



WSUMC Calendar  
Visit our website to view our calendar of events at [wsmethodist.org/events/](http://wsmethodist.org/events/) to learn about upcoming events.

## Soup Cellar needs snack items

Close to 200 people a day are being fed at the WSUMC Soup Cellar Monday - Friday.

We are currently seeking snack food items like individual size packets of chips, crackers, or cookies to add to the meal we provide for each of our guests..

Leave donated items in the 'mission garden' in the main hallway of the church or place in the church office anytime Monday -Friday between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM or Sunday mornings between 9:30 AM and Noon.

## Easter Sunday Worship & Celebration

Easter Sunday was glorious! Thank you to all who were a part of the celebration in body and/or spirit! We enjoyed a marvelous potluck breakfast together before the service, took photos by the floral cross in Christ Chapel Courtyard, we were treated to the beauty of colorful hydrangeas that were purchased in honor and memory of loved ones and our choir, with chamber ensemble, led us in the Hallelujah Chorus.

Christ is Risen!  
He is Risen, Indeed!  
Allelujah!



## Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Mary Lide hosted her annual Easter Egg Hunt for WSUMC's children and families on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. After finding all of the colorful eggs, the children joined the adults on the front lawn for snacks and spent some time opening their eggs to discover their treasures.



**Connections**

1401 Washington Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
803.256.2417



# Connections

[wsmethodist.org](http://wsmethodist.org)



## Easter Sunday 2025 A Celebration Of Resurrection & Hope

As we celebrated Easter, we welcomed many friends, family members, neighbors and guests who joined us in singing and prayer. We laughed and listened to one another's stories as we leaned into our God of abundant love and grace who meets us wherever and however we are. What a blessing to have celebrated this Easter together!



## Church Council Approves Affirmation on Marriage

Immediately following the 2024 General Conference last May, the Church Council at Washington Street requested all committees to review their associated procedures, policies, or guideline documents. This request was with the express purpose to ensure alignment with the conference and with this congregation's published identity statement by removing any restrictive or harmful language that may be present.

In this past Church Council meeting on April 15th, the Worship Committee, led by Sam Waldrep, reported that the team had reviewed the wedding policies at WSUMC and was proposing updates to its language and to a few of its guidelines. The Wedding Policy had not been updated since 2016. The revised policy was presented with those proposed changes for review prior to the meeting. One such change was the language with traditional gender-specific wedding terminology is to be updated to be gender neutral...i.e. revising terms such as "bride" and "groom" to "wedding couple".

The Church Council approved unanimously the revised policy with the language and guideline changes as proposed by the Worship Committee. The updated wedding booklet with those policies and guidelines can be found on the Washington Street website at [wsmethodist.org](http://wsmethodist.org).

Additionally, the Worship Committee brought a motion to the floor for Church Council to consider reaffirming our commitment to our Mission, Vision, and Values as they relate to marriage by officially stating that this congregation of the United Methodist Church affirms the updated Book of Discipline's statement on marriage. The following motion was offered to Church Council from the Worship Team:

*WSUMC affirms marriage as a sacred, lifelong covenant that brings two people of faith into union with one another and into a deeper relationship with God and the religious community. As members of this congregation, we do not discriminate in the use of our facilities because of race, creed, age, sex, gender, gender identity, national origin, sexual orientation, or economic status, including same-sex couples.*

The Church Council recognizes the importance to publicly live into our Mission, Vision, and Values and to recall the Wesleyan lesson on Christian living to **"do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."** With that as our constant guidance, Church Council voted and approved unanimously the affirmation as proposed by the Worship committee.

## Movie Discussion:



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

After viewing the film, plan to join Rev. Alston on May 26th 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**

## 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 April 19, 2025. They joined several hundred others to express their concern over many of the President's policies related to social justice concerns. The event was organized as a pro-democracy protest against Project 2025.



## Columbia Fireflies Faith & Family Night



Thanks to Mary Lide and Dave Mills who coordinated our April 26<sup>th</sup> outing, we had a group of 47 attending this fun night of fellowship.

## Sunday School Updates

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

We are studying a 6 week study on the topic “Courage” by Tom Berlin. Courage is the foundational virtue required for the Christian Life. Bishop Berlin challenges us to unlock the courage that we already possess as Jesus followers. By examining the life of Christ, we will begin to understand what true courage is and how God works in the lives of Jesus followers as they exhibit brave faith. Once we have eyes to see what Jesus is showing us, once we have ears to hear, we can begin to find the remarkable life Jesus offers us. Come join the Aldersgate Class as we embark on these lessons.

