



WASHINGTON
STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connections

wsmethodist.org

Summer 2026 Recap

It may still feel like summer, but there is no denying it: fall is just around the corner! But as we move forward in life, it is important to look back at all that we've accomplished. And we have certainly accomplished a lot as a congregation this summer!



At the beginning of June, a group of Washington Street members, as well as members of other local churches, traveled to Ecuador for 10 days to provide medical care for several hundred people. The travelers also got a firsthand look at a culture very different from our own, which reminded them of an important lesson: no

matter where you're from or how you're raised, we are ALL the children of God.

During the last week of June, a group of adults and youths traveled to St. Helena Island to participate in the annual Salkehatchie Summer Service!

During their week in the hot, South Carolina sun, they renovated the homes of individuals and families who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford home repairs.

"A lot of people assume [...] with Salkehatchie that it's just the work that brings us closer to God," camper Jacob Schatz said. "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."



It's amazing to see members of our congregation do good in various parts of the world, but there were also great things being done at home as well. At the end of July, we hosted our annual Vacation Bible School program which brought together 16 children from our local community for a week of learning, fun and devotion. Between singing songs and hanging out with the VBS mascot, Ollie, our kids learned a very important lesson from Philipians 4:13 "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." We hope our campers will continue to tackle life's challenges with the confidence that God is always with them. (cont. Pg 2)



But of course, this summer wouldn't have been possible without the effort of our amazing congregation. Whether you've just started attending, or you've been coming for decades, none of what we do would be possible without your contributions. Please continue to help us spread the love of God to all who seek it in Columbia and beyond.

Active Faith Yard Sale

Looking for a good deal on quality products? Well you don't have to look far! The Active Faith ministry group of Washington Street UMC will be hosting an indoor yard sale at the end of September. This two-day event will be in Threatt Hall on Friday, September 25th from 10 AM to 3 PM and Saturday, September 26th from 7 AM to 1 PM.

Don't need anything new, but looking to get rid of something you no longer need? Active Faith will also be accepting donations of sellable items! Donations may be dropped off to the church every weekday from Wednesday, September 16th to Thursday, September 24th from 10 AM to 2 PM. Before bringing your items to the church, please check wsmethodist.org/yard-sale for a list of prohibited items. If you have any questions about your donations, please contact Sam Waldrep at swaldrep@sc.rr.com.

All proceeds from this event will go towards the ministry efforts of the Active Faith team. This includes helping the local homeless population, responding to the immediate needs of the



community, assisting vulnerable children, providing aid to refugee families, and more. "When residents of a Columbia Housing Authority apartment complex were displaced because of a carbon monoxide [leak] ... we bought bus tickets for them so they could get around town," Active Faith founder Deborah Rowe recalled. "We've done duffel bags for foster children, ... we sponsor low-income daycares, and we've done food drives for foster families. We've done all sorts of things with the money."

Nickelodeon Film Screening

The Social Justice Action Team of Washington Street will be hosting a screening of the film *1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture* at The Nickelodeon Theater on Main Street! This 2022 documentary delves into the history of the word "homosexual" being added to the text of the Bible and how that bolstered anti-

LGBTQIA+ rhetoric. The screening will be held on September 29th at 6:30 PM. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at the door. All proceeds will go towards the ministry efforts of the Social Justice Action Team.



3rd Grade Bible Ceremony

Sept. 13th during Sunday service

All 3rd graders are invited to participate!

Contact Rev. Kathy (kljames@umsc.org) to register!



A Finance Committee Report

As we move into the second half of 2026, Washington Street's operating finances are generally on track.

Through July, the church has received approximately \$553,000 in operating revenue, including \$382,000 in pledged giving. Giving through this point in the year is somewhat stronger than our normal annual pattern. At the same time, operating expenses total approximately \$621,000. Personnel costs are below budget, while property and administrative expenses have been higher than anticipated.

These numbers are encouraging, but they do not mean that our financial needs for the year have already been met. A significant portion of Washington Street's contributions normally arrives during the final months of the year. Last year, our pledges and gifts ultimately provided just enough to meet the church's operating needs, so continued regular giving throughout the remainder of 2026 remains important.

Your gifts support the people, ministries, worship, outreach, and facilities that make Washington Street's work possible. We are grateful for the faithful generosity of our congregation and will continue to provide periodic updates as the year progresses.

Why I Joined the Choir (written by Dane Waund)

As part of my faith journey—now more than 20 years at Washington Street—I found myself looking for something new. Not because anything was missing, but because I wanted to experience worship in a different way and continue growing spiritually.

Joining the choir has been exactly that.

Now, before you assume I have some hidden musical talent, let me share something a good college friend of mine, who is now a choral director at Purdue, once told me. He described my singing as an “ensemble voice.” That’s a polite way of saying, “We’d rather not hear you sing by yourself!”

Fortunately, that’s exactly how a choir works.

