

November 2026



WASHINGTON
STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connections

wsmethodist.org



Love Boldly
Serve Joyfully
Lead Courageously

Are you interested in using your God-given talents to benefit the Washington Street United Methodist Church community? Now is the perfect time to do so! Leading up to November 8th, WSUMC's Stewardship Committee has been promoting the 2027 stewardship campaign. During this time we have asked our congregation, from lifelong members to those just joining us, to search their hearts for where their talents lie and how they can apply that to our community. During Sunday service on October 25th, we handed out copies of the Ministry Menu and Estimate of Giving pledge cards. Our members should have received their copies of both in the mail. The Ministry Menu outlines the many ministries we have here at Washington Street that need the efforts of all church attendees in order to thrive. The Estimate of Giving is a way to make ongoing financial commitments for the upcoming year. If you did not receive the booklet or pledge card, you may pick one up at the church office or you can view/fill it out digitally at wsmethodist.org/stewardship-2027.



The theme of this year's campaign is "Love, Serve, Lead." This comes from the vision statement of the United Methodist Church; "Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously." Using these three statements, we here at Washington Street strive to fulfill the tasks that Christ has bestowed upon us. Through this we are able to love boldly, serve joyfully and lead courageously within our church's walls and beyond.

Immediately following the Sunday service on November 8th, we'll be concluding our 2027 stewardship campaign by sharing a coveredish meal in Threatt Hall. All are encouraged to bring their favorite shareable dish. We hope to see all of you there and look forward to sharing a meal with this wonderful congregation. Thank you to those who have already made their financial/time commitments for 2027. We encourage those of you haven't made their commitments yet to look at what Washington Street has to offer and join a ministry that feels right for you!



Harriet Hancock Ally Award

On Sunday, October 25th, WSUMC's Social Justice Action Team awarded the Harriet Hancock Ally Award to our very own Rev. Alston Lippert! This award, named for the late "mother of allies" Harriet Hancock, is given to those who are true allies to the LGBTQIA+ community. Or, as the members of SJAT put it, someone who speaks up for members of the queer community even when they aren't present.

Rev. Alston received this award for standing with the queer community in both words and action, testifying before legislators on discriminatory bills, and for speaking out against discrimination not just for the queer community, but for all marginalized groups.



Thanks, in part, to her efforts, Washington Street United Methodist Church remains a welcoming place where those from all walks of life are able to come and worship without fear of being rejected. We couldn't be more proud to call Rev. Alston one of our own, and look forward to all the ways she will continue to improve our church.

Daytrippers November Trip

Join the WSUMC Daytrippers group for a tour of the South Caroliniana Library! Attendees will meet at the church on November 12th at 11:15 AM and will carpool to the USC Horseshoe. They will then have lunch at McCutchen House at 11:30 AM and will tour the library at 1:00 PM.



Those interested in attending may contact Mary Lide at neaudl@aol.com.

Church Space Needs Assessment

The Room Use Task Force is gathering input from church members, ministry leaders, and staff to better understand current and future needs for office, meeting, classroom, storage, event, and other specialized spaces at Washington Street United Methodist Church.

We invite you to consider the following questions: What needs, challenges, or opportunities at Washington Street United Methodist Church could be addressed through better use of church space? What types of space or facilities would help address those needs,

particularly where existing spaces are unavailable or insufficient? If you have thoughts or suggestions to share, please scan the QR



code or email roomusetaskforce@gmail.com by November 8th.

Sing-Along Messiah

Our annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* is just around the corner! This year's Sing-Along



*SAM 2025 conductor
Dr. Lillian Quackenbush*

Messiah will be on December 14th at 7 PM and, while tickets are free they're first come, first served. Tickets **CANNOT** be

preordered! If you would like to stay up to date on this year's performance, or learn more about the history of Sing-Along Messiah, follow the SAM social media pages by scanning

the QR code at the top of Pg. 6!

