

August 2025



WASHINGTON  
STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Connections

wsmethodist.org

## ECUADOR MISSION TRIP 2025

It's always amazing to see members of Washington Street doing good in our local community. But it's a special kind of pride to see them do good in another part of the world. On June 4th, 16 total members of local United Methodist Churches, including Washington Street, traveled to Ecuador to bring medical and spiritual care to those in need. This mission trip is an annual event that was started many years ago by Rev. Patricia Parrish and missionary Sarah Flores.

During their 10 days in Ecuador, the travelers brought help to five different communities and provided medical assistance to those who would otherwise go without. There was a dentist, optometrist, pediatrician, and a triage physician to make sure the residents had a clean bill of health. The rest of the travelers without a background in medical care assisted where they could to make sure the Ecuadorian people felt at ease. By the end of their trip, these amazing volunteers had provided dental care to 110 people, prescribed glasses to 500 people, and gave general medical care to over 600 people.

Medical Kits, filled with supplies donated by members of our very church, were given out to the clinic patients as well. By the end of the trip, too many were given out to count!

The Ecuador mission team also helped out with church related duties. They assisted with a local Vacation Bible School program, held service on Pentecost Sunday, and preached the word of God in both English and Spanish to show respect for the Ecuadorian culture.

Though one attendee, Melanie Dobson, would point out that this trip wasn't about bringing Christ to the people of Ecuador. It was about seeing Christ in those they were able to help.

Those interested in learning more about this year's trip, and how to participate in future trips, should join us in the sanctuary on August 10<sup>th</sup>. This will be a special service hosted by Melanie Dobson and will focus on this year's Ecuador mission trip and the good that was done during it.







## Vacation Bible School 2025

For many years, the Vacation Bible School program at Washington Street UMC has helped our children find their faith and become lifelong United Methodists. And this year was no exception! VBS 2025 brought together over 20 children from our church community for a week of fun, learning, and devotion.

VBS students conducted science experiments, did arts and crafts, sung bible songs, and of course spent time with the VBS mascot, Scout! But the most important lesson of all came from Joshua 1:9 “I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

As the children sang their final songs on the last day of VBS, it was apparent that they had taken the lesson from Joshua to heart. That they could go forward in confidence knowing that they not only have their friends, family, and fellow church attendees behind them, but God as well.

VBS would not be possible without our amazing group of youth and adult volunteers. They worked tirelessly to make sure the children had a safe and educational time here at Washington Street.

From the bottom of our hearts, we want to thank those of you who helped in anyway with Vacation Bible School 2025. And if you see any of these wonderful people out in the wild, be sure to thank them as well.





## Meet Our New Members!



**Cynthia Forest**



**Rhonda Forest**



**Kathy Cobb**

## New Staff Members



**Jacob Valdez**  
(Communications Coordinator)

## 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: Demi Garvin (garvindemi@gmail.com)

Through October, this class will begin discussing *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage* by Richard Rohr. In his book, Rohr seeks to add new meaning to ancient texts that will open doors for those who are seeking compassion in a world that lacks it. 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 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 (jboydsaunders@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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

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

The Open Door Class will be studying the tree of life over the next few weeks. While this is not a book study, we will be looking at images of the tree of life and other trees in the Bible, relating them to our Christian walk.

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

Contact: Sally Mings (sallymings@gmail.com)

In July, this class will begin a study on one of Jesus' closest disciples: Mary Magdalene. We will have several guest speakers during this lesson plan and at some point will watch and discuss *Conclave* (2024).

### 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.

\*subject to change



**Ryan Wiskes**  
(Sound & Video Technician)

## McClinchie Family Baptism

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Becky and Rev. Alston had the pleasure of baptizing two new members of our congregation. Elliana and Emerson McClinchie, daughters of church members Gates and Jessica, were welcomed by all in attendance. We here at Washington Street wish nothing but love for these two new disciples and hope to help them on their journeys of faith for many years to come.





## Ways to Stay Connected This Summer!

### WORSHIP



August 21st  
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 *Finding Nemo* on your own or with friends.

After viewing the film, plan to join Rev. Alston on August 25th 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

### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay up to date on everything Washington Street by following us on social media!



### 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, August 7th, 6-8 PM: Game Night in the Youth Room at WSUMC.  
Pizza and childcare provided



## Small Group Kick Off

Want to be more involved with Washington Street UMC? Looking for people who share similar interests? Come to the Small Group Kick Off!

On September 7<sup>th</sup> we'll have a potluck just after Sunday service where you can eat and learn more about any of our small groups that you might want to sign up for!

Small Groups are a great way to meet people and better your local community both in and out of the church.

To learn more about our small groups, scan the QR code or visit [wsmethodist.org/small-groups/](http://wsmethodist.org/small-groups/).



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