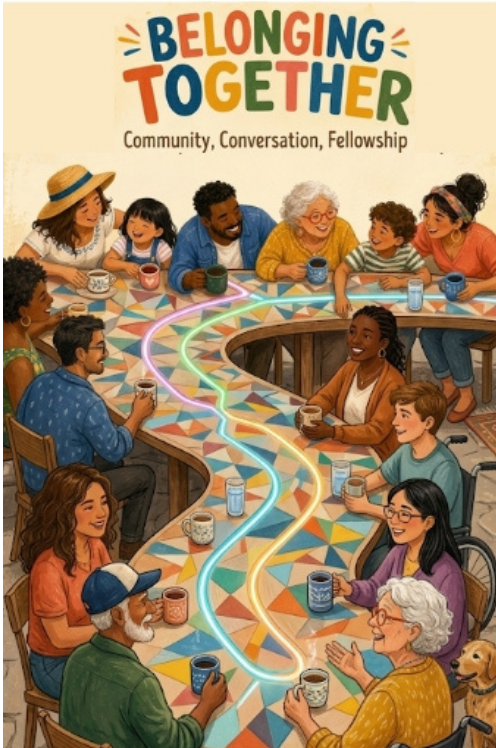




WASHINGTON STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 13, 2026



BELONGING TOGETHER

Community, Conversation, Fellowship

"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:

Genesis 2:18–25

Then the Lord God said, “It’s not good that the human is alone. I will make him a helper that is perfect for him.” So the Lord God formed from the fertile land all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky and brought them to the human to see what he would name them. The human gave each living being its name. The human named all the livestock, all the birds in the sky, and all the wild animals. But a helper perfect for him was nowhere to be found.

So the Lord God put the human into a deep and heavy sleep, and took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh over it.

With the rib taken from the human, the Lord God fashioned a woman and brought her to the human being. The human said,

“This one finally is bone from my bone and flesh from my flesh. She will be called a woman because from a man she was taken.”

This is the reason that a man leaves his father and mother and embraces his wife, and they become one flesh. The two of them were naked, the man and his wife, but they weren’t embarrassed.

Order of Worship 16th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Becky Shirley

RINGING OF THE BELL

CHORAL INTROIT

Glorify Thy Name

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Melanie Dobson

Leader: We gather by the grace of God.

All: God has created us for good.

Leader: God created us from love, for love.

All: God has created us for joy.

Leader: God has created us for worship.

All: Come, let us worship the Lord. Amen.

*HYMN #147 (UMH)

All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UMH) #886

*THE GLORIA PATRI #70 (UMH)

MEINEKE

ANTHEM

Lord, Here Am I

John Ness Beck

Master, thou callest, I gladly obey; only direct me and I’ll find my way. Teach me the mission appointed for me—what is my labor and where it shall be. Master, thou callest and this I reply: “Ready and willing, Lord, here am I!” Willing my Savior to take up the cross, willing to suffer reproaches and loss. Willing to follow if thou will be lead; only support me with grace in my need. Living or dying, I still would be thine, yet I am mortal and thou art divine. Pardon, whenever I turn from the right; pity, and bring me again to the light. Master, thou callest and this I reply: “Ready and willing, Lord, here am I.” (Scripture text: Jeremiah 31:27-34)

BIBLE PRESENTATION

Teddy Aravena

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Becky Shirley

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.

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Alston Lippert

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY

What Are These Lovely Ones?

Paul S. Jones

Soloist: Kristin Lynch

*DOXOLOGY #94 (UMH)

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*HYMN #109 (UMH) *Creating God, Your Fingers Trace* GIFT OF LOVE

*SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 2:18-25

SERMON

Created to Be Helpers

Rev. Becky Shirley

*HYMN #97 (UMH) *For the Fruits of This Creation* EAST ACKLAM

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*BENEDICTION & CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Prayer Thought

God knows we will have anxiety in our lives which causes stress. He also gives us a way out...Jesus.

Stewardship Report
Attendance on 9/06: 100
NA in person
100 online (as of 9/10)

Offerings

YTD Received: \$590,016
YTD Soup Cellar Gifts: \$48,266

Expenses

YTD General: \$741,947
YTD Soup Cellar: \$51,869

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

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

All girls 1st through 6th grade are invited to join us. Mary's Maidens is a United Women in Faith circle that carries out service projects.

Youth Group | Sept. 13th @ 4:30 PM

All youth from 6th - 12th grade are invited to the 3rd floor youth room for the bimonthly Youth Group meeting.

Yard Sale Donations

Starting September 16th, you can drop off donations of sellable items to the church for the upcoming yard sale. Bring your donations every weekday from 10 AM - 2 PM until September 24th. Scan the QR code to view a list of prohibited items.



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.

Sing Along Messiah Giving

Our annual Sing Along Messiah is only a few months away! If you would like to contribute to the efforts of our SAM team, you may do so by donating via Realm. Scan the QR code to do it from your phone!



Today's Volunteer Team

Acolyte:	Rosemary Aravena
Children's Church:	Shelley Stafford Lizzie Chewning
Greeters:	Ute
Sound/Video/Projection:	Spencer Stevens John Pannell
Ushers:	Pam and Phil Jenkins

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.

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