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WELCOME
Erin Schoolmeester

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New Buses
VBS Photos

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Youth of Union
Fall Retreat and
Basketball
The Living Christmas Story



UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

Join Union in congratulating Susan as the new Church Administrator!



Susan Vinson has recently been named Church Administrator for Union.

Her parents, Lawrence and Jennie King, joined Union, in 1972 and Susan has attended Union since then. She was an active Girl Scout at Union, earning

her Girl Scout Gold Award the first year it was available. Susan was confirmed, married, and raised her two sons at Union as well. She graduated from the University of South Carolina out of convenience, however, her heart has always belonged to Clemson and her blood runs orange.

Susan is married to Tim, and they just celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary. Their oldest son, Andrew, lives

in Virginia and is employed by the Virginia Department of Forestry. Their youngest son, Alex, is a mechanic for Forestry First in Lexington, and will be getting married in April, 2022.

After almost 30 years in the corporate world, working for Colonial Life/Unum, Susan retired and came to Union in May 2019 as our Administrative Assistant. When you visit her office, her love of pigs is obvious on the shelves and her desk.

In her new role Susan will be responsible for managing the general business of the church. That oversight includes coordination of the programs and projects of the church Council and the support services and staff that enable such programs. She also becomes the custodian of the official records of the church. Union UMC is fortunate to have Susan as a knowledgeable, experienced and devoted member to serve in this role.

KNOW Christ, SHARE Faith, SHOW Grace

September
2021

Welcome

Union recently welcomed Erin Schoolmeester as our Administrative Assistant.

Erin moved to Columbia, South Carolina, from Greenville, South Carolina, when she was 14 and graduated from Irmo High School in 1996. She attended Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina, majoring in English.

Erin married Rob Schoolmeester in 2004 and they have three daughters. Lily, is 17 and a senior at Dutch Fork High School and also a Varsity Cheerleader. Mia, is 13 and in eight grade at Dutch Fork Middle School. She is a competitive dancer at Dance Department, and also a member of the Dutch Fork Middle School Dazzler Dance Team. Charli, is nine and in fourth grade at River Springs Elementary. He is also a competitive dancer at The Dance Department.

She and her husband own the Carolina Wings of Cayce, South Carolina and have worked for the family owned business (her husband's family started the company) since they met, in 1996, until they opened the Cayce location in 2010. She has been the President of the Silver Fox Cheerleading Booster Club at Dutch Fork High School going on her fourth and final year (because her cheerleader is graduating).

Erin and her family, joined Union United Methodist Church, in September 2019. She visited this church frequently as a teenager, growing up in Irmo.

Covid Variant Precautions at Union UMC, Irmo.

With the rapid surge in Covid cases due to the Delta variant, and the break-through cases where persons vaccinated have become infected, we are reinstating some basic precautions for our worship services. We encourage, but do not mandate, that everyone wear a mask in worship and small group settings.

The side sections of the sanctuary will be marked for every-other pew sitting for those who prefer more distancing. We will discontinue using the attendance pads and return to registering our attendance with the tear-off forms on the bulletins. We also are postponing passing the collection plates and ask you to continue to give using the collection baskets in the narthex, or to give on-line.

Because of our concern for our children and others who may be vulnerable, we feel these precautions are needed. We also realize that over the past several months Union has been fortunate (blessed) to be able to continue with services and ministries without creating any spreader events. We would rather take precautions now than to face worse conditions. Please help us care for one another. Also, let us continue to pray for those who have been infected, for those in the medical professions who are battling this infection, and for the healing of our land.

Thank you.

From the Trustee Committee-

Thanks to this congregation's faithfulness, Union has purchased two new StarTrans buses to replace our 2005 models. As good stewards of the church's resources, we want to make sure these new buses are properly operated and maintained. To ensure our members know how to safely drive the buses, training sessions for UUMC drivers have been planned.

All currently qualified drivers MUST be trained and documented by the facilities manager before they can drive the new buses. The first training session is this Sunday, August 29, from 10:00-12:30 in the bus parking lot. If you anticipate driving a NEW bus or just want a refresher on how to safely operate all 3 buses, come out and join us.



If you need more information, please call Ned in the church office at extension #101.



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Youth Choir is coming back! Come sing with us!

