



UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

A Place of Hospitality

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers" (Heb. 13:2)

Now, more than ever, our community needs for Union to be a place of hospitality. We have a lot to offer as a congregation: inspired worship, excellent Bible study and small groups, service and mission opportunities on many fronts, fantastic children, youth and family programs, and the list goes on. But none of that matters if we don't first create a welcoming environment where people quickly learn that they matter to us, and to God.

My article here doesn't allow room to give a Biblical review of hospitality, but students of the Bible know that hospitality permeates the culture of the Old Testament and of the early church. Hospitality is encouraged and even commanded. It expresses the nature of God in Christ Jesus.

Showing hospitality is one way to get your "spiritual assist" this year (cf. my January article!). It's important to be friendly and to be a friendly church. But friendliness is not the same as hospitality. You can be friendly and still not show hospitality.

Hospitality: God's Love
Made Visible

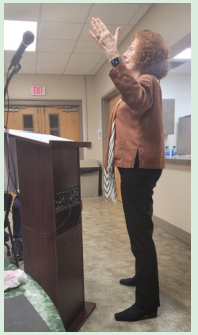
To create a place of hospitality, we have to take the initiative to go beyond being kind and friendly. You do that something more that demonstrates you truly see and welcome the other person and want to help them engage. It's an act of identifying their need and adjusting your time and effort to assist them.

A room-service waiter at a Marriott hotel learned that the sister of a guest had just died. The waiter, named Charles, bought a sympathy card, had hotel staff members sign it, and gave it to the distraught guest with a piece of hot apple pie. "Mr. Marriott," the guest later wrote to the president of Marriott Hotels, "I'll never meet you. And I don't need to meet you. Because I met Charles, I know what you stand for. ... I want to assure you that as long as I live, I will stay at your hotels. And I will tell others to stay at your hotels." (from the book, *Turned On*, by Roger Dow and Susan Cook, Harper Business, 1996)

Hospitality in the church is getting out of yourself, so you can represent Christ. Like Paul wrote to the Philippians, *"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus."*

I think we would want those who come to our church to be able to say, **"because I met the people of Union, I know what Christ meant when he said, 'Love one another as I have loved you.'"** *Let us keep making this place a place of hospitality, for every person God sends our way.*

Blessings, Stephen



Prayer Workshop

In honor of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, On Wednesday, January 18, The Prayer Warriors hosted Union's first Prayer Workshop. We had wonderful time exploring several ways we can talk with God and ways to help center our minds to pray. We learned techniques such as praying in color and walking through our prayer labyrinth to intercessory prayer using scripture. We even had a deep conversation on the purpose of prayer. Our hope is to have another workshop in early fall and continue to learn and grow in God through prayer. So please be on the lookout!

Remember, if you have a prayer request you would like to share, you can always email: prayers@unionirmo.org or speak with our pastors, fill out a bulletin flap or submit a prayer request on our website.



24th ANNUAL Pancake Supper



FUNDRAISER

at Union UMC, FMC Gym
7582 Woodrow Street, Irmo, SC 29063

February 21st, 2023
5:30-7:00 p.m.

Ticket sales
will begin Feb. 5,

\$6 for Adults
Children (3-10) \$5
Children 3 and under are free
\$20 maximum per family

Tickets At the Door

\$7 for Adults
Children (3-10) \$5
Children 3 and under are free
\$24 maximum per family



Sponsored by the New Life Class:
Funds support the class's mission
projects to include Epworth Children's
Home (Stoke Cottage), Sharing God's
Love and Lake Murray Salkahatchie.

Contact Brian Wisnewski,
newlifepresident@gmail.com
or David Renaker,
DRenaker@firstreliance.com



Easter is coming and so is our Annual Egg Hunt!

Be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, April 1st.

There will be games, crafts and of course EGGS!

Watch for more information on how you can help.

Vacation Bible School is coming!! SAVE THE DATE: June 18th – 21st



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 had \$20, what would you do with it?
- What is something that really scares you?
- What is something you can't wait to do when you grow up?
- What is something you are really good at?

