



UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

People of the Moistened Stone

There's a story about Ba'al Shem Tov, founder of the Hasidic tradition of Judaism: "After the death of Ba'al Shem Tov, his work was taken up by his disciples. Each young rabbi would travel to the villages, telling stories of their master, reminding the people of his teachings and carrying out various duties, such as the slaying of the animals to provide kosher meat.

Whenever one of the rabbi came to a village, he would repeat the stories, say the prayers, follow the rituals, and kill the animals. Each time he noticed a man standing at the back of the crowd who would simply shake his head. At first he dismissed him as a Gentile who rejected the ways of Israel. Then he learned that the man was in fact, a leader of the synagogue and perhaps the most devout Jew in town.

When he could stand it no longer, the rabbi spoke to the man, demanding, "Why do you shake your head? Have I not said the prayers? Have I not sharpened the knife on the whetstone to the highest keenness to reduce as much as possible the pain of the animals? What then is lacking?" The old man replied, "When the Ba'al Shem Tov would sharpen the knife, he moistened the stone with his tears, knowing the sacrifice that would be made."

This story is from a book called *Faith-full Stories: The Narrative Road to Religion*, (Edited by John C. Hoffman). It challenges us to think whether our actions involve our hearts. Is there compassion for others in what we do, or simply a desire to get the job done?

None of us will be slaying animals for kosher meat this week, but we will probably be around people who are struggling, who may be experiencing pain or loss in their lives. It's just too easy to say, "I'll pray for you," and indeed to offer a prayer, without ever letting their life and struggle touch our hearts. Do tears ever moisten our prayers?

With social media feeds and news networks continuously assaulting our senses, it is difficult to listen well to others and to connect on a heart level. Our challenge is to not let the many demands of our day disconnect us from our hearts. To allow yourself to feel the sacrifices made by others or the sufferings they endure is a sign of strength, not weakness. Keeping a sensitive heart requires a mature faith.

When praying for our troops, do we consider the sacrifices they and their families are making? When praying for those who do not follow Jesus, do we consider the eventual futility of their lives and the fate of an eternity without Christ? When you pray a blessing for a meal, do you think of those who go to bed hungry? When we pray for ourselves, is there an honest recognition of the tremendous price paid for our sins?

It is good to do what we know to do and to do it well. But on another level, people of the moistened stone experience the presence of God. For when our hearts are in it, we touch the heart of God. Instead of becoming numbed by the turmoils of our times, let us focus on living and serving together in Christ's love, as people of the moistened stone.

Blessings, Stephen



Tippi Craig

Welcome New Members!

We welcomed several new members into the Union family on September 17.

Be sure to introduce yourself to these wonderful people when you meet them in the hallways and offer them a warm welcome!

(All names are in order from left to right of those in the picture)



Jack and Debbie Scott



Roman, Liz, Melissa, and Helen Semkiw



Cliff, Libby, Ford and Alice Miller



Tripp, Kelly, and Oliver Rabon

*Not pictured:
Campbell Rabon*



UNION UMC 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness."

You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God."

2 Corinthians 9: 10-11

Important Stewardship Dates:

Week of Prayer: October 15-21

Pray Union Day: October 21

Gratitude Sunday: October 29

Commitment Sunday: November 19



We celebrate the dedication of Chitenderano UMC in Zimbabwe on September 24, 2023!

Continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ and their ministry there!

Union Family Night Gatherings!

Join us in the evening for supper and fellowship on Wednesday, **October 4**, Nov. 1, Dec. 6, and Dec. 13 starting at 5:15 p.m. in the FMC Gym.

Sign up for the October dinner has begun! The link is available on our website and with the QR code below. RSVP by the Sunday prior by 5 p.m. Cost is \$7 per person with a \$28 family max.