Open to 6th-12th Graders. Rehearsals begin on Sunday, September 12. Sunday afternoons, 4-5 p.m., in the Choir Room. Questions? Contact Don Kirkindoll, Director of Music Ministries; don@unionirmo.org

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New Life Pancake Supper

Funds support the class's mission projects to include Epworth Children's Home Stoke Cottage, Sharing God's Love and Lake Murray Salkahatchie. Ticket sells will be held in the narthex on August 29, and September 5.



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Martha's Market

A monthly community event held by the Martha's Market every September to raise funds for local missions.

POSTPONED

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Red Cross Blood Drive

The Red Cross will be holding a blood drive at the FMC. Set up table at the market to make an appointment for the drive. For more information contact Millie Joye 803.447.3013

POSTPONED



VBS Volunteers

Thank you!

Vacation bible school was a success! THANK YOU to all our volunteers!! From our Directors, who have been planning for months to get things ready, to our group leaders, to registration, to Sound and Video. Everyone was on their "A" game for sure. Thank you to everyone who helped us prepare material and take-home snacks and keep the traffic flowing. It was wonderful to be back together this year and see the children's excitement on their smiling faces. Thank you, Union for all the prayers and energy you pour into our children!!! Please take a minute to say a prayer of thanks for each of these volunteers, without them we can't share God's love in such an awesome way.





Save the Dates!

September 18th, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
 October 16th, 3:00-6:00 p.m.
 November 13th, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
 December 11th, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
 Children from infant to 1st grade \$10 per child,
 includes lunch or dinner.
 (Let us know of any allergies, when you sign up.)
 RSVP the Wednesday before to: Stacy.burggraf@gmail.com

SonZone is coming back!

Sunday night fellowship for our fourth and fifth graders is kicking off Sunday, September 12th. We will meet 5-6 p.m. in the Education Building upstairs.



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UMC 101

Sept. 12, 19 and 26 from 10-11 a.m.

UMC 101 is an introductory course to Union United Methodist Church, taught by the pastors. It is for new...

Continue reading on page 8.

Sharing God's Love Golf Tournament

Sharing God's Love is hosting The Twelfth Annual Benefit Golf Tournament

Read more details on page 5.

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Jan's Van

Jan's Van (The Lexington Medical Center's Mobile Mammography Van) will be at the Union Methodist Church in the church's back parking lot on Wednesday, September 15th, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Continue reading on page 9.

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People Enjoying People

PEP -Will have a Meet and Greet September 30th, from 6-9p.m. in LL Fellowship Hall.

Continue reading on page 9.



Trunk or Treat!

Save the Date: Sunday October 24th. Will we drive thru, or walk thru or even "dance through?"!

Watch for more details on what to expect. But for sure, start planning how to decorate your car. Will it be silly, scary or just plain fun?

Children's Sunday School!

Our children have been meeting in person just like our adult classes. We have been taking precautions to keep our kids and teachers safe, such as social distancing, masks, and hand sanitizers. We are so excited to have more and more families coming in person, that we are opening our four age levels Sunday school classes again. This means we need more teachers too. If you are willing to work with our kids in Sunday school, contact Suzy Broadus for details and how to be Safe Sanctuary certified.

Sharing God's Love

Sharing God's Love is hosting The Twelfth Annual Benefit Golf Tournament Monday, September 13, 2021. If you are interested in playing the tournament or being a sponsor, the Registration Forms are located in the reception area of the church offices. You may also contact Jim Sharp at 803.727.7297.

Our current needs: XL and up clothing for men and women, new underwear for all sizes, tea, small containers of oatmeal & grits, small packages of flour & sugar, saltine crackers, Kool Aid, powdered milk, peanut butter and jelly.

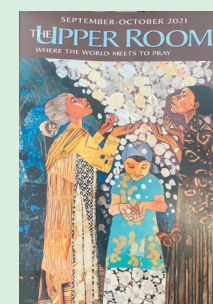


Sharing God's Love



The Blessing Box

The Union UMW Circles need your help keeping the Blessing Box stocked. Canned fruit, tuna, ravioli or jelly would be good. Thank you for helping!



UPPER ROOM Books 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 Events

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

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

Middle School Students should report to the Underground to sign in. High School Students should report to the FMC Gym to sign in.