Middle Schoolers (Ages 11-14)

- If you could be a star in any movie, what movie would you choose and who would you be?
- If you were to start a video channel on social media, what would it be about?
- If you could be famous for something one day, what would you be famous for?
- If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Elementary-Aged Kids (Ages 6-11)

- If you had to eat the same thing for the rest of your life, what would you eat?
- What would you change about the world today if you could?
- What is something that cheers you up when you are sad?
- What is the most fun place you've ever been?

High Schoolers (Ages 14-18)

- Is there something about our world today that makes you angry?
- What are some small things that make your day better?
- Tell me about a recent news story or article that gave you hope in the world today.
- What are some of the most important things to you in a relationship?

Parents' Time Out



January – June 2023

Save the Dates!

Feb. 11 - 3 - 6 p.m.

March 11 -

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

April 8 - 3 - 6 p.m.

May 13 -

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

June 10 - 3 - 6 p.m.

Each month our nursery team offers childcare for infants through 1st grade.

We ask for \$10 per child to cover the cost of a meal and some supplies for the 3 hours.

RVSP by the Wednesday before to andreamarie6368@gmail.com, and include any allergies when you sign up.

SonZone



Has kicked off the New Year with a bang (a marshmallow bang!).

All 4th and 5th graders join us on Sunday nights from 5-6 p.m. in the Education Building.

We are continuing our series on how to BE BOLD for God.



The SC UMC State Basketball tournament was a SMASHING success!

Thanks to all of the Union volunteers who gave time from their weekend to help facilitate this great event! We had 340 basketball players and their families come through the tournament that weekend, and thanks to you all, I've heard great things about how smoothly the weekend went! Way to show amazing hospitality, Union! Thanks again!

- Eleanor Cannon

CONGRATULATIONS

to our Junior Girls who took the STATE CHAMPION TITLE and to our Junior Boys who took State Champion runner up! We are so proud of our Union Basketball Players!



High School Ski Trip was a blast!

We rented a house in Ghent, WV to ski at Winterplace and spend a wonderful weekend together in fellowship and fun! We were blessed to have snow for 24 hours of our weekend, and then gladly returned home to warm South Carolina!





LIFE HACKS CLASS for 11th & 12th grade Students!

Is your student ready for life away from home? Each Life Hacks class helps to be sure our students are prepared to face adulthood!

Classes include: Vehicle Care & Maintenance (changing tires, checking fluids, etc), Basic cooking (how to prepare a meal), Basic personal finance (including banking, credit cards and loans), Adulting 101 (how to shake hands, how to present yourself at an interview, how to introduce yourself and others).

Taught in a very relaxed and fun atmosphere, this is a great way for your student to learn these valuable life skills! **Classes begin March 1** and run each Wednesday through March 22 at 6:30 p.m. **Registration closes February 20.** There is no cost for this class. Register here: <https://union.church-center.com/registrations/events/1595590>



Middle School Lock-In!

Register NOW! We'll meet at Union on Saturday, **February 11 at 6 p.m.**, then head to Stars & Strikes for bowling and laser tag, go on a few other adventures, and head back to Union for snacks, fellowship and a movie!

Friends are always welcome and invited! Registration closes **2/7/23**! Cost is \$30 per person – financial assistance is available! Register here: <https://union.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1595352>



REVOLUTION2023 is BACK to a full 3 day weekend event- Jan. 27-29!

Our youth and their leaders will be locking-in at Union for this event.

Be in prayer for them as they attend this epic youth gathering, studying John 1:5, worshipping with Stars Go Dim, and hearing from Rev. Nathalie Nelson Parker at the Township Auditorium.

Strategies for Parenting with Mental Health in Mind February 26 5-7 p.m.

Join us as we dig deeper into how we can be better prepared to raise our children with their mental health in mind, as well as our own.

Dinner will be provided. There will be activities for children and youth to allow room for more parental discussion on this important topic.

