



WASHINGTON STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 15, 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 Scriptures:

Matthew 19:13-15

Some people brought children to Jesus so that he would place his hands on them and pray. But the disciples scolded them. "Allow the children to come to me," Jesus said. "Don't forbid them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to people like these children." Then he blessed the children and went away from there.

Deuteronomy 24:17-22

Don't obstruct the legal rights of an immigrant or orphan. Don't take a widow's coat as pledge for a loan. Remember how you were a slave in Egypt but how the Lord your God saved you from that. That's why I'm commanding you to do this thing. Whenever you are reaping the harvest of your field and you leave some grain in the field, don't go back and get it. Let it go to the immigrants, the orphans, and the widows so that the Lord your God blesses you in all that you do. Similarly, when you beat the olives off your olive trees, don't go back over them twice. Let the leftovers go to the immigrants, the orphans, and the widows. Again, when you pick the grapes of your vineyard, don't pick them over twice. Let the leftovers go to the immigrants, the orphans, and the widows. Remember how you were a slave in Egypt. That's why I am commanding you to do this thing.

Order of Worship 4th Sunday of Lent

PRELUDE *Fugue in D Minor* J.S Bach

WORDS OF WELCOME Rev. Shirley

RINGING OF THE BELL

CHORAL INTROIT *O Love, How Deep* Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP Alisa Liggett

Leader: God loves the field mouse.

All: God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.

Leader: God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

All: God loves the child who rocks and claps.

Leader: God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

All: God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.

Leader: God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

All: God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing strong over all of us.

Leader: God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

All: There is no bit of creation that God does not love. So let us worship this good-news God! Amen.

*HYMN # 92 (UMH) *For the Beauty of the Earth* DIX

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*THE GLORIA PATRI #70 (UMH) MEINEKE

ANTHEM *Search Me, O God* K. Lee Scott

Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any evil in me and lead me in the way everlasting. Where shall I go from your Spirit? And where shall I go from your presence? If I ascend up to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the morning and dwell in lands across the sea; even there will your hand uphold me and there will your right hand sustain me.

(Scripture reference: Psalm 139:23-24, 7-10)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Melanie Dobson

Afterwards, children will go to the choir room for a short time of music. Children ages 3-5 will then be escorted 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 & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."

All: Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.

Leader: Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

All: We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.

Leader: God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the immigrant, the orphan, and the widow."

All: We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.

Leader: Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."

All: We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.

Leader: Fortunately for all of us, God also said, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine."

All: By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings, we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved. May this good news change our lives! Amen.

OFFERTORY *Completely Free* Chris Tomlin
Soloist: Jacob Cordes

*DOXOLOGY #95 (UMH) OLD 100TH

*HYMN *See the Precious Children (see insert)*

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Matthew 19:13-15; Deuteronomy 24:17-22

SERMON Protection and Care for the Vulnerable Rev. Shirley

*HYMN #433(UMH) *All Who Love and Serve Your City* FOR THE BREAD

*BENEDICTION & CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* Arr. Dale Wood

In Sympathy

Rev. Becky Shirley joins the entire staff and Washington Street Church family in expressing our deepest sympathy and Christian love to Rev. Don and Tricia Britt on the death of Don's brother, James Weston "Jimmy" Britt, who passed away on Tuesday, February 20, 2026.

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

* = Please stand as you are able

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
Paul McClanahan	Ellen Parker
Patrick McClanahan	Cathy Puckett
Joe Plough	Joe Slade
Nancy Whittle	Sam Waldrep

Our Homebound Members

Prayer Thought

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

Stewardship Report

**Attendance on 3/08: 285
135 in person
150 online (as of 3/12)**

Offerings

**YTD Received: \$176,310
YTD Soup Cellar Gifts: \$10,830**

Expenses

**YTD General: \$205,079
YTD Soup Cellar : \$11,919**

Foundation

FYTD Gifts: \$5,453

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.**



Calendar of Ministry Events

March 18 and 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.

A 30-minute worship service in Christ Chapel featuring WSUMC Players presenting Lenten dramas begins at 12:30.

March 19th - Game Night - 6PM

Join us in the Solomon's Porch Classroom for a time of fun and fellowship. Feel free to bring your own snacks and games!

March 19th - WELL Service - 11 AM

Join us and invite family and friends to come with you to this special monthly service. We gather at 11:00am for 30 minutes of worship in Christ Chapel. This service is filled with hymn singing, a brief "Jesus story," and the sacrament of Holy Communion. This is an especially welcoming service for persons living with dementia and their caregivers.

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 22nd! 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:	Beatrice McGandy
Children's Church:	Melanie Dobson Kay Ayers Garren
Greeters:	Jim Lane
Sound/Video/Projection:	Spenser Stevens Jacob Valdez
Ushers:	Pam and Phil Jenkins

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



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK



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