



UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

Growing Pains

Before I write about the subject at hand, growing pains, I first need to express great gratitude. I am so grateful for the many people who have given of themselves and their money over the years so that Union has the nice facilities that we have. Even now the congregation is doing an excellent job of paying down the debt on the Family Ministry Center through our Building Fund, while continuing to support a full ministry budget.

Such giving and support translates into changed lives. Recently, when Patrick Cobb was in Walmart buying a buggy full of snacks and a handful of gift cards, the checkout clerk asked him what all the food was for. Patrick replied that the College Ministry Team was going to pack care packages to send to students. The clerk teared up and said, "That's just Jesus working through a lot of snack food." Well, when I look around at all the ministry groups gathering at Union, I might say the same thing, "That's just Jesus at work through all that's been given here!"

So I give thanks, even as we work to fit the various groups into a full schedule. I have included recent pictures of our youth meeting on a Sunday evening in their small groups and in the large gathering. Our youth are bringing their friends, who then bring additional friends. Of course, isn't that what we all should be doing?

Because Dr. Robert Utsey graciously included Union in his will, our Trustees were able to upgrade our 15-passenger buses. We now have three new safe buses. The growing pain? With 63 going on fall retreat, we still have to secure volunteers to drive SUVs to carry the 18 the buses do not have room for. That is a good kind of challenge! (By the way, have you thought of including Union in your estate plans? Our Endowment Team has info to help you plan.)

The growth is not just with our youth, but with our children's ministry, Day School, and other areas. I am writing about this because I know from experience that growth brings frustrations. Things get moved around when multiple groups use the same rooms. A particular space might not be available just when your group wants it. And then there is the unplanned event, like a funeral, that calls for quick adjustments.

Such growth pains (maybe I should call them Godly Pains) require a little extra from all of us: extra patience, extra kindness, extra support through volunteering and gifts. As God entrusts us with the care and discipling of new people, we can go the extra mile of service. Get involved, because whether you have been here for years, or are just getting started, there is a place for you as we grow together.

Blessings, Stephen



KNOW Christ, SHARE Faith, SHOW Grace

OCTOBER
2022

Welcome Columbia District United Women in Faith! We are so glad you're here!



50th Anniversary of Women in Mission!

On September 17, the Columbia District of the United Women in Faith (formally known as United Methodist Women) celebrated their 50th anniversary in ministry along with their annual meeting. Union had the privilege to be the host of this awesome celebration and it indeed was grand! From the beautiful accolades to lifelong members and the hard work being done in the area churches, to the empowering message from the Columbia District's newly appointed District Superintendent, the Rev. Fran M Elrod, the gathering was filled with the presence of God.

The celebration concluded with a tea-party style luncheon that was overflowing with joy, laughter, delectable treats and of course... tea! Kudos to the women of Union UWF with the leadership of Becky Travis. Outstanding job! You all definitely embody the mission to serve God and God's children. Special thanks also go to Leaps of Faith who danced to the Glory of God and reminded everyone of how it is a privilege to be God's hands and feet.



We are welcoming New Members at both services on Sunday, October 9.

If you are thinking about joining our Union family, this would be a perfect opportunity! Please get in contact with Susan at Susan@Unionlrmo.org about your desire to join.



Columbarium Brochures are Now Available!

Information about Union's Columbarium & Memorial Garden is now available in the Narthex and the church office. Application forms and reservations will be available starting Monday, November 7th.

Consecration Sunday -

October 30th at both services

Join us as we celebrate the life of our church and pledge our gifts for the 2023 budget year. Please be sure to attend or send in your pledge cards by October 30th.

Stewardship letters and pledge cards are being mailed the second week of October.

Alaska Wildlife Express

May 23 - June 2, 2023

with the Reverends Stephen & Cynthia Taylor

10-Night Cruise & Tour from Anchorage, Alaska to Vancouver, BC, Canada
Cruise aboard the Radiance of the Seas

Interested and want to find out more?

There is an interest meeting Sunday, Oct. 16, at 3:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to come learn more about this trip and see the itinerary. Brochures will be available in the church office.

