



WASHINGTON STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



March 30, 2025

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."'

So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing he called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Luke 15: 1-2, 11-32

Order of Worship

4th Sunday of Lent

- PRELUDE *Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling* arr. Dale Wood
- WORDS OF WELCOME Rev. Alston Lippert
- RINGING OF THE BELL
- CHORAL INTROIT *Surely the Presence*
- *CALL TO WORSHIP Michael Oehler
- *HYMN #206 (UMH) *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* Houston
- *AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Based on the Sermon on the Mount
- *THE GLORIA PATRI #70 (UMH) MEINEKE
- ANTHEM *Kyrie* Rene Claussen
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy. Lord of Lords! Amen
(Scripture reference: Psalms 6:2, 9:13, 31:9, 86:3, and 123:3)
- CHILDREN'S MOMENT Susan Caskey
Following the Children's moments, children will follow an adult into the choir room for a short time of music. Afterwards, 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 seats in the congregation.
- PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Lippert
- THE LORD'S PRAYER
- OFFERTORY *You Say* Lauren Daigle
Soloist: Taylor Goodwin
- *DOXOLOGY #95 (UMH) OLD 100TH
- *HYMN #292 (UMH) *What Wondrous Love Is This* WONDROUS LOVE
- SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 15: 1-2, 11-32
- SERMON Come Home to Love Rev. Joel Jones
- *HYMN #365 (UMH) *Grace Greater than Our Sin* MOODY
- *BENEDICTION & CHORAL RESPONSE
- *POSTLUDE *Grand Chorus* G.F Handel

NOTES: UMH = Red United Methodist Hymnal

* = Please stand as you are able

In Sympathy

Rev. Becky Shirley joins the entire staff and Washington Street Church family in expressing our deepest sympathy and Christian love to Rose Dangerfield and Gayle Aycock, in the death of Rose's brother, Danny "Cookie" Dangerfield, who passed away unexpectedly on March 16, 2025.

Easter Hydrangea Sale, March 30 - April 6

Stop by the table outside the Sanctuary today to purchase a hydrangea in honor or memory of a loved one. The hydrangeas will decorate our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday and may be picked up after the service.

Absence of Flowers During the Season of Lent

Throughout Lent, we will not have flowers on the altar during this season of austerity and simple reflection. We hope this absence of flowers will amplify the resurrection message of the Easter flowers when they arrive!

Opportunities to Grow in Faith & Serve in Love

WELCOME! We are glad you are here to worship with us! If you'd like to learn more or get more connected to this community of faith, please fill out the tear-off section of this bulletin.

Ministry Events This Week

Thursday, April 3rd - 6 PM - Young Professionals

Young Adults are invited to enjoy pizza and games. Childcare is provided.

Saturday, April 5th -9 AM - Sole-Mates Walking Group

Meet at Saluda Riverwalk, 650 Candi Lane (near the Zoo). This greenway offers about 3 miles of paved walkway or boardwalk along the Saluda River. Contact Sara Wilcox for more info. (swilcox927@gmail.com)

Saturday, April 5th - 4 PM - Easter Egg Hunt

WSUMC children and grandchildren: Nursery thru Fifth Grade are invited to bring their own basket and a snack to share (no nuts, please!). The hunt will take place at The Lide's home (1400 Sherwood Road). Contact Mary Lide (neaudl@aol.com) for more information.

Sunday, April 6th - 4 PM - MenNMinistry SC Bishop's Leadership Event

Getting Healthy, Strong and Vital Again. At Ashland United Methodist Church 2600 Ashland Road, Columbia (also via Zoom). TO REGISTER GO TO umcsc.org/mennministryreg or scan the QR code on announcement slide

Weekly Devotional Journey - Booklet & Small Group Discussions

If you are reading the weekly devotional by Dr. Catherine Nance and want to join a discussion of it, please come to one of our weekly small group discussion opportunities. They are held Mondays 5:30 - 6:15 in John Harper or Wednesdays 1:15 - 2:00 pm in the Wesley room.

Save The Date For The Following Ministry Events

Sunday, April 13th - 4:30 PM - Youth Group on Healthy Relationships

Bring your friends for a conversation on healthy relationships with youth from Washington Street, Columbia, and Wesley United Methodist Churches.

Easter Sunday Morning PotLuck Breakfast - (9:30-10:40 AM)

Bring your favorite breakfast fruit, danish, or casserole dish and join us in Threatt Hall as we celebrate the gift of Easter Resurrection.

Monday, April 21st Welcome Table Lunch - (11:30-12:30)

This special meal is an extension of our soup cellar ministry serving our guests at the table and offering table fellowship and caring services like haircuts and health checks. To volunteer visit <https://signupgenius.com/>

Saturday, April 26th - Columbia Fireflies Faith & Family Night

Join us for a Christian concert, a baseball game, and fireworks at Segra Park. The cost is \$10. Pregame Christooan Concert begins at 4:30 PM. For more info or to register, email Dave Mills (dmills3218@sbcglobal.net).

Sunday, April 27th - 12:15 PM - Young Professionals Lunch

Meet us in the main parking lot after church to go to lunch together. First time attendees will be our guests!

