



WASHINGTON
STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connections

wsmethodist.org

Lent Wrap-Up 2026

Thanks to our wonderful congregation, the 2026 Lenten season was a great success! For the past six weeks, we have celebrated the upcoming resurrection of Christ through our weekly Lenten lunch and worship services. These afternoon services would not have been possible without the effort of our United Women in Faith circles who prepared the food, Larry Hembree and the Washington Street Players for their performances, and Wayne Hall for his artwork that inspired prayerful reflection through visio divina. For those who were unable to attend our Lent worship services, we encourage you to watch them on our YouTube channel. You may be



shocked to find out there are dramatic actors hiding among you! We hope you all enjoyed the Lenten season here at Washington Street UMC, and look forward to celebrating Easter Sunday with you all!

Church Office Closed - April 6th

The Washington Street UMC office will be closed on April 6th for Easter Monday. You may still leave a message at 803-256-2417, or e-mail us at info@wsmethodist.org and we will respond when we return to the office on Tuesday, April 7th.

Foster Parent Information Session

Every child deserves a safe and loving home, and you could be part of that story. On Sunday, May 24th, from 10:00–10:45 AM in Christ Chapel, we will host an informational session about opportunities to serve as a foster parent. The Rev. Cathy Joens from Epworth Children's Home Foster Care Program, will be our guest speaker and she will be sharing information about foster care placements for children and youth who have experienced trauma and need stable, nurturing homes.

Whether you are simply curious or already sensing a call to this ministry, this is a chance to learn more about how fostering can change a child's life — and your own.

Rev Joens will also be available after the 11:00 AM worship service to answer questions and visit with anyone who would like to learn more.





Swan Lake Day Trip

Join our Daytrippers group for a trip to Swan Lake Iris Gardens in Sumter, SC on April 20th! Attendees will meet at the church at 9:30 AM, have lunch at Willie Sue's after their time at the gardens, and return to the church around 3:00 PM. They will carpool to Sumter. For those who cannot attend this trip, there will also be a trip to the Moore Farms Botanical Garden in Lake City on May 7th. To register for either trip, please contact Rev. Alston at aflippert@umcsc.org.



Ecuador Mission Trip

All are invited to travel to Ecuador from June 1st through the 10th for our annual mission trip! No prior travel experience is required! You also do not need to be a fluent Spanish speaker, as translators will be present throughout the entire trip. The estimated cost per person for this trip is approximately \$1,600. If you would like to find out more about this wonderful opportunity, please contact Pato Aravena at patricio.aravena@gmail.com.



Welcome Table Meal

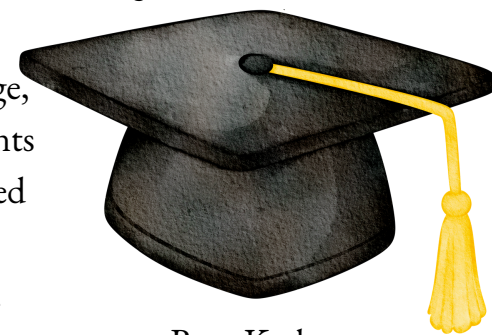
While the Washington Street Soup Cellar serves the food insecure people of Columbia daily, we lack the resources and space needed to invite our patrons inside to eat their lunch. But several times a year, we host a special meal where all are invited inside of the church. The first Welcome Table meal of 2026 will be held on Monday, April 6th in Threath Hall. Not only will we have a hot meal of fried chicken with a variety of sides, we will also be handing out hygiene products, reading glasses, and will be giving haircuts to those who would like one. The meal begins at 11:30 AM.



Thank you to Lynn Shirley for organizing this event and all those who have volunteered their time and talent to helping those in need. If you know anyone who could use a hot meal and a little bit of help, please invite them to this special sit-down lunch!

Graduation Sunday

It's almost graduation season again! Washington Street UMC will be recognizing all graduating students on May 17th during our 11 AM service. All graduating high school, college, or postgrad students are to be recognized for their accomplishments! Those interested may contact Rev. Kathy at kljames@umcsc.org.



