



03

THE LIVING CHRISTMAS STORY

05

THE LIVING NATIVITY & TAPESTRY OF LIGHT

06

YOUTH EVENTS: CHRISTMAS PARTY MOVIE NIGHT AND MORE...



UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

All I Want For Christmas...



1. What would you like for Christmas?" That's a question that's been asked a lot over the past few weeks. I've asked it. Like you, I enjoy giving others gifts that they could use or would appreciate. But watch out, if you ask that question to someone you love and hope to keep happy (such as your spouse, for instance), you better be prepared for what they tell you!

It takes courage to ask someone what they would like from you. If they give you an honest answer and don't just brush you off with a "whatever" or "anything," then an obligation lands on you to meet that wish as best you might.

In this season we spend time wondering what to give, what others would like, and what we would like. But do we spend time wondering what God would like from us? It takes a lot of courage to ask God, "What do you want for Christmas from me this year?" but maybe that should be the first such question we ask.

Continued ...

KNOW Christ, SHARE Faith, SHOW Grace

December
2021

...Continued

2. The holiday season adds a lot of activity and stress to just about everyone's life. We are SOO busy and we have SOO much to get done. We too easily become impatient with ourselves, and with others. And add to that the constant changes and uncertainties brought on by the continuing pandemic.

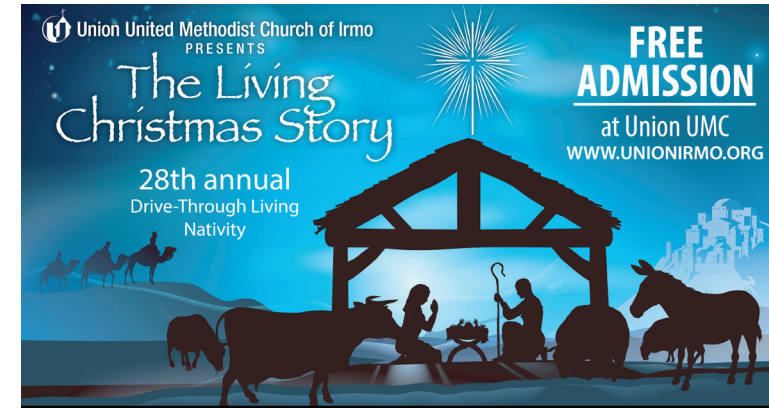
We could say that all we want for Christmas is more hours in the day, and then laugh at the absurdity. But we can do a couple of things to make our days more fulfilling, such as practicing attentiveness and kindness.

With our cell phones and agendas constantly wanting our attention, it is far too easy to overlook being attentive to others. What's behind the response, "I'm fine." What are our kids actually feeling? Who has grown silent in the hubbub? We may have to remind ourselves to be attentive, but if we do, we'll find ourselves also being kinder to others – and who wouldn't want that for Christmas?

3...All I want for Christmas...is for this Christmas to be a time of renewal for us all. Gatherings of family and friends, traditions revived, joyful Christmas music, engaging in worship, opportunities to serve and make a difference for someone – all these can re-orient us and prepare us to receive the gift of Christ's love, born anew in our hearts.

Thank you to the many people at Union who make this happen – our talented and dedicated staff, our worship teams, choirs, dancers and praise band, our Audio/Visual team keeping our on-line community connected, our nursery workers, our custodians, our church leaders, our financial supporters, our volunteers and our congregation members with their welcoming smiles. Together let's celebrate the gift of God, a Savior who already knows what we most deeply want and need.

A Blessed Christmas to All, - Stephen



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

Union United Methodist Church is preparing to host the full production of their long-standing tradition, the 28th annual drive-through living nativity, "The Living Christmas Story." This event will take place Friday through Sunday, December 3-5, 2021 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. each night. For over 20 years now, the Union United Methodist Church parking lot has been transformed into the city of Bethlehem, as the 'greatest story ever told,' a drive-through re-enactment of the way life was over 2,000 years ago on

the night Jesus Christ was born. The presentation features scenes that can be viewed as vehicles travel through the Union parking lot. This is a gift to the community, with no admission fee.

