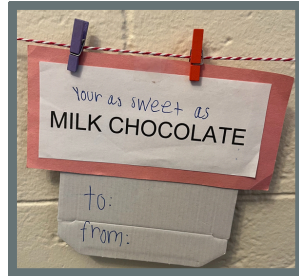




Mary's Maidens

Mary's Maidens is a our youngest United Women in Faith group. The girls made and sold valentines and sold freely traded chocolates to raise funds for missions.

Mary's Maidens, wish to say: "THANK YOU!" to everyone who helped them help others by purchasing ALL of their chocolates!



Columbia Fireflies Faith & Family Night

Join with other Washington Streeters on Saturday, April 26th to enjoy a night of fun as we watch the Fireflies play at Segra Park (Located in Downtown Columbia; Bull Street District).

For tickets, email Dave Mills (dmills3218@sbcglobal.net)

Gates Open: 4:00 PM
Pregame Christian Concert from Travis Greene (5x Grammy Nominated Christian Artist): 4:30 - 5:30 PM
First Pitch: 6:05 PM
Postgame Fireworks: 9:00 PM

Hydrangeas for Sale

Active Faith will be selling hydrangeas to enhance our Easter service on April 20th. Plants can be purchased outside narthex on March 16, 23, 30, and April 6. Forms will be available for you to designate a person/s you wish to honor or memorialize. Plants can be picked up after the Easter service. Watch for more details!

Prayer & Scripture

"And those who know your name, put their trust in you, for you O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.

— Psalm 9:10 NRSVUE

O God our deliverer, you led your people of old through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

wsmethodist.org

Children's Ministries

The children in the 2's and 3's Sunday school and the 4's-1st grade classes were busy making Valentines for Washington Street college students. The Valentines and treats were mailed to let the students know they are thought of.



Easter Egg Hunt

Washington Street Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 5
4:00pm
The Lides
1400 Sherwood Road

BYOB- Bring Your Own Basket and a Snack to Share

Yard Sale - May 17th

Save those treasures you want to donate because Active Faith is hosting a Yard Sale on May 17th. Details will follow, but remember, we aren't accepting clothes or shoes. All proceeds go to finance local missions.



WASHINGTON STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connections
1401 Washington Street
Columbia, SC 29201
803.256.2417

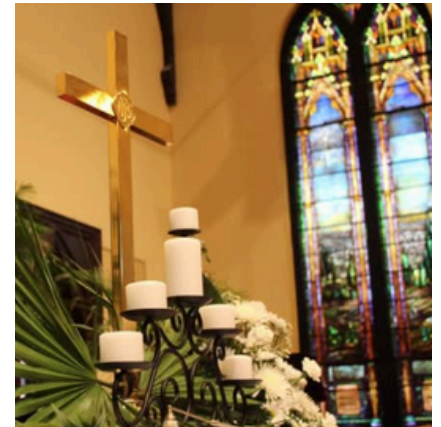


Our Journey Through Lent

Lent is the 40-day season of preparing our hearts for the amazing good news of the Resurrection. It begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year will be March 5th. The word "Lent" comes from the Old English word "lecten", which means "lengthen". As the days grow longer signs of Spring begin to emerge: longer and warmer days, birds singing, tender shoots of green emerge and flowers begin to bud and bloom. It's as if all creation is preparing for new life, rejoicing all together in the promise of God's ever-growing and ever-regenerating love.

Traditionally, for many followers of Jesus, Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. Today, the focus of the season is often on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves. We often choose at this season to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

As we enter this holy season, we invite you to engage in one or more of the following special ministries designed to help us grow closer to God. We hope you will invite friends, co-workers and family members to join you.



Sunday Sermon Series for Lent is Broken to Beautiful

Wednesday Lunches • March 5 - April 9 • 11:45 -12:20

Make plans to enjoy a nice lunch and fellowship with friends. The lunches are being prepared by United Women in Faith volunteers and will feature a variety of delicious homemade soups, sandwiches and desserts each week. The cost of each meal is \$10 and all proceeds go directly to support the WSUMC Soup Cellar Ministry.

Ash Wednesday Worship in the Chapel March 5 12:30 -1:00

Ash Wednesday offers us the invitation to 'repent' - which means to intentionally turn back to God. We all find ourselves needing to turn back to God many times a day in ways small and large. It is not a matter of guilt, and it is not a shameful thing. It is simply that we realize we are not yet all that God has called us to be. During the service, Rev. Becky and Rev. Alston will mark our foreheads with ashes in the sign of a cross as a reminder of our need to repent.

Worship in the Chapel • March 12 - April 9 • 12:30 -1:00

Under the direction of Larry Hembree, members of the Washington Street UMC Drama ministry will present a series of Lenten dramas pairing two characters each week from the story of Jesus' Passion who will bear witness to what they saw, heard, and felt. The dramas were written by two Lutheran Pastors, Rev. Jeff Cottingham and Dr. Amy C. Little and combined in a series entitled "The Power of Lent". Each pair of biblical characters reflects upon a similar theme for the week, showing how the same events brought about very different reactions to Jesus and his identity. Our ministers will lead the services each week sharing scripture and prayer to introduce the dramas. Our music staff and some of our talented soloists will add their talents to these services helping us all experience the "Power of Lent."