The WELL Service

On the third Thursday of every month, we host a special 30-minute service known as The WELL which stands for **W**orship, **E**ncouragement, **L**aughter, and **L**ove. Unlike a typical worship service, The WELL keeps preaching to a minimum. Instead, the main focus is on hymn singing, a brief Jesus story, and communion.

While all are welcome to join us for The WELL, this service is intended for those who normally would not be able to sit through a full-length worship service and their caregivers. The WELL was started by Rev. Becky Shirley whose mother, Ann Joyner, passed away due to complications with dementia. Towards the end of her life, when Ann could no longer attend normal church services, The WELL was a way for her to still participate in worship by singing along with familiar hymns.

April's WELL service will be on the 16th at 11:00 AM. We invite all who are able to join us in Christ Chapel for a time of music, worship, and togetherness.



April Youth Schedule

Youth Group Meeting - Apr. 12th

3rd Floor Youth Room | 4-6 PM

**Faith Discussion with
Jim Lane**

Youth Group Meeting - Apr. 26th

3rd Floor Youth Room | 4-6 PM

Senior Sunday Karaoke



Revolution Youth Conference

Revolution is a United Methodist youth conference hosted annually by the South Carolina Ministries with Young People. Since its founding in 2010, Revolution's purpose is to teach the church's youth how to live for Christ through "passionate worship and spiritual renewal."

This year, two adults and three youth from Washington Street attended the convention which was held at the DoubleTree Convention Center in Columbia from March 27th to the 29th. Originally, Revolution was to be held in January but was delayed due to inclement weather. The connecting scripture for the weekend was Matthew 6:33 "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Our youth not only learned more about becoming lifelong followers of Christ, but they also had a fun time listening to worship music and engaging in the activities available at the convention center. Thank you to Rev. Kathy and Jane Polk for chaperoning this trip. Revolution is always a fun time for the youth and we look forward to taking them again next year!





Salkehatchie Summer Service

Every year, volunteers from Washington Street spend a week of the summer at Penn Center Camp in St. Helena, South Carolina renovating homes of families who normally wouldn't be able to afford home renovations. And this year is no exception! Registration is now live for those interested in participating in Salkehatchie Summer Service 2026! The Penn Center trip will be held June 20th through the 27th. Scan the QR code below to register!



YoPros Owl Prowl

Ever wanted to learn more about owls? Then you're in luck! The Washington Street Young Professionals group will be taking a guided "Owl Prowl" hike at Congaree National Park on April 17th! Anyone ages 25-45 are invited to this evening walk that will teach us more about the living habits of owls and why they are revered as such wise creatures. The hike begins at 4 PM and we will meet at the Harry Hampton Visitor's Center. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes because this will be a 2.5 mile hike!



Sole-Mates Walking Group

On Saturday, April 25th at 10 AM, the WSUMC Sole-Mates group will be going for a walk along the Saluda Riverwalk! All



are invited to meet the Sole-Mates at 650 Candi Lane for an easy "out and back walk."

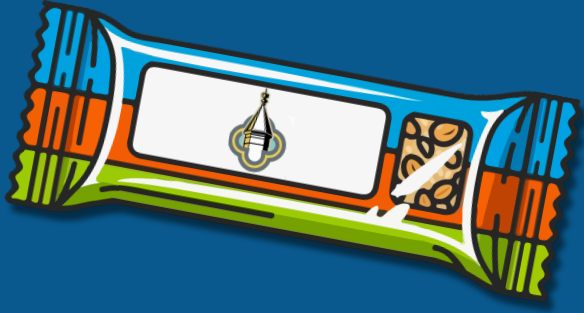
The meeting spot is off of Greystone Blvd. by the entrance of Riverbank Zoo.

