



Youth Participate in SCUMC Revolution

Rev. Kathy, McCullough and Lucy joined youth from Bethel UMC along with 700 youth from around the state for Revolution, 2025. The theme was "Belong". An inspiring speaker and Gospel choir reminded the youth that we belong to God, and we can remind others that they belong to God too.



Young Professionals

Thursday, February 6, 2025
6:00-6:30 pm Planning team meeting
6:30-8:00 pm Game Night and Pizza

Thursday, February 20
6:00 pm Bible Trivia and supper

We will meet in the Youth Room. Light supper will be provided. If childcare is needed, please let Kathy know the names and ages of children. (kljames@umcsc.org)



Prayer & Scripture

"God saw all that God had made, and it was very good."
— Genesis 1:31

Dear God, thank you for reminding us through your creation how much you love us. Admiring what your hands have made helps us to feel your presence each and every day. Amen


Stewardship 2025 Update



"Thank you" to the 117 households (individuals or families) who have turned in a financial pledge card indicating their commitment to support WSUMC's impactful ministries and missions in 2025. These pledges indicate that \$634,999 has been pledged toward meeting the \$750,000 in anticipated expenses. If you have not yet been able to turn in your pledge card for 2025, there is still time to do so. Ministry teams will begin meeting this month to adjust and finalize ministry plans for the year based in part on anticipated funding and volunteer resources.


You may make your pledge online by scanning the QR code below or by contacting Robbie Douglas, WSUMC's Business Administrator (rdouglas@wsmethodist.org) for a paper pledge form.



We are also grateful for the 44 persons who filled out a 2025 Kindness Menu indicating ways they'd like to use their time and talent in ministry areas at WSUMC this year. New volunteers are always welcome, so if you haven't filled out a Kindness Menu yet letting us know your interest in volunteering, you can scan the QR code below or visit the church website (wsmethodist.org/stewardship-2025/) to download a copy. To receive a paper copy, contact Jammie Watters, WSUMC's Administrative Assistant (jammie@wsmethodist.org).

WASHINGTON STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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The Church Council is the highest decision-making body at Washington Street United Methodist Church. It is composed of church members and staff that give oversight and direction to the administrative ministries of the church, including Discipleship Ministries, Trustees, Finance, and Staff-Pastor-Parish Relations (SPPRC). A Lay Leader who serves as a representative of the laity and liaison for the various discipleship ministries as well as two "at large" lay members also serve as members of the Council.

These leaders are prayerfully discerned and nominated by the Committee on Lay Leadership (CLL). This team itself is an elected group whose members are selected using the same process of prayerful discernment each year. Each Fall, our District Superintendent visits each congregation in the district to hold a "charge conference". As part of this meeting, the slate of nominated leaders developed by the CLL is printed and distributed to all in attendance. The conference is opened for discussion and the naming of new nominees from the floor before a vote is taken to officially elect the nominated leadership team.

In addition to electing members to serve on the Church Council, WSUMC's nominee list also includes members to be elected to serve on the various ministry and administrative teams. The term of service for each lay leadership position is typically 3 years with terms of service beginning in January of each calendar year. We post the names of current Church Council and committee members on the church website year-round as a reference for all church members.

As the following members who are serving in leadership positions this year begin their work together, they ask that you pray with them and for them. You are welcomed to attend any of their meetings, with the exception of the CLL and SPPRC. Meeting dates and locations will be listed on the church calendar which you may access at anytime by visiting the events page on the church website, which you can access easily by scanning the gold QR code on this page.

Church Council Leadership - 2025

- Chair of Church Council: Lee Haynes
- Chair of Trustees: To be elected by Trustees
- Financial Secretary: Robbie Douglas (staff)
- Chair of Foundation Trustees: Scott Middleton
- Membership Secretary: Chip Williams
- Treasurer: Kelly Epting
- Age-Level Coordinator: Swann Adams
- Church & Society Coordinator: Cindy Cox
- United Women in Faith Chairperson: Debra Schooler

Staff Members of Council

- Senior Pastor: Becky Shirley
- Associate Pastor: Alston Lippert
- Minister of Discipleship: Kathy James
- Business Manager: Robbie Douglas
- Director of Music Ministries: Catherine Nance

- Lay Leader: Kimberly McAlister
- Chair of Finance Committee: Lynn Shirley
- Chair of Staff/Pastor Parish Relations: Lee Smith
- Recording Secretary: Charlotte Broome
- Church Historian: Mike Broome
- CDC Board Chair: Erin Oehler
- Community Life Coordinator: Mary Lide
- Worship Coordinator: Sam Waldrep
- Members at Large: Janet Cotter and Jim Apple

For lists of all committee members, visit the church website leadership page by using the blue QR code below or call the church office (803-256-2417).



Calendar



Leadership



WSUMC 2025 LAY LEADERSHIP



Movie Discussion: *The Queen of Katwe*



You are invited to watch *The Queen of Katwe* on your own, or with friends. You can find out where it is currently being streamed by visiting www.justwatch.com.

