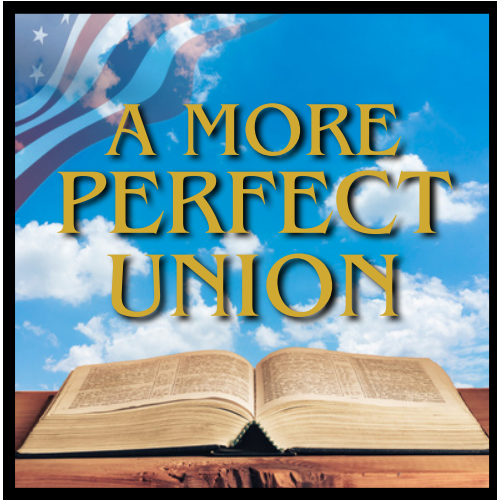




WASHINGTON STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 5, 2026



Two hundred and fifty years into the Great American Experiment, the work is not finished. The God who called the exiles to seek the peace of the city they were living in calls us to do the same – here, in Columbia, South Carolina, in this complicated and still becoming nation. In this series we will be looking at one honest, hopeful question: What does it mean to follow Jesus toward a more perfect union?

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

No one at Washington Street will solicit you for gift cards of any kind!



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 Scripture:

Jeremiah 29:4-7

The Lord of heavenly forces, the God of Israel, proclaims to all the exiles I have carried off from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and settle down; cultivate gardens and eat what they produce. Get married and have children; then help your sons find wives and your daughters find husbands in order that they too may have children. Increase in number there so that you don't dwindle away. Promote the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because your future depends on its welfare.

Order of Worship 6th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Shirley

RINGING OF THE BELL

CHORAL INTROIT *Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh on Me*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Emily Caskey

Leader: Welcome! You made it through the holiday weekend!

All: Some of us are sunburned. Some of us are grateful. Some of us are relieved and some of us are worried about the future.

Leader: You brought all of that with you through the doors this morning and that is exactly right.

All: We come as we are, carrying what we carry. We bring our pride and our grief, our hope and our honest doubt.

Leader: Our nation turned 250 yesterday, and the work of becoming is still underway. So, the church gathers today asking what that means.

All: 250 years of becoming. Much undone. Much still possible.

Leader: Let us join our hearts and hands not as citizens first, but as followers of Jesus who calls us to seek the shalom of the city where we are placed.

All: We give thanks that God is not finished with us - or with this country yet. May the Spirit grant us wisdom for the living of these days. Amen.

*HYMN #698 (UMH)

God of the Ages

NATIONAL HYMN

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 29:4-7

Rev. Lippert

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Susan Caskey

Following the Children's moments, children ages 3-5 will be escorted by a Children's Church leader 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)

Gracious God, we confess that we have sometimes loved our nation more easily than we have loved our neighbor. We have celebrated our freedoms without asking who still waits to be free. We are tempted to wrap the cross in the flag and call it true faith. Forgive us for the cheap patriotism that costs us nothing. Forgive us for the cynicism that costs us everything. Restore in us the harder, holier love – the kind that plants gardens in foreign soil and prays for the welfare of the cities and all the inhabitants. Hear us now as we offer our silent and personal confessions:

(Moment of Silence)

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

OFFERTORY

For Everyone Born

Shirley Murray
arr. Trenney

For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread, a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead, and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share, with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that's fair. For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song, the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong. For just and unjust, a place at the table, abuser, abused, with need to forgive, in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live. For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be, to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free.

***DOXOLOGY #95 (UMH)**

OLD 100TH

***HOMILY**

Born for This

Rev. Becky Shirley

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (See insert)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (See insert to sing The Lord's Prayer)

Receiving The Bread and The Cup

COMMUNION ANTHEM

HYMN #2191 (TFWS) *Eternal Father, Strong to Save

MELITA

***BENEDICTION & CHORAL RESPONSE**

***POSTLUDE**

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 | Rob Graybill |
| Sarah- Kate Gravely | Karen Horne |
| Lisa Johnson | Charles Joye |
| Jim Lane | Jean Leitner |
| Sam Matthews | Patrick McClanahan |
| Paul McClanahan | Carole McConkey |
| Cathy Puckett | Nancy Williams |
| Barbara Graybill | Nancy Whittle |

Our Homebound Members

Prayer Thought

Whatever you are facing right now, just remember that God is with you.

Stewardship Report

Attendance on 6/28: 293

149 in person

144 online (as of 7/02)

Offerings

YTD Received: \$418,991

YTD Soup Cellar Gifts: \$36,476

Expenses

YTD General: \$491,829

YTD Soup Cellar : \$32,659

Foundation

FYTD Gifts: \$6,153.75

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.



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

* = Please stand as you are able

Calendar of Ministry Events

Vacation Bible School

VBS 2026 will be held
July 20th to the 23rd!
Sign up now for kids
ages 4 through 5th grade
by scanning the QR code!



Young Professionals Karaoke Night - July 9th @ 6 PM

Join the YoPro group in the 3rd floor youth room
for a fun night of karaoke!

No More Rice!

Thank you for your very generous donations of
rice and snacks over the past few weeks! At this
time, the Soup Cellar has requested that no more
rice be donated, as they have plenty for the
foreseeable future.

Empty Jar Donations

If you have 8-ounce canning jars you are not
planning to use, please donate the jars to United
Women in Faith (UWF). The empty jars will be
filled with jam which can be purchased at the
UWF bake sale in the fall. Jars may be left in the
church kitchen. Please label UWF.

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 |

Today's Volunteer Team

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Acolyte: | Cora McGandy |
| Children's Church: | Eleanore Langley |
| Greeters: | Ute |
| Sound/Video/Projection: | Ryan Wisks |
| Ushers: | Ricky Rowe and Jay Parmley |
| Communion Servers | Nancy Whittle, Sam Waldrep Ann Jessup, 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



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK



Safe Sanctuaries

We are committed to providing a safe, healing and
affirming environment for All of God's Children
to grow in Faith.