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

We will be studying The Gnostic Gospels by Elaine Pagels. We will discuss the traits of crazy Christians who followed Jesus like Mary Magdalene and Harriet Beecher Stowe. 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. We hope you’ll join us.

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

During the month of May, individual class members will be leading discussions on various topics of their choice. All are welcome to join in person or via ZOOM. To find out each week’s topic and to get the ZOOM link contact Jim Lane.

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

This month, 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.

**OPEN DOOR CLASS:** Located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Contact: Ann Jessup (jessup.ann@gmail.com) *Walter Dean*

In May, the Open Door class is studying Crazy Christians by Retired Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry. “Filled with wisdom, humor, and insight, Michael Curry’s Crazy Christians is one of the finest introductions to the great breadth of Christian faith I’ve ever come across. But be warned: this isn’t the staid, predictable, strait-laced Christianity too many of us were spoon-fed in Sunday School.”—David Lose, Luther Seminary

**Paul Harmon Class:** Located on the 3rd floor  
Contact: Sally Mings (sallymmings@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)  
Each week, a person will choose an episode from the podcast, "The Bible for Normal People." Class members will rotate responsibility for facilitating the discussion.

**Youth:** Youth Room Located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Contact: Rev. Kathy James (kljames@umcsc.org)  
An opportunity for youth in 5<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade to dig deeper into Bible stories and grow in faith.



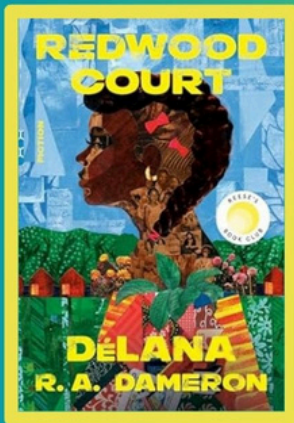
**May 15**  
**11:00 - 11:30 AM**  
**Christ Chapel**  
**Come to The WELL**

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



## BOOK CLUB



Open Door Classroom  
Wednesday, May 14  
6:00 PM

This month's book is  
**Redwood Court**  
by DeLana R.A. Dameron.  
All are welcome!



## Confirmation Sunday - May 18th

Sunday, May 18 will be another special day at WSUMC —Confirmation Sunday! It's the day we celebrate our youth who've taken a BIG step in their faith journey. They've asked questions, explored their beliefs, and decided to say, "Yes, I'm in!" to following Jesus and being part of our church community.

### Why Confirmation Matters

In the United Methodist Church, confirmation is more than a tradition; it's a meaningful milestone. At WSUMC, youth in the 8th grade or older engage in a preparation process that lasts several weeks. During this time, they learn about our history, our faith, ask tough questions, and build relationships that often last a lifetime.

### The Impact of Confirmation

While specific statistics on confirmation retention can vary, studies have shown that youth who go through confirmation are more likely to stay connected to their faith communities into adulthood. It's not just about the classes; it's about the relationships and the sense of belonging that keeps them engaged.

### A Time to Celebrate

We are excited to announce that we have two candidates for confirmation this year: Jacob Schatz and Lilly Wilson. Ann Jessup and Robbie Douglas have been serving as mentors and meeting with Lilly and Jacob since February 9<sup>th</sup>. They used a curriculum developed by UM Bishop Will Wilimon, "Making Disciples" and engaged in a couple of group lessons with Rev. Kathy, Rev. Becky and youth from Columbia UMC and Wesley UMC. Lilly and Jacob have been working hard and having fun learning and growing in faith and will be confirmed during the worship service on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

So, let's celebrate our confirmands! They've shown commitment, curiosity, and courage. They've laughed, learned, and maybe even had a few awkward moments along the way. But most importantly, they've grown in their faith and are ready to take on the world with Jesus by their side.

As we cheer them on, make plans to be here on May 18<sup>th</sup>, attend the reception after the service in the Wesley room, and let's also commit to walking alongside them in the days to come. Confirmation isn't the end—it's just the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith. As their church family, we're here to support, encourage, and love them every step of the way.

Open Door Sunday school class invites you to join them in congratulating Jacob and Lilly on completing this confirmation journey by leaving cards and gifts of encouragement for them in one of the bins located across from the church office.



## CDC Spring Fling Fun!

The Washington Street UMC Child Development Center (WSUMC CDC) has a long history of providing full-day, quality child development programs for children ages six weeks to five years old. But, did you know that our CDC has an A+ rating with The Department of Social Services ABC Quality program? This is the highest rating indicating a high quality daycare program.

