at Jessup.ann@gmail.com.

Aldersgate Class:

We are engaged in a series of lessons based upon Rev. Adam Hamilton's book, The Lord's Prayer. The challenge is to really know the prayer, to understand and appreciate the meaning and power of its words. Through it Jesus teaches us how to pray, and how to live as his followers. For questions, contact David Anderson,

803-318-8821; danderson@richardsonplowden.com.

Paul Harmon Class:

We will be revisiting the Gospel of Matthew in the coming weeks, led by class member Randy Elswick. Visitors are welcome! Please contact Sally Mings at sallymings@gmail.com if more information is needed.