



WASHINGTON STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 1, 2026

Sermon Series

This Lent, let us remember that the good news really is good news. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed and smells like perfume poured from an alabaster jar. It tastes like bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. The good news is alive in the world.



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.

Whether you are visiting with us or looking for a church home, it's great to have you here with us! Please scan the QR code to let us know you are worshipping with us today and let us know how we can help you.



New Here?

We have many children's ministries for your children to be a part of!

We have special listening devices for those who are hearing impaired.

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram!

For more information, visit our website at wsmethodist.org



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.

Today's Scripture: Luke 7:36-50

One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him. After he entered the Pharisee's home, he took his place at the table. Meanwhile, a woman from the city, a sinner, discovered that Jesus was dining in the Pharisee's house. She brought perfumed oil in a vase made of alabaster. Standing behind him at his feet and crying, she began to wet his feet with her tears. She wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and poured the oil on them. When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw what was happening, he said to himself, If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. He would know that she is a sinner.

Jesus replied, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher, speak," he said. "A certain lender had two debtors. One owed enough money to pay five hundred people for a day's work. The other owed enough money for fifty. When they couldn't pay, the lender forgave the debts of them both. Which of them will love him more?"

Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the largest debt canceled." Jesus said, "You have judged correctly."

Jesus turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I entered your home, you didn't give me water for my feet, but she wet my feet with tears and wiped them with her hair. You didn't greet me with a kiss, but she hasn't stopped kissing my feet since I came in. You didn't anoint my head with oil, but she has poured perfumed oil on my feet. This is why I tell you that her many sins have been forgiven; so she has shown great love. The one who is forgiven little loves little." Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

The other table guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this person that even forgives sins?" Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

Order of Worship 2nd Sunday of Lent

PRELUDE *To You, O Lord, I Call* Robert J. Powell

WORDS OF WELCOME Rev. Shirley

RINGING OF THE BELL

CHORAL INTROIT Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP Jane Peterson

Leader: Tell me something good!

All: God loves you more than you could imagine.

Leader: Tell me something good!

All: God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.

Leader: Tell me something good!

All: God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.

Leader: This is good news indeed!

All: Let us worship our compassionate God.

*HYMN #399 (UMH) *Take My Life, and Let it Be* MESSIAH

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 7:36-50 Rev. Lippert

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Dane Waund

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (To be prayed in unison)

Merciful God, we long to be people who love our neighbors with the same overwhelming love that you have for them. But we must admit, we have a long way to go. Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear get in the way of love. Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again. With hope for a better tomorrow we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Faith family, even when we act with judgment, even when we are guided by fear, even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need, God does not turn God's back on us. So join me in this good-news declaration:

All: We are seen. We are forgiven. We are invited to try again. Thanks be to God for this unending love.

OFFERTORY *Let's Us Break Bread Together* Moses Hagan
Soloist: Jordan Harper

*DOXOLOGY #95 (UMH) OLD 100TH

***HOMILY**

Rev. Becky

The Good News is Great Love for God and Neighbor

Prayer List

If you would like for us to join you in prayer, please find a prayer card in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate during the service today. You may also email your prayer requests to wsumcprayers@gmail.com

Ann Bell	Blake Burnside
Nancy Epting	Sarah- Kate Gravely
Karen Horne	Lisa Johnson
Jean Leitner	Sam Matthews
Lena McClain	Paul McClanahan
Ellen Parker	Patrick McClanahan
Cathy Puckett	Joe Plough
Joe Slade	Nancy Whittle
Our Homebound Members	

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: Let us pray. Jesus of Nazareth, your love for this world is so strong. It's like a jar of perfume broken in a crowded room—it permeates everything it touches. God, we long to love like that. We long to love you with the same extravagant abundance that the woman with the alabaster jar displayed. However, we often get in our own way. Holy God, today we pray: when it comes to our neighbors, give us eyes to see as you see. Give us hands to serve as you serve. Give us arms to hold. Give us feet to journey alongside. Give us hearts of compassion, just like yours. We also long to love you. So when we pass a field of purple, remind us to say thank you. When we hear the sound of laughter, remind us that there is good in this world. When music or birdsong moves our soul, remind us that you are always present with us. In all of these moments, turn our hearts toward you and help us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we might be for the world, the body of Christ redeemed by His blood. Make us one with Christ, one with each other and one in ministry throughout the world until Christ comes again and we feast at His heavenly banquet, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, both now and forever. So, with the confidence that we are the children of God, let us pray with singing the prayer Jesus taught us to pray; (**See insert to sing The Lord's Prayer**)

Receiving The Bread and The Cup

COMMUNION ANTHEM *Do Not Be Afraid* Philip Stopford

Do not be afraid, for I will be with you. I have called you by name; you are mine. When you walk through the waters I'll be with you. You will never sink beneath the waves. When the fire is burning all around you, you will never be consumed by the flames. When the fear of loneliness is looming, then remember I am at your side. When you dwell in the exile of a stranger, remember you are precious in my eyes. You are mine O my child, I am your father and I love you with a perfect love.

(Scripture references: Isaiah 41:10, Isaiah 43:1-2, 1 John 4:18.)

***HYMN**

I Come with My Devotion (see insert)

***BENEDICTION & CHORAL RESPONSE**

***POSTLUDE** *To Thee, Lord Jesus, Thanks We Give*

J.S. Bach

Prayer Thought
Even if you think you have nothing to give, there is prayer. There is always prayer.

Stewardship Report

Attendance on 2/22 372
(164 in person + 208 online as of 2/26)

Offerings

YTD Received: \$128,644
YTD Soup Cellar Gifts: \$7,660

Expenses

YTD General: \$111,451
YTD Soup Cellar : \$7,649

Foundation

FYTD Gifts: \$5,303.00

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.



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

* = Please stand as you are able

Calendar of Ministry Events

March 4, 11, 18, 25
Lenten Lunch & Worship

Join us for a lunch of soup, sandwiches, and dessert. \$10/person with all funds going to Soup Cellar Ministry. 11:45 - 12:25 in Threath Hall.

Followed by a 30-minute worship service in Christ Chapel featuring WSUMC Players presenting Lenten dramas. Service begins at 12:30.

March 5th - Young Professionals
Game Night - 6 PM

Young Professionals (YoPros) is a group for those ages 25-45 and they invite anyone in that age range to join them in the Youth Room for a night of fun and fellowship.

March 11th - Reading Club - 6PM

All are invited to join us in the John Harper Classroom for a book discussion on *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans.

Lenten Prayer & Reflection Scrolls

The Worship team encourages you to contribute prayers and reflections by recording them on a strip of canvas during the Lenten season. Please turn your canvas strips in by March 29 to the foot of the wooden cross in the Christ Chapel Narthex.

Absence of Flowers During the Season of Lent

Throughout Lent, we will not have flowers on the altar during this season of austerity and simple reflection. We hope this absence of flowers will amplify the resurrection message of the Easter flowers when they arrive!

Order Your Easter Flowers Today!

Our Active Faith group will be selling flowers every Sunday in March! You may pick up an order form outside of the Sanctuary, or fill one out digitally by scanning this QR code.



Today's Volunteer Team

Acolyte:	Lucy Woods
Children's Church:	Cecilia Daigle Lizzie Cheuning
Greeters:	Jim Lane
Sound/Video/Projection:	John Pannell Ryan Wisks
Ushers:	Jay Parmley and Denise Wellman
Communion Servers	Susan Caskey, Charles Garren, Eleanore Langley, and David Anderson

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

Safe Space



We are committed to providing a safe, healing and affirming environment for All of God's Children to grow in Faith.

Staff 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