Broth & Blessings

The holidays are a wonderful time to gather and share a meal with friends and family. But some people don't know when they're next meal is going to come. So to help, our United Women in Faith Circle 2 group is looking for people to donate various food goods to our Soup Cellar this holiday season. Specifically, they are seeking #10 cans of vegetables, individually wrapped snacks, bottled water, soda, Gatorade (16 oz.), styrofoam cups, lids, plastic spoons and napkins. If you prefer to give a monetary donation you can do so through Realm or with a check. Paper bags may be picked up at the church office on November 1st and 8th to carry your food goods. Checks may be dropped off in the church office. Bring your donation on November 15th and place your bag in front of the altar before the 11:00 AM service. Contact Mary Edmonds at marywedmonds@gmail.com or 803-201-9267 with any questions.



WSUMC Nativity Pageant

Washington Street will be hosting the annual Children's Nativity Pageant on December 13th! We are looking for young performers to take part in the pageant and to help us tell the story of the birth of Christ. Rehearsals are to be held on Nov. 1st, 21st, Dec. 6th, and 13th in the Youth Room. Contact Andrea McAtee to sign-up! (acmcaatee21@gmail.com)



Biltmore House Performance

If you've ever been to one of our Sunday services, you've likely been blown away by our amazing choir. Well now, you have the opportunity to watch them live at one of the greatest tourists destinations in the Carolinas! Our choir has been invited to sing at the Biltmore Estate's Candlelight Tour. The performance is on December 5th at 6 PM. All are invited to come along and listen to the Washington Street choir as you tour the house. Scan the QR code to get your tickets now!



PLEASE BE ADVISED!

No staff member or volunteer from Washington Street will EVER ask you to purchase gift cards for any reason!



ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS TODAY FOR THE ADVENT SEASON!

Scan the QR Code to fill out
the order form or pick one up outside of
the Sanctuary every Sunday in
November! Form is due by November 22!



Epworth Children's Home Tree

We will once again partner with Epworth Children's Home to provide Christmas gifts for children in foster care as well as their residential programs, including gifts to support the foster care program. The youth will assemble the Epworth tree on Sunday, November 8th. You are invited to stop by and pick a tag from the tree that fits your budget. Please sign in and indicate your tag number. This will help us a lot when the gifts are turned in. The deadline for returning gifts (unwrapped with the tag attached) is Sunday, November 29th. Gifts can be dropped off in the office or in the youth room on the 3rd floor. In this season of Thanksgiving, let us "return thanks" to God by sharing God's love with a child in need.



Christmas is Coming!

Those interested in helping WSUMC prepare for the Advent Season are invited to join us on November 29th after Sunday service.

Those interested in attending may contact Jane Polk at polk.jane.al@gmail.com.



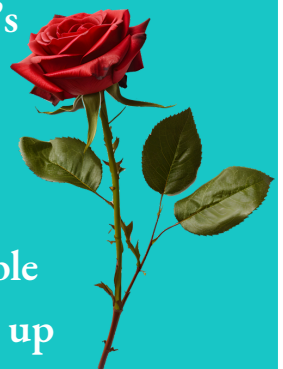
Prayers for Midterm Elections

We'll be hosting a special prayer service in Christ Chapel prior to the 2026 midterm elections. All are invited to join us on Monday, November 2nd at 6:30 PM. This will be a short service where we will pray for everyone involved in the election process. Then on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3rd, we will be hosting a 24-hour prayer vigil. While there won't be an in-person gathering, we are asking for interested parties to sign-up for 30 minute prayer shifts from 12:00 AM to 11:59 PM. You may sign up outside of the WSUMC sanctuary as you leave Sunday service today (November 1st.)

Pick up your All Saint's Roses TODAY!

If you purchased roses in honor of someone you've lost this year, you may pick them up after today's (November 1st) service.

All roses left in the sanctuary will be kept at the church for the foreseeable future and can be picked up at a later date.



UWF Bake Sale

On November 22nd, the United Women in Faith circles at Washington Street UMC will be selling baked goods from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM in the Wesley Room! All proceeds from the sale will go towards the Killingsworth Home. Even if you're not in a UWF circle, you can still donate baked goods to the sale!