See more upcoming events on [UnionIrmO.org](https://unionirmo.org). Type "Youth" in the search bar.

**Note that the LAST Sunday of each month is Pancake Breakfast in the Underground at 10 a.m.
**Friends are always welcome at EVERY event!

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!

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



Register NOW For Fall Retreat! October 1-4, 2021

Youth Fall Retreat to Awanita will be, October 1-4, 2021! We are SO excited to get to go on a retreat together! Join us

for an amazing retreat to Awanita Valley and all they have to offer, with a day of whitewater rafting too! Jesus, music, games, friends, s'mores, hummer rides and more! All students 6th-12th grades are welcome - friends too! Cost is \$175 per person, and financial assistance is always available! Register here: <https://union.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/944279>

How are you following your call and commitment to serve the Church?

Are you looking for your place to plug in?

YOUTH MINISTRIES IS RECRUITING LEADERSHIP!

We're looking for leaders who are willing to pour into the lives of our students - no experience necessary, we'll train you! Areas of leadership include: Sunday School Leader, Sunday Night Small Group Leader, Basketball Coaches/Assistants and Cooking/Kitchen Crews! We'd love to have you on our team! Contact Eleanor with questions or to sign up! Eleanor@unionirmo.org / 912.332.2606



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REGISTER NOW FOR FALL RETREAT!

Youth Fall Retreat to Awanita will be, October 1-4, 2021! We are SO excited to get to go on a retreat together!

Continue reading on page 7.

06

Wednesday Night Supper

Wednesday Night Suppers will begin October 6th. Look for more details in the Sunday Bulletins.



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UMW Fall General Meeting

If you or someone you know is interested in joining the United Methodist Women.

Read more on page 8.

13

Wednesday Night Supper

There will be a Wednesday Night Supper on October 13th. Look for more details in the Sunday Bulletins.

COSTA RICA YOUTH MISSION TRIP INTEREST MEETING:

Sunday, September 19, at 2:30 p.m. in the FMC Multipurpose room. Trip dates are June 26-July 2, 2022. Contact Eleanor Cannon for questions at Eleanor@unionirmo.org.

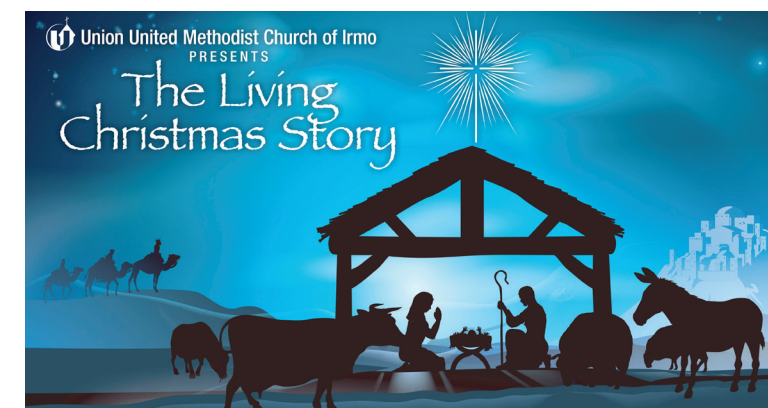
UNION BASKETBALL REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

Teams are available for girls and boys in 5th-12th grades. Friends/Non-Union members are always welcome and encouraged to join! Basketball season runs, October 10, 2021-Mid February, 2022. Mandatory parent meeting to be held on Sunday, October 10, at 3 p.m. There is no fee to play.

Register here: <https://union.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/982767>

Youth Choir is coming back! Come sing with us!

The choir is open to 6th-12th Graders. Rehearsals begin on Sunday, September 12. Rehearsals are on Sunday afternoons from 4-5 p.m., in the Choir Room. Contact Don Kirkindoll, Director of Music Ministries; don@unionirmo.org



Calling all seamstresses-

We need some assistance this fall making additional villager costumes as we prepare for this year's presentation of The Living Christmas Story. If you have a machine and are willing to help sew some simple patterns, please contact Betsy Petersen at betsy_petersen@msn.com.

The Living Christmas Story December 3-5, 6:30-9 p.m.

