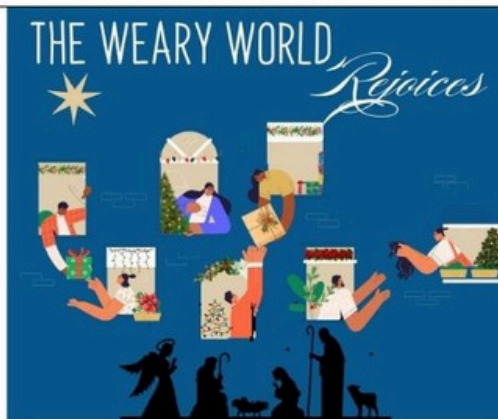




WASHINGTON STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



December 22, 2024

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was with God in the beginning. Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being. What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light. A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light. The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world. The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light. The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him. But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children, born not from blood, nor from human desire or passion, but born from God. The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace; as the Law was given through Moses, so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made God known

John 1:1-18
Common English Bible

Order of Worship

4th Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE *Voluntary on Abbot's Leigh* arr. Dennis Janzer

WORDS OF WELCOME Rev. Becky Shirley

RINGING OF THE BELL

CHORAL INTROIT *Rejoice the Savior Comes* Michael Burckhard

***HYMN #250 (UMH)** *Once in Royal David's City* IRBY

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

CHORAL RESPONSE #211(UMH) *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (Vs. 4)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Ann Jessup

Following the Children's moments, children ages 3-5 will be escorted by a Children's Church leader to Children's Church in the 2-3 year-old Sunday school room, where they may be picked up after the worship service.
Older children will return to their parents.

ANTHEM *Goin to Bethlehem* Jay Rouse

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Alston Lippert

OFFERTORY *Away in a Manger* arr. Mack Wilberg

***DOXOLOGY** (*sung to the tune of "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen"*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, on every hill and coast! Praise God above all angels who comprise the Holy Ghost! Praise to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Ghost! O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!

***HYMN #245 (UMH)** *The First Noel* THE FIRST NOEL

***GOSPEL LESSON** John 1:1-18

ADVENT SKIT *Wheel of Misfortune*
A Washington Street Players Skit
Written & Directed by Larry Hembree
Featuring Daniel Hanlin as Sap Paycheck and Jan Merchant as Eve Apple

SERMON *The Weary World Rejoices in Love* Rev. Becky Shirley

***HYMN #230 (UMH)** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ES IST EIN ROS

BENEDICTION & CHORAL RESPONSE

***POSTLUDE** *Hark! Ten Thousand Harps and Voices* arr. Diane Bosh

NOTES: UMH = Red United Methodist Hymnal

* = Please stand as you are able

"The Charles Pfeiffer Circle congratulates Heidi Conte on the occasion of her graduation from the University of South Carolina. In recognition of this achievement, the circle is donating to the Soup Cellar's Little Hygiene Pantry."

Opportunities to Grow in Faith & Serve in Love

Tuesday, December 24, 5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service

A special service filled with carols, candlelight and Communion

Children's Christmas Tree

Take a moment to see the smiling faces on the Children's Christmas Tree. It will make you smile! We are blessed to share the Love of Jesus with these precious children.

Ornaments may be taken home after the Christmas Eve service.

Next Sunday, December 29

Join us in the Chapel at 10:00 am for a carol sing prior to worship in the Sanctuary.

Monday, January 6, 5:30 pm - Advocacy 101 Training

In the gospel according to Luke, Jesus began his public life by reading a passage from Isaiah that introduced his ministry with these words: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of God's favour.' (Luke 4:18-19)

As disciples of Christ, we follow in Jesus's way of life carrying forward his ministry of peace, justice, and service. Thus in our pursuit of justice and peace, we are inviting everyone to join us for an Advocacy 101 training on January 6, 2025. A light meal will precede the training at 5:30pm. The training session will begin at 6:00pm and will be led by members of the Faith and Justice Table of the ACLU of SC. In this training, you will learn what it means to be an advocate for peace and justice, how to be more effective as peacemakers and the voice of justice as we learn: how a bill becomes a law in SC, ways to interact with our State Legislators, and how to find information about proposed legislation. RSVP by contacting Rev. Alston (aflippert@umcsc.org).

Save The Date For The Following Ministry Event

January 27, 2024 Movie Discussion - Peanut Butter Falcon

We will be discussing how the characters in this movie overcome obstacles.

Note of Thanks

The Active Faith Small Group Ministry Team wishes to thank all of our congregation who shared their lovely crèches for our "Nativities From Around the World" Display. We received accolades for the beauty and diversity of the 83 crèches. I would also like to thank the many Active Faith volunteers who helped to receive, register and arrange the displays and greet visitors as they viewed the crèches.

Deborah Rowe, Chair Active Faith

In Our Prayers

Ann Bell
John Benfield
Ron Bowden
Mickey Epting

Carl Evans
Pat Griffin
Karen Horne
Lisa Johnson

Sam Mathews
Paul McClanahan
Patrick McClanahan
Sharon McCullough

Ellen Parker
Rozanna Pfeiffer
Joe Plough
Our Homebound

Making Disciples of Jesus for the Transformation of the World

The congregation of Washington Street UMC praises and serves God from the heart of the city in ways that reach neighbors near and far. We welcome and affirm all who seek the love and mercy of Christ, regardless of race, creed, age, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic status. We honor traditions as rooted in our history, our expression of worship and our respect for theological curiosity. We nonetheless see vital change and ongoing renewal as essential for spiritual growth.

Thank you for your Financial Support

Your Gifts help make ministry happen every day !

You may give by texting CONNECTIONS to 73256
Your gift to 1401 Washington Street, Columbia, 29201
by scanning the QR you see here.



Today's Volunteer Team

Acolyte: Alma Louise Aravena
Children's Church: Shelley Stafford
Melanie Dobson
Greeter: Jim Lane
Sound/Video/Projection: Spencer Stevens
Lynn Shirley
Ushers: Lanneau Lide
Emily Caskey

Contact Information

Website: wsmethodist.org
Address: 1401 Washington Street
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: 803-256-2417
Email: info@wsmethodist.org
Office Hours: Monday -Thursday
9:00 am-4:00 pm
& Friday 9:00 am -2:00 pm

Stewardship Report

Attendance on 12/15: 556 (257 in person + 299 online as of 12/18)

YTD Offerings Received: \$677,253 YTD Soup Cellar Gifts: \$69,136

YTD Expenses: \$867,746 YTD Soup Cellar Expenses: \$74,869

YTD Gifts to WSUMC Foundation: \$25,551

Staff Worship Leadership Team

Senior Pastor:	Rev. Becky Shirley	rjshirley@umcsc.org
Associate Pastor for Nurture:	Rev. Alston Lippert	alflippert@umcsc.org
Director of Music Ministries:	Dr. Catherine Nance	catherine@wsmethodist.org
Organist:	David Turner	david@wsmethodist.org
Pianist:	Dr. Rick Frierson	(volunteer)