



WASHINGTON  
STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Connections

wsmethodist.org

## WASHINGTON STREET BRICK BLESSING

More than 30 years ago, what is now known as the Christ Chapel Courtyard was little more than a storage space for old tools and the church's trash cans. However, Janet Cotter saw the potential beauty in this space and knew it could be something more. Despite being told that the church couldn't afford to make the renovations necessary, Janet was able to not only raise the money herself, but also recruit a number of volunteers to help her. Through their efforts, Janet and her team were able to gather the parts needed to



complete her noble vision. This required driving all around the state in search of the perfect fountain, finding someone to lay the Regency Red bricks with Arial font engravings, and finding a way to get trimmings from John Wesley's England home through customs to plant them in our courtyard. Because of their non-stop dedication, Washington Street UMC now has a beautiful, meditative space that is open to all who enter our building. Janet's team of helpers would eventually become the Christ Chapel Courtyard Committee; A group dedicated to the upkeep of the

courtyard and who make sure it still fits Janet's initial vision all these years later. Through this committee, church donors can contribute to the courtyard maintenance fund and in return receive a brick engraved in recognition of their contribution.

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, the Christ Chapel Courtyard Committee held a special "blessing of the bricks" ceremony to honor and celebrate those who have contributed to our courtyard. Rev. Becky hosted the ceremony in Christ Chapel just after Sunday service, where many Washington Street members were in attendance. Rev. Becky then led the attendees into the Christ Chapel Courtyard where she asked God to bless this holy space, so it may continue to be a place where we can feel his love. If you haven't already, please feel free to explore our Christ Chapel Courtyard, and look upon the bricks inscribed with the names of members new and old. Thank you to Janet and her team for their dedication to this space for over 30 years. We appreciate your efforts, and hope to help maintain the Christ Chapel Courtyard for many years to come.





## CDC Special Sunday

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, Washington Street hosted a special Sunday service to celebrate our Child Development Center. Our CDC, which is DSS certified and ABC accredited, teaches kids ages 14 months to 5 years old and seeks to give children unique experiences depending on their needs and interests. Subjects our children study include science, language arts, music, and more! The CDC wouldn't be what it is without the work of our 17 full and part time staff members, and we thank them for all that they do. If you run into any of our CDC staff out in the wild, be sure to thank them as well!

Also on this Sunday, we were able to officially introduce our congregation to our brand new



CDC director, Alicia Washington! Alicia received her Early Childhood Education degree from Jackson State University, and also has a Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling. She comes to us with 20 years of experience in early childhood education and has already been an asset to our CDC.

During our special CDC service, Alicia hosted our weekly "Children's Moment," and taught our kids the importance of embodying the love of Christ, and how important it is for them to spread that love to their friends and family.



We here at Washington Street want to give a big thank you to Alicia and all that she's done for the CDC, our kids, and their families on her first month in the job and we look forward to her tenure as CDC director. If you haven't had the pleasure meeting her yet, be sure to introduce yourself the next time you see her!

## GET YOUR ROSES FOR ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY!

All Saints' Sunday is on November 2<sup>nd</sup> this year, and it's time to order your roses for those we've lost. Scan the QR code below to order online, or pick up an order form outside of the Sanctuary every Sunday in October! Roses will be \$10 and all order forms are due October 26th!



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

## She Sings in Concert

She Sings in Concert will be held at Eastminster Presbyterian Church on October 21st! Admission is free but the event team is seeking donations to benefit Epworth Children's Home. Epworth is a local institution that takes in children with negative home lives and cares for them mentally, physically, and spiritually. The show begins at 7:00pm and includes many current and former Washington Street choir members. So come by, enjoy the show, and support a good cause!



NO TICKET SALES - ALL DONATIONS BENEFIT EPWORTH HOME



## Join us for Charge Conference!

Join us on Sunday October 12<sup>th</sup> at 4pm for our annual Charge Conference meeting! This will be a review of our church, our mission, our current budget, and more. While this event is open to the entire congregation, only church officials may vote during Charge Conference.

## 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)  
Starting on October 26<sup>th</sup> the Aldersgate Class will embark on a 6-week journey on Max Lucado's new book *Tame Your Thoughts Three Tools to Renew your Mind and Transform Your Life*. Come join us for a short video and discussion on this topic. Enjoy a cup of coffee and a donut all our welcome as embark on this study series beginning Sunday October 26 and running through November 30.

### 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)  
The Grace Class will continue reading the book *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom For An Age of Outrage* by Richard Rohr through October and into November.

### 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 is studying *Everyday Epiphanies - Meeting Christ in the Ordinary Moments of Life* by James Harnish. This book 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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Contact: Sally Mings (sallymings@gmail.com)  
The Paul Harmon Class is reading and discussing *The Book of Joy*, by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Douglas Abrams. Visitors are always welcome!

### 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

## Small Group Potluck

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, our church's halls were filled with attendees of our Small Group Potluck! This event brought together our congregation for an afternoon of fellowship, and sought to inform our people of the wonderful small groups we have at Washington Street UMC. Thank you to the volunteers who made this event possible, and a special thank you to Mel's Dairy Bar for supplying the chicken at the last second! If you missed out on this event and still want to sign up for a Small Group, scan the QR code for a digital version of the small group booklet!



## Fall Festival 2025

It's time once again for Washington Street UMC's Fall Festival! Join us on October 26<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 6pm for a night of fun for the whole family! We'll have a costume contest, Trunk or Treat, Cake Walk and a variety of games and activities. There will be a special area for preschool children's activities. Bring your children, grandchildren, neighbors and friends!

We're also seeking donations of candy and water bottles! Drop off all donations in The Mission Garden with a note specifying what it's for.





## Ways to Stay Connected at Washington Street!

### WORSHIP



October 16th  
11:00 - 11:30 AM  
Christ Chapel

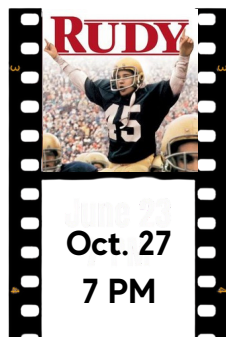
Filled with familiar hymns, an interactive Jesus story, and communion, this service is especially friendly to persons living with dementia and their care partners.

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

### MOVIE

#### DISCUSSION

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



After viewing the film, plan to join Rev. Alston on October 27th 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, October 2nd @ 6PM: Attending Pride Service at Shandon Presbyterian Church

Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup> @ 6-8:30PM: Halloween Costume Party in the Youth Room

UMC Young Professionals



Join on GroupMe

## Donations Needed 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 this performance.

We've currently raised \$7340 of our \$10,000 goal. You can donate using the QR code. Share this with your friends, family, or anyone who might be interested! We hope to see you December 15th!



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