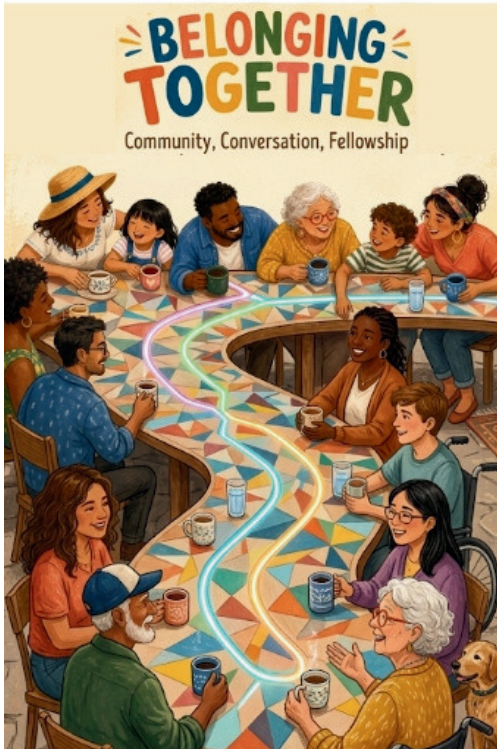




WASHINGTON STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 30, 2026



"Belonging Together" is a six-week journey through the Bible exploring what it means to truly belong — to God, to each other, and to a community wide enough for every generation and every story. From Peter stepping out onto stormy water to a bold outsider who refuses to be turned away from the table, these stories remind us that faith isn't a solo journey — it's one we take side by side. The series closes September 13th with our Epworth Children's Home Work Day Offering, turning what we've learned about belonging into love in action for children in our community.

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, whom 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 or complete one of the Connection Cards found in the pews to let us know you are with us today and how we can help you.



New Here?

We have special listening devices for those who are hearing impaired. If needed, please ask an usher for assistance.

We have many children's ministries for your kids to be a part of!

For more information, visit our website at wsmethodist.org and follow us on Facebook & Instagram!

No one at Washington Street will EVER 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:

Matthew 14:22–33

Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone. Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. Very early in the morning he came to his disciples, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" They were so frightened they screamed.

Just then Jesus spoke to them, "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid." Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water." And Jesus said, "Come."

Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!"

Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, "You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?" When they got into the boat, the wind settled down.

Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, "You must be God's Son!"

Order of Worship 14th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Becky Shirley

RINGING OF THE BELL

CHORAL INTROIT

Majesty

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lee Haynes

Leader: We gather to worship our God,

All: who speaks the words of peace we need in chaotic times.

Leader: We gather to follow Jesus,

All: who encourages us to never fear, for God is near.

Leader: Jesus calls, "Come, be my disciples."

All: Jesus calls: "Even if you think you're not good enough: come be my disciples."

Leader: How will you answer his call?

All: Here I am Lord, increase my faith and help my unbelief. Amen.

*HYMN #529 (UMH)

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UMH) #886

*THE GLORIA PATRI #70 (UMH)

MEINEKE

ANTHEM

The Call to Wisdom

Will Todd

Lord of wisdom, Lord of truth, Lord of justice, Lord of mercy,
walk beside us down the years 'til we see You in Your glory.
Striving to attain the heights—turning in a new direction; entering a
lonely place—welcoming a friend or stranger. I am here, I am with
you—I have called, do you hear me? Silver is of passing worth; gold
is not of constant value; jewels sparkle for a while—what you long
for is not lasting. Rulers govern under me with my insight and my
wisdom; Those who know me know my love; Those who seek me
find their answer. God, the Father and the Son, Holy Spirit,
coeternal Glory, glory, be ascribed to you now and to the end, to
the end of ages. (Scriptural reference: Proverbs 8)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Ann Jessup

Following the Children's Moment, children will follow an adult into the choir room for a short time of music. Afterwards, 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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Alston Lippert

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY

O Divine Redeemer

Charles Gounod

Soloist: Elliott Brown

*DOXOLOGY #94 (UMH)

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*HYMN#341 (UMH)

I Sought the Lord

PEACE

*SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 14:22-33

SERMON

When the Water Gets Rough

Rev. Becky Shirley

*HYMN #509 (UMH)

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

PILOT

*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

Thom Berry

Karen Horne

Lisa Johnson

Patrick McClanahan

Sam Matthews

Carole McConkey

Paul McClanahan

Mike Hutto

Barbara Graybill

Cathy Puckett

Brenda Fields

Homebound Members

Prayer Thought

Do not hold your troubles in your tight knuckled grip. Hand them to God and feel release and peace.

Stewardship Report

Attendance on 8/23: 281

173 in person

108 online (as of 8/27)

Offerings

YTD Received: \$556,424

YTD Soup Cellar Gifts: \$46,881

Expenses

YTD General: \$708,443

YTD Soup Cellar: \$48,831

Foundation

FYTD Gifts: \$28,682

Thank you for your

Financial Support!

Your gifts help make ministry happen every day!

You may give by texting CONNECTIONS to 73256, mailing your gift to 1401

Washington Street or by scanning the QR you see here.



Calendar of Ministry Events

Interested in Becoming a Member?

If you'd like to learn more about becoming an official member of WSUMC, please contact Rev. Becky (rjshirley@umcsc.org) or fill out one of the connection cards found in the pew racks. New members will be recognized in worship on September 13th.

Reading Club | Sept. 9th @ 6PM

The Washington Street Reading Club will meet in the John Harper Classroom to discuss the novel *Whistler* by Ann Patchett. Please contact Andrea McAtee (acmcatee21@gmail.com) with any questions.

3rd Grade Bible Ceremony | Sept. 13th

During Sunday service, all our 3rd grade youth will receive their bibles in a special ceremony! Any families with a 3rd grader may contact Rev. Kathy James at kljames@umcsc.org to sign up.

Small Group Launch | Sept. 13th

Join us after Sunday service for our annual Small Group Launch! Come learn about the many wonderful ministry opportunities we have here at Washington Street. There will also be a potluck meal in Threatt Hall so be sure to bring your favorite dish with you!

Mary's Maidens | Sept. 13th @ 4 PM

All girls first through 6th grade are invited to join us. Mary's Maidens is a United Women in Faith circle that carries out service projects.

Active Faith Yard Sale

This year's yard sale will be in Threatt Hall on Sept. 25th from 10 AM - 3 PM and Sept. 26th from 7 AM - 1 PM. Proceeds will go towards ministry efforts of the Active Faith team.

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:	Rosemary Aravena
Children's Church:	Melanie Dobson Lilly Wilson
Greeters:	Ute
Sound/Video/Projection:	Spencer Stevens John Pannell
Ushers:	Hal Hanlin and Jane Peterson

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 & Friday 9:00-am- 2:00 pm

Safe Space



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