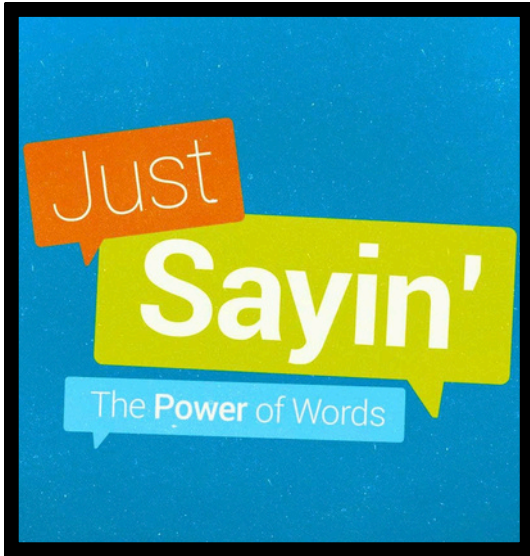




WASHINGTON STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 11, 2026



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! Contact Rev. Kathy James (kljames@umcsc.org) to find out more!

Want to become a member? Fill out an interest card located in the pew rack in front of you, or speak to one of our pastors as you exit the sanctuary!

Interested in joining a small group? Contact our Communications Coordinator (jacob@wsmethodist.org) to receive a copy of the Small Group Booklet!

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:

James 3:2-12

We all make mistakes often, but those who don't make mistakes with their words have reached full maturity. Like a bridled horse, they can control themselves entirely. When we bridle horses and put bits in their mouths to lead them wherever we want, we can control their whole bodies.

Consider ships: They are so large that strong winds are needed to drive them. But pilots direct their ships wherever they want with a little rudder. In the same way, even though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts wildly.

Think about this: A small flame can set a whole forest on fire. The tongue is a small flame of fire, a world of evil at work in us. It contaminates our entire lives. Because of it, the circle of life is set on fire. The tongue itself is set on fire by the flames of hell.

People can tame and already have tamed every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish. No one can tame the tongue, though. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we both bless the Lord and Father and curse human beings made in God's likeness. Blessing and cursing come from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it just shouldn't be this way!

Both fresh water and salt water don't come from the same spring, do they? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree produce olives? Can a grapevine produce figs? Of course not, and fresh water doesn't flow from a saltwater spring either.

Order of Worship 20th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Becky Shirley

RINGING OF THE BELL

CHORAL INTROIT *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: People of God, holy and beloved, may your speech be filled with compassion and kindness this day and every day.

compassion and kindness this day and every day.

All: We come seeking God's grace with a desire to clothe ourselves in humility and gentleness.

Leader: God's grace is always available to us for God understands that life is difficult.

All: Let us listen now for God's words of wisdom that they may guide us in lives. Amen.

***HYMN #66 (UMH) *Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven* LAUDA ANIMA**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UMH) #887**

MEINEKE

***THE GLORIA PATRI #70 (UMH)**

ANTHEM

Set Me As a Seal

Rene Clausen

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your heart: for love is strong as death; Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it. (Scripture: Song of Songs 8:6a, 8:7a)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Alston Lippert

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

Walk Together Children

arr. Moses Hogan

Soloist: Malcolm Lemons

*DOXOLOGY #94 (UMH)

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*HYMN#578 (UMH) *God of Love and God of Power*

UNSER HERRSCHER

*SCRIPTURE LESSON

James 3:2-12

SERMON

Just Sayin' - The Power of Words

Rev. Shirley

*HYMN #672 (UMH) *I Stand Amazed in the Presence*

MY SAVIOR'S LOVE

*BENEDICTION & CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Many thanks to Joe Hudson for substituting on the organ and piano today.

In Sympathy

Rev. Becky Shirley joins the entire staff and Washington Street Church family in expressing our deepest sympathy and Christian love to Ann Fishburn and May Ramsey on the death of their sister-in-law, Lynn Luce, who died on October 5, 2026.

NOTES: UMH - Red United Methodist Hymnal; TFWS - The Faith We Sing

*Please stand as you are able

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

Patrick McClanahan

Lisa Johnson

Carole McConkey

Sam Mathews

Mike Hutto

Paul McClanahan

Cathy Puckett

Barbara Graybill

Joe Clark

Brenda Fields

Jammie Mathews

Homebound Members

Prayer Thought

As we enter the Fall season, help us to remember God's presence through prayer.

Stewardship Report

Attendance on 10/04: 276

164 in person

112 online (as of 10/08)

Offerings

YTD Received: \$651,838

YTD Soup Cellar Gifts: \$53,084

Expenses

YTD General: \$838,194

YTD Soup Cellar: \$64,476

Foundation

YTD Gifts: \$29,132

**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

40 Days of Prayer for Election Day

Please join us for 40 days of prayer starting September 24th leading up to Election Day on November 3rd. We will be hosting online prayers via Zoom every Monday at 7:30 AM and PM. Scan the QR code here to join these sessions!



All Saints' Rose Sales

Buy a rose in memory of those you have lost for All Saints' Day. Roses may be purchased outside of the sanctuary every Sunday in October. All orders must be in by October 25th. Order online by scanning this QR code.



Parents of Washington Street College Students

Please share your college student's mailing address. The children of WS are preparing a surprise for them. Send the address to Mary Lide, neaudl@aol.com.

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:	Lydia Fink
Children's Church:	Eleanore Langley Lizzie Chewning
Greeters:	Ute
Sound/Video/Projection:	Ryan Wiskes 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.

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