

August 2026



WASHINGTON
STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connections

wsmethodist.org

Vacation Bible School 2026

For many years, the Vacation Bible School program at Washington Street UMC has helped our children find their faith and become lifelong United Methodists. And this year was no exception! VBS 2026 brought together 16 children from our church community for a week of fun, learning, and devotion. Over the course of four days, our VBS campers played games, did arts and crafts, learned bible songs, conducted science experiments, and spent time with the coolest seal around, Ollie!

This year, our campers took on the Snowball Mountain Challenge, which pushed them to be brave no matter what may come. Whenever they needed encouragement, the campers could look to VBS 2026's theme bible quote; Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." We hope all the children know that when they face hardship in their lives, God, their friends, the church community, and even Ollie have their back!

Of course, none of these activities would have been possible without the hard work of our camp leaders and the adult and youth volunteers. Thank you to our camp directors Debra Schooler

and Heidi Ankeny, and all of our volunteers for organizing this year's camp. We would also like to give a special thank you to both Thompson Adams for being the camp photographer, and Hayden Uzelac for providing the voice for Ollie the Artice Seal!





Inclusive Theatre Performance

The Inclusive Theatre Company of South Carolina will be doing a staged reading of the brand new play, *Struggle Bus*, on August 8th! *Struggle Bus* is written by Larry Hembree and Jamila Phillips and is inspired by Phillips' book, *Dream Changer*.

This staged reading will be a preview of the full play version which is set to debut in 2027!

Seating is limited so get your tickets now!

Tickets can be bought by going to www.inclusivetheatrecomsc.com or by scanning the QR code. Please note, this performance is intended for mature audiences!



Columbia ERT Training

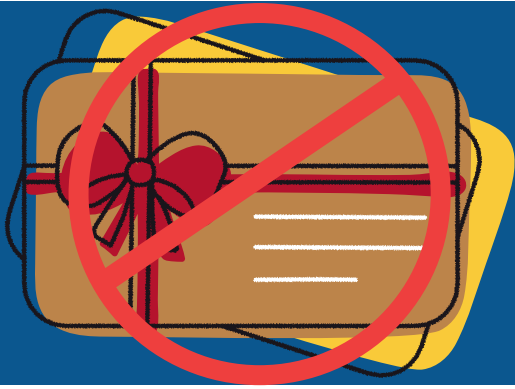
Have you ever wanted to participate in disaster response ministry? Now you can! The United Methodist Conference will be holding Emergency Response Training for the Columbia district on Saturday, August 29th, at Fair Lawn UMC! Registration is \$30, and you have until August 22nd to register. Lunch is included!

All are welcome! Those interested may scan the QR code, or can go to umcsc.org/ertregistration. Any questions may be directed to Latonya Dash at disasterresponse@umcsc.org.



Happy Anniversary Jim & Marsha!

Please join us in celebrating Washington Street members Jim and Marsha Ward who have been married for 50-years as of August 1st! We hope they have a wonderful time celebrating this momentous occasion, and may they have many more happy years together!



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 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)

*Grace Class will be discussing selected essays by Rachel Held Evans during the summer. 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 summer.

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

Active Faith Yard Sale

Mark your calendars! This year's Active Faith Yard Sale will be held on September 25th from 10 AM to 3 PM and September 26th from 7 AM to 1 PM. All proceeds will go into the ministry efforts of our Active Faith group.

Active Faith will also be accepting donations starting in September. You **CANNOT** donate books, shoes, CDs, DVDs, helmets, cribs, clothing, computers, large furniture, or broken items. Children's books and bed frames will be accepted. Please wait until a future announcement before bringing your donations to the church. Expect more information in the next edition of the Connections!

Follow the CDC on Social Media!

The Washington Street Child Development Center is now on Facebook and Instagram! All are invited to follow the CDC to help their mission of developing the children of Columbia's emotional, cognitive, physical, and spiritual growth. Even if you don't have a child in your life to enroll, sharing the CDC's social media posts will always be helpful! You can follow the CDC by scanning the "Follow Us on Social Media" QR code on Pg. 4 or by going to wsmethodist.org/cdc.





Ways to Stay Connected at Washington Street!

WORSHIP

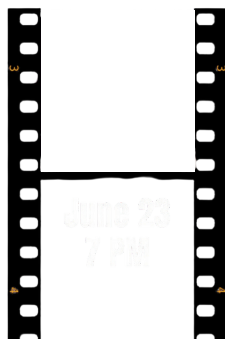


August 20th
11:00 - 11:30 AM
Christ Chapel

Filled with familiar hymns, an interactive Jesus story, and Holy 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 your mid-twenties and mid-forties, 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, August 6th @ 6 PM - Game Night

UMC Young Professionals



Join on GroupMe

Empty Jar Donations

If you have any 8-ounce canning jars you are not planning to use, please donate the jars to United Women in Faith! The empty jars will be filled with jam which can be purchased at the UWF bake sale in the fall. All jars should be left in the church kitchen, but please leave a note with them saying it's for the UWF.



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