

Union United Methodist Church
 7582 Woodrow Street
 P.O. Box 705
 Irmo, SC 29063-0705

Visit us on the Web at www.unionunitedmethodist.org

If you would like your name removed from this newsletter mailing list, please contact the church office at 803-781-3013.

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Union Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

KNOW Christ, SHARE Faith, SHOW Grace

April 2021 Volume 36, Issue 3

Sunday Worship

Sanctuary
 9:00 am
 and
 11:00 am

Sunday School
 10:00 am
 Education Building,
 Family Ministry Center
 & Sanctuary
 Lower Level

Rev. Stephen P. Taylor,
 Senior Minister

Rev. Jeri Katherine W. Sipes,
 Associate Minister

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Dear Friends,

What a good thing it is to be able to celebrate Easter with in-person worship services (along with our on-line congregation)! I am grateful to everyone to continues to work to make our services available to all in a safe manner.

Following Easter, I invite you to join us for a three week sermon series titled **“Why Die?”** The best-known Bible verse (John 3:16) says, “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whosoever believes in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.” That statement sets up the question, “So how does Jesus’ death on the cross, and his resurrection, actually bring such a salvation to us?”

Through the centuries the church has offered several ways of answering this question, all based on the scriptures. No one answer suffices, since this truth is much larger than any single perspective. I think each understanding can add a richness to our gratitude for God’s great redeeming love for us. Plan on being present (on-line or in-person) and invite someone else to join with you in worship.

I mentioned last month that we ended last year in good shape and we have continued to reach out in ministry. Thank you for making that a reality. Some other things you can celebrate are: the active use of our Blessing Box which makes basic food items available 24 hours a day to those in need; Confirmation classes each Sunday evening with 17 Confirmands; two great Easter egg/scavenger hunts before Easter, one with bunches of children and the other for our youth; a special “Life Hacks” course for our youth teaching them basic life skills; and, plans being put in place (to begin in the fall) a comprehensive spiritual development/education plan that goes from 0 to 18 years.

Speaking of the fall, we will still exercise a lot of caution, but we are making plans to have our full slate of activities with Bible studies and Wednesday night suppers. And for those interested, Cynthia and I have scheduled a trip to the Holy Land for 2022. You can email me for information on our Journey Through the Bible trip set for February 15-25, 2022. (stephen@unionirmo.org)

I also want to say a word about our prayer ministry. Jackie Able and her team see that each prayer request turned in through the bulletin attendance slips is prayed over, and forwarded to the pastoral staff. She also receives email

(continued on page 2)



**Epworth's Annual
 Mother's Day
 Offering
 SUNDAY, MAY 9**

(continued from page 1)

requests at jackieable003@gmail.com. If you wish to join this prayer team, just let Jackie know.

In closing let me share five prayer requests I just removed from the Prayer Request Box in the Narthex. You can join me in praying for each of them.

Dear God, please shine your light and love onto those who don't know it. Amen.

Dear God, please help me through times of hardship and bullying.

I have family members who need a good job. God, please help them find their way.

Dear God, my family needs your help. Show us how to forgive and love each other.

God, I pray for the children in foster care. Help them to be safe, and to find homes where they can know your love. Amen.

Thankful to be in prayer and ministry with you,
Stephen



The 2021 flower calendar for 9:00 am worship is now in the Narthex. Cost is \$42.50 per vase.



Hurting or lonely and need a Stephen Minister's care?

Please contact the Church Office at 781-3013 to be connected with a Stephen Minister.



UPPER ROOMS

Are available in the Church Office Reception Area for anyone who would like one. Cost is \$1.00 for large print or small print



**ONE
WORSHIP SERVICE
10:30 am
June 13
Confirmation Sunday**



We extend our sympathy to the following families at the loss of their loved ones:

IN MEMORIAM

Donzelle "Don" Davis
September 25, 1928—March 6, 2021
husband of Fay Davis

Tsuyako "Sue" Harrington
February 19, 1928-March 16, 2021

Robert Thomas Florence
December 21, 1921-March 19, 2021

Nancy Settle Williamson
July 25, 1935-January 15, 2021

Sympathy

June Childers
Sister of Joye Mann
Frank J. Majewski,
Father of Brian Majewski



CONGRATULATIONS

Kristofer Nolan Masinsky
March 12, 2021
son of Gerry and Erika Masinsky
brother of Andie Krislyn



To be good stewards by turning off all lights and making sure all doors are locked and completely closed when you leave the building.