Each week, one of our clergy or one of the church or CDC staff members lead a brief chapel lesson for the children in 4/ 5 year old classroom and currently we have 4 church members who actively serve on the CDC Board. To get a glimpse of the joy and nurture the children in our CDC experience, and the impact of this ministry on families, take a look at these photos from the CDC's Spring Fling held on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. This year's Spring Fling was a family fun night that featured face painting, a candy walk, Bingo, a giant Jenga, bubbles and other family friendly activities.



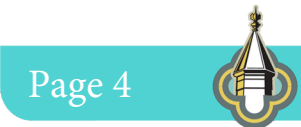
## While I Breathe - I Hope: "Re-imagine the Church"



WSUMC hosted the Queerfish 2025 Spring Exhibition April 27- May 4.. The exhibition included almost 20 works of art focused on the theme of "Hope".

In this exhibition, LGBTQ+ Artists cultivate hope and understanding by re-imagining the universal church as a more loving and inclusive community. The aim is to foster an environment that embraces diversity and promotes unity.





In December 2023, Church Council voted to instruct the trustees to move forward on plans to take down the church sign located at the corner of Bull and Washington and work with the city and contractors to replace it with a monument style sign. The new monument sign is now in place and the next phase in the project includes landscaping around the sign and lighting. Thank you to Ray Cobb for spearheading this project for us.

### A New Sign on Bull and Washington



The Old Letter Board sign



The New Monument sign

### ACTIVE FAITH YARD SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 17  
7 AM - 1 PM  
PREVIEW NIGHT  
FRIDAY, MAY 16  
5 PM - 6 PM

**DROP OFF DATES AND TIMES:**  
MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> | 10 AM - 2 PM  
MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> | 9 AM - 2 PM  
MAY 12-16 | 10 AM - 3PM

**NOT ACCEPTING:**  
BOOKS\* - SHOES - CDs  
DVDs - HELMETS - CRIBS  
CLOTHING - COMPUTERS  
LARGE FURNITURE ITEMS\*  
BROKEN OR DIRTY ITEMS  
**\*WILL ACCEPT CHILDREN'S BOOKS & BED FRAMES**



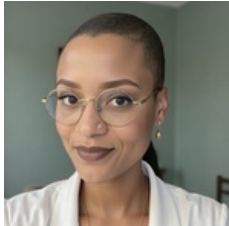
### College Graduates



**Heidi Conte**  
University of South Carolina  
BA in Information Technology



**Bauer A Haynes**  
Georgia Southern University  
BS in Respiratory Therapy  
Summa Cum Laude



**Avivette Jones**  
Western Governors University  
BA in Marketing

### High School Graduates



McCullough Adams  
Heathwood Hall



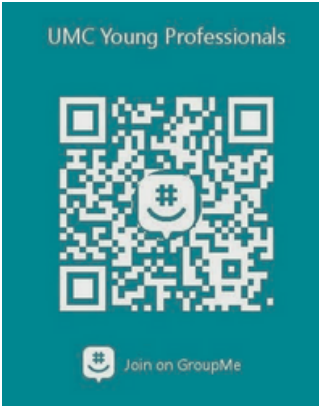
Layne Powers  
Brooklyn Cayce



Hayden Rowe  
A.C. Flora



### “YoPro” - WSUMC’s Young Professionals



YoPro will continue to meet throughout the summer and we’d love to have you join us! Use the QR code to join the group on Group Me to get updates and any last minute schedule changes.

**YoPros in the Know**  
Sunday, June 22, 12:00-1:30 PM  
Gather after worship for lunch and get an update on what happened at the South Carolina United Methodist Annual Conference  
Children are welcome!

**Game Night**  
Thursday, June 5, 6:00-8:00 PM  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Youth Room  
Pizza and childcare provided

**Game Night**  
Thursday, July 10, 6:00-8:00 PM  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Youth Room  
Pizza and childcare provided  
\*Note change to 2nd Thursday Due to Independence Day

**Game Night**  
Thursday, August 7, 6:00-8:00 PM  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Youth Room  
Pizza and childcare provided.

### Welcome New Members



Marvin Mazariego  
joined  
February 9, 2025



Jess and Gates McClinchie,  
Elliana (2) and Emerson (7 months)  
joined on Palm Sunday (April 13)



Michael Shealey  
joined  
February 9, 2025



Leland Spencer  
joined  
February 9, 2025



Denise Wellman  
joined  
February 9, 2025



Thomas Wheeler  
joined  
February 9, 2025



Katie & Lilly Wilson and  
Robert Langham  
joined February 9, 2025