



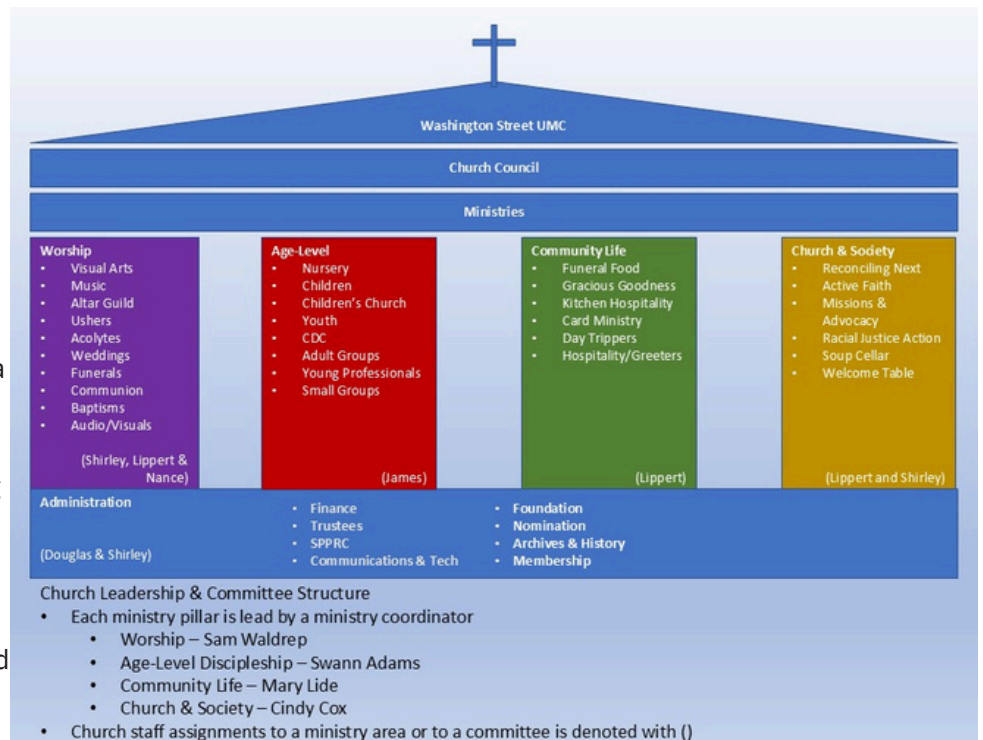
October 2024



The Four Pillars of The Church

A diagram depicting the Four Pillars of the Church can have many purposes, according to Lee Haynes, chairman of the Church Council.

- If you are a new member of Washington Street, it might be able to help show you where you want to participate.
- If you have been a member for a while, it might suggest a new area of activity.
- It also lets everyone know what our tithes and offerings are being put towards.



As we emerged from the pandemic a couple of years ago, the Church Council renewed the visioning efforts it had started in the Renewal 2020 plan.

The diagram grew out of these goal-

setting exercises. Lee drew the picture, and Revs. Becky and Alston signed off on it.

“I’m a very visual person,” Lee said, and the diagram shows how “everything we do lines up and works together.”

The Four Pillars are Worship, Age-Level, Community, and Church & Society. Each pillar has a number of ministries under it and a ministry coordinator, who is a member of the congregation. The pillars also have one or more staff members assigned to them.

The level under the pillars consists of staff, committees, and groups that act as the “foundation” of the church, Lee said.

Lee grew up in the Methodist church, and he never knew any of this until he became involved as an adult, he said. “If you just come and participate on Sunday morning, you may not know many of these things are going on,” he said.

The Church Council meets the third week of each even month, starting in February, The meetings are conducted over ZOOM, and members of the congregation are welcome to attend.