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)

The Aldersgate Class will begin a new study series beginning September 13th using scripture, stories, and personal affirmations. Bishop Berlin will take us on a journey from our own brokenness to redemption and restoration through Jesus. This study will be lead off from a short video each week from Bishop Berlin and then we will examine several topics. Come join us at 10 am and have a donut and cup of coffee as we explore the "messes" in peoples lives and how we can be restored and transformed through our savior, Jesus.

Dawsey Class - 2nd floor

Contact: Demi Garvin (garvindemi@gmail.com)

We will continue our study on September 27th: *The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently* by Amy Jill Levine. 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)

The Grace class is reading *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor. In this memoir of her years teaching Religious studies, she writes "about how teaching the different religions changed her students' understanding of faith-as well as her own."

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)

The Paul Harmon Class is continuing to study one of the Great Courses titled *Gnosticism: From Nag Hammadi to The Gospel of Judas*. The lectures are taught by Professor David Brakke, The Ohio State University. Dr. Charles Bryan leads the class in discussions.

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

Book of the Month (Written by Michelle Bizzell)

Check out the many books available in the library!

For Native American History Month, try

Native: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God by Kaitlin Curtice - A personal reflection of Kaitlin Curtice on her Christian upbringing, faith, and her Native American roots

as a member of the Potawatomi Nation.

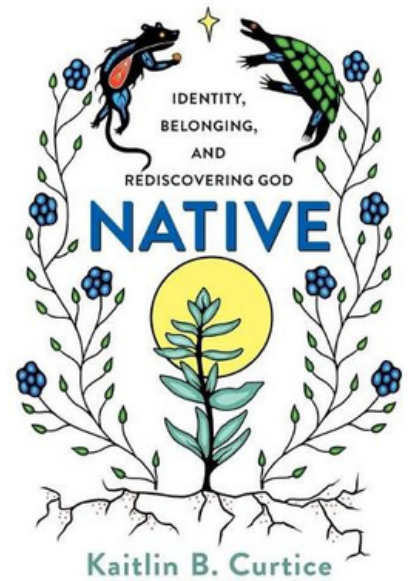
This memoir is about identity, soul-searching, and the never-ending journey of finding ourselves and finding God.

Find this and other books related to

Indigenous cultures in the RELIGION-Native American section of the library to explore the varied religious aspects of the many Native cultures in America.

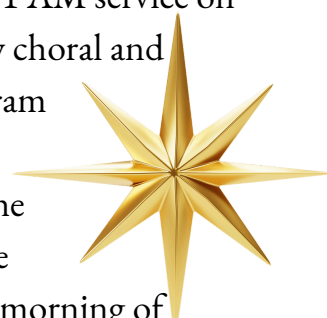
You can search for books on the library catalog at wsumclibrary.librarika.com.

For any questions about the library, contact wsumclibrary@gmail.com.



Christmas Cantata

The Sanctuary choir and full orchestra, along with Rev. Becky Shirley as narrator, will present our annual Christmas Cantata at the 11 AM service on December 20th. In addition to new choral and orchestral compositions, the program is balanced with several familiar hymns, and Christmas carols for the congregation to join in singing. We would love for you to join us for a morning of Advent Season fun and devotion!





Ways to Stay Connected at Washington Street!

WORSHIP



November 19th
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

You are invited to watch *The Music Never Stopped* on your own or with friends.



After viewing the film, plan to join Rev. Alston on Nov. 23rd 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

To Register

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 the next month:

Thursday, November 19th @ 6 PM - Friendsgiving

UMC Young Professionals



Join on GroupMe

Donate to Sing-Along Messiah!

Washington Street will be hosting our annual Sing-Along Messiah performance on December 14th. This performance of Handel's Messiah is open to everyone and is first come, first served!

But in order to put on a performance of this scale, we need your help! We are currently seeking donations to help pay for musicians and other expenses that come with this performance.

You can donate using the QR code. Share this with your friends, family, or anyone who might be interested! We hope to see you December 14th!



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