Your pastors want to give you care and be in prayer for you. If you or someone in your family is in the hospital or having surgery, please call the church office (781-3013) and let us know.

Our Ministry Team

Senior Minister
Rev. Stephen P. Taylor

Associate Minister
Rev. Jeri Katherine W. Sipes

Minister of Visitation
Rev. David Anderson

Retired Ministers
Rev. Tommy R. Bailey
Rev. Dick Holliday
Rev. Paul Van Dine

Administrative Assistant
Susan Vinson

Communications
Liz Edwards

Coordinator of Contemporary Worship
Michelle Cochcroft

Director of Music Ministries
Don Kirkindoll

Director of Youth and Leisure Ministries
Eleanor Cannon

Facilities Manager
Ned Calvert

Asst. Facilities Manager
Steve Ragan

Finance
Barbara Tanner

Kindergarten
Kathy Horne

Director of Ministries to Children & Families
Suzy Broadus

Nursery Coordinator
Stacy Burggraf

Production Manager
Jake Cosentino

Organist
Joey Rothfuss

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Web site: www.unionirmo.org

The *Union Connection* is a monthly publication of Union United Methodist Church. Articles should be submitted to Liz Edwards, Coordinator of Communications, by the 15th of each month via email liz@unionirmo.org or placed in the box outside the Communications Office (F 210).



When I was updating my estate plan last year, I decided to designate the Endowment Fund of Union United Methodist Church as one of my beneficiaries. I had two purposes for doing so; one, I wanted my assets to have a direct benefit to the permanent church endowment, and second, I wanted to ensure that Union United Methodist Church will continue to have an impact on the lives of our community for generations to come.

Many years ago I had purchased an annuity as part of my retirement plan. An annuity is a great way to set up a pension particularly if one is a sole proprietor, however, it is not a good way to leave assets to non-spouses. The church as a nonprofit can receive annuity assets without concern for taxes. Therefore, I can be assured that the total value of the annuity, upon my death, will go directly to the Endowment Fund and hopefully without taxes being deducted. While I feel good about including the Endowment in my estate plan, I hope it will be some time before the assets are available! Therefore, I am also designating the fund as the tax-free qualified recipient of a portion of my IRA when I am required to take distributions when I reach the age of 72.

Anyone who knows me knows that I consider the UUMC community as such a blessing in my life. Now I want to make sure that it continues to bless other lives for generations to come. I encourage members of our church family to consider the Endowment Fund when wanting to make a "forever gift!" —*Becky Dixon*

Want to know more? Please contact Susan Vinson at susan@unionirmo.org and she will put you in touch with one of the Endowment Committee members.



MEMORIALS

Given in memory of Don Davis by:

Aline Leitner Fellowship Sunday School Class, Joan and Orris Bickley, Leola and Woody Burch, Dot Burgess, Barbara and Kimzy Burgess, Teresa Burgess, Jane and Bryan Graham, Linda and Dennis Hill, Cindy and Joe McGougan, Harriet and Ted Simpson, Susan and Tim Vinson, Judy Weston

Given in memory of Marion Folk, Jr by:

Aline Leitner Fellowship Sunday School Class, Joan and Orris Bickley, Ann and Ted Carroll, Jean Eng, Joan and Thomas Goff, Jackie and Bob Hall, Irmo High School Classes of 1961 and 1962, Dawn and Joseph Lacerda, Gail Lusby, Brenda and Woody Manus, Ronda and William Richardson, Harriet and Ted Simpson, Susan and Joseph Smith, Joan and Les Tweed, Judy Weston

Given in memory of Sue Harrington by:

Aline Leitner Fellowship Sunday School Class, Joan and Orris Bickley, Jackie and Bob Hall, Harriet and Ted Simpson, Pat Swygert, Judy Weston

Given in memory of Alice Milligan by:

Alice Marlowe

Given in memory of Jean Munn by:

Carolyn and Buddy Champion, Judy and Bryan Graham, Sylvia Grubb, Jackie and Bob Hall, Jeannie Jeter, Judy Keating, Alice and Jack Martin, Mid-Carolina High School Class of 1959, Pat Swygert, Judy Weston, The Frank Yonce family



YAMS (YOUNG ADULT METHODISTS, 20S-30S)

Our YAM event for April will be a picnic at the Vinson's on **Sunday April 11 @ 1:30.**

Contact Alex Vinson for address or more info (803-319-2364).



Spread the Word

Just a reminder of the different opportunities available at Union to help you spread the word about upcoming events.

**Weekly Bulletin,
Sunday School Announcements
and Website News**

Deadline: Noon on Tuesday

Monthly Newsletter

Deadline: 15th of each month
Please email your information to
Liz Edwards at
liz@unionirmo.org



Monday-Thursday
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Friday
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

CHURCH
OFFICE HOURS

SIGN-UP FOR UNION E-MAIL UPDATE

In an effort to keep you up to date with the happenings at Union, we have an email list. You can join by clicking on the "Union E-mail Update" button on the left side of the Home Page on the website. By joining, you will begin receiving weekly updates on Fridays of events and activities that are going on at Union and any reminders that pertain to Sunday.

We want you to know what's happening, so join us by going to the website at

www.unionirmo.org



BLESSING BOX

The Blessing Box is running low. Please stop by and drop off a few cans of non-perishable food. The box is located by the side parking lot near the FMC building.

FOLLOW US: @unionumcirmo



Instagram



**JOY CLASS
GARAGE SALE
APRIL 17
8am-1pm**



YOUTH OF UNION CALENDAR MARCH 2021 – AUGUST 2021

April 4 – Easter Sunday: NO Sunday School or Youth!

April 11/18/25 – Regular Sunday School & Youth Events

April 25 – High School Missions Trip Parent Meeting@3pm

April 28 – May 26 – LIFE HACKS CLASS for 11th Grade & Up (Meets Wednesdays 6:30-8pm)

May 2 – Regular Sunday School & Youth Events

May 9 – Regular Sunday School, but NO EVENING YOUTH! (Mother's Day)

May 16 – Regular Sunday School & Youth Events

May 23 – Regular Sunday School & END OF YEAR PARTY IN THE EVENING!

May 30 – Youth Beach Day Trip to Huntington Beach State Park Beach

June 6 – Regular Sunday School, but NO EVENING YOUTH!

June 13 – Confirmation Sunday: No Sunday School, Sunday Evening GAME NITE & ICE CREAM SUNDAES

June 20 – Graduate Sunday & Grad Luncheon, NO EVENING YOUTH

June 27 & July 4 – NO EVENING YOUTH

July 11 - 16 – HIGH SCHOOL MISSIONS TRIP TO THE HINTON CENTER

July 18 & 25 – Regular Sunday School, but NO EVENING YOUTH!

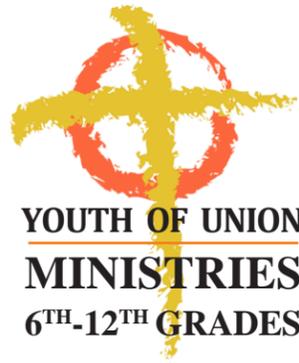
July 23 – Mission Day Serving at Washington Street UMC Soup Cellar

August 1-4 – Vacation Bible School

August 8 – Youth Kayaking on Lake Murray

**Note that the LAST Sunday of each month is Pancake Breakfast in the Underground at 10am.

**Friends are always welcome at EVERY event!



YOUTH OF UNION MINISTRIES 6TH-12TH GRADES

IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION INFO—STAY IN THE KNOW!