"The Living Christmas Story," uses real people from the Irmo community, and includes live animals that become the town of Bethlehem. Villagers, a blacksmith, the innkeeper, Herod's Court, the marketplace and many more scenes come alive as you drive through and experience the night Christ came to us.

"Due to the pandemic, we are taking extra safety precautions for all of our cast members," said Glenna Dean Wildt, Co-Chair of The Living Christmas Story Planning Committee. "As for the public, this is the perfect activity. You get to sit in your car and experience the beauty of Christmas."

Start your holiday season with an event that the whole family will remember.



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PEP! trip to Newberry Opera House

For more info, or with any Event please contact Phyllis at Phyllisplyler@gmail.com or for Travel Excursions Linda Fogle at lshfogle@att.net

03

The Living Christmas Story Dec. 3-5

Join in the celebration of the 28th presentation of Union's Christmas gift to our community!

05

Read more on page 7.



04

Youth Basketball Games

Please consider coming out to a game to support and cheer on our Union Basketball teams!

07

Upper Room Bible Study

Day School Task Force meeting

UMW Winter Christmas Supper



Union Day School

To support the funding of our Union Day School, we will offer two ways to contribute: Donations of any amount... *Check...memo line should have "Day School", submit in offering envelope or pay online *Pave The Way- Buy a Brick Brochures are available in the church office or online orders with information on how to purchase a brick.

Funds will support furniture, equipment and playground. If you have any questions, please contact Marian Hanna at mkhanna@sc.rr.com or church office 803-781-3013.

As we prepare for the opening of our full time childcare ministry in August, 2022, an Open House will be held for our parents to come visit our new day school in the FMC and talk to Kathy and Union Day School Task Force. This Open House will be Sunday, January 30, 2022 from 2:00-4:30pm. Parents can also call and set up appointments with Kathy Horne at Union Day School 803- 781-0630.

We invite parents to come visit the classroom areas and ask questions. Registration will will begin February 22 for currently enrolled families and Union Church members. February 28 is open registration. There will be limited spots in the infant and toddler classes beginning in August, 2022.

Union United Methodist Church is thankful to have a very qualified Union Day School Director, Kathy Horne. Prior to becoming Director in 2019, Kathy was the assistant director since 2006 and before that she taught the 5-year-old kindergarten class for ten years. She holds a B.A. degree in Business and Early Childhood Education, and a Master's Degree in Elementary Education all from Columbia College. Prior to coming to Union, Kathy taught in Lexington-Richland School District Five and earlier served as Director of the Kindergarten at Columbia College. Kathy is married to Allen Horne and they have two grown children who are both Union Preschool graduates. Union Day School will include part-time and full-time childcare ministry.

Union Day School Task Force-
Marian Hanna, Tim Livingston, Suzy Broadus, Kathy Horne and Ann Copelan





SonZone

We will meet December 12th from 5-6:30 p.m. All 4th and 5th graders invited to join us for our Christmas Party in the Education Building on the 2nd floor. Plan to wear your festive red and green as we enjoy dinner, games and of course our Christmas lesson. We will resume regular gatherings in the new year on January 9th.



the **Living Nativity**

DECEMBER 19, 2021
10:30 A.M.

Union United Methodist Church
Irmo, SC

www.UnionIrmo.org

The Living Nativity

The Living Nativity will be presented by the Union Praise Band on Sunday, December 19th at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. We are looking for children and youth ages 4-18 to participate. If your child or youth are interested please contact Michelle Cochcroft for more details: mgcochcroft@gmail.com or 803-463-1586. There will not be rehearsals prior to this years service in order to adhere to covid guidelines, so we will be assigning roles and giving instructions by December 12, 2021.