Sunday, April 27th - 4:30 PM - Youth Group Senior Sunday

Youth, parents and the choir will join in a Karaoke Party to celebrate the church's high school seniors!

In Our Prayers

Ann Bell
Ron Bowden
Truman Duggin
Mickey Epting
Nancy Epting

Carl Evans
Pat Griffin
Karen Horne
Lisa Johnson

Robin Johnson
Sam Mathews
Paul McClanahan
Patrick McClanahan

Sharon McCullough
Ellen Parker
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: Lucy Woods
Children's Church: Eleanor Langley
McCullough Adams
Greeter: Ute
Sound/Video/Projection: Lynn Shirley
John Pannell
Ushers: James Boulware
Lee Smith

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
& Fridays 9:00-am- 2:00 pm

Stewardship Report

Attendance on 03/23: 329 (215 in person + 114 online as of 03/26)

YTD Offerings Received: \$180,375 YTD Soup Cellar Gifts: \$17,465

YTD Expenses: \$206,364 YTD Soup Cellar Expenses: \$17,632

YTD Gifts to WSUMC Foundation: \$0

Worship Leadership Team

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

Article for Women's History Month

The innate value of women and girls is important to the United Methodist Church and is part of our Social Principles. Equal opportunities for women and girls are also emphasized. In fact, the 1996 Book of Discipline (BOD) reads in part "We affirm the importance of women in decision-making positions at all levels of Church and society and urge such bodies to guarantee their presence through policies of employment and recruitment." (Paragraph 66.F). This language was carried through to the 2016 BOD. Unfortunately, no matter what the BOD says, this sentiment has not always been the case. As we all know, just making a statement about something does not make it so.

Let me share a little history. In 1956 the Methodist Church affirmed fully clergy rights to women. In 1968, the Methodist Church joined with the Evangelical United Brethren Church to form the United Methodist Church, and the UMC affirmed full clergy rights for women. Progress, however, was slow. Even though women's rights to be clergy were affirmed, women in church leadership were not always welcome. For instance, I grew up in Union, SC and was in primary school in the 1970s. I badly wanted to be an acolyte in my congregation, but only boys were allowed to be acolytes until I had gone off to college. I know this isn't a big leadership position, but not seeing girls involved in this part of worship sends a clear message. In fact, I didn't see a female United Methodist preacher until I was in my late 30s, and my home congregation has never had one.

I have a friend who is a few years older than me. She felt a call to the ministry in the 1990s and became a Licensed Local Pastor (LLP) on her way to ordination. Unfortunately, she had such a difficult time at the churches to which she was assigned that she walked away from her calling because of the push-back she received. For more than 20 years, she stayed away from the ministry, but she became a LLP again within the last 10 years because the majority of churches were more welcoming to female pastors and serving a church as pastor was no longer a danger to her mental health.

Blessedly, at Washington Street UMC, we have had a female Senior Pastor since 2016. We actually had our first female senior pastor followed by our second—which can be rare even today. There can still be a mindset that having a female pastor is a "check the box activity" and not the normal way of things. I am thankful to have been serving at Washington Street and to never have experienced problems because of my gender. Of course, I owe my lack of problems to people like Toni White (WSUMC Associate Pastor from 1977 – 1981), Diana Westerkam (WSUMC Associate Pastor from 1992 - 2008), and so many other women who blazed the trail that I have been able to follow. They did the hard work and put up with discrimination so that I, and the women coming after me, would have a much easier time. I pray, especially in our current environment, that the strides made by women in ministry will not be erased.

Rev. Alston Lippert, Social Justice Action Team

WSUMC's Circle of Welcome is excited to report that our family of four from Venezuela (via Colombia) is thriving. Thanks to the congregation's generosity, the family is comfortably settled in their apartment. The father is working, and the second grader was thrilled to start school. The mother receives English tutoring from COW members several times a week.

Because of actions at the federal level, refugees are no longer receiving the critical financial support that they relied on during their first few months in America. Because of the great current need, our Circle of Welcome has decided to come alongside another family. We have been matched with a family of four who arrived from Eritrea in January. There is a mom, a dad (who is blind), a five-year-old son, and a two-year-old daughter. Please keep both of these families, as well as all refugees, in your prayers.

Ways You Can Help Refugees

1. Donate money to help our families with their immediate needs. You can do this by donating to the church through your regular giving method and designating the funds for COW.
2. Buy Food Lion (in any amount) or Walmart (suggested amount of \$70 to help provide work clothing, but any amount is appreciated) gift cards to be given to Lutheran Services Carolinas to help other families who do not have the support of a Circle of Welcome. You can drop these off in the church office at your convenience.

The refugee families we support and Lutheran Services Carolinas are grateful for our congregation and its generosity. Thank you for continuing to welcome these families into our community.

Dates for Special Worship Services

April 6 11:00 AM John Rutter's Requiem

This is one of the best-loved and most widely performed choral works of the twentieth century. The seven sections form an arch-like meditation on the themes of life and death: prayers on behalf of all humanity, psalms, personal prayers to Christ, and in the central Sanctus an affirmation of divine glory.

April 17 6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service in Christ Chapel

April 18 6:00 PM Good Friday Service in Christ Chapel