



## A Season of Thanksgiving: Reflecting on Gratitude in November

**As the leaves turn and the harvest is gathered, November invites us to pause and reflect on the blessings we have received. In Scripture, gratitude is woven throughout the tapestry of faith.**

*Grateful  
thankful  
blessed*

**Psalm 107:1 reminds us:** "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." This verse serves as a powerful reminder that our gratitude is not only for what we have but also for who God is—a steadfast source of love and mercy.

**In the spirit of the harvest, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 encourages us:** "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." This passage calls us to cultivate a heart of thankfulness, not just in moments of abundance, but in every season of life.

As we gather with family and friends this November, **let us reflect on Colossians 3:15**, which says, "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." In our moments of fellowship, may our gratitude strengthen our bonds and deepen our understanding of God's grace.

**Let us also remember the example of Jesus, who, before breaking bread, gave thanks to the Father (Matthew 26:26).** In our meals and gatherings, we can honor this tradition by expressing gratitude for the sustenance and love that surrounds us.

**As November unfolds, may we embrace a spirit of thankfulness, recognizing that every good gift comes from above (James 1:17).** Let us commit to daily acts of gratitude, fostering a heart that echoes the eternal truth of God's goodness.



### Join us at The WELL

**The WELL is a special 30-minute service held at Christ Chapel on November 21 from 11am to 11:30am** This service features familiar hymns, an interactive Jesus story, and communion. Everyone, particularly individuals living with dementia, autism, or other challenges, along with their care partners, are warmly invited to experience this uniquely tailored service.

### PRAYER OF GRATITUDE & REMEMBRANCE

Christ of love,

As we enter this season of gratitude and thanksgiving, we pause to reflect on the blessings in our lives. We thank You for the gifts of family, friends, and community, and for the love that surrounds us.

We also take a moment to remember those who have passed from our lives. May their memories bring us comfort and inspire us to cherish each moment with those we hold dear. Help us honor their legacy by living with gratitude, kindness, and compassion.

As we gather in worship, let our hearts be open to Your presence, and guide us to express our thankfulness through our actions. May our church be a place of love and support, where we uplift one another and celebrate the gift of life.

In Your holy name, we pray.  
Amen.



## Connections

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# Connections

wsmethodist.org

November 2024



## Six Things to Know about our Soup Cellar

1. The Soup Cellar, located on the Marion Street side of the church, opened on October 15, 1979. Twelve people were served on the first day. Fast forward 45 years: an average of 121 meals are served each day, five days a week. During the first year, only Washington Street staff and members of the congregation served the meals. Today, 13 churches, along with a group from the Methodist Student Network at USC and a group of women who call themselves Proverbs 31, send volunteers.
2. The Soup Cellar is funded completely by donations from churches, organizations, and individual donors. It obtains food at a minimal cost from the Harvest Hope Food Bank through two federal programs. Additional food and supplies are purchased using donations. On November 3 and November 10, women from the Toni White Circle will be handing out paper grocery bags for members of the congregation to fill with items from a Soup Cellar wish list stapled to the bags. On November 17, the bags will be returned to the altar. In addition to food, checks are also appreciated.
3. Terrence Chisolm, the Soup Cellar manager, calls himself a creative cook. Before coming to Washington Street, Terrence cooked for 2,500 soldiers at Fort Jackson and then at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel on Bush River Road, among other places.
4. When the pandemic hit in March 2020, the Soup Cellar switched from a sit-down lunch to a takeout bag lunch without soup. Church volunteers stopped coming. A couple of months into the pandemic, when the doors were reopened for lunch, a crowd began chanting, "We want soup. We want soup." Ever since, the Soup Cellar has served soup on most days.
5. In 2017, Washington Street received the Servant's Heart Award from the Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless, "in recognition of a commitment to individuals experiencing homelessness while maintaining a spirit of humility."
6. If you would like to volunteer in the Soup Cellar, contact Robbie Douglas, chairman of the Soup Cellar Committee and the church's business administrator. Washington Street members volunteer on most Mondays and Thursdays during the month.



## Reserve your Christmas poinsettia

**Poinsettias are on sale now for \$30 each.** They are both red and white with full, high-quality blooms. You can designate your poinsettia in honor OR in memory of someone, whose name will be listed on a bulletin insert.

*Plants can be picked up after the Christmas Eve service.* A completed order form with your payment is due no later than Sunday, November 10th.

Members of Active Faith will have a table outside the narthex on October 27, November 3 & November 10 to receive your donations by cash, credit card, or check. Payments can also be made online but must be accompanied with a completed form. Proceeds will support missions projects sponsored by Active Faith.





# CELEBRATIONS

## We're thrilled to celebrate the incredible generosity of our community!



As of October 18, 2024, we've raised \$4,065 for flood buckets and hygiene kits, not including additional supplies donated, bringing us to nearly \$5,000. Plus, UMCOR donations have reached an impressive \$7,890!