Wednesdays at Union!

Come together October 12, 19, 26, and November 2, 9, and 16!

Supper is from 5:15-6:15pm. Menu and prices will be available soon. Please sign up in advance and bring exact change when you pay at the door. Keep an eye out for sign ups!

Then Bible Study with Rev. Taylor on 1st Timothy, from 6:30-7:15pm (following Wednesday Supper).

The First Letter to Timothy is one of the three Pastoral Epistles (1 & 2 Timothy and Titus) so called because they give pastoral advice on matters of false teachings, church governance and discipline. They address issues that arose later in the life of the church and reflect a change in the focus of the church from its original mandate to proclaim the good news of Jesus to all the world. 1st Timothy provides a window for examining how the early church dealt with and resisted cultural changes. This will be for 5 Wednesday nights, excluding Nov. 9th for Charge Conference.

Activities for children will be available as well. (See page 4 for more information on Wednesday Children's Activities)

Youth Bible Study will also take place Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:15pm in the Underground.

Special Note: Union's Charge Conference is Nov. 9th at 6:30pm. There will be dinner and children's activities, but no bible study.



Trunk or Treat

Plan now to participate!

Sunday, October 30 from 4-6 p.m.

We are excited to be back in action with full trunks and we need YOU to make this event great! Help us share the fun filled night with our Union and Community families.

We will have sign up sheets in the narthex and in Sunday school classes starting Sunday, October 9th. Or you can contact Suzy directly to sign up at (Suzy@UnionIrmo.org)

The parking lot will be open at 3pm for cars to start setting up so you are ready to hand out your treats at 4pm.



Son Zone is back!

All 4th and 5th graders are invited to join us on Sundays from 5-6pm. Meet us at the Education Building and let's see where the games take us.

Bring a friend as we aim to BE BOLD. We started September 25th looking at the tough questions we have.



Coming on **October 12th, 19th and 26th** and **November 2nd, 9th and 16th**, after Wednesday supper we will have activities for kids 4-10 years old. We will have some fall fun, thanksgiving activities and more.

We will meet in LL 11, so on your way to Bible study, you can leave your kids with us for our own time of study.



Time to Celebrate!

The enrollment for our full-day Day School & our half-day Day School is **full!** This means we have approximately 200 children on our campus each week learning from our wonderful teachers and directors.

Our director, Helen Kilne, has also successfully hired 29 staff members to have a full team of teachers, subs and assistants to teach our children! This includes our new Assistant Day School Director, Leslie Kulp. Welcome Leslie!! This means we have 44 teachers & support staff.

Our Day School is certainly achieving great things after many months of planning and preparation, expanding our ministry to families and our community.

Union Basketball Registration is Open Now!

All Boys & Girls in grades 5-12 are invited to play Union Basketball!!

We focus on the mechanics of the game, teamwork, character building, and faith! All player levels are welcome - our coaches teach our players how to play the game! Friends and non-members are welcome to come play!

For questions, email Eleanor Cannon at Eleanor@UnionIrmo.org. You can sign up today by going to UnionIrmo.org/Youth and clicking the link!



Senior Boys Basketball Coaches Needed!

We need a few more awesome adults who are willing to step up and help coach our growing basketball ministry! Contact Eleanor Cannon at Eleanor@UnionIrmo.org if you are willing!

Youth of Union Toy Drive for Sharing God's Love Christmas Shop!

Toy Drive begins Sunday, Oct. 16. Please bring new unwrapped toys and gifts for the infant - 18 year old kids. Gift cards are welcome! Collection bins will be in the narthex. Contact Eleanor at Eleanor@UnionIrmo.org for more information.



Be in prayer for our youth and their leaders while they travel to Look Up Lodge for their fall retreat from Sept. 30-Oct. 2. We have 40 youth and 13 leaders attending the retreat.

CRUCIAL KITCHEN HELP NEEDED FOR YOUTH MINISTRY -

Weekly help needed for Sunday night Youth Dinners: Kitchen Team Manager (to help organize/assign weekly volunteers), Meal Planner/Cook, & Food Prep/Cleanup.