Menu for October 4: BBQ, coleslaw, baked beans, salad, rolls; sweet tea, lemonade, water

Be sure to stay on Wednesday, **October 4**, to help assemble Snack Pack boxes for the 110 kids our Martha Circle helps support every week! When we work together, big things happen. Show our children how they can give love right in our own community.

Learn more about our Snack Pack Program by reading the article on the right.

Family
Gathering
Sign Up -



Snack Pack Program

What is the Snack Pack Program?

The Martha Circle started this school year packing 110 bags to send home with children every week. The purpose of these bags is to fill the bellies of kids who may not be getting proper nutrition at home. Our hope is that they take these bags home over the weekend and return to school on Monday, fed and ready to learn. This is our highest number yet.

How can you help?

Providing food for 110 kids weekly costs roughly \$700 every week. We ask you to please consider helping in one of these ways:

1. Donating directly to the Snack Pack Program on the church website under "GIVE" or by scanning the QR code below
2. By picking up some of the items listed below and dropping them by the church office
3. Checking out our Snack Pack Amazon wish list by scanning the appropriate QR code below and your purchase will ship to the church.

Thank you for your continued support!
- The Martha Circle

Snack Pack
GIVE Page -



You may need to cover one QR code while you scan the other.

Snack Pack Amazon
Wish List -



"IF" Friday Night Lights

Join us for a dinner, worship and small groups as we dig deeper into Jennie Allen's Virtual "IF" conference



FRIDAY OCTOBER 6TH

6PM @ UNION UMC

\$20 PER TICKET

WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM

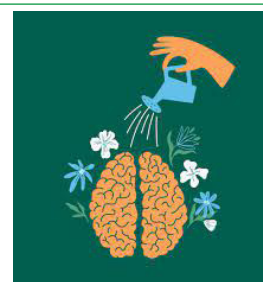
5PM MEET AND GREET AT
CRAFT AND DRAFT IRMO

Learn How to Take Care of Your Brain

New Ventures, one of our UWF circles, is hosting a workshop on Brain Health. We do not think about our mind until it does not work exactly as it always has.

The brain is just like all the muscles in our body and it needs your attention too. This workshop is designed to teach us brain health techniques and have some fun while learning them.

All are welcome! The workshop will be Monday, **October 9**, at 6:00 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Sawyer.



When our parents were our age, they never had to worry about smartphones, social media & apps.

But these days? These days, technology changes rapidly and so do the dangers.

The likelihood we're missing something important is high.

It's a hard job—keeping our kids safe. We want to help.

There are smarter ways to approach technology—both personally and in our families.

Parenting in a Tech World

An Event for Parents

Save the date and make plans to explore the topic
"Parenting in a Tech World"
October 8, 5-7 p.m.

All parents, grandparents and other adults interested in supporting our children and youth are invited.

We will start with dinner in the FMC Gym followed by a large group time of information for adults. Children and Youth will head to breakout groups at that time. After large group time parents will go to breakout groups for further discussion and ideas.

Nursery will be provided for kids 3 & under.
Let us know if you need the nursery - suzy@unionirmo.org.

Parents' Time Out



Save the Dates!

Oct. 7 - 11-2 p.m.

Nov. 11 - 3-6 p.m.

Dec. 9 - 11-2 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 snack 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

Our 4th and 5th graders are back in action with SonZone on Sundays from 4:45-6 p.m.!

We meet in the Education building upstairs.

NOTE: our new start time at 4:45 p.m. this year so we can add more fun (and snacks).

We are exploring a lesson series on Building a Solid Foundation.

Games, Snacks and Jesus, what is more fun?

Parents if you have not received an email from Suzy, let her know so you can be in the know on what's coming up and updates.
(suzy@unionirmo.org)

SonZone

Sunday	Topic
Sept 17	1 -Building a Solid Foundation
Sept 24	2 -True Faith
Oct 1	3 – Faith changes Everything
Oct 8 No SonZone	Phase Event
Oct 15	4 – Teaching The Truth
Oct 22	Pumpkin Carving!
Oct 29 No SonZone	Trunk or Treat
Nov 5	5 – Be the Salt and the Light



October 29 4:30pm

**We need your trunk
and we need you!**

Set the date aside and get your trunk ideas in place!

