



WASHINGTON  
STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Connections

wsmethodist.org

## Salkehatchie Summer Service

From June 20th through the 27th, Penn Center Camp in St. Helena Island, SC was home to campers from Salkehatchie Summer Service. The group, which included 11 volunteers from Washington Street, spent a week renovating the homes of people and families who normally wouldn't be able to afford this kind of service. Thanks to the hard work of these campers, all four houses received much needed renovations. This includes new roofs, walls, floors, kitchens and bathrooms.

During our special Salkehatchie Sunday Service, our congregation got to hear from many of the youth who attended this year's camp. "[A] lot of people assume [...] with Salkehatchie that it's just the work we do that brings us closer to God." said Jacob Schatz. "But I for one think I saw God through all the amazing people I met and got to work with. [...] I couldn't have asked for a better group at Salkehatchie."

2026 marks 47 years since the Penn Center Salkehatchie camp was founded by Rev. John Culp. Among the 50+ Salkehatchie camps across the Carolinas and Georgia, the Penn Center Camp remains the oldest of them all. Many of the current residents of St. Helena Island are descendants of the more than 10,000 enslaved people who lived there pre-Civil War. When the plantation owners fled the island after it was taken over by Union forces, the enslaved people were put through the Port Royal Experiment. This was an effort to prove that formerly enslaved people could build and manage their own communities, becoming a contributing factor in the Reconstruction Era.

"We're walking under the same South Carolina sun, enjoying the same ocean breezes, and serving the descendants of people whose [faith] overcame unimaginable hard ship." said volunteer Dane Waund. "We're reminded we're walking on sacred ground."



*Salkehatchie Penn Center Camp 2026 group photo. Washington Street members include: Director Beth Robinson, Construction Coordinator Mark Catoe, Rev. Kathy James, Thompson Adams, Elijah Hughes, Micah and Sammy Roth, Jacob Schatz, Dane and Darby Waund, and Lilly Wilson*



## Annual Conference Recap

The Annual Conference for the United Methodist Church of South Carolina was held from June 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> at the Greenville Convention Center. Among the many attendees were 10 delegates and 3 clergy from Washington Street including Rev. Becky, Rev. Alston, and Rev. Kathy who were all reappointed to their existing positions for another year! Over the course of the 4-day conference, voting members approved a \$9.8 million budget for 2027, 16 clergy members were ordained/commissioned, a resolution passed that supports voting rights for historically marginalized communities, and much more! Hundreds of attendees also volunteered to help pack meals for Rise Against Hunger. They managed to far exceed the goals set for them, packing 125,000 meals and raising \$55,154! If you would like a full breakdown of the major events that happened at Annual Conference, please scan the QR code above!



AC 2026  
Breakdown

We are proud to say that Annual Conference 2026 wouldn't have happened without the contribution of several Washington Street members. Our wonderful choir director, Dr. Catherine Nance, coordinated the music for the daily worship services and special ceremonies; Cody Lidge performed several solos during the worship services; Sam Waldrep decorated the main stage with his beautiful floral arrangements; and Wayne Hall handled the altar arrangements and created a large-scale replica of the cross-and-flame design from the United Methodist Church logo.

## Vacation Bible School

It's almost time for Vacation Bible School 2026! This year's camp, titled "Snowball Mountain Challenge," will run from July 20<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8:45 AM to 12 PM! All of our youth



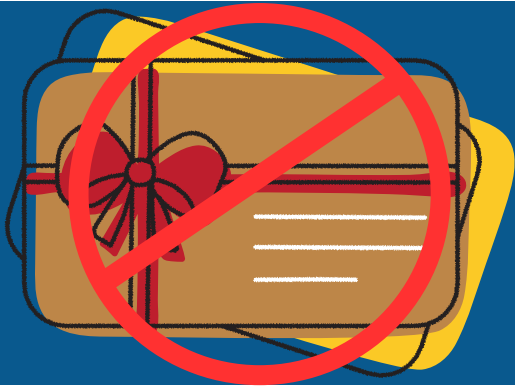
are invited to join Ollie the Arctic Seal on an adventure to discover their inner strength through the power of God. Along the way, Ollie and the kids will have fun while learning about a variety of subjects such as science, arts and crafts, music, and more!

You can register your child, or register to be a volunteer/leader, by scanning this QR code.

Contact Debra Schooler (debrajschooler@gmail.com) or Heidi Ankeny (hankeney60@hotmail.com) with any questions.



WSUMC delegates, clergy, and organizers including (left to right): Carol Fowler, Robert Jennings, Jay Parmley, Marsha Lane, Wayne Hall, Jacob Valdez, Rev Becky Shirley, Leland Spencer, Rev. Alston Lippert, Lynn Shirley, Rev. Kathy James, Ben Schooler, and Cody Lidge (not pictured: Dr. Catherine Nance, Debra Schooler, Rev. Jim Tuell, and Sam Waldrep)



## 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 - 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)

\*Grace 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 (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 - 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

### No More Rice!

The Soup Cellar team would like to thank everyone for their generous donations of food/snack items! They wouldn't be able to feed nearly as many people as they currently do without the support of our congregation.

However, the Soup Cellar is currently asking for **NO MORE RICE** to be donated!

They currently have enough to last through the end of the year! If you would still like to donate, the Soup Cellar is always seeking individually wrapped snack items as those tend to go quickly.



### Fireflies' Child Care Hero

Congratulations to Child Development Center teacher Jazmyne Sumter for being recognized by the Columbia Fireflies and the Department of Social Services as a Child Care Hero! As part of her recognition, Jazmyne received the VIP treatment at the Fireflies game on June 13<sup>th</sup> and even got to throw the ceremonial first pitch! We are proud to have such wonderful teachers in our CDC!





# Ways to Stay Connected at Washington Street!

## WORSHIP

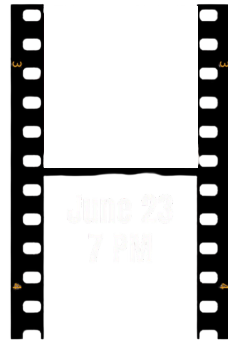


July 16th  
11:00 - 11:30 AM  
Christ Chapel

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!



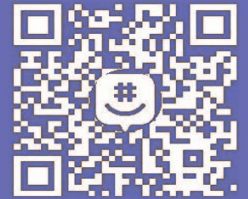
## YoPro (Young Professionals)

If you are between 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, July 9th @ 6 PM - Karaoke Party

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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1401 Washington Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
803.256.2417