JOIN OUR TEXTING PLATFORM TO GET UP
TO DATE TEXT MESSAGES ABOUT
ALL THINGS YOUTH OF UNION!

Text: YouthofUnion
(all one word – NO spaces)
To: 84576

*Open a new text message.

In the “to” space, where you would enter
a phone number, you enter 84576.

In the space where you would write a message,
you enter YouthOfUnion.

Send message and await the automated
response.*

**BE SURE TO CLICK THE LINK
AND COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION!**
This is VERY important!

You may also keep up with us on
Social Media and our very own website!
www.youthofunion.com

 Instagram:
YouthofUnion

 Facebook:
Youth of Union

 Twitter:
@YouthofUnion

CONTACT:
Eleanor Cannon
Director of Youth and Leisure Ministries
eleanor@unionirmo.org

EVENTS

Join us weekly on Sunday evenings for
fellowship, ministry, food & fun!

The new schedule is as follows:
Middle School Students - 5-6 pm
Dinner for ALL Youth - 6-6:30 pm
High School Students - 6:30-7:30 pm

Middle School Students should report to the
Underground to sign in. High School Students
should report to the FMC Gym to sign in. All
students are required to wear a mask. We
request that parents be extra diligent about
checking on the health (and temperature) of
their students prior to sending them to church
activities. Friends are ALWAYS welcome and
encouraged!



LIFE HACKS CLASS

For 11th & 12th grade students will begin
Wednesday, April 28th at 6:30pm and run five
weeks on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm. Classes
will include: Finances (loans/credit cards),
Relationships (self respect, boundaries, sexuality),
Cooking for Survival (cooking basics) & Adulting
101 (changing a tire, doing laundry, basic banking/
checking, etc.) There is no fee for this class, but
registration is required. All 11th & 12th grade
students & friends are welcome!

Register here: [https://union.churchcenter.com/
registrations/events/679195](https://union.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/679195)



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES/PARENTS

If you intend to participate in graduate recognition
Sunday on June 20, please let Eleanor
know by **APRIL 20**. Send her an email at
eleanor@unionirmo.org.



Want to be uplifted, revitalized, and energized? Then you need to come and join the SC Conference of the United Methodist women as we gather virtually for our Spiritual Growth Event. The title for our event this year is **Behind Every Great Woman: Community, Calling and Creativity in the life of the Women in Moses Life. Scripture is based on Exodus 15:21 “Miriam sang the refrain back to the women: Sing to the Lord for this overflowing victory”**

We will gather virtually **via Zoom on Saturday April 24, 2021**. You will not have to travel and you may enjoy this event from the comfort and convenience of your home. The Spiritual Growth Committee is very excited to bring this event together. Our host for this event will be the Rock Hill District whose president Crystal Barrs is extremely excited about this event. Our host church is Saint James UMC in York SC. We are looking forward to scripture, devotional and the dynamic music that will be provided by the District.

Our speaker for this event will be Wendy Hudson-Jacoby. Wendy graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor’s degree in Journalism. She continued her education at Wesley Theological Seminary with a Master’s degree in Divinity. She is the pastor of Two Rivers Church in the Charleston District. Pastor Wendy’s passion is connecting congregations to their community and inviting those disillusioned with, unfamiliar with, or estranged from church in a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. You will not want to miss this dynamic message.

Along with uplifting music, and wonderful devotion and a message that you need to hear, we will have a time for your prayer request. If you would like to have a focus object to use during this time to help in centering your prayer request, this would be great. It can be a book, cross, figurine, rock or any other thing that helps in your prayers. These prayer request will be a part of our Love Feast as we share a small meal of a snack and drink. Please have your snack and drink ready when it is time for our Love Feast. This activity will be much like the one we used at our Annual Meeting.

Planning events such as our Spiritual Growth Event helps us to grow spiritually. In this way, as Christians we are better able to understand that we are a part of God’s mission in the world. Meditation, prayer, scripture and message gives us a clearer vision to act on our faith, hope, and love.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlftuyuqT8rHtfv8GFkpSB-56-H0mrvkdyx>

Since there is no charge to attend this event, we ask that you consider donating to our 4 mission projects. Checks may be sent to SCCUMW C/O Ruby Hannah 3015 Audubon Dr. Hannahan SC 29430.