1. The Power of Blessing (Pilate and a Child who was Drawn to Jesus)
2. The Power of Redemption (Judas and the Thief of the Cross)
3. The Power of Faith (Caiaphas and Barabbas)
4. The Power of Involvement (Woman from the Palm Procession and Peter's Accuser)
5. The Power of Sacrifice (Mary, Jesus' Mother, and Joseph of Arimathea)



Movie Discussion: The Six Triple Eight



You are invited to watch *The Six Triple Eight* on your own or with friends. You can find it on Netflix.

After viewing the film, plan to join Rev. Alston on March 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

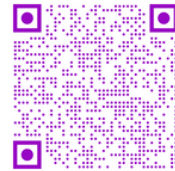
Weekly Devotional Journey

Dr. Catherine Nance has written a beautiful Lenten Journey Devotional as a gift to WSUMC. You may pick up a printed copy at the church in the office or at the entrance to the Sanctuary, or download a copy using the QR code below.

If you'd like to join with others to discuss and share reflections on your reading each week, sign up for one of the following weekly discussion group times:

Wednesdays, 1:15-2:00 PM, March 5 - April 9 or
Mondays, 5:30 -6:15 PM, March 10. - April 14

To register for either group, email Rev. Alston (aflippert@umcsc.org).



Scan for Digital Copy Of Devotion

Social Justice Action



A group of over thirty-five members of Washington Street and their friends participated in a peaceful protest at the State House in Columbia on February 17, 2025. They joined several hundred others to express their concern over many of the President's policies and the participation of Elon Musk in government affairs. The event was organized as a pro-democracy protest against Project 2025.

Walk with Solemates!

We're walking as a group on March 15th. To join us, just meet us at 10:30 AM at Riverfront Park & Canal. (Columbia side) Email Sara for more information at swilcox927@gmail.com

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, March 13-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 emailing Melanie (Melanie.Dobson@lr.edu) or by using the QR code on this page and indicate if you will need the ZOOM link.



WSUMC Calendar Visit our website to view our calendar of events at wsmethodist.org/events/ to learn about upcoming events.

Sunday School Updates

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

Will be studying *The Third Day* by Bishop Tom Berlin. This study traces events around Mary Magdelene, Simon Peter, and Thomas, along with Paul and disciples at Emmaus, and how the Resurrection transforms their lives and will consist of video and discussion components. Newcomers welcome!

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

During March, the class will be studying *The Final Days* by Matthew Rawle. During 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. Newcomers welcome!

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

We will be discussing the book *Turning over Tables: A Lenten Call for Disrupting Power* by Kathy Escobar. All are welcome.

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.

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

During Lent, we will be discussing *Entering the Passion of Jesus, a Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by AJ Levine. This book explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience. Newcomers welcome to join for a great discussion.

Youth Fellowship

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join Rev. Kathy and friends every 2nd and 4th Sunday afternoon at 4:30 PM in the Youth Room. Here's what we have planned for March:

March 9 - Karaoke party!
Let Rev. Kathy know if there's a favorite song you want on the playlist! (kljames@umcsc.org)

March 23 -Fun, Fellowship and Faith
Life Together with Rev. Kathy.



March 20th
11:00 - 11:30 AM
Christ Chapel
Come to The WELL

Filled with familiar hymns, an interactive Jesus story, and communion, this service is especially friendly to persons living with dementia and their care partners.

"WELL"—A time of Worship, Encouragement, Laughter, and Love

Art Projects to Enhance our Lenten Journey

The Worship Team has joined up with seamstresses from Tabitha's Table and WS artist Wayne Hall to create two art projects to enhance our journey through the 40 days of Lent.

Lenten Cross
In keeping with the sermon, series leading up to Lent, "Unleashing Hope", Rev Becky asked those present at the worship service on February 16th to write down one word that conjures up sentiments of hope. Wayne has designed a large cross that will use these words of hope etched into 40 blocks of wood, forming the spine of the cross. For the arm of the cross, Wayne will create a shadow box depicting aspects of Jesus' life. This cross will be displayed in the sanctuary throughout Lent.

Lenten Banner
During the coming weeks, Washington Streeters will be asked to write a brief prayer on a precut strip of ribbon. These ribbons will be collected, sewn and woven, and bound into a banner by the members of Tabitha's Table Sewing Group. It will be presented during the Palm Sunday service.

Save the Dates for Special Holy Week and Easter Events

Maundy Thursday, April 17
Worship in Christ Chapel
6:00 PM

Good Friday, April 18
Worship in Christ Chapel
6:00 PM

Easter Sunday, April 20
Potluck Breakfast & Photo Op
in Threath Hall - 9:45 AM

Traditional Worship - 11:00 AM