Monthly help needed: Two cooks for Youth Pancake Breakfast, which takes place the last Sunday of each month in the Underground during Sunday School hour.

If you are able and willing to volunteer in any way - weekly or occasionally - please contact Eleanor Cannon at Eleanor@unionirmo.org OR Signup at UnionIrmo.org/Youth. Everyone is welcome to sign up to help!

Sundays at Youth - YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP

Join us on Sunday Mornings for GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS at 10am. Classes will be divided by Middle School (6-8 grades) in the Green Rm & High School (9-12 grades) in the Yellow Rm.

This is a GREAT series that dives into the entire Bible and its grand narrative of redemption from the beginning to now. Our students NEED Biblical knowledge to navigate this world - we highly encourage students to participate in this great series!



[ANIKO = Greek word for BELONG]

ANIKO Sunday Evening Youth fellowship is a place for ALL students to belong! ANIKO Youth Fellowship meets on Sunday evenings from 5-7:15 p.m. beginning in the FMC Gym for group games and dinner, followed by worship, large group teaching, and small group breakout sessions in the Underground.

Sunday evenings are dynamic, fun and laid-back gatherings where we "do life" together as a Christian community, and where everyone has a place. This time is so valuable in building relationships with each other and developing that "village" that helps to guide each of our students on their faith journey.



If your rising 6th grade or older student is interested in being part of the *Confirm23* Confirmation Class, please send Eleanor an email. Email: Eleanor@unionirmo.org

Confirmation classes have started and are held on Sunday mornings from 10-10:50 a.m.



The Phase Event!

On September 11, we gathered together all of our children, youth, their parents and our ministry leaders for The Phase Event. We enjoyed pizza, cookies and fellowship before kicking off and digging into what "Phase" really means. Phase is looking at every stage of a child's life and seeing it as a specific timeframe when you can leverage distinctive opportunities to influence their future. How, developmentally speaking, opportunities to grow your child's faith are different in kindergarten than in seventh grade and why this year your child is in matters so much. We also discovered how important it is that every kid has a team of caring adults who can be a part of their lives on a consistent basis.

From there everyone went into breakout sessions to learn more about the phases of children and youth. Children's parents and leaders learned how their preschooler thinks like an artist, someone who processes information organically and abstractly and grows into an elementary aged child who thinks like a scientist and learns best through concrete examples.

Youth parents learned how middle schoolers think like engineers and are putting together the building blocks of what they have already learned. Middle schoolers are motivated by acceptance and why it is so important for parents and leaders to provide stability and affirm their middle schooler's personal journey. Everyone also learned how high schoolers think like philosophers and process information best when asked questions. They want to feel like a part of the process, instead of being an audience in the process. Leaders and parents learned about the importance of mobilizing their high school students potential and reminded how high schoolers are motivated by freedom.

Everyone came back together for a final blessing by Rev. Stephen Taylor and each family was given a book called *Don't Miss it!*, which elaborates on how families and leaders can make the most of this phase their child is in, because this phase will pass so quickly and our hope is you don't miss it!



You've heard about Phase, you're all excited, and you're wondering, what's next?!



Sign up for the Parent Cue App!

It is a great parent resource and part of the Phase family.

You can plug in the ages of your kids and get age appropriate ways to help establish character, develop spiritual habits, and strengthen your relationship with your child as you go through normal life, like riding in the car or sitting on the couch.

Be sure to sync up with Union by putting in "Union UMC Irmo" when you sign up!

Looking for more resources?

Age specific cards, trifolds, timelines, and *Don't Miss It* books are available.

Get in touch with Suzy at Suzy@UnionIrmo.org or Eleanor at Eleanor@UnionIrmo.org to get yours today!

We are working on setting up a resource center in the lobby of the Education Building, so keep an eye out!

An Event for Parents

Learn what every parent needs to navigate their kid's mental health.

