

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.

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
P-A-I-D
IRMO SC
PERMIT NO. 1

Dated Material
Please Deliver Immediately

Union Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

KNOW Christ, SHARE Faith, SHOW Grace

February 2021 Volume 36, Issue 1

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

WHAT'S INSIDE

UMC 101	2
Cross Fundraiser	3
Easter Donations	5
UMW	6
Children	7
Youth	8
Preschool	9
Memorials	10

Are We There Yet?

No wonder we are weary of this pandemic and the practices of distancing, masking, and isolation. We have just started our second year of it! On February 3, 2020, the US declared a public health emergency due to the coronavirus outbreak. What a year it has been, and for many, what a very difficult, painful year.

Many of our congregation have had the virus, some with light symptoms and some suffering through days of sickness and fatigue. We have some wonderful people die because of this disease, or from complications from it. And we've seen the heartache of family members not being able to be with their loved ones. We have had people die from other causes, but then we could not have the usual gatherings and rituals to honor their lives.

Economic hardships, job losses, adjusting to constantly changing school procedures and virtual schooling, isolation from others, and on and on the list could go of the experiences that have caused us to be stressed and weary. And I haven't even mentioned the cultural and political landscape.

When will we get there – to a place where we can relax, feel secure, and be together?

This year I decided to read through the Common English Bible (CEB). This translation was published in 2011 and I've used it off and on, but haven't read it in its entirety. The goal of the translation is to make the Bible easy to read for just about anyone. As usual with each translation, some parts I like, but in many of the familiar passages I miss the more traditional language. My preferred translations are still the NRSV, the translation we use in worship, and the good old KJV.

Anyway, this is what I read in Hebrews 3 a day or so ago: *encourage each other every day, as long as it's called "today," so that none of you become insensitive to God because of sin's deception. We are partners with Christ, but only if we hold on to the confidence we had in the beginning, until the end.*

(Continued on page 2)

ASH WEDNESDAY

Worship

February 17

Drive-thru Imposition of Ashes
8:00 am-1:00 pm
in front of the Sanctuary

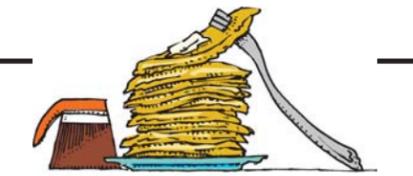
Ash Wednesday Service
6:30 pm in the Sanctuary
Nursery will be provided

(Continued from page 1)

“Hold on...until the end.” That spoke to me. Hold on to your confidence. Hold on, and do not become insensitive. Hold on, while encouraging others. Hold on to Christ, until the end. God is faithful and however long it takes for us to get “there,” has promised to be with us and to sustain us!

Your Union staff wants to encourage you, and help you to be an encourager to others. And together let us find our hope in the redeeming love of God through Christ our Lord.

Blessings to all,
Stephen



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Will be delayed until
October due to COVID-19.

UMC 101 February 21, 28, March 7 & 14

UMC 101 is an introductory course to Union United Methodist Church, taught by the pastors. It is for new members, persons considering membership, or those who have been members and would like a refresher on the basics. Basic Beliefs, Our Worship and Sacraments, How We Get Things Done and The Mission and Opportunities at Union are just some of the topics discussed. Register by email susan@unionirmo.org or call 781-3013 ext. 122. The class will meet in the New Life Classroom (FMC 227) from 10-11 am on Sundays.



Have you considered making a gift to the Union United Methodist Church Permanent Endowment Fund? A gift to the Endowment Fund ensures that Union will continue to have an impact on the lives in our community for generations to come. There are many ways to give to the Endowment Fund. If you are giving a memorial gift to Union, please consider designating that gift for the Endowment Fund. What better memorial than a gift that will continue to grow and support Union's facilities and outreach programs that would not be possible because of budget constraints! The gift you give will be used to generate income and gains, which are used for non-budgeted programs and improvements, but the principle gift will always remain in the fund. Stay tuned for more tips throughout this year on how you can leave a legacy gift to Union's Endowment Fund for generations to come.