08

Iron Men Bible Study

Rosa Hook Circle-Christmas Event

Adult handbell practice
Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Heritage Circle Meeting

Fellowship Sunday School
Class Christmas Event

WOW Bible Study

09



11

Parents Time Out

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

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Youth of Union Christmas Party

We'll have games, lots of food, cookie decorating contest, white elephant gift exchange and so much more!

...more details on page 6



Save the Dates!

December 11th, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
January 15 - 3 p.m.- 6 p.m.
Feb 12 - 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
March 19 - 3 p.m.- 6 p.m.
April 9 - 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
May 21 - 3 p.m.- 6 p.m.
June 11 - 11 a.m.-2 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

Children's Sunday School!

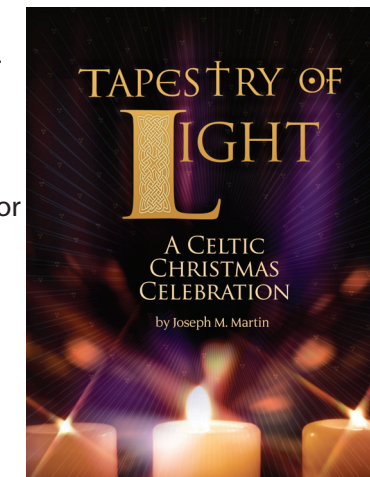
We will be a little different for December 19th and 26th, we will meet at 9:15 a.m. and worship is at 10:30 a.m. Our children will be getting ready for the Nativity presentation during worship on December 19th and we will meet in the Wesley Center. All children will meet together whether they will be participating in the presentation or not. On December 26th, we will meet at 9:15 a.m. again in the Education Building in the 2nd & 3rd grade room.

Tapestry of Light A Celtic Christmas Celebration

December 19, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

The joy and hope of Christmas are celebrated in this Celtic-styled cantata for choir and orchestra.

We hope that you will mark your calendars and join us for this Christmas Celebration Concert.



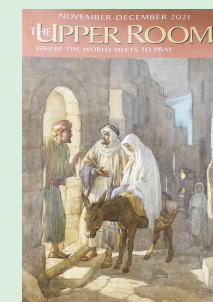
The Blessing Box

The presence of the Blessing Box continues to be a needed resource for our community. Thank you for the donation of food items. A collection box has been placed in the Narthex for your convenience. As the weather turns cool, please think of chicken n' dumplings, ravioli with meat, hearty soups and canned fruit.



Snack Packs

Thank you for all the donations. Snack Packs were a huge success!



UPPER ROOM Books are available in the Church Office Reception Area and the sanctuary narthex 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 UnionIrm.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



Support Union Basketball!

Please consider coming out to a game to support and cheer on our Union Basketball teams! Game days and locations vary, so there is surely one that will fit your schedule! Contact Eleanor Cannon for schedules and locations! Eleanor@unionirmo.org or 912-332-2606.

Youth of Union: High School Winter Retreat to Pigeon Forge/Gatlinburg

Registration is open now! There are only 20 spots available for this trip - don't miss out! Trip dates are January 14-17, 2022 and cost is \$150 per person for the whole weekend! Register here: <https://union.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1083077>



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SonZone

All 4th and 5th graders invited to join us for our Christmas Party in the Education Building on the 2nd floor.

See page 4, for more details.

Preschool Christmas Program

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WOW Bible Study

Cub Scout Arrow of Light Meeting



18

Youth Basketball Games

Please consider coming out to a game to support and cheer on our Union Basketball teams!

Youth of Union Christmas Movie Night

19

We'll have movie theatre candy, popcorn, hot chocolate & pizza! Bring pillows/blankets/bean bags to lay on the floor!



Youth of Union Christmas Party

Will be held on Sunday December 12th, at 5 p.m. We'll have games, lots of food, cookie decorating contest, white elephant gift exchange and so much more! This is a great "introductory" event for new students and friends! Plan to be there and bring a guest!