**We had 55 trunks last year,
can we make it 70 this year?**

Because of you, we were able to welcome over 300 kids last year!

We will have sign up times in October so we can plan for spaces for all of our Trunks and games.

Let us know you will be able to come!



Free Event!

Join us for games,
crafts, popcorn, snacks
& trunks with treats!

**Oct 29
4:30pm**

**Union UMC
7582 Woodrow St
Irmo, SC**



Check out some pictures from our recent Parent Worship Night at youth on Sept. 17!



Basketball Tournament

We need your help this January as Union is hosting the South Carolina UMC Tournament again!

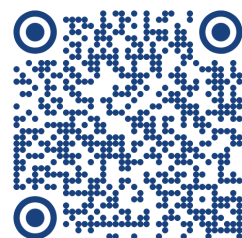
The dates are **January 5-7.**

Sign up at the link below or scan the QR code to help us make this event run as smoothly as you did last year!

Contact Eleanor with any questions at
Eleanor@unionirmo.org.

<https://union.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1937085>

Basketball
Tournament
Sign Up -



Be in prayer for our youth and their leaders as they go on their Fall Retreat, September 29 - October 1.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We have Recreation time from 4:30-5 p.m. on Sundays and need a few adults each week to hangout with the youth in the gym and keep an eye on things!

Please sign up to help with this so we can offer this time before everything kicks off at 5 p.m.! Also, if you sign up to help, we will feed you and you can stay and worship with us!

Sign up on our website (unionirmo.org/youth) or type in this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d48aea92aa5fdc25-youth1#/>

We need your help on Sunday evenings to help feed our youth!!

We ask that each parents sign up for at least 1 meal per year to help, so please sign up so we can feed these kiddos!

Sign up to help on our website (unionirmo.org/youth) or type in this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d48aea92aa5fdc25-sunday2#/>