Safe Space Dinners

Reformation Lutheran church, located at 1118 Union Street, is an LGBTQIA+ affirming congregation that hosts a Safe Space Dinner for queer youth who don't have a stable home life. This meal is hosted the second and fourth Thursdays of each month (April's are held on the 9th and 23rd) at 6 PM and are open to LGBTQIA+ persons ages 14-23. This ministry solely focuses on providing a nourishing meal for queer youth who would otherwise go without. There will be no attempts at preaching or conversion therapy, only support and comfort. "This is a ministry of giving



– nothing more." All volunteers for the Safe Space Dinner have passed a background check through the SC State Law Enforcement Division and are approved to work with children.



SNACK FOOD ITEMS NEEDED!

The WSUMC Soup Cellar is in desperate need of snack food items

Please drop off all donations to the church office.

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)

On March 22nd, we're beginning a six-week discussion by author and Senior Pastor of Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, John Ortberg's book: "If You Want to Walk on Water You've Got to Get out of the Boat." This series will help you understand Christ's call to greater faith, power-filled deeds, and a new way of knowing him.

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)

*During the month of March, the Grace Class will be reading and discussing *An Unlikely Lent: Extraordinary People of the Easter Story* by Rachel Billups.

John Harper Class - 1st floor

Contact: Boyd Saunders (jboydsaunders@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)

*During Lent, the Open Door Class is studying *He Set His Face To Jerusalem* by Richard B. Wilke. This book explores how Jesus' commitment to go to Jerusalem can inspire us to commit to our own goals in our Christian walk.

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 - 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)

We are following the liturgical year and using scripture appropriate for each Sunday. Our source for discussions is Feasting on the Word.

*subject to change

Cyber Security Luncheon

These days, being anywhere online can feel like walking in a minefield. Scammers are everywhere trying to get your money and information and it makes you feel like you cannot trust anything you see anymore. While it is impossible to get rid of scammers, we can equip ourselves with the knowledge needed to avoid them.

Washington Street UMC will be hosting a cyber security/safety meeting after Sunday service on April 19th. This will be a 30-minute meeting in Threath Hall that will give you tips on how to be safer online and will answer any relevant



questions you may have. A light lunch will be provided. For those unable to attend, a recording will be available after the fact on our YouTube channel.

In an effort to also improve Washington Street's cyber security habits, we will be resetting the passwords to everyone's Realm account on April 19th as well. Those in attendance may receive assistance with getting their new password set up. Anyone not in attendance may receive assistance by contacting Jacob Valdez at jacob@wsmethodist.org.



Ways to Stay Connected at Washington Street!

WORSHIP



April 16th
11:00 - 11:30 AM
Christ Chapel

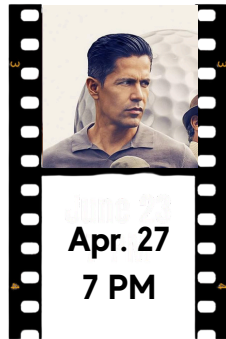
Filled with familiar hymns, an interactive Jesus story, and communion, this service is especially friendly to persons living with dementia and their care partners.

The W.E.L.L. - A Place for Worship
- Encouragement - Laughter & Love

MOVIE

DISCUSSION

You are invited to watch *The Long Game* on your own or with friends.



After viewing the film, plan to join Rev. Alston on April 27th 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:

Friday, April 17th @ 4:30 PM - Owl Prowl at Congaree National Park

UMC Young Professionals



Join on GroupMe

Save the Date for VBS!

This year's Vacation Bible School program will run from July 20th through the 23rd from 8:45 AM to noon! The theme for 2026 is "Snowball Mountain Challenge" and the theme verse is Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." All of our youth are invited to join Ollie the Arctic Seal on an adventure to discover their inner strength through the power of God. Along the way, Ollie and the kids will have fun while learning about a variety of subjects such as science, arts and crafts, music, and more!

A registration link will be available at a later date, but those who would like more information may contact Rev. Kathy at kljames@umcsc.org.



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