Join us for Parenting with Mental Health in Mind on Nov. 13 from 5-7pm

Now more than ever, we all realize that mental health is just as important as physical or spiritual health. Our goal is to start a discussion about mental health for parents, caregivers, and small group leaders.

Dinner will be provided Look for more information in the coming weeks.

As we move forward we are gathering a list of mental health professionals to make available to Union as needed. Would you be willing to share your knowledge and experience?

If so, please contact Eleanor@UnionIrmo.org or Suzy at Suzy@UnionIrmo.org



Get to know your child or the child you interact with!

Use the questions below as a jumping off point to spark the conversation!



Preschoolers (Ages 3-5)

- If you could go anywhere for a day, where would you go?
- What animal do you wish you could have as a pet?
- What do I do that makes you feel loved?
- If you could make any food disappear from the earth, what would it be?

Elementary-Aged Kids (Ages 6-11)

- If you could ask God one question, what would it be?
- What are your favorite things to do with your free time?
- What is something I do that makes you feel loved?
- Who is your favorite teacher? Why?

Middle Schoolers (Ages 11-14)

- If you had to be stuck in a video game, what video game would it be?
- If you could only be good at one thing, what would it be?
- What makes you feel better when you are sad?
- What is the funniest video or meme you've seen lately?

High Schoolers (Ages 14-18)

- If all jobs paid the same, what job would you have?
- What is something God is teaching you right now?
- What kind of friend do you want to be?
- What is your favorite way to relax?

October Happenings - What will you attend?



PEP! - People Enjoying People!

Bingo & Board Games - Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall! We would love to have you join us!

Oktoberfest! -

Thursday, Oct. 27, at 6:30pm in the FMC Gym. Our speaker will be Hans Nussler. We will have German music and a catered meal by Wurst Wagen. Sign ups and payment of \$15 per person are due by Sunday, Oct. 24.

Any questions about these events or to get involved, please contact Phyllis Plyler at phyllisplyler@gmail.com.

Leona Hydrick Circle

Is meeting at 6:45pm Thursday evening, Oct. 6, at Tonella's Pizza Kitchen, located at 1349 Dutch Fork Rd in Ballentine.

As always, we welcome ladies to join us in Christian fellowship. Please contact Mandy Ayers at 803.622.5639 if you have any questions.

ICON WORKSHOP - Mary & Child

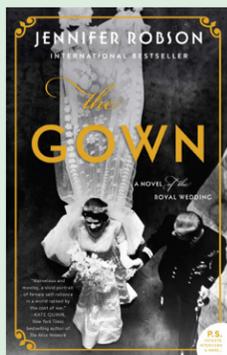
ICON WORKSHOP with the Rev. Kelly Ayer. Rev. Taylor invites you to join him and Kelly on Friday, Nov. 11, 6-9 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 12, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Fee of \$50 includes all materials and pizza lunch on Saturday. Kelly will teach about religious icons and guide participants in painting their own. To register contact Erin in the Church Office 803.781.3013.

Wilson Circle Book Club

Is meeting on second Tuesdays at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our fall dates and book we will be discussing are below. Anyone who wants to participate in (or listen to) the discussion is invited, even if you have not read the book. Listening to others share their opinions and impressions of the book just might whet your reading appetite!

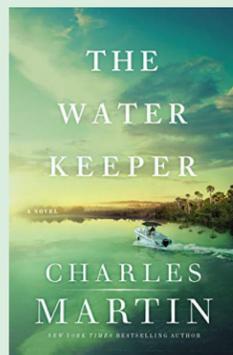
If you have questions, contact Harriet Simpson at 803.530.5060 or hsimpson@simpson-cpas.com or Becky Dixon at 803.361.5046 or rebeccadix@earthlink.net.