OUR PURPOSE

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

THE VISION OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

On behalf of Union's United Methodist Women, we want to welcome you. We look forward to working with you, with our many circles, project and Bible Studies. If you or someone you know is interested in joining, please call the church office or contact one of the following officers:

President
Becky Travis
mail@bobtravis.com

Co-Vice Presidents
Joy Downs
elymay2@aol.com
Nancy Nelson-Embler
nancy.realtyagent@gmail.com

Secretary
Judy Livingston
judyblivingston@gmail.com

Communications
Joy Downs
elymay2@aol.com

Treasurer
Gail Miller
timandgailm@aol.com

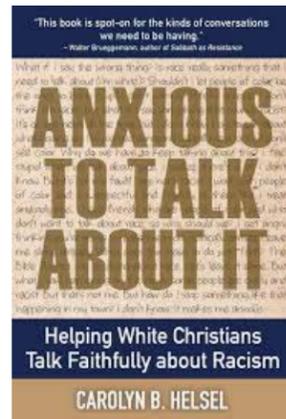
Social Action/Special Mission Recognition
Gail Elfert
celfert@aol.com

Education & Interpretation
Jane Davis
Janesdavis@yahoo.com

Secretary of Program Resources (Reading Program)
Connie Warren
connieswarren33@gmail.com

Spiritual Growth/Historian
Gail Elfert
celfert@aol.com

Membership, Nurture and Outreach
TBD



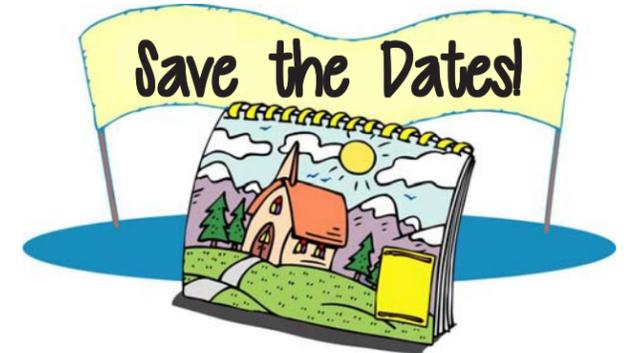
UMW READING PROGRAM

Leadership Development

ANXIOUS TO TALK ABOUT IT by Carolyn Helsel
Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism -
“What if I say the wrong thing?” “I’m White - is race really something I need to talk about? What does race have to do with faith?”



“Raise up a child in the way of the Lord...”
Proverbs 22:6a



Children's Sunday school is back in person!

Children 3-10 are meeting in the Education building on the 2nd floor for in person Sunday school. All precautions are being taken to keep our children safe. Help us by signing your kids in at the check in table and wearing masks.

Children's Church is available during each worship service for our children 3 thru Kindergarten age. Our volunteers will meet the children at the front side door of the Sanctuary. The first Sunday of each month children are invited to stay with their parents so they can participate in communion together.

SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING

Anyone new to helping with our children or youth or if it's been 3 years, it's time to go through our volunteer screening process. We will hold a Safe Sanctuary training on **Sunday, May 16th and Sunday, June 6th at 10:00 am** in the FMC Multipurpose room.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING THIS SUMMER!

Save the dates: August 1-4 6:30pm – 8pm

We are working to make VBS in person this year with safety protocols in place. Will you help? We will have volunteer opportunities for everyone and need you!

Some of the areas we need you are:

teaching, actors for our skits, parking, to go snack bags, crafters and more.

Contact : Gayle Puckett or Annette Nash
if you are ready to join the Knights of North Castle.
Registration will be open for children 4 through 10 years old (finished 5th grade) watch for more details in the coming weeks.

CONTACT:
Suzy Broadus
Director of Ministries to Children & Families
suzy@unionirmo.org

