

June 2025

# Connections

wsmethodist.org



WASHINGTON  
STREET  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## \$5800 RAISED BY CHURCH YARD SALE

Thanks to the participation of our wonderful church community, the 2025 Active Faith Yard Sale was a great success!

Held on May 18th at Washington Street UMC, the yard sale was full of items donated by church attendees and even local residents outside of the church. From board games, to backpacks, and even some high quality furniture, there were many great items for sale at an affordable price! All unsold merchandise was also donated to

**The Cooperative Ministry's Gamecock Community Shop and other local nonprofits.**

The event was hosted by the Active Faith small group ministry, a team that provides assistance to God's people in our local community. Apart from the yard sale, Active Faith also earns funds through memorials,



flower sales, vase donations, and monetary donations.

This year, the yard sale brought in \$5814! The full amount of which will be used to support those in-need.

"When residents of a Columbia Housing Authority apartment complex were displaced because of a carbon monoxide [leak...] we bought bus tickets for them so they could get around town," Active Faith founder

Debrah Rowe recalled. "We've done duffel bags for foster children [...] we sponsor low-income daycares, and we've done food drives for foster families. We've done all kinds of stuff with the money!"

Volunteers from the University of South Carolina's Methodist Student Network were also in attendance. MSN offers USC students a welcoming environment to explore their faith and connect with like minded individuals.

Directors Alisa Liggett and Jad Taylor said they felt honored to be a part of such an amazing event.

"...there are a lot of areas we can give to and it feels like it's never enough," Alisa said. "Part of the mission of both MSN and Washington Street [Church] is service. When there's an opportunity to support that mission, we'll be there."

From all of us at Washington Street United Methodist Church, we want to give our sincere thanks to all those who participated in this event. Whether you purchased something from the yard sale, or donated your time by volunteering, you've answered God's call and have made a positive difference in someone's life.





## Annie Kids - A Joyful Celebration!



Partnering with and housed at Washington Street United Methodist Church, the new Inclusive Theatre of South Carolina presented *Annie Kids*

May 3 and 4 in Threatt Hall with an audience of over 200 attendees. The production celebrated the talents of over twenty performers of all abilities.

The production was directed by Washington Street UMC member, Larry Hembree. Washington Street members Joe Hudson, Elizabeth Cameron and Spencer Stevens also participated in the production.



The Inclusive Theatre of South Carolina is led by a 12 member advisory committee made up of community citizens along with church members Harvey Jessup, Travis Luthren, Ute Wachsmann-Linnan and Licia Jackson.

If you are interested in volunteering or working on upcoming productions, please email Artistic Director Larry Hembree at [larryhembree1@gmail.com](mailto:larryhembree1@gmail.com). For more information about the group, visit [inclusivetheatrecosc.com](http://inclusivetheatrecosc.com).

### AARP South Carolina Presents Sam Waldrep with Top Volunteer Honor!

On April 1, AARP South Carolina honored WSUMC's Sam Waldrep with the Andrus Award for Community Service, the association's top volunteer award. Sam, a former deputy director at the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, was recognized for his tireless advocacy for the rights of older adults. His efforts include pushing for legislation to improve long-term care services and increasing the personal needs allowance for nursing home residents on Medicaid.

"Aging in place requires more than just family support; it needs community and legislative backing," says Waldrep. "I'm committed to making sure older South Carolinians have the resources they need."

Charmaine Fuller Cooper, AARP South Carolina's state director, praised Waldrep's dedication: "Sam's gentle yet disciplined nature and his commitment to helping people as they age have made a significant impact. His advocacy work is truly inspiring."

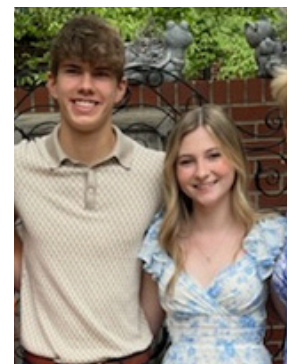
In addition to his work with AARP, Sam serves as president of the board for The Friendship, a volunteer-driven program in Columbia that helps older residents age in place. His dedication to improving the lives of older South Carolinians is evident in his lifelong commitment to service and advocacy.



## Confirmed As Full Members!

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated with Jacob Schatz and Lilly Wilson and their families as they professed their Christian faith and took the vows of membership in The United Methodist Church.

As a sign of their gratitude, Lilly and Jacob and their families have presented a special financial gift to WSUMC in honor of Robbie Douglas and Ann Jessup who served as mentors for Jacob and Lilly throughout their confirmation journey.





# Sunday School Updates

**If you aren't involved in a Sunday morning class, take a look at the variety of topics being discussed in Sunday School this month and visit the class or classes that interest you. Each class welcomes all to join them.**

## Aldersgate Class - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Contact: David Anderson (danderson@richardsonplowden.com)

This month, the class will be studying *Parables* by Reverend Josh Scott. When Jesus taught in parables, he was doing more than telling simple morality tales. His stories were grounded in the world in which he lived and his vision of the kingdom of God. This book explores six parables that give us a window into Jesus's message and movement, and once they are heard in their own context, ask what they might mean for us today. The parables discussed include the new wine and wineskins, the mustard seed, the leaven, the wedding party, the workers in the vineyard, and the wicked tenants.