You can get the ZOOM link from Jammie Watters, the administrative assistant in the Church Office. Her email address is Jammie@wsmethodist.org. The Church Council has a page on the church’s website (wsmethodist.org}. At the top of the website, on the far left, click on “Who We Are” then on “About,” then on “Leadership.” At the bottom of the page titled “Church Council 2024,” if you click on “Church Council E-Library,” you will access the draft agenda for the next meeting, minutes from previous meetings and other resources.



All Saints Sunday - November 3rd



All Saints Sunday, November 3, is a day to remember with thanksgiving those who have entered the Church Eternal. The roll of remembrance and the memorial banner will be reminders of Washington Street members, loved ones, and friends. You are invited to hang bells in memory on the banner outside Christ Chapel.

You are also invited to remember someone special by purchasing a rose for the floral arrangements on the cross and altar which will be used during the worship service on November 3rd. The name of the deceased person(s) you remember does not have to have Washington Street connections. Also, the death of the person you remember can be from any past year. The name of the person you remember will be listed in our bulletin insert.

Active Faith members will be in the vestibule on October 6, 13, and 20 with order forms. You can pay by check, cash, credit card or online. If paying by check, please make the check payable to Washington Street UMC and mark "Rose" in the lower memo line of your check. A form must accompany all payments. The proceeds from the sale of roses will help fund Active Faith's local mission projects.

October Pride Events

Thursday, Oct 17 - Opening worship service and opening of Queerfish art exhibit at Kathwood Baptist Church, 6 pm, 4900 Trenholm Road, Cola.

Friday, Oct 18 - PRIDE parade on Main Street (we will march) – gather at THE WOODY, 1649 Main Street, Cola at 5:30 for pre-parade fellowship. Parade starts at dusk on Richland Street (beside the Woody).

Saturday, Oct 19 - PRIDE Festival - noon to 6 pm on Main Street (we will have a booth)

Sunday, Oct 20 - Closing Worship service, a Pride Mass, at St. Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church, 5 pm, followed by a potluck dinner. 5220 Clemson Ave., Cola 29206



The Reconciling Next Team (RNT) of WSUMC will host a screening of Robbie Robertson's short film **Common as Red Hair on October 9** at 6:00 pm at the Nickelodeon Theatre in Columbia, SC. The film, which explores the impact of gender "normalization" surgery on inter-sex infants, has won multiple international awards and will be followed by a Q&A with Robertson. Admission is a \$10 donation benefiting the

The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church states: "Our involvement in political systems is rooted in the Gospel imperative to love our neighbors, to do justice, and to care for the vulnerable. As United Methodists, we acknowledge that love requires responsible political action and engagement aimed at the betterment of society and the promotion of the common good."

One of the ways we are called to engage in responsible political action is by exercising our right to vote. As we prepare for the November elections, let's take time to pray and to learn where candidates stand on national and local issues. A great nonpartisan resource is vote411.org. This website provides answers given by candidates to unbiased questions on important public policy issues. It allows voters to compare candidate responses to determine which candidate aligns best with them, reliable election information and the locations of early voting sites.

Sunday School Updates

Open Door Class:

We are currently studying *Everywhere in Jerusalem: Experiencing the Holy Then and Now* by Rev. James C. Howe. We meet on the 3rd floor across the hall from the elevator and stairwell. For more information, contact Ann Jessup at Jessup.ann@gmail.com.

Aldersgate Class:

We are studying the *The Gospel of John: A Beginner's Guide to the Way, the Truth, and the Life* by Amy-Jill Levine. This 6-week series will include a DVD segment and discussion. We meet on the 2nd floor, first room on the right as you exit the stairs or elevator. Please join us for coffee, a donut, and a great discussion. For questions, contact David Anderson at danderson@richardsonplowden.com.

Dawsey Class:

We are studying *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Faith in Uncertain Times* by Adam Hamilton. On October 20 and 27 we will have Rev. Walter Strawther from the SC United Methodist Conference. He will speak on the Revised Social Principles that passed at the General Conference in May. We meet on the 2nd floor on the left as you exit the elevator or stairs. For questions, contact Janelle Rivers at rivers12@bellsouth.net.

