

November 2025



WASHINGTON
STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connections

wsmethodist.org



Are you interested in using your God-given talents to benefit the Washington Street United Methodist Church community? Now is the perfect time to do so! Leading up to All Saint's Sunday, WSUMC's Stewardship Committee has been promoting the 2026 Stewardship Campaign. During this time we have asked our congregation, from lifelong members to those just joining us, to search their hearts for where their talents lie and how they can apply that to our community. During Sunday service on October 26th, we handed out copies of the C.A.R.E Connection. A booklet outlining the many ministries we have here at Washington Street that need the efforts of all church attendees in order to thrive. If you did not receive a C.A.R.E Connection booklet, you may pick one up at the church office or you can view/fill it out digitally at wsmethodist.org/stewardship-2026/.

The theme of this year's campaign is "Called to C.A.R.E." C.A.R.E stands for **Courageous** Faith, **Adaptive** Faith, **Relational** Faith, and **Embodied** Faith.

Using these four tenants of faith, we here at Washington Street strive to fulfill the tasks that Christ has bestowed upon us. Through this we are able to love boldly, serve joyfully and lead courageously within our church's walls and beyond.

Immediately following the All Saint's Sunday service on November 2nd, we'll be concluding our 2026 Stewardship Campaign by sharing a meal in Threatt Hall. The lunch will be provided by our Soup Cellar, a ministry that answers the "Call to C.A.R.E" every single day. We hope to see all of you there and look forward to sharing a meal with this wonderful congregation.

Thank you to those who have already made their C.A.R.E Commitment for 2026. We encourage those you of haven't made their commitments yet to look at what Washington Street has to offer and join a ministry that feels right for you!





Harriet Hancock Award

On Sunday, October 5th, WSUMC's Social Justice Action Team awarded the Harriet Hancock Ally Award to our very own Rev. Diana Westerkam. Long before the United Methodist Church would officially affirm LGBTQ+ persons, Diana welcomed all into Washington Street and opened doors for those who otherwise felt they didn't belong.

It was Diana who helped our Grace Sunday School class become South Carolina's first reconciling community back in 2007. This led to



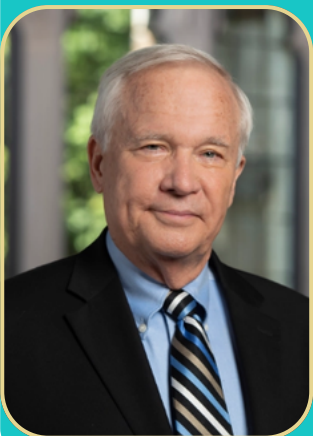
a movement within our church that eventually caused Washington Street United Methodist Church to officially become a reconciling congregation. A place where anyone, regardless of background, can call home.

"I'm deeply honored to receive this award," Rev. Diana said. "But I am also deeply mindful of [those] who have worked to make this the inclusive community that it truly is."

Thank you to Rev. Diana for her many years of service to this community. We hope to uphold her legacy for many years to come.

Broth and Blessings

The holidays are a wonderful time to gather and share a meal with friends and family. But some people don't know when they're next meal is going to come. So to help, our United Women in Faith Circle 2 group is looking for people to donate various food goods to our Soup Cellar this holiday season. Specifically, they are seeking #10 cans of vegetables, 25 lbs bags of rice, individually wrapped snacks, bottled water, soda, Gatorade (16 oz.), styrofoam cups, lids, plastic spoons and napkins. If you prefer to give a monetary donation you can do so through Realm or with a check. Paper bags may be picked up at the church office on November 2nd and 9th to carry your food goods and/or checks. Bring your donation on Nov. 16th and place your bag in front of the altar before the 11:00 am service. Contact Anne Sinclair at asinclair1@bellsouth.net or 803-622-0471 with any questions.



Bishop Will Willimon to Host Sunday Service on 11/9!

10am - Meet & Greet for WSUMC Congregation

11am - Worship Service

3pm - Book Discussion (The Church We Carry: Loss, Leadership and the Future of Our Church)

Meet Our New Members!

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Beth
Barry



Frazier
Swindler



Tom
Walters



Becky
Walters



Hank
Padget



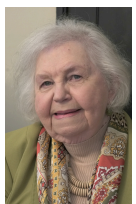
Sandra
Kessler



Emily
Johnson



Laurie
Vaughn



Freddie
Vaughn



Rupert
Johnson

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)
Starting on October 26th 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 a coffee and a donut all our welcome as embark on this study series beginning Sunday October 26 and running through November 30.

Dawsey Class - 2nd floor

Contact: Demi Garvin (garvindemi@gmail.com)
We continue our new study: Days of Awe and Wonder-How to be a Christian in the 21st Century by Marcus Borg. Hunter Rentz will lead our discussion of Chapter 2. 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)
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 - 1st floor*

Contact: Boyd Saunders (jboydsaunder@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 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 - 3rd floor

Contact: Sally Mings (sallymmings@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 - 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

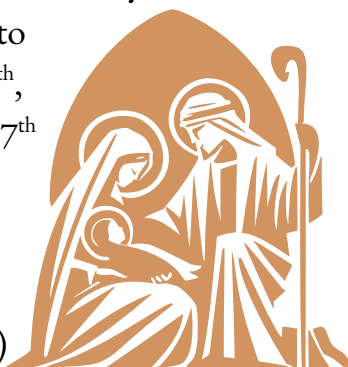
WSUMC Nativity Pageant

Washington Street will be hosting the Children's Nativity Pageant on December 7th! We are looking for young performers to take part in the pageant and to help us tell the story of the birth of Christ. Rehearsals are to be held on November 16th, 23rd, 30th, and December 7th in the Youth Room.

Contact Andrea McAtee to sign-up

(acmcatee21@gmail.com)

and we'll see you on November 16th at 10am!





AgapeTable
In Partnership with
11th Hour Productions

Church of The Arts
November 14th @ 7:30

Open Hearts United
Methodist Church
November 15th @ 7:30

Washington St.
Methodist Church
November 16th @ 7:00



LEVITICUS
based on a true story

Buy your tickets here





Ways to Stay Connected at Washington Street!

WORSHIP



November 20th
11:00 - 11:30 AM
Christ Chapel

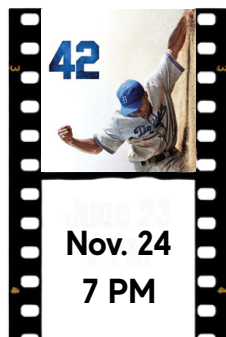
Filled with familiar hymns, an interactive Jesus story, and communion, this service is especially friendly to persons living with dementia and their care partners.

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

MOVIE

DISCUSSION

You are invited to watch 42 on your own or with friends.



After viewing the film, plan to join Rev. Alston on November 24th 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!



ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS TODAY FOR THE ADVENT SEASON!

Scan the QR Code to fill out the order form or pick one up outside of the Sanctuary every Sunday in November! Form is due by November 23rd!



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 \$9,135 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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