Crucial Kitchen Help Needed -

Weekly help needed for Sunday night Youth Dinners: 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!



The Blessing Box

The presence of the Blessing Box continues to be a needed resource for our community.

Please consider picking up a few items next time you're in the grocery store. Items of note: Boxes of grits and oatmeal (not individual packets) do well.

However, dried beans and raw veggies are not doing well and we don't want to encourage bugs to come find a snack. There is a collection box in the narthex for your items. Thank you to all for your contributions!

PEP! - People Enjoying People!

Bingo & Board Games - Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 1p.m. in the Fellowship Hall! We would love to have you join us!

February Event! -

Thursday, Feb. 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the FMC Gym. We'll have a program be a catered meal. More information will be on the sign up sheets in Sunday School boxes. Sign ups and payment are due by Sunday, Jan. 22.

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

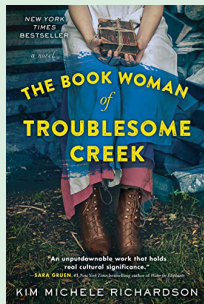
Wilson Circle Book Club

Is meeting on second Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our spring dates and books 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 rebecdix@earthlink.net.

- **Feb. 14** - *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, a historical novel by Kim Michele Richardson, "inspired by the true blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the dedicated Kentucky Pack Horse library service of the 1930s."
- **Mar. 14** - *Hidden Figures: The Untold Story of the African American Women Who Helped Win the Space Race* by Margot Lee Shetterly
- **April 11** - *Cousins: Connected Through Slavery, A Black Woman and A White Woman Discover Their Past – And Each Other* by Betty Kilby Baldwin and Phoebe Kilby

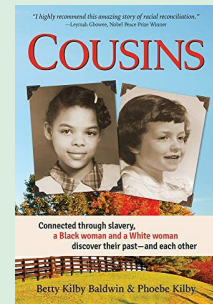
February
Book -



March
Book -



April
Book -



Strategies for
Parenting with
Mental Health
in Mind
February 26
5-7 p.m.

Going Deeper - Strategies for Parenting with Mental Health in Mind

Learn more about what you need to navigate your kid's mental health. Because one caring, supportive adult can make all the difference in the success of a kid's life.

Join us as we dive deeper into Strategies for Parenting with Mental Health in Mind at Union on **Sunday, February 26 from 5-7 p.m.** We'll share tools with parents to help promote good mental health in their children and families.

Friends are welcome and encouraged! Dinner is provided. Separate activities for children and youth will take place during the brief parent seminar, which will be followed by more extensive parent breakout sessions for further discussion.

Memorials - Decemeber 11th – January 25th

Honorariums received in honor of:

Danny Williams By: The John Rowland Sunday School Class

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

Charlotte Ann Williams
April 16, 1933 - January 11, 2023

Mae Hutto Guerry
March 11, 1933 - January 14, 2023

Tony and Pam Chapman in the death of Pam's father,
William S. Hancock, Jr.

Robert Faile in the loss of his mother,
Rebecca Elizabeth Huffman

We celebrate the birth of:

Langley Claire McKinney was born to Austin & Becca McKinney on December 6. Her grandparents are Miriam & Stan McKinney.

Robert Arthur Guthrie was born on December 27 to Marianna and Sam Guthrie. Robert has a sister Eva. Grandparents are Bob & Becky Travis.

Wesley Haines Salley was born on January 3 to Rachel and Travis Salley. Wesley has two brothers, Jack and Mason. Grandparents are Linda and Glenn Fogle, and his aunt is Sarah Fogle.

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 March Union Connection
Deadline is February 15th.**

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

Articles should be submitted to Amy via email (amy@unionirmo.org).

Our Ministry Team

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Rev. Faye Jones

Minister of Visitation
Rev. David Anderson

Church Administrator
Susan Vinson

Administrative Assistant
Erin Schoolmeester

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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 Taylor, Senior Minister
Rev. Faye Jones, Associate Minister