Grace Class:

We are discussing *The False White Gospel: Rejecting Christian Nationalism, Reclaiming True Faith, and Refounding Democracy* by Jim Wallis. On October 27th, Rev. Joel Jones will lead a discussion on angels. We are on the 3rd floor on the left as you exit the elevator or stairs. For questions contact Jim Lane at jlane@columbiasc.edu.

John Harper Class:

We discuss lessons from Cokesbury's *Adult Bible Studies*. We meet on the first floor to the right of the elevator. For more information, contact Tracy Powers at tjpowers65@gmail.com.

Paul Harmon Class:

Paul Harmon is discussing topics presented by Dr. Charles Bryan. We meet on the 3rd floor to the right of the elevator and stairwell. For more information, contact Suzanne Joye at sjoye@sc.rr.com.

Solomon's Porch Class:

We are exploring women of the Torah using *Womanist Midrash* by Wil Gafney. We meet on the 2nd floor across from the elevator and stairwell exits. For more information, contact Adrienne Fink at ajhamm@umcs.org.

2024 Fall Festival



October 27, 2024

4-6 pm

Located in the church parking lot

Plans are underway for a fun Fall Festival, the church's gift to the children and families of the city. Everyone is needed for this event to be special! Here's how you can help:

1. Plan to decorate the back of your car and participate in the Trunk or Treat! Please sign up by contacting Kathy James at kljames@umcsc.org so that we know you are coming! Costumes are encouraged as well!
2. Bring a bag of candy (or 2 or 5!) and drop it off at the "Mission Garden" in the hallway next to the chapel. There have been years when folks had to make a mad dash to the store to replenish the candy supplies, and we want to avoid that this year!
3. Invite children and families that you know to join us, whether or not they belong to another church or attend church at all.
4. If you have ideas about what activities to include in this event, contact Kathy James at kljames@umcsc.org



Our Journey with a Refugee Family: Lessons in Compassion and Friendship



WSUMC, supported by the Circle of Welcome (COW), had the honor of helping Lutheran Services Carolinas support a Rohingya family from Myanmar settle into our community. The government of Myanmar has, for years, worked to eliminate the Rohingya people. Our family of two parents and three children truly needed a safe country!

When the family arrived, we eagerly welcomed them with open arms. From the very start, our congregation and the COW members were determined to support them in every way.

In January, we met them at the airport with food and clothes, helping them feel at home right away. Thanks to our supportive congregation, their new apartment was fully furnished, including a washer and dryer. We accompanied them to medical appointments and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and helped their two oldest children enroll in school. We offered English tutoring and driver's training. In

addition, we celebrated their successes, milestones, and birthdays, sharing in their joys and achievements. In return, this family gave us more than we could have imagined. We became more aware of the challenges refugees face and their incredible resilience. Their courage to start anew, often with limited language skills, was truly inspiring. Even with so little, they thanked us at every visit by sharing their food, demonstrating their generosity of spirit.

Their gratitude and appreciation deepened our understanding of their culture and the Muslim faith. We formed genuine friendships that will last well beyond our formal six-month support period. Although our official time together has ended, many of us continue to offer English tutoring and support, keeping the connection alive.

Through this experience, we are reminded of the impact of community and the mutual enrichment that comes from supporting each other.

We are happy to report that the family is thriving. They are part of a supportive community of Rohingya refugees in their apartment complex and go out of their way to welcome new refugees as they arrive. The father performed well at his first job and then successfully found new employment that allows him to work a day shift. The two oldest children are doing well in elementary school and the mother is diligently learning English.

unicef 

Treat-or-Trick! For UNICEF

Mary's Maidens invite you to support a great cause on Sunday, October 27!

They will be collecting donations for UNICEF after Sunday school and Worship.

Your generous contributions will help make a difference. Join us in making a positive impact—mark the date and bring your donations!



WASHINGTON
STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connections

1401 Washington Street
Columbia, SC 29201
803.256.2417