- **Oct. 11** - *The Gown: A Novel of the Royal Wedding (of Queen Elizabeth)* by Jennifer Robson
- **Nov. 8** - *The Water Keeper, Book 1* of the Murphy Shepherd series by Charles Martin
- **Dec. 13** - *Rewired: An Unlikely Doctor, a Brave Amputee, and the Medical Miracle That Made History* by Ajay Seth

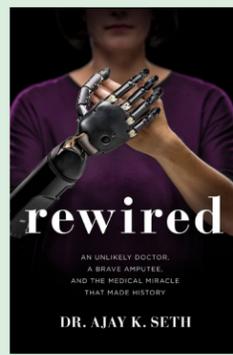


October Book -

November Book -



December Book -



SLIMs Fifth Sunday Fellowship

The SLIMs (Single Ladies In Ministry) would like to invite you to a Fifth Sunday Fellowship Brunch on Sunday, Oct. 30th, from 11:30-1pm in the Dining Room at Lakeview Retirement Community.

We will be having a buffet style lunch, and the cost is \$10 per person, which is due in exact change upon arrival.

All guests must RSVP to Margie Mitchell by Oct. 24th, at 803.479.4513 or lmmitchell1358@gmail.com.

The address is: 2134 N. Lake Drive, Columbia and there will be ample parking in the rear of the building. We would love to brunch with you for the fellowship in Christian love!

Jan's Van!

On Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022, Jan's Van (The Lexington Medical Center's Mobile Mammography Van) will be at Union United Methodist Church in Irmo, SC and is in fact, happening as we are mailing this newsletter!

They had such a great response and have 19 ladies signed up to receive mammograms. This wonderful event is hosted by the Sarah Circle and is offered in memory of Jan Croft, a dear friend, who died of metastatic breast cancer.

We will have more for you in the November newsletter about this event, and dates for 2023!



Joy Class Fall Garage Sale

Saturday, October 8, 2022 8am - 1pm

We need your unwanted treasures!

Please hold items until the week of the garage sale due to limited storage.

Items we're collecting:
Clothes, shoes, toys, bicycles, furniture, jewelry, housewares, linens, sporting goods, hardware, crafts, video & audio tapes, CDs, books, magazines, baby items (*excluding baby beds, mattresses, car seats*)

Working: Appliances, mowers, & power tools

Donation Drop Off

Mon, Oct. 3 - Thurs, Oct. 6 9am - 6pm
Fri, Oct. 7 9am - 12pm

Your dropping items off is helpful & appreciated!

Donation Pick Up

To schedule a pick up, please call as soon as possible, contact Charles Ayer at 803.447.0212



Thank you for your continued support!

UMVIM Team to Ecuador
Be in prayer for our United Methodist Volunteers in Mission going to Ecuador October 2-8th.

Year to date, Union has donated \$898.00 to Killingsworth. Thank you Union family for helping to support this ministry!

YOU ARE INVITED TO A

Christmas ARTY PARTY!

HOSTED BY THE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)!

SUNDAY, OCT. 23 12-3PM

We will share a pizza lunch and then split into stations where you can choose to paint an angel on canvas, OR make Christmas ornaments, OR learn to make your own beautiful bows!!!

There is something for everyone and all talent levels!

Registration is \$20 per person with a \$40 maximum per family.
Moms - this is the perfect activity to spend with your girls-youth and children alike on a Sunday afternoon!

Registration will be in the Narthex on Oct. 9 & 16 as well as through the church office, or directly with Libby Tucker at libby@joeytucker.com or 803.920.6497.

Activity must be chosen at registration so we can ensure we have the supplies needed for each!
We look forward to a fun afternoon!



October Shoe Drive for Sharing God's Love!



Beginning Oct. 2, a board will be in the narthex with shoe sizing information. Please take one or more tickets and attach it to the shoe box upon return. We will have a designated area for collecting shoes in the narthex.

This is our way of providing a special "Thanksgiving" gift to those in need. Over the years our members have supported this worthwhile effort and we know you will respond with your gracious gift of love. What a wonderful opportunity to share Christ within our community.



Sponsored by the Mission Team at UUMC



Thanksgiving Food Collection for Union's Blessing Box

Fall brings to mind cooler weather, harvest and Thanksgiving tables and altar tables decorated with cornucopias overflowing with food! This year we will decorate the altar with non-perishable food items that will be used to replenish the Blessing Box at Union which has proven to be a true BLESSING for our neighbors in need.