One of the first things I discovered is how welcoming and supportive everyone is. Under Catherine Nance’s direction, there’s a genuine spirit of encouragement. Catherine would love to have more voices, but she’s not looking for perfection. She’s looking for people who want to help lead worship through music. Another concern I had was my travel schedule. I travel frequently for work and family, so I wondered whether I could really commit. The answer has been a resounding yes. I rehearse and sing when I’m able, and when I’m away, it’s completely understood. There’s no guilt—just gratitude when you’re there. I’ve also enjoyed something I didn’t expect: learning. It’s been fun to improve musically, learn new pieces, and challenge myself in ways I hadn’t for years. Even more meaningful has been getting to know people I might not have known otherwise and deepening friendships with others I had only known casually. Most of all, singing with the choir has added a sense of newness to worship for me. Preparing the music throughout the week, paying closer attention to the words of the hymns and anthems, and then sharing them with the congregation has enriched my own experience of worship in ways I hadn’t anticipated. If you’ve ever thought, “I’m not a good enough singer,” you may be exactly the kind of person Catherine is hoping will walk through the choir room door. If you have an ensemble voice like mine, you’ll fit right in.

Come give it a try. You may discover, as I did, that joining the choir isn’t just about singing. It’s about growing in faith, making friends, learning something new, and becoming part of a wonderfully supportive community.





Daytrippers 2026/2027

Looking to get to know fellow members of the church while seeing the sites of South Carolina? Then consider going on a trip with the Daytrippers! The Daytrippers group is made of people who like to see new things and have the ability to travel. These trips involve traveling to interesting sites, having lunch, and returning to the church. They carpool each time so you will only have to worry about getting to the church in the morning. This month's trip will be to the Civil Rights Museum and Edisto Memorial Gardens in Orangeburg on September 23rd. Those interested in attending may contact Rev. Alston Lippert at aflippert@umcsc.org.



Recently moved?

Got a new number?

Changed your name?

Don't forget to update your information in Realm!

To do so, contact our Communications Director Jacob Valdez at jacob@wsmethodist.org.

Youth Group Events

2nd & 4th Sundays of each month

**Sept. 13th
4:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

**Sept. 27th
4:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

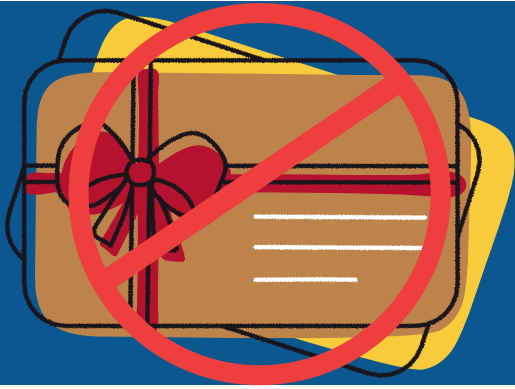
All children ages 12 and up are welcome to join!

Contact Rev. Kathy (kljames@umcsc.org) for more information!

Columbia Pride Service

In partnership with Shandon Presbyterian Church, we will be hosting a special LGBTQIA+ pride service for Queer History Month. While last year's service was held at Shandon Presbyterian, this year we will be hosting it in the Washington Street sanctuary. The pride service will be Wednesday, October 14th and all are invited to join! We hope you all will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to worship with another congregation.





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

Small Group Launch

The annual Washington Street UMC Small Group Launch is fast approaching! All are invited to the Christ Chapel Narthex immediately after service on Sunday, September 13th to learn more about the wonderful ministry opportunities here at Washington Street. At the same time, there will be a potluck meal in Threath Hall. There will be fried chicken and beverages, but everyone is welcome to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Dishes may be dropped off in the kitchen starting a 9:30 AM. Please be sure to label your container! Volunteers are also needed to help in the kitchen and clean up after the meal. Those interested may contact Mary Lide at neaudl@aol.com.



Bag Checkers Needed

Due to recent changes in our Soup Cellar, we are now checking our patron's bags so they may come inside to eat. This means we need volunteers to help in our efforts! If you are available weekdays in the late morning to early afternoons, are able to lift heavy objects, and love talking with people, you're invited to volunteer to be a bag checker for the Soup Cellar! Those interested should scan the QR code to sign up!





Ways to Stay Connected at Washington Street!

WORSHIP



September 17th
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



To Register

You are invited to watch *The Best of Enemies* on your own or with friends.

After viewing the film, plan to join Rev. Alston on September 28th at 7 PM in the Wesley room or via Zoom for a discussion of this film's themes of perseverance and interdependence.

To register and to receive the ZOOM link, email
aflippert@umcsc.org

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, October 1st @ 6 PM - Game Night

UMC Young Professionals



Join on GroupMe

Please pray for our Soup Cellar Task Force!

Anne Sinclair
(asinclair1@bellsouth.net)
Robbie Douglas
(rdouglas@wsmethodist.org)
Lee Smith
(hleesmith@gmail.com)
Jim Webber
(jimwebber01@gmail.com)
Denise Wellman
(denisew2204@gmail.com)
Rev. Becky Shirley
(rjshirley@umcsc.org)



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1401 Washington Street
Columbia, SC 29201
803.256.2417