Union will be offering the 28th presentation of The Living Christmas Story (TLCS), Friday, December 3, through Sunday, December 5. There will be many opportunities for you to help with this gift to our community. We have a few openings on TLCS 2021 Steering Committee. If you are interested in leading Props, please reach out to Vic Caldwell (Vrcfour@hotmail.com) or Glenna Dean Wildt (gdwildt@gmail.com) as soon as possible. Thank you!

UMC 101

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 a.m. on Sundays.



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



People Enjoying People

PEP -Will have a Meet and Greet September 30th, from 6-9p.m. in LL Fellowship Hall. Future dates for gatherings will soon be added to the calendar located on unionirmo.org. For more information, contact Phyllis at Phyllisplyler@gmail.com or call 803.730.1085.



Parents Time Out

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Children ages infant to 1st grade \$10 per child, includes lunch or dinner. (Let us know of any allergies, when you sign up.)

See page 5, for more dates.

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Zimbabwe team ticket sales begin Oct. 17th in the Narthex.

The Zimbabwe team will be hosting a Supper on Wednesday, November 3rd. To read more about the Zimbabwe Trip...

Continue reading on page 10.



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Wednesday Night Supper

There will be a Wednesday Night Supper on October 20. Look for more details in the Sunday Bulletins.

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Trunk or Treat

Save the Date: Sunday October 24th. Will we drive thru, or walk thru or even "dance through?"! Contact Suzy with questions.

Read more on page 4.



United Methodist Women

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

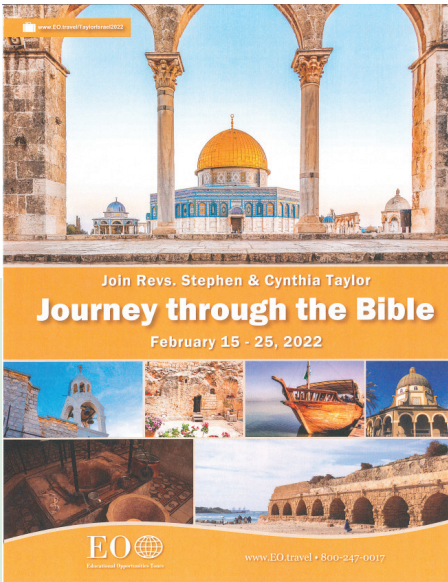
Spiritual Growth/Historian
Gail Elfert, celfert@aol.com

Education & Interpretation

Jane Davis, janesdavis@yahoo.com

Secretary of Program Resources

Connie Warren, connieswarren33@gmail.com



Deadline for signing up is Oct. 1. For more Information, contact Rev. Taylor at stephen@unionirmo.org Brochures with more information on the trip are available in the Church Office Reception Area.

Leaving a Legacy for Union's Future: Union United Methodist Church Endowment Fund

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to provide a revenue stream to enhance and expand the ministries of Union UMC. This could be funds for facilities improvements which draw people to our campus or funds to enable a new community outreach ministry; we are only limited by our imagination. A gift to the Endowment Fund is a permanent gift which means the principal gift cannot be spent. The gift will maintain its buying power because the principal will grow by the inflation rate. The income from the principal, as well as the appreciation of the principal, provide the revenue stream to enhance and expand Union's ministries. There are many ways for you to remember the Endowment Fund in your estate planning. If you would like to know more about how you can make a gift to the Endowment Fund, then please speak to one of the Endowment Committee members below or contact the Church office at susan@unionirmo.org and request that one of the Committee members reaches out to you.

Endowment Committee members

Charles Ayers	David Elam	Lewis Milligan
Tony Chapman	Ken Hubbard	Jon Rychener
Becky Dixon	John Mendenhall	Rob Thompson



Jan's Van

Jan's Van (The Lexington Medical Center's Mobile Mammography Van) will be at the Union Methodist Church in the church's back parking lot on Wednesday, September 15th, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

It is sponsored by Sarah Circle and named in memory of Jan Croft, who lost her courageous battle with metastatic breast cancer.

Registration is taking place in the Narthex at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services or by calling the church office; 803.781.3013. You may also contact Jane Davis; 803.960.6874 or janesdavis@yahoo.com

Because mammograms cost \$386.00 without Insurance, donations are now being accepted to pay for mammograms that are not covered. Please help by donating to "Jan's Van" on the church's website or by calling church office.

