



WASHINGTON STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Connections

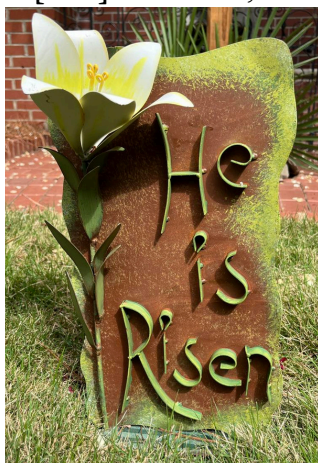
wsmethodist.org

## WSUMC Easter Season

April 5<sup>th</sup> marked another successful Easter Sunday for Washington Street United Methodist Church. But did you know that Easter is more than just a single day? In the Christian calendar, we are currently in the Easter season, the 50-day period between Easter and Pentecost Sunday (May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026). Similar to how the 40 days of Lent are used to celebrate the life of Jesus leading up to his crucifixion, the Easter season is a time to reflect upon Christ's resurrection and what that means for us as his followers. Included in this season is Ascension Day, a celebration of Jesus' ascension into heaven which we will recognize on May 17<sup>th</sup>. While the specifics of this period vary between denominations and churches, here at Washington Street we're using this time to see the resurrection in every day life. This can be seen most clearly in Reverend Becky's current sermon series, "A New Creation."

"A wise friend once told me 'Never cut down a [tree] in winter,'" Rev. Becky said in her most recent sermon. "Because you don't know if it's dead, or if it's just dormant.' [...] There are moments in life that [make it seem] like things are dead. But God is at work in hidden ways."

We encourage all of you, especially those struggling to



see God's plan, to be on the look out for the creation of something new in your everyday life. Because whether it's the birth of a child, a flower that's yet to bloom, or a much needed change of direction in your life, there's new life constantly sprouting all around us.

We hope you will continue to join us here at Washington Street during the Easter season and beyond, and look forward to celebrating Christ's resurrection with you all season long.

## 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 the 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 20<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. Scan the QR code below to register! No construction

experience is required. Spend a week of your summer making a difference with your siblings in Christ!





## Botanical Garden Day Trip

The Washington Street Daytrippers will be going to the Moore Farms Botanical Garden on May 7<sup>th</sup>! The Daytrippers will meet at Washington Street at 8:30 AM to carpool to the gardens and will return late in the afternoon. Be sure to sign up by May 4<sup>th</sup> by e-mailing Rev. Alston at [aflippert@umcsc.org](mailto:aflippert@umcsc.org).



## Supplies for Ecuador Trip

Every year, volunteers from Washington Street and several local churches travel to Ecuador to help the locals get access to physical and spiritual care that they normal don't have access to. As I'm sure you can imagine, this requires a fair sum of money and equipment to pull off. And thankfully, you can help them get the supplies they need!

By scanning the QR code below, you can view an Amazon shopping list of items that our travelers require. The list specifies how much of each item they need, so nothing will go to waste.

All items will be delivered to organizer Tom Wall who will ship the items to Ecuador. The Ecuador volunteers give their thanks for any and all contributions!



## Finding Nemo Kids

Missed yesterday's Inclusive Theatre performance? Don't worry! You've got one last chance to see them live. The final performance of Finding Nemo Kids is TODAY at 3 PM in Threath Hall. Get your tickets by scanning the QR code below!

The Inclusive Theatre Company of South Carolina is run by WSUMC member Larry Hembree and empowers children with disabilities to produce both original and well-known stage plays several times a year.

Finding Nemo Kids is a stage-play retelling of the Pixar animated classic. Join Marlin, Dory, and the whole crew on a fun-filled musical adventure!



## Mother's Day Service

Mother's Day is just around the corner! And on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, we'll be hosting a special Mother's Day service in partnership with Epworth Children's Home. Epworth is a Columbia-based foster care facility that has been providing care to children and families for over 100 years. In order to maintain the quality of care that their 400+ children deserve, they rely on congregations like ours to donate to their efforts. We are asking for all who are able to donate to this wonderful organization during our Mother's Day service. All donations go to improving the lives of Epworth's kids!





## PLEASE BE ADVISED!

No staff member or volunteer from Washington Street will EVER ask you to purchase gift cards for any reason!

### 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 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Contact: David Anderson (danderson@richardsonplowden.com)

\*On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Contact: Jim Lane (jlane@columbiasc.edu)

Grade Class will be discussing selected essays by Rachel Held Evans during the month of May. If you'd like a copy of the weekly essays, please email Jim Lane at jlane132@gmail.com.

#### John Harper Class - 1<sup>st</sup> floor

Contact: Boyd Saunders (jboysaunders@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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Contact: Ann Jessup (jessup.ann@gmail.com)

The Open Door Class is currently studying *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life* by Tish Harrison Warren. All are welcome to come and discuss how God's presence is in the midst of our ordinary days and how to find holiness and spiritual growth in mundane and small daily habits.

#### Paul Harmon Class - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Contact: Sally Mings (sallymings@gmail.com)

Dr. Charles Bryan will be presenting several sessions on the Gnostics to the Paul Harmon class for the month of May

#### Solomon's Porch Class - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### Graduation Sunday

Washington Street UMC will be recognizing all graduating students on May 17<sup>th</sup> during our 11 AM service. That's just two weeks away! We invite all families with graduating high school, college, or postgrad students to sign them up to be recognized by scanning the QR code below. Anyone interested should sign up by Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>!



### YMCA Discount Code

If you aren't aware, Washington Street frequently partners with our local YMCA to host youth camps in our building. To say thanks, YMCA is giving our congregation a special discount code! Any Washington Street families that would like to enroll their kids in the YMCA Adventure Camps or Parent's Night Out programs can use code WSUMC10 to get \$10 off of your registration fees. To sign your kids up for a YMCA camp this summer, scan this QR code.





## Ways to Stay Connected at Washington Street!

### WORSHIP



May 21st  
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 April 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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:

Sunday, May 3rd @ 1:30 PM - Graduation Luncheon



## Save the Date for VBS!

This year's Vacation Bible School program will run from July 20<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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!

You can register your child, or register to be a volunteer/leader, by scanning this QR code. For any VBS related questions, contact Rev. Kathy at [kljames@umcsc.org](mailto:kljames@umcsc.org)



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