Youth of Union Christmas Movie Night

Will be held on Sunday December 19th, at 6:00 p.m. (after worship together at 4:30 p.m.) in the FMC gym! We'll have movie theatre candy, popcorn, hot chocolate & pizza! Bring pillows/blankets/bean bags to lay on the floor! This is also a great "introductory" event to invite new students and friends! Don't miss it!



Middle School Retreat Lock In

will be January 22-23rd at Union. We'll head over to Stars & Strikes to play and eat and play some more before getting into more shenanigans through the night! Think food, movies, crazy games, friends, pranks and loads of fun! We'll wrap up the lock in with worship together and pancakes in the Underground on Sunday morning. Friends are welcome! Register here: <https://union.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1087413>

REVOLUTION 2022

Will be a ONE DAY event on January 29th at the Township Auditorium! We'll meet at Union and ride buses over to the Township for this INCREDIBLE event of worship with Stars Go Dim as the worship leaders! Don't miss out on the spiritual renewal, worship & fellowship of this great event! Registration includes a tshirt! Friends are always welcome! Register here: <https://union.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1087155>



YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS THROUGH DECEMBER 2021

- NO Evening Youth on Sunday, December 5th. Students are encouraged to participate throughout the weekend with their families in The Living Christmas Story.
- YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY is Sunday, December 12th at 5-7 p.m. in the FMC Gym.
- YOUTH CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT is Sunday, December 19th at 6:00 p.m. (immediately following the 4:30 p.m. worship service) in the FMC Gym. Dinner, Snacks, Candy & Drinks will be provided. Wear a fun Christmas costume or Pajamas & bring a pillow or sleeping bag to crash on the floor.
- NO Youth Sunday gatherings on Sunday, December 26th.

Youth of Union

Shoutout to Union who donated so many toys to the Youth of Union toy drive that we had two truckloads full to deliver to Sharing God's Love!



YAMS

Join us Tuesday December 14 for dinner at San Jose in Ballentine at 6pm! To make it a little more festive for the Christmas season we will do an ornament exchange, so bring an ornament to trade if you'd like to participate!



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The Living Nativity

The Living Nativity will be presented by the Union Praise Band on Sunday, December 19th at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

See more details on page 5.

Tapestry of Light - A Celtic Christmas Celebration

The joy and hope of Christmas are celebrated in this Celtic-styled cantata for choir and orchestra.

See more details on page 5.



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Joy Class Caroling

Rosa Hook Circle Meeting

Sarah Circle Meeting

Cub Scout Webelo Den Meeting

22

Iron Men Bible Study

Adult handbell practice

Longest Night Service

Youth Leaps of Faith practice

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

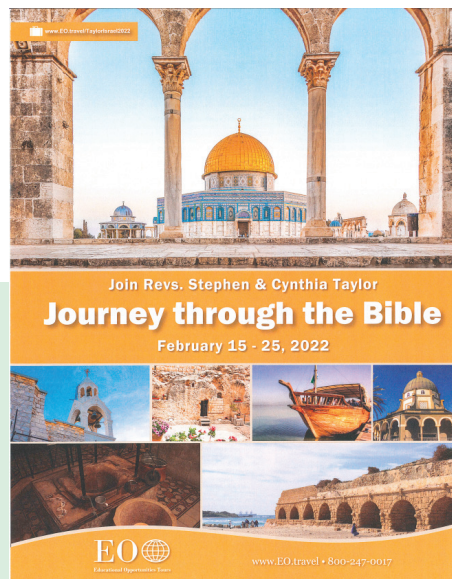


United Methodist Women

Columbia District United Methodist Women
Virtual Local Unit Officer Training
Saturday, January 15, 2022 10:00AM
Host: Brookland UMC
541 Meeting Street
West Columbia, SC 29169



All Columbia District United Methodist Women Local Unit Officers are encouraged to attend this virtual training event. Workshops will be structured to accommodate small-group interactive discussions and exchange of leadership ideas that each officer can share with her UMW Unit or Circle. Follow the link below to register for this on-line training event. <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwode6vqjwiEte2qJRAKYhGfdKqkags5FL5>



Once registered, you will receive login information. Communications Coordinators will place each officer in a breakout room with her district counterpart.

