

February 2026



WASHINGTON  
STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Connections

wsmethodist.org

## Operation Inasmuch

Following Jesus's teachings that "Inasmuch we serve others, we serve him." (Matthew 25:40), many members of Washington Street spent time during Martin Luther King Jr. weekend volunteering with local non-profits across the Columbia Area. During this weekend, we collected donations of various hygiene and clothing items for the Lutheran Services Carolina's New Americans Program. The LCS helps recent refugees get established in America, many of whom come to this county with little to no personal items. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we were able to completely fill one of LCS's empty closets which has allowed them to help new refugees as soon as they come in. We also partnered with Senior Resources, an organization dedicated to helping the elderly live independent lives, to deliver pet food to local seniors who are unable to leave their homes for an extended period of time.

On Saturday our volunteers assisted serving food to those in our community who needed a good meal. In the morning, UofSC's Methodist Student Network served breakfast to over 100 unhoused individuals while volunteers handed out hygiene items and hand/feet warmers. Later that evening, volunteers cooked dinner for families staying at the local Ronald McDonald house whose children were staying in nearby hospitals.

Before and after service on Sunday, church attendees were encouraged to write letters to our legislators to share wishes and prayers for the new legislative season. Members of Washington Street staff also visited the SC Statehouse to deliver prayer crosses in person to legislators on their first day back in office.

As the weekend came to an end on Monday, our volunteers were invited to clean up two Columbia rivers by local environmental groups. First location was the Congaree Swamp Litter Pick Up which was hosted by Friends of

Congaree Swamp in partnership with Keep the Midlands Beautiful. The second was the Saluda Riverwalk Invasive Species and Litter Cleanup.

Volunteers not only helped dispose of trash and invasive species to the area, but also got to take place in a short stroll through nature along the boardwalk.

Helping out with any of these opportunities was not only a great way to serve the community, but it was also an amazing way to grow closer together as a congregation while spreading the love of God. Thank you to all who volunteered and our event organizers Cindy Cox, Jim Lane, Lynn Shirley, and Andrea McAtee.





## Welcome to Carl Cox

Please give a warm Washington Street welcome to our new Operations Manager, Carl Cox! Carl comes to us with over 20 years of experience working with non-profits like the Boy Scouts of America, Central SC Habitat for Humanity, and most recently Historic Columbia. Carl brings a wealth of knowledge and passion in areas of development, volunteer and event/venue management.

Carl grew up in the United Methodist Church in the Columbia area. His mother, Anne Cox, was a Director of Christian Education at Trenholm Road UMC and Shandon UMC. This helped impart a desire to put God's love into action for Carl from a young age.

In his free time, Carl likes hiking, playing tennis or pickleball and trying to play dog whisperer to his brother's high-energy pit bull mix.

Carl will be officially introduced to the congregation on February 1st during Sunday service. We invite everyone who has not had the pleasure to come by and introduce yourself to the newest member of the Washington Street staff. Despite only being here less than a week, Carl has hit the ground running and proven himself a valuable part of the mission of Washington Street United Methodist Church.



## Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

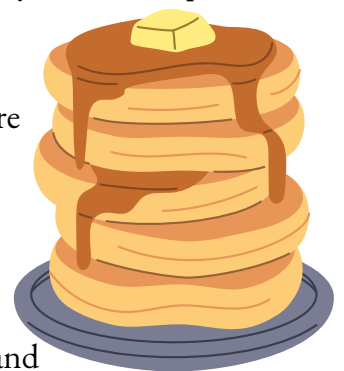
As far back as the 1400's, 47 days before Easter Sunday, Christians would confess their sins so they may be forgiven before Lent, otherwise known as being "shriven." As part of their Lent preparation, people would try to get rid of rich and tasty food/ingredients such as eggs, sugar, fats, and butter. And what better way to do so than a pancake dinner?

Centuries later, this tradition persists and is even known as "Pancake Day" in certain parts of the world. And this year,

we'll be celebrating Pancake Day right here at Washington Street!

