



# WASHINGTON STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 8, 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](http://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:

### Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

### Mark 6:32-44

And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

## Order of Worship 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

### PRELUDE

### WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Shirley

### RINGING OF THE BELL

### CHORAL INTROIT

*Shurely the Presence*

Choir

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pete Liggett

Leader: If you need good news,

**All: settle into this space. We have good news to share.**

Leader: If you need a word of hope,

**All: then trust us when we say that there is hope enough to go around.**

Leader: If you need to feel God's presence in your midst,

**All: then know that this is God's house.**

Leader: This is the good news of the gospel:

**All: God is here. Love is real. Miracles happen. We are not in this alone, so let us worship our God who is with us.**

\*HYMN # 128 (UMH) *He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought* HE LEADETH ME

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

\*THE GLORIA PATRI #70 (UMH)

MEINEKE

### ANTHEM

*How Can I Keep from Singing*

Leo Nestor

(See insert for text)

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Becky Shirley

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 (To be prayed in unison)

Holy God, with you the impossible is possible. 5,000 can be fed. The blind can see. The hopeless can find hope. With you the impossible is possible, but we are quick to forget that. We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing can be done. We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd. We forget that you are always with us. Forgive our small-minded ways. Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come. But even more so, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it. With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, no matter how many mistakes the disciples made, Jesus still washed their feet. Jesus still fed them. Jesus still called them beloved. The same is true for you and me, so hear and believe this good news;

Today is a new day, and once again, we belong to God. We are forgiven. We are called. We are not alone. What good, good news!  
Amen

**OFFERTORY** *Nobody Loves Me Like You Love Me* Chris Tomlin  
Soloist: Jenna Barrett

**\*DOXOLOGY #95 (UMH)** OLD 100TH

**\*HYMN # (339)** *Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast* HURSLEY

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Ephesians 3:20-21; Mark 6:32-44

**SERMON** Together the Impossible is Possible Rev. Lippert

**\*HYMN** *Human Minds Just Can't Imagine (see insert)*

**\*BENEDICTION & CHORAL RESPONSE**

**\*POSTLUDE**

### In Sympathy

Rev. Alston Lippert joins the entire staff and Washington Street Church family in expressing our deepest sympathy and Christian love to the family of Helen Mill, who died on Tuesday, March 3, 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](mailto: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  
God is everywhere, so pray anywhere.

**Stewardship Report**  
**Attendance on 3/01: 300**  
**166 in person**  
**134 online (as of 3/5)**

**Offerings**  
**YTD Received: \$165,697**  
**YTD Soup Cellar Gifts: \$10,460**

**Expenses**  
**YTD General: \$177,389**  
**YTD Soup Cellar : \$10,717**

**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 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 Threatt Hall.

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

### March 11<sup>th</sup> - Reading Club - 6PM

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

### March 19<sup>th</sup> - 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.

### 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 22 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 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:	Lydia Fink
Children's Church:	Melanie Dobson Eleanore Langley
Greeters:	Shelley Stafford Christine Hait
Sound/Video/Projection:	John Pannell Ryan Wiskes
Ushers:	Lee Smith and Charles Garren

## 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