After viewing the film, plan to join Rev. Alston on February 24th at 7 PM in the Wesley room or via Zoom for a discussion of the ways the theme "Overcoming Perceptions" is played out in this film and how it intersects with our faith. To register and to receive the ZOOM link, email aflippert@umcsc.org

73 Participated Advocacy 101 Training on January 6th in Threatt Hall



WSUMC's Social Justice Advocacy Team hosted this event with leadership provided by representatives of the SC ACLU's Faith and Justice Table. Rev. Becky opened the meeting with a devotional reminding participants of the biblical foundations for the church's involvement in the work of advocacy. Following her remarks and an opening prayer, Nancy Whittle introduced our guest presenters from the SC ACLU, Courtney Thomas and Matt Butler.

Thomas and Butler shared information about

the process by which a bill becomes law in South Carolina and when in that process people can seek to let their feelings and thoughts be known about particular bills. During the presentation, the 73 people in attendance learned ways to contact legislators and how to find out what bills are in the "pipeline" to come before SC's legislative bodies. Currently there are over 500 bills in the pipeline.

It was a very empowering and yet also overwhelming evening as participants read some of the bills and considered the wide variety of issues that will come before our legislative bodies this year. One of the big takeaways was that no individual can do it all. We are all in this together. If you have any questions and/or want to find out more, please contact Nancy Whittle (ncwhittle@aol.com) or Jim Lane (jlane@columbiasc.edu).



Come to the WELL

A service filled with familiar hymns, an interactive Jesus story, and communion

**Christ Chapel | 11:00-11:30
February 20**
(The third Thursday every month)
"WELL" – A time of Worship, Encouragement, Laughter, and Love

Lenten Study on Forgiveness & Reconciliation



During the season of Lent, join Dr. Melanie Dobson in practicing forgiveness. In this six week course Melanie, with teaching assistance from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary students, will lead participants in exploring biblical and theological understandings of forgiveness. Participants will also experience an example of extraordinary forgiveness through a family member and pastor connected to the Charleston Massacre at Mother Emmanuel AME.

Class Meeting Times

Thursdays, Feb. 27-April 10 (excluding March 6), 6:00pm-7:15 pm. in the John Harper Classroom with a Zoom option.

Please register your plans to attend by either emailing Melanie (Melanie.Dobson@lr.edu) or by using the QR code on this page and indicate if you will need ZOOM link.



Sunday School Updates

Aldersgate Class: Located on the 2nd floor
Contact: David Anderson (danderson@richardsonplowden.com)

This month the class is discussing the practice of thankfulness. Sarah Young's book: *Practicing Thankfulness* is the resource currently being used by the class.

Dawsey Class: Located on the 2nd floor
Contact: Anne Sinclair (asinclair1@bellsouth.net)

During February, members of the class will select an article from *Christian Century* magazine and distribute it to the class for discussion on Sunday. Class members who join from home use *FreeConferenceCall* and should call in between 9:50 and 10am. The call-in number is (701) 802-5115. The access code is 7252934.

Grace Class: Located on the 3rd floor
Contact: Jim Lane (jlane@columbiasc.edu)

During the class time each week this month, an episode of the film series "Reclaiming Faith: A Journey to Restoration" by Jose Humpries from the *Work of The People* will be viewed and discussed.

John Harper Class: located on the 1st floor
Contact: Boyd Saunders (jboyd Saunders@aol.com)

This winter, using the Cokesbury Adult Bible lessons, the class will follow the theme "Following Jesus." Lessons each week will encourage participants to consider what compels us to follow Jesus, what it means to be part of Jesus' beloved community, and how we are partners in Jesus' mission.

Paul Harmon Class: Located on the 3rd floor
Contact: Sally Mings (sallymings@gmail.com)

The Paul Harmon Class is currently engaged in a study of the Gospel of John led by WSUMC member, John Adams.

Walter Dean

Solomon's Porch: Located on the 2nd floor
Contact: Rev. Adrienne Fink (ajhamm@gmail.com)

During the month of February, the class will study the Gospel of Mark using *The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News* by Amy-Jill Levine as our guide.

Youth & Children's Fellowship

February 9 at 4:30 in the Youth Room
Discussion on Faith and Science let by Dr. Michael Oehler

February 23 at 4:30 in the Youth Room
Karaoke party! Let Rev. Kathy know if there's a favorite song you want on the playlist! (kljames@umcsc.org)

Save the Date – Vacation Bible School
July 21-24



WSUMC Calendar
There's lots of exciting things happening at the church in January. Visit our website to view our calendar of events at wsmethodist.org/events/ to learn more.

Valentines & Chocolates

You have the opportunity to purchase handmade Valentines and fair trade chocolates on Sunday, February 2 and Sunday, February 9. Mary's Maidens will be selling these items before and after Sunday School and after the worship service. All proceeds from the sale will be used for Mary's Maidens service projects.

Mary's Maidens participants are some of WSUMC's school age girls who have been hard at work making Valentines and packaging the mini chocolates for the sale. The chocolate bars and minis are made from fair trade chocolate.

Why fair trade chocolates? At a meeting over 10 years ago, we learned about the treatment of young boys forced to pick the cacao beans in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. The girls decided to sell chocolate bars to help. The chocolate we sell is produced from cacao beans grown in Central and South America by small family farmers and sold through Equal Exchange.



Some of our Elementary school age girls in Mary's Maidens making Valentines and having fun!

Equal Exchange Chocolate Products Manager, Dary Goodrich, visiting cacao farms in the Dominican Republic

