



**WASHINGTON
STREET**

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connections

wsmethodist.org

Congrats, Grads!

Graduation season is a special time in many people's lives where one chapter closes and another one begins. Whether they move on to another level of school, a new job, or a completely different country they can be proud knowing they've accomplished something that some can only dream of. And we're privileged to have many amazing graduates right here at Washington Street United Methodist Church! Our high school, college, postgrad, and Disciple class graduates were all recognized during our special Graduation Sunday Service on May 17th, but many were unable to attend due to their graduation ceremonies taking place that same weekend. So we want to recognize them again in this copy of The Connections!



High School Graduates

Thompson Britt Adams

Received his High School Diploma from
Heathwood Hall

Will be attending Clemson University
Honors College with a major in Engineering

Lindy Walker-Woods

Received her High School Diploma

Hollie Whitener

Received her High School Diploma from
Blythewood High School

Will be attending
Clemson University in the fall

Leila Jackson

Received her High School Diploma from the
Governor's School of Agriculture

Will be attending Tarleton State University
Honors College with a major in Animal
Science and Agribusiness

Will be riding for the Stock Horse and
Equestrian Teams

Received many graduation awards, including
National Presidential Gold Service Award,
High Honors Award, High Honor Roll and
was a member of many organizations
including the Beta Club, Future Farmers of
America, Interscholastic Equestrian
Association, and more



College Graduates

Lydia M. Conte

Received her BA in Studio Art from
Furman University

Will be the Art Department Head at Camp
Tapawingo in Sweden, Maine this summer

Lawton Powers

Received his BS in
Financial Management

Will be moving to Houston, TX to work for
Chubb Insurance

Kara Rottman

Received her BA in English from the
University of South Carolina

Will be teaching in the early childhood
program at St. Peter's Catholic School in
Columbia

Kelly Grove

Received her BA in Criminal Justice from the
University of South Carolina

Will be moving to New Orleans to attend
Tulane Law School

McKenzie Powers

Received her BA in Visual Communication
from the University of South Carolina

Will continue to grow her photography
business, McKenzie Nicole Photography

Darby Waund

Received her BS in
Chemical Engineering from Purdue

Will be traveling to Japan and Ireland before
starting her new job with Cascade Energy in
Salt Lake City, Utah in July

Postgrad Graduates

Elliot Brown

Received his MBA from
Allen University

Possibly will pursue a PhD in
Higher Education in the fall

Jonathan Jackson

Will receive his PhD in Higher Education
from Florida State University in July

Currently teaches in FSU's
Business College

Taylor Bryant

PhD in Comm Sciences from the
University of South Carolina

Will be starting as an Assistant Professor at
the University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Thomas Wheeler

Received his MBA from the
University of South Carolina

Currently works in the financial services
sector of GLS in Greenville, SC

Disciple Graduates

Afternoon Disciple 1

- Thom Berry
- Shannon Berry
- Kay Ayers-Garren
- Charles Garren
- Kate Henebery
- Cindy Johnson
- Bob Lane
- Hayden Uzelac
- Paula Walters
- Kathleen Weir
- Chip Williams

Disciple 3

- Elizabeth Aravena
- Lexie Chatham
- Bernetta Cooper
- Nancy Epting
- Pam Jenkins
- Eddie Morgan
- John Pannell
- Jay Parmley
- Anne Sinclair
- Lee Smith
- Leland Spencer
- Denise Wellman

Evening Disciple 1

- Pato Aravena
- Velma Christian
- Donna Faile
- Hal Hanlin
- Joan Huggins
- Grant Jackson
- Ann Jessup
- Harvey Jessup
- Rupert Johnson
- Cody Lidge
- Andrea McAtee
- Brenda McCane
- Michael McGandy
- Dave Mills
- Anthony Porter
- Kirk Rogers
- Ricky Rowe
- Cedric Thibadoux
- Ima Thibadoux
- Freddie Vaughn
- Laurie Vaughn
- Jim Ward
- Marsha Ward





Supplies for Salkehatchie

The annual Salkehatchie Summer Service Penn Center camp begins on June 20th. That's just two weeks away! While registration has been closed, you can still help out this year's campers by donating to their efforts! Scan the QR code to view an Amazon shopping list of items you can donate for this year's camp. Please stick to items on the list and get your donations in ASAP!



Safe Space Dinner

On Thursday, June 11th at 6 PM, Washington Street's Social Justice Action Team will be hosting the Safe Space Dinner at Reformation Lutheran Church (1118 Union St.). RLC's Safe Space Dinner is held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month for LGBTQIA+ youth without a stable home life. During these dinners, there is no attempts of preaching or conversion. Only support, comfort, and good food are offered.

Those interested in helping out have a few ways of doing so! If you would like to volunteer for the event, please contact Nancy Whittle (ncwhittle@aol.com) or Jim Lane (jlane132@gmail.com) and let them know. Youth volunteers are also welcome!

If you'd prefer to donate instead, the SJAT is looking for granola bars, protein bars, individual bags of crackers/pretzels, candy bars, mints, small bags of nuts, and Lance's crackers with cheese or peanut butter spread. Please drop off all donations to the closet in Threatt Hall closest to the courtyard. All leftovers will be donated to the Soup Cellar!

UWF Consecration

On May 15th, the United Women in Faith consecrated 22 United Methodist deaconesses and home missionaries to a lifetime of Christ-like service at their assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana. Among them was our very own Dr. Leland Spencer!

