



WASHINGTON STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 28, 2025

WELCOME!

We are grateful you are here to worship with us! We are an open community of Christians helping people find and give hope through Jesus Christ - regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, disability or socioeconomic background. No matter who you are, where you are from, who you love, or what you look like, know that God loves you and YOU BELONG HERE. Please take a moment to help us get to know you by completing the blue tear-off section of this bulletin and placing it in the offering plate during the service.



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:1-14 NIV

Order of Worship

1st Sunday After Christmas

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Becky Shirley

RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Kathy James

*HYMN #224 (UMH) *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* IN DULCI JUBILO

*GOSPEL LESSON John 1:1-14. Rev. Alston Lipper

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Kathy James

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 parents.

OFFERTORY

Welcome to Our World
Soloist: Catherine Nance

Chris Rice

*DOXOLOGY

THE FIRST NOEL

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Noel, noel, noel, noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

*HYMN #228 (UMH)

He Is Born

IL EST NE

THE MESSAGE BEHIND THE MUSIC

INTRODUCTION

THE FIRST LESSON

*HYMN #230

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

THE SECOND LESSON

*HYMN #234

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

THE THIRD LESSON

*HYMN #240

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

THE FOURTH LESSON

*HYMN #218

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

THE FIFTH LESSON

*HYMN #239

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

THE SIXTH LESSON

*HYMN #251

Go Tell It On The Mountain

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

NOTES: UMH = Red United Methodist Hymnal; TFWS = The Faith We Sing

* = Please stand as you are able

Opportunities to Grow in Faith & Serve in Love

Reminder - Church Office will be closed Thursday, January 1st

Sunday, January 4th - New Year Prayer Walk - Columbia UMC - 3 PM

Join us in the sanctuary of Columbia UMC, 1830 Main Street, at 3 PM on Jan. 4th. We will walk and pray down the sidewalk toward the steps of the State House where Bishop Fairley will be the keynote speaker and lead us in prayer for our community and state. Please wear yellow and white to symbolize carrying Christ's light into the world.

Monday, January 5th - Advocacy Education and Engagement Training - Threat Hall



Advocacy 101 To sign up scan the QR code for the class you want to take.



Advocacy 102

YEAR-END GIVING

Our business administrator, Robbie Douglas, sent individual emails to everyone in the congregation on October 14 with a link to view your year-to-date contributions to the church through the first three quarters of 2025. If you didn't see it, look for it in your spam/junk folder - the subject line was "Your 2025 Year-to-date Giving Statement." You can also check your year-to-date giving anytime via your personal login on the REALM app. If you have any questions, you can contact Robbie directly (rdouglas@wsmethodist.org). We want to thank you for fulfilling your 2025 pledge before December 31st, allowing us to finish the year in the black. Your gifts have and continue to make a positive difference through the many ministries of WSUMC.

Cookies for Christmas Workers

Active Faith thanks you for generously supporting Cookies for Christmas Workers. 90 dozen cookies/treats will be distributed on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, bringing joy to those who are working those days.

Save The Date For The Following Ministry Events

Thursday - January 8 - 6 PM -YoPro New Year Planning Meeting

YoPro is a group for Young Professionals ages 25-45 and they invite all Young Professionals to join them in the Youth Room on the 3rd floor as we plan fun, learning and service events for the year.

Tuesday - January 13 - 10 AM - Daytrippers

Daytrippers will travel to Blackville to eat lunch at Miller's Bread Basket and then visit the Healing Springs. We will meet at the church at 10:00 and carpool down. We should return to the church by 3:00

Sunday, January 18 - 4 PM - Mary's Maidens

We will meet in the elementary children's Sunday school room on the second floor. We will be creating Valentines for our sale in February.

January 17 - 19 - "Operation Inasmuch"

Motivated by Jesus's words recorded in Matthew 25:40 - "Inasmuch as you served the least among you, you served me.", the Missions and Social Justice Action Teams are planning a variety of service opportunities for all ages at various times throughout the Martin Luther King weekend (January 17-19). The list of projects and times will be posted soon via all of our communication channels and include a sign up process so you can select the projects that align with your interests and availability. For more information, contact Andrea McAtee. (acmcatee21@gmail.com)

In Our Prayers

Ann Bell	Lisa Johnson	Patrick McClanahan	Nancy Whittle
Blake Burnside	Jean Leitner	Ellen Parker	Wilma Winslow
Nancy Epting	Sam Mathews	Joe Plaugh	Our Homebound
Karen Horne	Paul McClanahan	Joe Slade	

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:	Cora McGandy
Children's Church:	Kay Ayers Garren Shelley Stafford
Greeter:	Ute
Sound/Video/Projection:	Ryan Wiskes
Ushers:	Ricky Rowe Lee Smith

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 12/21: 413 (275 in person + 138 online as of 12/23)

YTD Offerings Received: \$819,352 YTD Soup Cellar Gifts: \$104,500

YTD Expenses: \$987,785 YTD Soup Cellar Expenses: \$98,733

YTD Gifts to WSUMC Foundation: \$22,296

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