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 |



The 2022 flower calendar for 9:00 a.m. worship is now in the Narthex. Cost is \$42.50 per vase.

Memorials - Oct. 25th- Nov. 28th 2021

Given in memory of

Don Pertl: Mary and Jerrod Howard, Barbara and Larry McCormick, Jean A End and Daleen Ellis, Sunday Night Couples Duplicate Bridge Club (c/o Kay and Gary Kiser), Alice and Jack Turner, Barbara and Dalton Parker, Mr. and Mrs. William R. Hall, Betty and Ken Waddell, Beth and Bobby Pate, Jean and George How, Jeanette Davis, Susan and John Hanson, Clara and Bill Brown, Dana and Heather Hanson, Kitty McMaster, Resel and John Bourne, Vernon Williams Jr

Pam Head: Ann and James Martin, Jerry Todd

Peggy Cureton: James Cureton

Barbara Tanner's Mother-in-law, Jackie Tanner: Anna Bess Tisdale

Fran Gunter: Alice and Jack Turner

Jarrett Davitte: Beth Grammer

Glenna Ackerman: Elizabeth and Edward Rowe, The Pathfinders Class, The Aline Leitner Fellowship Class, May and Robert Ackerman, Joan and Orris Bickley, Harriet and Ted Simpson, Judy Weston, Lora McKinney, Jean Eng and Daleen Ellis, Jeanette and Randal Ford, Mr. and Mrs. William Hall, Blondell and Rabon Rodgers, Jane and Jim Locicero, Carolyn Leitner, Leola Burch, Karen and Jay Wildt

Brenda Jackson: Wessie Fickling, Dianne and Richard Todd, Frances McDonald, Ann Heiting and Brandon Donovan Jones, Marcia and Grady Adkins

Ted Olmstead: "Ted's Friends"

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

Barbara "Barbie" Igo
Thomas 'Tommy' Richard Bailey
Robert 'Bob' Teeter
Joyce Stokely's father, **George Verlon McEntyre**
Glenna Ackerman, November 4, 1930 – November 6, 2021
Brenda Jackson, June 24, 1946-November 9, 2021

NEW MEMBER
Gary McCracken
Dave and Susan Harrison and Charlie (10)

ROSEBUDS-Celebrate the births of
Beau Brooks Cuthbert Davis, son of Jeff and Carrie Davis and Grandson of Jane and Darren Davis

Silas Jude Bazemore, son of Tradd and Jennifer and Grandson of Robin and Rick Landers

Gage Franklin Metzler-Born 11/23/21 Parents: Jonathan and Beth Humphries Metzler, Brother of Emmett, Grandparents: Terri and Tony Humphries

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



Candlelight Communion Services

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We will have three Services:
4:00 p.m. Contemporary Service
6:00 p.m. Traditional Service
7:45 p.m. Traditional Service

23
and
24

The Church Office Will Be Closed for Christmas.

We hope that you have a Merry Christmas and if you have family in town, we welcome them to join us at our church!



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Worship-One service

We hope that you join us for a combine Sunday service at 10:30 a.m.

Union Returns to Zimbabwe March 26-April 8, 2022

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.



2022 Pledge Cards

If you haven't already done so, please submit your 2022 pledge card as soon as possible so that Finance can make plans for ministry and missions in 2022. Pledge cards are available in the church office or online pledges can be securely submitted by going to www.unionirmo.org/a_future_with_hope

PEP!

Our January 13th bingo date and our January 27th Event will meet at 12:30 p.m. for lunch. More details in the January newsletter.

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