**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.



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

IN MEMORIAM

Peggy Crowley Williams
April 10, 1932—November 28, 2020

Ruth Bouknight Adams
December 1, 1930—December 14, 2020

Jean Amick Munn
September 20, 1941-December 27, 2020

Gloria Zimmerman Tunstall
November 8, 1942-January 1, 2021

Janet Johnson Dailey
November 24, 1943-January 3, 2021

Von Delle Strobel
August 2, 1933-January 17, 2021

Elizabeth "Beth" Ann Huebner
January 27, 1955-January 23, 2021

SYMPATHY

Ron Nicholson
father of Chris Nicholson

Stephen Folk,
brother of Marion Folk



Welcome
Our New
Members

**Josh Hardin and Anne Bradley
Grant (7), Lily (8) and Bryson (6)**



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

Union United Methodist Church
7582 Woodrow St.
P.O. Box 705
Irmo, SC 29063-0705
Telephone: 803-781-3013
Fax: 803-781-3034

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).



MEMORIALS

Given in memory of Ruth Adams, mother of Mary Hammond by: Kay Brown, Carolyn Leitner, Karen L. Matteson, Rev and Jim Miller, and Judy Weston

Given in memory of Elizabeth Burgess, grandmother of Corrie Jones: Sandy and Jim Bringley, and Ann and Robert May

Given in memory of Ila Mae Coble, grandmother of Kriss Kirkindoll by: Ann and Robert May

Given in memory of Janet Dailey by: Bethany and Mitch Fulmer; Sally Gee; Carol Gillespie; Jane and Bryan Graham; Priscilla Heiting; Bridget and JW Isbell; Barry and Bill Lide; Judy and David Martin; Ann and Robert May; Reva and Jim Miller; Louise, Jacki, Sylvia, and Cindy Poore; Joyce and Morgan Stokely; Sheryl and Jerry Todd; and Judy Weston.

Given in memory of Sam Diggle by: Jonnie Mitchell

Given in memory of Stephen Folk, brother of Marion Folk by: Joan and Leslie Tweed, Connie and Bob Warren

Given in memory of Beth Huebner: Mandy and Charles Ayers, New Life Sunday School Class, and Connie and Bob Warren

Given in memory of Heather Jervi, friend of Suzy Broadus by: Connie and Bob Warren

Given in memory of Jean Munn by: Jane and John Brooks, Frances McDonald, and Connie and Bob Warren

Given in memory of Bob Smith by: Jackie and Bob Hall

Given in memory of John Teague by: Jonnie Mitchell

Given in memory of Terry Mooney: Ann and Ted Carroll; Jane and Bryan Graham, and Harriet and Ted Simpson

Given in memory of John Robbins, father of Liz Edwards by: Joyce and Morgan Stokely, Connie and Bob Warren

Given in memory of Bob Smith by: Aline Leitner Fellowship Class, Frances Allen, John Braswell, Joan and Daniel Donovan, Vickie and Richard Eisenman, Jean Eng, Sarah and Ted Gladden, Jane and Bryan Graham, Jackie and Bob Hall, Llewellyn and Herb Hames, Cynthia and Barry Hurley, Marie Isert, James A. Leitner Jr., Jonnie Mitchell, Way Scott, Nelle and Ira Smith, Anna Bess Tisdale

Given in memory of Von Delle Strobel by: Judy Weston

Given in memory of Peggy Williams by: Aline Leitner Fellowship Class, Joan and Orris Bickley, Leola Burch, Jean Eng, Jackie and Bob Hall, Phyllis and Zonnie Pendarvis, Linda Peterson, Anna Bess Tisdale, Sheryl and Jerry Todd, Connie and Bob Warren, and Judy Weston

Given in honor of Connie and Bob Warren by: Arlene and Lewis Milligan



Wooden Easter Cross Fundraiser – a planter stake

\$15 Plain white painted OR natural stain

Orders are now being taking through March 7th by emailing Jim Miller, a team member and Cross maker, at Miller449mm@gmail.com or in the Narthex before and after both services on February 14th and 21st.

All proceeds will go toward the Zimbabwe Mission Trip.

Remember the Cross this Easter!

A limited number of decorated arrangements similar to the one above are available for an additional \$10 in the Narthex only.



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



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.



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



Monday-Thursday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm*

Friday
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
*through the end of February



Altar Flowers

The 2021 flower calendar for 9:00 am worship is now in the Narthex.

Cost is \$42.50 per vase.