Memorials
August 1-23, 2021

Given in memory of

Belle Blanton: Aline Leitner Fellowship Sunday School Class, Judy Weston

Angie Weeks, sister of Joy Bouknight: Harriet and Ted Simpson,

Virginia Chandler Corley, mother of Sheryl Todd: Suzie and Tom Gammon, Barbara and Dub Hammett, Joy Class Sunday School, Carol and Ronald Norman, Joyce and Morgan Stokely

Jarret David Davitte: Cathy and Sam Albea, Mae Andrews, Ammie, David, and Colleen Barnette, Susan Cadwell, Jan and Dwight Culler, Joan and Jim Dalton, Suzie and Tom Gammon, James Gordy, Brooks and Ron Gullede, Edie Hall, Charles Kernaghan, Kathy Mustard, Annette and Martin Parham, Sr., Nancy Pickering and Norm Elbersen, Leslie and Charles Riddle, Nancy, Bret, Brandon and William Salley, Shaw Industries Group, Inc., Nancy and Kevin Sanders, Jan and Philip Savitz, Linda and Wallace Steadman family, Mary Judith Stoye, Nora Whitley

Charlie Jenkins: Jane and Bryan Graham, Jean and George How

Jane Moshell: Jo Anne Timmerman

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

Belle Blanton-September 17, 1922-July 28, 2021

Virginia Chandler Corley-Mother of Sheryl Todd

Jarrett David Davitte-May 12, 1989-July 26, 2021
Son of Steven and Terry Davitte

Angie Weeks-Sister of Joy Bouknight

Dr. Eddie Williams-September 1, 1949-August 17, 2021

Our Ministry Team

Senior Minister
Rev. Stephen P. Taylor

Associate Minister
Rev. Sara Relaford

Minister of Visitation
Rev. David Anderson

Church Administrator
Susan Vinson

Administrative Assistant
Erin Schoolmeester

Finance
Barbara Tanner

Director of Communications and Promotions
Amanda Lovett

Director of Music Ministries
Don Kirkindoll

Coordinator of Contemporary Worship
Michelle Cochcroft

Facilities Manager
Ned Calvert

Asst. Facilities Manager
Steve Ragan

Director of Preschool/Kindergarten
Kathy Horne

Director of Ministries to Children & Families
Suzy Broadus

Director of Youth and Leisure Ministries
Eleanor Cannon

Nursery Coordinator
Stacy Burggraf

Production Manager
Jake Cosentino

Organist
Joey Rothfuss



Joy Class Garage Sale

Union's Joy Class hosts a bi-annual garage sale in April and October to benefit local missions.

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Youth Event

There will be a Youth event held in the FMC Gym from 2-4 p.m.

Contact Eleanor for more details.

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Zimbabwe Fundraiser

#Raise the Roof, will be held in the FMC. There will be a dinner, entertainment, and silent auction.

See page 10, for more details.

03

Save the date: Nov. 3rd at 5:30 p.m.
Union Returns to Zimbabwe March 26-April 8, 2022

Return to Zimbabwe fundraiser, #Raise the Roof, will be held in the FMC. There will be a dinner, entertainment, and a silent auction. Bring your family and friends. Tickets will be on sale in the Narthex before and after both services on Oct. 17, 24, and 31. If you have any questions, please email Lora McKinney At lrmckunc@gmail.com



Where is the Need?

Chitenderano UMC, Nyazura, Zimbabwe - Completion of their church which is a vital resource to the community for worship, refuge, and community outreach.

Hartzell High School, Old Mutare Mission Centre, Old Mutare, Zimbabwe. Hartzell is rebuilding after a fire in 2019 destroyed 8 classrooms and their library.

Ishe Anesu, Mutare, Zimbabwe - Afterschool Program that serves 70 children living in extreme poverty.

The Union Connection
Deadline: 15th of each month

The Union Connection is a monthly publication of Union United Methodist Church.

Articles should be submitted to Amanda Lovett, Director of Communications and Promotions, by the 15th of each month via email; Amanda@unionirmo.org.



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

Visit us on the Web at www.unionirmo.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

Sunday worship times:
9 a.m. Traditional worship
11 a.m. Contemporary worship
Telephone: 803-781-3013
Fax: 803-781-3034

www.unionirmo.org

Ministers:
Rev. Stephen P. Taylor, Senior Minister
Rev. Sara Relaford, Associate Minister

