

September 2025



WASHINGTON
STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connections

wsmethodist.org

WASHINGTON STREET SUMMER RECAP

The air is starting to cool down which can only mean one thing: Fall is just around the corner! But as we move forward it's important to look back at all that we've accomplished. And as a congregation, we've certainly accomplished a lot this summer!

On June 4th, a group of Washington Street members traveled to Ecuador for 10 days to provide medical care for over 600 hundred people. The travelers also got a firsthand look at a culture very different from our own, which reminded them of an important lesson. No matter where you're from or how you're raised, we are ALL the children of God.



Just as our Ecuador travelers were returning from their trip, another group was setting out to make a change in a different part of the world. From June 14th to the 21st, a group of volunteers from Washington

Street traveled to St. Helena Island, SC to participate in Salkehatchie Summer Service. During their week of worship and togetherness they made renovations to five local homes that were in desperate need of repairs. Even when it was time to go home, these dedicated volunteers decided to stay past their required time until the job was complete.

It's amazing to see members of our congregation do good in various parts of the world. But there were also great things being done at home as well. At the end of July, we hosted our annual Vacation Bible School program which brought together 20 children from our local community for a week of learning, fun and devotion. Between singing songs and hanging out with the VBS mascot Scout, our kids learned a very important lesson 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." (cont. pg 2)





We were also fortunate enough to welcome several new members into our congregation over the last few months. This includes two of our Youth Group members, Jacob and Lily, as well as the



McClinchie family who had their daughters baptized with us this past July!

Thank you to everyone who made this summer possible. We were able to spread God's love in so many ways and it would not have been possible without all of you. Please continue to help us as we pursue our mission of bringing the word of God to all who seek it.



Youth Group Fall 2025 Schedule

**Sept. 14th - Games & Fall Festival
Planning**

Sept. 28th - Movie in the Youth Room

**Oct. 12th - Charge Conference &
Pumpkin Carving**

Oct. 26th - Fall Festival

All meeting times will be from 4pm - 6pm

Contact Kathy James with any questions:
(kljames@umcsc.org)

Seeking Donations for Sing Along Messiah

Washington Street will be hosting our annual Sing Along Messiah performance on December 15th! This performance of Handel's Messiah is open to everyone and is first come first serve! But in order to put on a performance of this scale, we need your help! We are currently seeking donations to help pay for musicians and other expenses that come with putting on Sing Along Messiah. We currently have raised approximately \$3500 and are aiming to raise \$10,000. You can donate using the QR code below. Share this with your friends, family, or anyone who might be interested! Thank you to those who have already contributed and we hope to see you December 15th!



Meet Our New Member!



**Jane
Polk**

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 - 2nd Floor

Contact: David Anderson (danderson@richardsonplowden.com)

For the next 6 weeks we will be embarking on the study, *A Disciples' Path: A Guide for United Methodists* by Pastor James A. Harnish and Justin Larosa. This program will guide individuals to take the next step in discipleship and become dynamic, engaged followers of Jesus Christ. The study will combine a Wesleyan understanding of our growth in God's love and grace with the time-tested practices of spiritual discipline expressed in the membership vows to uphold the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Come join us for this lesson series and enjoy a cup of coffee and a donut and deepen your relationship with Christ and the Church.

Dawsey Class - 2nd 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 - 3rd 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 - 1st 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 - 3rd floor

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

The Open Door Class is beginning a new study on September 14. *Everyday Epiphanies - Meeting Christ in the Ordinary Moments of Life* by James Harnish recalls the events between Christ's birth and the beginning of his public ministry and reminds us that God can be found in the quiet moments of life.

Paul Harmon Class - 3rd floor *

Contact: Sally Mings (sallymmings@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 - 2nd 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

Meet Our New CDC Director!



Let's give a warm welcome to our new Child Development Center Director, Alicia Washington! Alicia comes to us with over 20 years of early childhood education experience and a passion for working with kids and families.

If you'd like to get to know her better, she'll be speaking to the congregation on September 28th during our special CDC Sunday Service. But if you see her before then, be sure to introduce yourself!

Small Group Launch

Right after service today, we'll be holding our Small Group Launch Potluck! Join us in Threatt Hall, enjoy some Publix fried chicken, and learn more about the different small groups Washington Street has to offer!

Missed out on getting a copy of the Small Group Booklet? Scan the QR code below to check out the digital version!





Ways to Stay Connected at Washington Street!

WORSHIP



September 18th
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 *Chariots of Fire* on your own or with friends.



After viewing the film, plan to join Rev. Alston on September 22nd at 7 PM in the Wesley room or via Zoom for a discussion of this film's themes of perseverance and interdependence.

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, September 11th, 6-8 PM: Game Night in the Youth Room at WSUMC.
Pizza and childcare provided



Supplies Needed for Fall Festival!

Washington Street UMC's annual Fall Festival will be on October 26th and we need your help! We are seeking donations of water bottles and Halloween candy to give out during the festival. All donations should be dropped off in The Mission Garden which is located on the left side of the hall as you come in through the main entrance. Please leave a note to specify your donation is for the festival, so it is not mixed in with the Soup Cellar donations.



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1401 Washington Street
Columbia, SC 29201
803.256.2417