PRESCHOOL POST

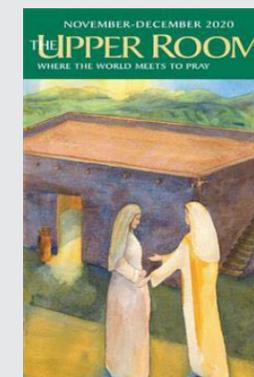
Registration for the 2021-2022 school year for currently enrolled students, their siblings and Union church members will begin **February 22**. If you would like information, please call the preschool office at 803 781-0630 or email Kathy@unionirmo.org. You can pick up a registration form in the preschool office or visit the church website and click on the preschool link under the Ministries tab. Due to COVID restrictions, we are not able to give in person tours. Registration forms should be turned in with the registration fee (\$100 for UUMC members and half price for siblings) by March 1st to confirm your child's placement. Open registration will begin March 1, 2021.



JOY CLASS GARAGE SALE APRIL 17 8am-1pm

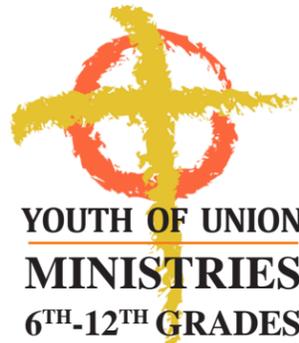
INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If inclement weather should occur that causes conditions to be unsafe for the members to attend worship services or other church functions, information will be obtained from the Sheriff's Dept., S.C. Highway Dept, and the Weather Station. Then a decision will be made. Cancellation information will be placed on the TV report, social Media and the church phone message at 781-3013. If the church line is busy when you call, please try again.



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



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!



Instagram:
YouthofUnion



Facebook:
Youth of Union



Twitter:
@YouthofUnion

EVENTS

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

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

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. We are SO excited to finally be
back together - let's work together to keep it rolling!
Friends are ALWAYS welcome and encouraged!

LIFE HACKS CLASS for 11th &
12th grade students will begin
Tuesday March 2nd at
6:30pm and run every
Tuesday of March from 6:30-
8pm. Classes will include:
Finances (loans/credit cards),
Relationships (self respect,
boundaries, Biblical sexuality),
Cooking for Survival
(cooking basics) & Adulthood 101 (changing a tire, doing
laundry, basic banking/checking, etc.) There is no fee
for this class, but registration is required and closes
2/20. All 11th & 12th grade students & friends are
welcome! Register: [https://union.churchcenter.com/
registrations/events/679195](https://union.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/679195)



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

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

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.



EASTER DONATION



Opportunities for Easter “Special Donations” are available
until **Monday, March 22**. These donations can be dedicated
“in honor of” and/or “in memory of” and are \$15 each.
The main recipient of these monies will be Sharing God's Love,
a Christian ministry that helps community families in crisis.

Please complete the form below and attach your check made
payable to Union UMC with designation “Easter donation.” Place
the form in the offering baskets as you leave the sanctuary on
Sunday. You can also bring or mail it to the church office.

Your Name:

Telephone:

Print wording as you wish it to appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin insert.

- In honor of
- In memory of



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

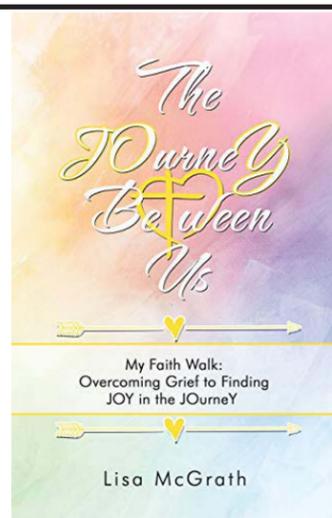
Social Action/Special Mission Recognition
Gail Elfert
celfert@aol.com

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

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The Journey Between Us by Lisa McGrath
Overcoming Grief to Finding Joy in the Journey

Tells us the amazing and inspiring story of how the author's faith not only helped her overcome the trials and tragedy in her life, but also grew tremendously as she learned to trust God's plan and perfect timing.



SACRIFICIAL MEAL via Zoom February 21 4:00-5:30PM

Rev. Cynthia Taylor will present the message and lead communion. Sacraments can be picked up in the church office prior to February 21.

More info on the zoom link and how to join coming soon!



Please continue to support Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry when you shop at AmazonSmile.

By shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/20-0371139.

AmazonSmile will donate to Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry at no cost to you!

Spend SUMMER 2021 at

Registration is OPEN for Summer 2021! We missed you this past summer so we cannot wait to have you back!

REGISTER ONLINE!

www.asburyhills.org



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



GET READY FOR SOME FUN!

Easter Egg Hunt
March 27
More info to come!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS IN THE WORKS!

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 who wants to be involved somehow. 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 and more details coming soon

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