A large box to collect non-perishable food items will be located in the narthex and in the church office from **October 23 to November 13**. Please consider donating items that are suitable for the Blessing Box such as:

Cereal	Instant Grits	Instant Oatmeal
Canned Chili	Canned Ravioli	Canned Tuna
Canned Chicken Noodles & Sauce	Jelly	Peanut Butter (smooth)
Canned Green Beans	Canned Soup	Canned Corn
Prepared Rice Packets	Mac & Cheese (pkt. or cup)	Instant Mashed Potatoes
	Tang (instant drink mix)	Tea Bags

In Matthew 25, Christ told us "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.....Anything you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

We give thanks for the opportunity to share Christ's love through the gift of food at this time!

Year to date, Union has donated \$5,184 to Epworth Childrens Home. Thank you Union family for helping to support this mission!

Memorials - August 27th – September 23rd

Memorials received in memory of:

John Brooks By: Anne and David Elam, Cyril and Dot Busbee, and Jean and Ken Peaden

Jeff Womack By: Anne and David Elam, Suzanne Newell William, and Jean and Ken Peaden

Carol Preston By: Mr. and Mrs. William Lide, Jr., Susan and Tim Vinson, and Judy Weston

Henderson Guerry By: Aline Leitner Fellowship Class and Judy Weston

Larry Womack (Dooley Womack's Brother) By: Arlene and Lewis Milligan

Roger Carter By: Susan and Tim Vinson

Special Gifts - August 27th – September 23rd

Given by Judy & Donnie Humphries, in honor of Mike Sullivan and Joey Pellicci, donated \$200 as a scholarship given to a person in need to attend the MYF retreat to Look Up Lodge.

Given by Bethesda Methodist Church in Easley, SC donated \$500 to the Ecuador Mission Trip for Building Supplies.

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

Dooley Womack in the loss of his brother,
Larry Womack

Carol Preston
November 2, 1931 - September 6, 2022

Roger Walter Carter
August 1, 1935 - September 10, 2022

Celebrate the birth of:

William Carter Best was born on September 6;
born to Meagan and Pressley Best.

Charlotte Jo Conley was born on September 13;
great-granddaughter of Margaret Morris

Transportation Angels

If you have a temporary, or longer term, need for transportation to and from medical appointments, or help picking up medication or groceries, then the Transportation Angel team members are ready to serve you!



Please contact Gail Elfert at 803.466.2403 or celfert@aol.com, and let her know what kind and when you need assistance. The earlier you give us notice, the easier it is to get you matched with someone who is available at the time you need. If you have trouble reaching Gail you can contact Rev. David Anderson at the church at david@unionirmo.org or 803.781.3013.

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 Amy, by the 15th of each month via email (amy@unionirmo.org).

Our Ministry Team

Senior Minister
Rev. Stephen Taylor

Associate Minister
Rev. Faye Jones

Minister of Visitation
Rev. David Anderson

Church Administrator
Susan Vinson

Administrative Assistant
Erin Schoolmeester

Finance
Barbara Tanner

Director of Communications and Promotions
Amy Gustafson

Director of Ministries to Children & Families
Suzy Broadus

Director of Youth and Leisure Ministries
Eleanor Cannon

Youth Ministries Associate
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Interim Director of Music Ministries
Frank Turner

Coordinator of Contemporary Worship
Michelle Cochcroft

Facilities Manager
Ned Calvert

Assistant Facilities Manager
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Day School Director
Helen Kline

Assistant Day School Director
Leslie Kulp

Nursery Coordinator
Andrea Williams

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Jake Cosentino

Organist
Joey Rothfuss



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

Dated Material
 Please Deliver Immediately

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Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

Join us October 30th!



Consecration Sunday!
Both Services - 9am & 11am

Trunk or Treat!
4-6pm in the Back Parking Lot!

Everyone is welcome!

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 Taylor, Senior Minister
 Rev. Faye Jones, Associate Minister

