

January 2026



WASHINGTON
STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connections

wsmethodist.org

Advent Season Wrap-Up

Happy New Year, Washington Street! We hope everyone had an amazing Christmas and is having a great start to 2026. Even though the Advent season is over, we wanted to take the time to thank those who helped make this season special. The first big “thank you” goes out to Wayne Hall and Robert Jennings for decorating the Christ Chapel and making it an inviting space for people who needed a moment of peace during a busy time of year. We also would like to thank Sam Waldrep for decorating the Sanctuary and for setting up the Washington Street Christmas tree in the main hall of the church. If you enjoyed our beautiful Advent decor, be sure to thank these gentlemen the next time you see them!

We were also able to put on three Christmas performances throughout the month of December! First was the youth’s Nativity Pageant that was organized by Larry Hembree and Andrea McAtee. The kids did a great job at telling the story of Christ which of course is what this time of year is truly about. Then we were lucky enough to put on two incredible musical performances. The annual Christmas Cantata and Sing-Along *Messiah* were both successful in



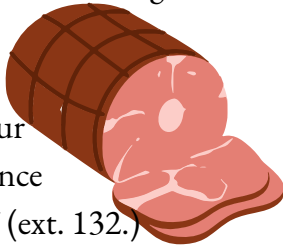
bringing our congregation together to celebrate the Advent season through song. Both of these performances were only possible thanks to our music director Dr. Catherine Nance, our members and volunteers who organized the events, and all of you who contributed time, money or both which allows us to continue our Advent traditions year after year. We hope you enjoyed our Advent festivities and look forward to another great year at Washington Street!





Food Donations Needed!

Our Soup Cellar is currently seeking donations of deli meat so they may continue serving lunch to those in need! Specifically, they need turkey, ham, or bologna. The meat does not need to be pre-sliced! Alternatively, those interested may donate money via cash, check, or through our Realm system. Those interested in donating or volunteering may contact our Soup Cellar manager, Terrence Chisholm, at 803-256-2417 (ext. 132.)



Washington Street UMC Photo Album

An online photo album for Washington Street events is now available! Feel free to browse the available photos and download them for yourself by scanning the QR code! If you have photos you would like uploaded to the album, please contact WSUMC's



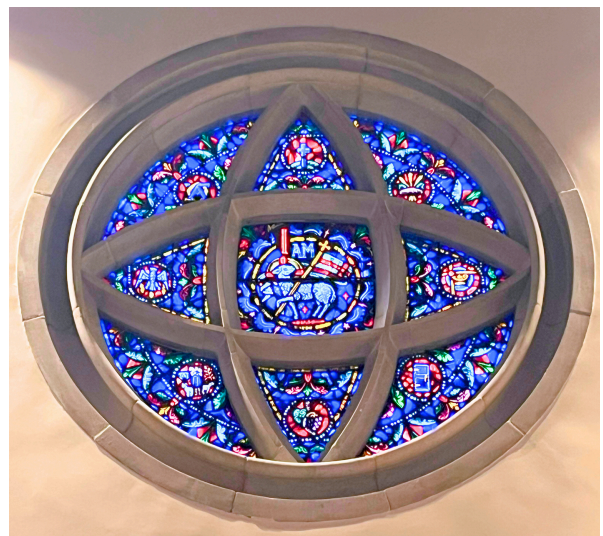
Communications Coordinator at jacob@wsmethodist.org.

Youth Revolution Conference

The Washington Street UMC Youth Group will be attending the South Carolina Revolution conference right here in Columbia from January 30th - Feb. 1st! Revolution has been around since 2010 and seeks to invite young people in the church to live for Christ through spiritual renewal. Those interested in signing-up should contact Rev. Kathy James at kljames@umcsc.org.

Christ Chapel Rose Window

If you've ever been inside of our Christ Chapel, you've likely noticed the beautiful stained glass windows around the room. But what you might have missed is the circular window over the main entrance to the chapel that we call the Rose Window. The Rose Window is made up of several panels with images that represent Christ's story. There's the lamb in the middle representing John 10:36 "I am the Son of God." Then starting at the top and going clockwise each image correlates to similar bible passages. The Cross - "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6) Loaf of Bread & Wheat - "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35) Lamp Over a Globe - "I am the light of the World" (John 9:5) Door - "I am the door" (John 10:7) Grapes - "I am the true vine" (John 15:1) A Shepherd - "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11) Rising Pheonix - "I am the resurrection, and the life" (John 11:25) Greek Letters - "I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending" (Revelation 1:8) This hidden gem is easy to miss so we invite everyone to come by our Christ Chapel to check it out!



NEW YEAR PRAYER WALK



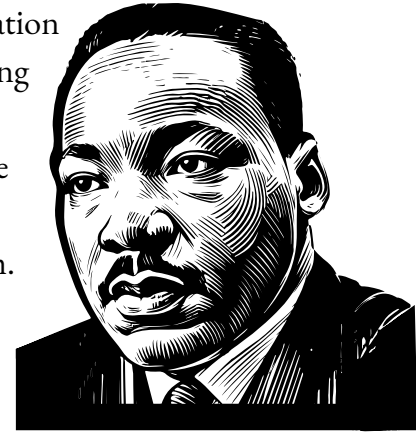
Sunday, January 4 @ 3pm

Start: Columbia UMC
(1830 Main St.)

End: SC State House
Wear yellow & white!

Operation Inasmuch

Following Jesus's teaching that "Inasmuch as we serve others we serve him" (Matthew 25:40), this new ministry opportunity will help us "take church outside the walls" and into the community. On Martin Luther King Jr. weekend (January 17th-19th) we'll be partnering with several local non-profit agencies for a great weekend of serving our neighbors, including projects for all ages and abilities at various times throughout the weekend. A full listing of the projects and sign up information will be available soon. For more information or to assist with finalizing the planning details, contact Andrea McAtee at acmcaatee21@gmail.com.



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 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 - 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 finish our discussion on *Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation* by Will Willimon on January 4th.

In the book, Willimon introduces us to the God who is "bringing heaven to earth and changing everything." In celebrating Advent we "anticipate the earth-shaking, life-transforming good news that God "not only cares about us but is willing to show up among us and do something with us here and now."

John Harper Class - 1st floor*

Contact: Boyd Saunders (jboydsauanders@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 Tim Keller's *Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ*. This book illuminates the journey into the background of the nativity. All are welcome to join!

Paul Harmon Class - 3rd 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 - 2nd 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

ACLU Advocacy Training

Washington Street UMC is partnering with the American Civil Liberties Union of SC to provide Advocacy Education and Engagement. Join us in Threatt Hall on January 5th at 5:30pm - 7:30pm to learn how to make a greater impact in your community through activism. A light dinner will be provided.

New to Advocacy? Need a refresher? Sign up for Advocacy 101



Ready for next steps? Sign up for Advocacy 102: Writing for Change



Sign up for the event using the appropriate QR Code.



Ways to Stay Connected at Washington Street!

WORSHIP



January 15th
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 *Lilly* on your own or with friends.



After viewing the film, plan to join Rev. Alston on January 26th 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, January 8th @ 6PM: Planning Meeting

UMC Young Professionals



Join on GroupMe

Interested to go to Ecuador with Washington Street UMC? 2026 Ecuador Mission Trip June 1-10



Contact Pato Aravena at 803-457-0589
or patricio.aravena@gmail.com



WASHINGTON
STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connections

1401 Washington Street
Columbia, SC 29201
803.256.2417