We are enhancing the flow of Children's Moments and Children's Church to provide a wonderful music experience for our kids. Here's what to expect: After Children's Moments, all children (up to Grade 6) will be led to the choir room behind the sanctuary for a 15-minute "choir practice." After practice, children aged 5 and under will be escorted to the Children's Church room, while those older will return to the sanctuary to join their parents. We can't wait for the kids to share their musical

## Nativity Sets Needed for Advent Display

Active Faith is pleased to announce that we will once again showcase nativity sets for our congregation and the community during Advent. We will display loaned sets from our congregation in "Nativities From Around the World." **It will be held on Sunday, December 15, from 9:30am to 12:30pm and again before the Sing Along Messiah on Monday, December 16, from 5pm to 7pm.** The primary location will be the Chapel, but we will also include additional designated areas in the church.



We are asking for unique nativities. We were blessed with beautiful sets two years ago and hope to display them along with new entries this year. **We will be accepting the nativities from Monday afternoon, December 9, through Thursday afternoon, December 12.** We will have someone positioned in each area where nativity sets are displayed to provide security. You can pick up your nativity sets on December 17 and 18.

If you are willing to participate in this year's event, please let Deborah Rowe (rkrdrtr@bellsouth.net) or Sam Waldrep (swaldrep@sc.rr.com) know and provide a brief description (number of pieces, origin, etc.) of your set(s).

talents! They'll be singing during worship on Sunday, November 17, and Sunday, December 8. We're looking forward to this new adventure together!

The Sole Mates group has made a remarkable impact with two successful walking events: the Walk for Life and the Walk 2 End Alzheimer's. Both events brought together community members to raise awareness and funds for important causes.



The young professionals had an amazing time at their recent game night, filled with laughter and fun. They've decided to make it a regular event! If you're interested in joining or have any questions, email Kathy James at [kljames@umcsc.org](mailto:kljames@umcsc.org).



## Sunday School Updates

### Aldersgate Class: 2nd floor

We will begin a six-week study of Amy-Jill Levine's *The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News*. The gospel message comes alive as you see Jesus as divine and human, powerful and weak, approachable yet mysterious. Discover the good news in the Bible's earliest Gospel. Everyone is welcome—come join us for coffee and a donut. If you have any questions, please contact David A. Anderson via text or call at 803-318-8821.

### Grace Class: 3rd floor

On November 13, Diana Westerkam will lead a discussion on *the Saints of the Church*. For the rest of November, we will discuss the last chapter of *The False White Gospel* by Jim Wallis and explore how to be peacemakers, along with advocacy issues and efforts by WSUMC.

### Dawsey Class: 2nd floor

In November, we will begin our study of *The Difficult Words of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings* by Amy-Jill Levine, a professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies. Anne Sinclair will organize the discussion leaders for this book. If you have questions, reach out to her at [asinclair1@bellsouth.net](mailto:asinclair1@bellsouth.net). On November 17, we will join the other adult Sunday school classes for breakfast and to welcome our missionaries from Ecuador, Sara Flores and Dakin Cook. Class members joining from home will use FreeConferenceCall and should call in between 9:50am and 10am. The call-in number is (701) 802-5115, and the access code is 7252934.

### Open Door Class: 3rd floor

We will study Adam Hamilton's *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life* during November. All are welcome to join us for this thought-provoking study. Contact [Jessup.ann@gmail.com](mailto:Jessup.ann@gmail.com) for more information.

### Paul Harmon Class: 3rd floor

Starting November 10, the Paul Harmon Class will be studying *A People's History of Christianity* by Diana Butler Bass.

### Solomon's Porch & Joy Class: 2nd floor

During November, Joy Class will join Solomon's Porch. We will continue exploring the women of the Torah using *Womanist Midrash* by Wil Gafney. Please contact Adrienne Fink at [ajhamm@umcsc.org](mailto:ajhamm@umcsc.org) for more information. Everyone is welcome!

### John Harper Class: 1st floor

We will discuss lessons from Cokesbury's *Adult Bible Studies*. For more information, contact Tracy Powers at [tjpowers65@gmail.com](mailto:tjpowers65@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Events



**Sunday, Nov.10 @ 12pm Sandwich and Soup Lunch in Threatt Hall** Join us as we wrap up our Kindness Campaign for Stewardship this year and celebrate and reflect on the acts of kindness that have made an impact in our community.

KILLINGSWORTH  
transforming women

### Killingsworth Gala Thursday, Nov.14, 2024, 6pm - 9pm

Rev. Becky is will be modeling in an upcoming fashion show for Killingsworth, a United Methodist-supported ministry dedicated to helping women in transition. For tickets visit: <https://square.link/u/k6DHTwnl>

### Sunday, Nov. 17 @ 10am

Join us during the Sunday School Hour as Sara Flores and Dakin cook, UMC missionaries in Ecuador share about their work and ways our support makes a difference.



### Sing Along Messiah Monday, Dec. 16 @ 7pm

Reservations open on Nov. 15. Admission is free; however, a small refundable deposit is required to secure your spot (refunds made at check-in). Stay tuned for updates on our Facebook and Instagram pages!