On Shrove Tuesday (February 17<sup>th</sup>), the Washington Street

Young Professionals and Youth Group will be hosting a Pancake Dinner in Threatt Hall. Stop by anytime between 5:30pm and 7:30pm for a tasty dinner of pancakes and various side dishes.



## Lenten Sunday School

Every Sunday from February 22nd to Easter (April 12th), children and youth are invited to join a Lenten journey during Sunday school (10am - 10:45am.) Children will experience a biblical village as they learn the stories of Holy Week and the experience of Jesus and his disciples leading up to Good Friday and Easter Sunday. They will do so by studying "A Walk Through Holy Week" by Diana Westerkam. Parents not currently attending Sunday school are invited to have coffee in the Wesley Room while their kids are in Sunday school. Make new friends and reconnect with old ones while your children study stories of faith.

# Valentines & Chocolate Sales

Date: February 1st & 8th

Time: Before Sunday School  
& after Sunday Service

Location: Outside of the  
church office

Price: \$1 - \$5



## Girl Scout Cookies

One of our youth members, Lucy Woods, is selling Girl Scout cookies all throughout the month of February! Additionally, Lucy is hoping to sell 100 donation boxes (\$5 a box) which she plans to donate to the Soup Cellar. Help Lucy reach her goal, and maybe buy a sweet treat for yourself, by contacting Andrea McAtee (803-727-9518) or by scanning the QR code below. Please let Lucy or Andrea know if you'd like to donate your ordered cookies.



## 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)

\*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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Contact: Jim Lane (jlane@columbiasc.edu)

Beginning February 22, the Grace Class will be reading the text, *An Unlikely Lent* by Rachel Billups, during the Lenten Season. The text can be ordered through Amazon, Thriftbooks or Ebay and can likely be ordered through your favorite independent bookstore.

### John Harper Class - 1<sup>st</sup> floor

Contact: Boyd Saunders (jboydsanders@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 will begin a Lenten Study this month - *He Set His Face For Jerusalem* by Richard B. Wilke. This book looks at Jesus' journey to Jerusalem to help us reflect on how we 'set our faces' in life.

The Wednesday night zoom Bible study group is offering a Lenten study for all who may be interested. Starting on February 18, the group will meet at 7:00PM for one hour each week to study Max Lucado's *He Chose the Nails: What God Did to Win Your Heart*.

### 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)

\*For Advent, Solomon's Porch is using The Redemption of Scrooge study by Matt Rawle to look at Advent through the lens of Dickens's A Christmas Carol.

\*subject to change

## First Year Teacher's Closet

Throughout the month of February, our Active Faith small group will be collecting lightly worn clothing items for the First Year Teachers' Closet! This will be an opportunity for new teachers to acquire clothing items free of charge. Those interested in donating may drop off their donations on Sundays before or after service or Monday through Friday 9am - 4pm. Please drop off donations in the Threatt Hall closet closest to the courtyard.







## Ways to Stay Connected at Washington Street!

### WORSHIP



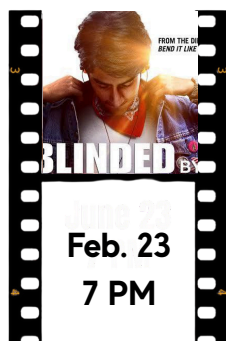
February 19th  
11:00 - 11:30 AM  
Christ Chapel

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 *Blinded by the Light* on your own or with friends.

After viewing the film, plan to join Rev. Alston on February 23rd 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, February 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6PM - Game Night

UMC Young Professionals



Join on GroupMe

## WSUMC Stained Glass Window Tour

If you've ever visited our sanctuary, you've likely noticed the beautiful stained glass windows that surround the room. But you may not know the full story of said windows.

If you'd like to learn, join the Daytrippers group for a tour of the Washington Street UMC Sanctuary's stained glass windows. Led by Pete Liggett, this tour is a great way to learn more about the history of Washington Street and the significance of our stained glass windows. The tour will be on February 11<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am. Lunch will be provided for a \$10 fee. Those interested may register by e-mailing Mary Lide at neaudl@aol.com.



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1401 Washington Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
803.256.2417



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