## Dawsey Class - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Contact: Anne Sinclair (asinclair1@bellsouth.net)

The class is currently discussing *The Gnostic Gospels* by Elaine Pagels. In 1945 fifty-two papyrus texts, including gospels and other secret documents, were found concealed in an earthenware jar buried in the Egyptian desert. These so-called Gnostic writings were Coptic translations from the original Greek dating from the time of the New Testament. You can join in person or from home via Free Conference Call. To join from home, call in between 9:50 and 10 AM. The call-in number is (701) 802-5115. The access code is 7252934.

## Grace Class - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Contact: Jim Lane (jlane@columbiasc.edu)

This month the class will be having leader-led discussions on various topics for the summer. These are engaging discussions on a variety of topics that don't require anything from participants except to show up and be willing to discuss.

## John Harper Class - 1<sup>st</sup> floor

Contact: Boyd Saunders (jboydsanders@aol.com)

The class utilizes Cokesbury's *Adult Bible Studies* each quarter as a guide for class discussions. Each weekly lesson offers background and focal Scriptures, key verses, and doctrinally sound and relevant biblical interpretation and application. This quarter, following the theme "Living Faith", the focal passages come from 1 Corinthians.

## Open Door Class - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Contact: Ann Jessup (jessup.ann@gmail.com)

Discussions this month will be based on the book, *Crazy Christians* by Retired Bishop Michael Curry. We will discuss the traits of crazy Christians who followed Jesus like Mary Magdalene and Harriet Beecher Stowe.

## Paul Harmon Class - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Contact: Sally Mings (sallymings@gmail.com)

The Rev. Diana Westerkam will be leading class discussions this month.

## Solomon's Porch Class - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Contact: Rev. Adrienne Fink (ajhamm@umcsc.org)

Discussions in class this month will be based on episodes from "The Bible for Normal People" podcast.

## Did You Know?

For the third summer, our halls will be filled from time to time with children from the Midlands YMCA Adventure Camp. Providing drop-off and pick-up space for the children as well as meeting space three weeks out of the summer makes it possible for up to 48 children each week to have a meaningful day camp experience.

June theme weeks are "Tourists in Columbia," "Wilderness Week," "Culinary Week" "Arts Alive" and "Water Week." Most days, the children will gather in the youth room before leaving for an activity and returning to the youth room in time for pick-up. If an activity gets rained out, they will have a cool and dry place to land.



The YMCA site supervisor for WSUMC is D'Aundre Jackson, a 2023 USC graduate with a biology degree,

serving with us for his second summer. He plans to go to graduate school in biology. He loves working as the site supervisor because of the opportunity to get to know all the kids and to mentor some of the children that come through the program.

One definition of ministry is "when the gifts of the people meet the needs of the world." In this case WSUMC makes a gift of space to the children of our community, some of whom may have never been inside a church.

What a gift it is!



YMCA Summer Camp Staff:

Hailey, D'Aundre, Zarah & Melody



## Ways to Stay Connected This Summer!

### WORSHIP



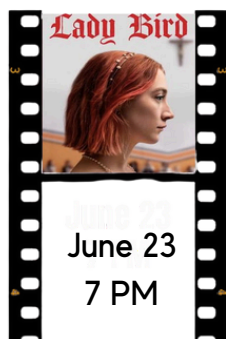
June 19  
11:00 - 11:30 AM  
Christ Chapel

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

The W.E.L.L. - A Place for Worship  
- Encouragement - Laughter & Love

### MOVIE

#### DISCUSSION



You are invited to watch *Lady Bird* on your own or with friends.

After viewing the film, plan to join Rev. Alston on June 23rd at 7 PM in the Wesley room or via Zoom for a discussion of the ways this film portrays and helps us understand the complex relationships between parents and children.

To register and to receive the ZOOM link, email  
aflippert@umcsc.org

### SOCIAL JUSTICE



Sunday, June 8  
Wear Orange  
To Church in  
support of Gun  
Safety Education.

BeSmart volunteers, will have an info table set up in the narthex before and after the 11 o'clock service on the 8th. Stop by and learn more about gun safety and how you can make a difference in gun legislation.

### YoPro (Young Professionals)

If you are between the ages of 25 & 45, use the QR code on this page to join YoPro on Group Me! Through the app, you will get updates about events and any last minute schedule changes.

Here's a look at what is planned for this month:

Thursday, June 5, 6-8 PM: Game Night in the Youth Room at WSUMC.  
Pizza and childcare provided

Sunday, June 22, 12-1:30 PM: Gather after church for lunch and get an update on what happened at the South Carolina United Methodist Annual Conference. Children are welcome!



### Time to Register for VBS!

Register now online using  
the QR Code

or sign up in person outside the  
sanctuary beginning Sunday,  
June 15th.



Vacation Bible School will be July 21-24 from 9 am to noon for children aged 4 through 5th grade. Youth may serve as helpers.

Join Scout the Pup and bring your friends as we learn together that God is with us wherever we go! You will want to check out our VBS website to get a sneak peak of some of the songs and videos the children will be experiencing that week! Use the QR Code above or go to

<https://washington-street-united-methodist-church.mycokesburyvbs.com/>.

If you are interested in helping with Vacation Bible School, please see Debra Schooler (debrajschooler@gmail.com)



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