Per the United Methodist Book of Discipline, a deaconess/home missionary's responsibilities are to alleviate suffering, eradicate causes of injustice, facilitate the development of human



potential, and share in global community through the church universal.

We are proud to call Leland one of our own, and we look forward to him bettering the United Methodist Church both within our walls and beyond.

Thompson Adams Piano Recital



WSUMC Door Renovations

If you've been to our church at anytime over the last month, you've likely noticed the renovations being done to our doors around the building. Well we're happy to say, the renovations are complete! Thanks to our Trustees, our outside doors have all been completely renewed for the first time in over a decade. The company responsible for the renovations, Front Door Refinishing, shaved each door down to the wood, and slowly but surely repainted them with their special 17-step process. This gives the doors a rich, brown color and gives it such a glossy finish that you can see your reflection in it! FDR will also be returning to Washington Street every two years so our doors can maintain their current quality.

The white columns surrounding some of our doors were also stripped of any dead wood and the door handles and keyholes were removed and cleaned of any rust.

We will be going into more detail on this project later this summer, but if you'd like to see the before and after pictures you can find our photo album by scanning the social media QR code on Pg. 8!



Teacher Appreciation Lunch

On Monday, May 4th, our Staff Parish Relations Committee hosted a luncheon for Teacher Appreciation Week. Our Child Development Center Director, Alicia Washington, and all of our CDC teachers were invited to enjoy a meal and to get know our staff and SPRC members. This was a wonderful time of fellowship that strengthened the bond between Washington Street United Methodist Church and its CDC. If you see any of our CDC teachers out and about, be sure to tell them how appreciated they are! Special thanks to Mary Lide, Susan Brown, Lynn Shirley, and Lee Smith for organizing the luncheon!



Childcare Hero Recognition

All Washington Street attendees are invited to the Columbia Fireflies game on June 13th where CDC teacher, Jazmyne Sumter, will be recognized as a Childcare Hero! She'll throw the opening pitch at 6:05 PM, so be sure to come and cheer her on!





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 - 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)

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 - 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)

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 - 3rd 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 - 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

Lost & Found

The Lost & Found table in the church office is overflowing with misplaced items! Come by and see if anything you have lost has ended up here. Please do so by the end of July, as any leftover items will be donated! We have several pairs of glasses, books, umbrellas, jackets, several other pieces of clothing and even a walking stick!



Battery Recycling

While it may be convenient to throw out old batteries whenever they die, it can also be detrimental to the environment as batteries contain many toxic materials. This is why Washington Street UMC is now taking batteries for recycling! Dead batteries may be dropped off to the basket in The Mission Garden located in the entrance hallway of the church. Please place all dead batteries in a plastic bag so corrosion does not leak into the basket! Currently, we are only able to accept batteries for small/handheld devices. Larger batteries for vehicles, lawnmowers, etc. cannot be accepted at this time. We hope you all will take advantage of this service, and do your Christian duty of taking care of this beautiful world that God has gifted to us.



Meet Our New Members!



**Charlie
Whitener**



**Kāsie
Whitener**



**Hollie
Whitener**



**Buddy
Kirby**

Freddie Vaughn's Easter Banner

During the Easter season, you may have noticed the two banners located on either side of the Washington Street sanctuary. They were put up during our Easter Sunday service (April 5th) and remained until Pentecost Sunday (May 24th). These beautiful banners adorned with a white cross covered in a floral pattern were a great reminder of what the Easter Season is truly about: Christ's death via



crucifixion and the new life that followed. But did you know, these banners were hand-crafted by one of our members?

Washington Street members Freddie Vaughn and her daughter Laurie were previously members of St. Mark UMC before it unfortunately closed its doors in 2025. During her time at St. Mark, Freddie made the Easter banners herself, and we were fortunate enough to receive them after St. Mark closed. They are an excellent addition to the Easter season at Washington Street, and we want to thank Freddie for putting these together!

But this year, we won't be the only ones who get to enjoy them! Because Freddie's banners will be present at the Greenville Convention Center for the South Carolina United Methodist Annual Conference. This year's conference will be from June 7th to the 10th, and will be a chance for United Methodists from across the state to work together, worship together, and vote on many pressing issues facing the church today. Those attending from Washington Street are especially excited that all South Carolina United Methodists will be able to see the talent of our congregation on display.

Youth Movie Night

Grab your popcorn and head to the 3rd floor youth room! All of our youth are invited to movie night on June 14th at 5 PM! The movie selection is TBD, but those interested may contact Rev. Kathy at kljames@umcsc.org for more information. New and existing youth members are welcome to join!





Ways to Stay Connected at Washington Street!

WORSHIP

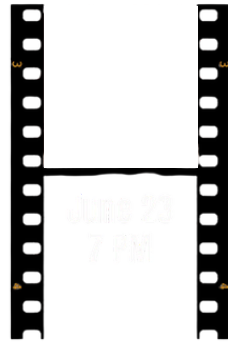


June 18th
11:00 - 11:30 AM
Christ Chapel

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



The movie discussion group will be taking a break for the summer. Stayed tuned for updates on future meetings!

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:

Thursday, June 11th @ 6 PM - Game Night



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!

You can register your child, or register to be a volunteer/leader, by scanning this QR code. For any VBS related questions, contact Debra Schooler (debrajschooler@gmail.com) or Heidi Ankeny (hanken60@hotmail.com).




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