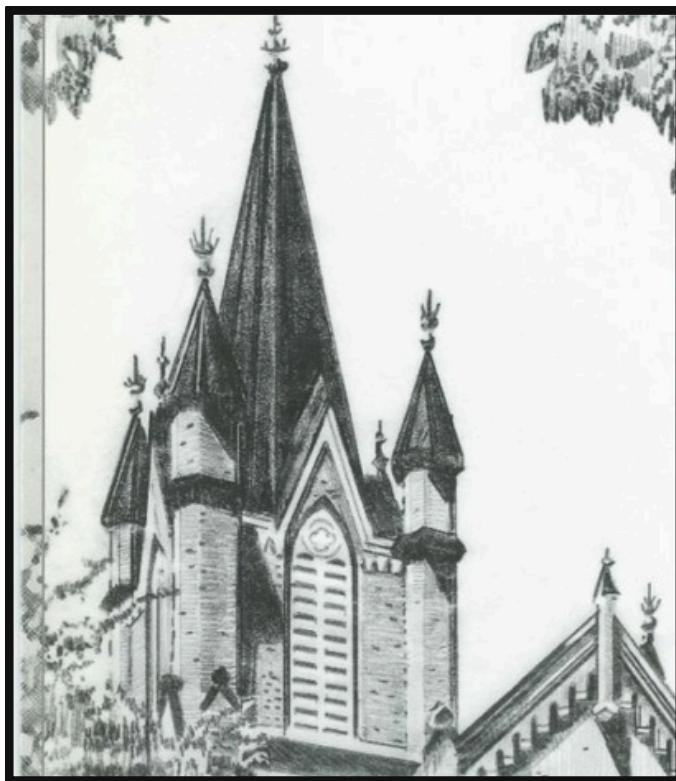




WASHINGTON STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



August 3, 2025

1:² “Everything is meaningless,” says the Teacher, “utterly meaningless!”

¹² I, the Teacher, was king of Israel, and I lived in Jerusalem. ¹³ I devoted myself to search for understanding and to explore by wisdom everything being done in the world. I soon discovered that God has dealt a tragic existence to the human race. ¹⁴ Everything under the sun is all meaningless—like chasing the wind.

2:¹⁸ I am disgusted that I must leave the fruits of my hard work to others. ¹⁹ And who can tell whether my successors will be wise or foolish? And yet they will control everything I have gained by my skill and hard work. How meaningless!

²⁰ So I turned in despair from hard work. It was not the answer to my search for satisfaction in this life. ²¹ For though I do my work with wisdom, knowledge, and skill, I must leave everything I gain to people who haven't worked to earn it. This is not only foolish but highly unfair. ²² So what do people get for all their hard work? ²³ Their days of labor are filled with pain and grief; even at night they cannot rest. It is all utterly meaningless.

Order of Worship

8th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

RINGING OF THE BELL

CHORAL INTROIT *Down to the River to Pray*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

***HYMN #155 (UMH)** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* DIADEM

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Following the Children's moments, 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.

OFFERTORY *How Great is Our God* Chris Tomlin

***DOXOLOGY #94 (UMH)** LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***HYMN #630 (UMH)** *Become to us the Living Bread* GELOBT SEI BOTT

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ecclesiastes 2:2, 12-14, 2:18-23

HOMILY Life Rev. Alston Lippert

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (UMH page 12-15)

Invitation
Prayer of Confession
Words of Assurance of Pardon
The Great Thanksgiving
The Lord's Prayer
Receiving The Bread and The Cup

COMMUNION HYMNS

Eat This Bread (UMH) #628
Fill My Cup, Lord (UMH) #641
In Remembrance of Me (TFWS)#2254
Sing Alleluia to the Lord (TFWS)#2258

***BENEDICTION & CHORAL RESPONSE**

***POSTLUDE**

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:

- 1 - Please fill out the tear-off section of this bulletin and place in the offering plate during the service.
- 2- Pick up a copy of our monthly newsletter, "Connections", to learn about Sunday School classes, events, and volunteer. Copies are available just outside the Sanctuary doors.

Bible presentation to 3rd graders

If you have a child or grandchild entering the 3rd grade, please notify Rev. Kathy James so we can present them with a Bible on August 17.

Ministry Events This Week

Monday, August 4th - Small Group Leader Meeting - 10:30 AM
Wesley Room

Thursday, August 7th - YoPro - Game Night - 6 PM - Youth Room

Pizza and childcare provided

Save The Date For The Following Ministry Events

Disciple Bible Studies Begin

Disciple 1 - Tuesday, August 12th, @ 3:00 to 5:30 pm in Wesley Room with Rev. Diana Westerkam

Disciple 1 - Tuesday, August 12th, @ 6:00 to 8:30 pm in Aldersgate Classroom with Rev. Becky or Rev. Kathy

Disciple 3 - Sunday, August 10th, @ 5:00 to 7:30 pm in John Harper with Rev. Alston

6th - 12th Grade Youth - August 17 Planning Session

Make plans to join Rev. Kathy after church on Sunday, August 17th to share your ideas and help plan 2025-26 youth events. We will walk to lunch and plan afterwards in the youth room!

Thursday, August 21th - The Well - Chapel

Join us and invite family and friends to come with you to participate in this special monthly service. We gather at 11:00 AM for 30 minutes of worship in the Chapel. This service is filled with hymn singing, a brief "Jesus story," and the sacrament of Holy Communion. This is an especially welcoming service for persons living with dementia and their caregivers.

Sunday, September 7th - Potluck and Small Group Sign-up

In Our Prayers

Kristen Adams	Mickey Epting	Lisa Johnson	Sharon McCullough
Ann Bell	Nancy Epting	Sam Mathews	Ellen Parker
Ron Bowden	Carl Evans	Paul McClanahan	Joe Plough
Jerry Bundy	Pat Griffin	Patrick McClanahan	Our Homebound
Truman Duggin	Karen Horne		

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	Beatrice McGandy
Children's Church:	Shelley Stafford
	Kara Rottman
Greeter:	Shelley Stafford
Sound/Video/Projection:	Lynn Shirley
	Ryan Wiskes
Ushers:	Ricky Rowe and Jay Parmley
Communion Servers:	Vickie Voegeli,
	Thom Berry, Gail Ward-Besser,
	and Pam Jenkins

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 07/27: 255 (192 in person + 163 online as of 07/30)

YTD Offerings Received: \$448,742 YTD Soup Cellar Gifts: \$38,407

YTD Expenses: \$560,425 YTD Soup Cellar Expenses: \$45,816

YTD Gifts to WSUMC Foundation: \$16,261

Staff Worship Leadership Team

Senior Pastor:	Rev. Becky Shirley	rjshirley@umcsc.org
Associate Pastor for Nurture:	Rev. Alston Lippert	aflippert@umcsc.org
Director of Music Ministries:	Dr. Catherine Nance	catherine@wsmethodist.org
Organist:	David Turner	david@wsmethodist.org
Pianist:	Dr. Rick Frierson	(volunteer)
Audio/Video Technology	Ryan Wiskes	ryan@wsmethodist.org