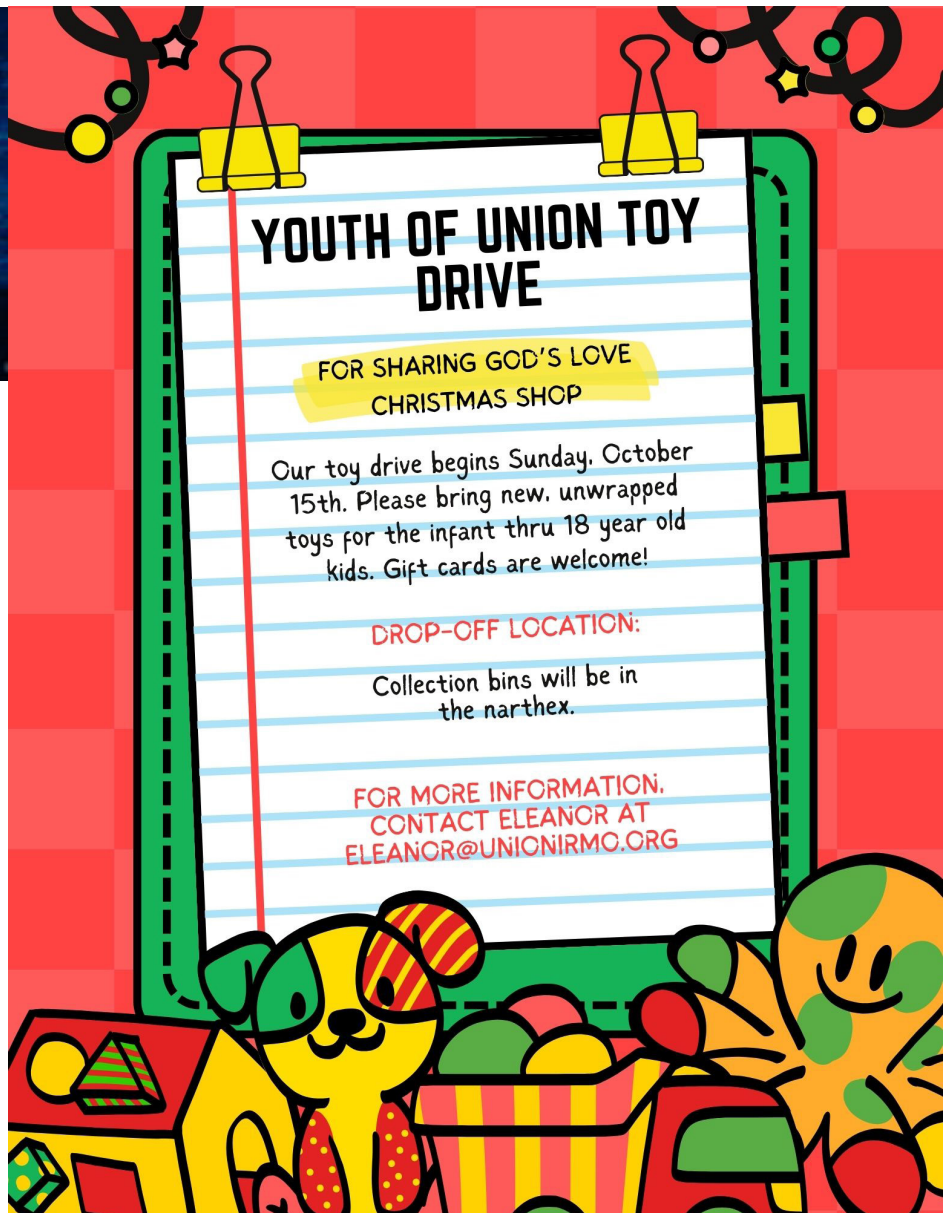


Service Day at Washington Street UMC:

Our youth will be heading downtown to serve a meal and have some good fellowship time with our brothers and sisters experiencing homelessness and food insecurity on Sunday, **October 15**.

We will meet at the church at 2:45pm and take buses downtown. While there, we will eat, fellowship, and play games with those in attendance and just share the love of Jesus through some good time spent together.

Contact Eleanor at Eleanor@unionirmo.org with any questions.



Technology is trying to solve every problem that exists today. That doesn't mean it is a good solution to every problem.

MATT MCKEE

An Event for Parents



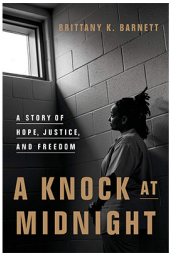
Make plans to attend "Parenting in a Tech World" **October 8, 5-7 p.m.**

All parents, grandparents and other adults interested in supporting our children and youth are invited.

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Nursery will be provided for kids 3 & under. Let us know if you need the nursery - suzy@unionirmo.org.

Wilson Circle Book Club



The Wilson Circle Book Club meets Tuesday, **October 10**, at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to discuss the book, *A Knock at Midnight* by B.K. Barnett.

We will be meeting Tuesday, **November 14**, to discuss *The Prodigal Prophet: Jonah and the Mystery of God's Mercy* by Tim Keller. This meeting will also be held at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Plans for the December meeting are TBD.

All are welcome to join us! If you have any questions, please contact Harriet Simpson at 803-530-5060 or Becky Dixon at 803-361-5046.

Please join the NIKKI CIRCLE

2023 FALL MEETING DATES

OCTOBER 22ND - ARTY PARTY NOVEMBER 12TH - 4PM

(REGISTER IN NARTHEX) DECEMBER 10TH - 4PM

Little Ladies Circle for ages 4-5th grade
Devotions, fellowship and fun
Meet on the playground or Wesley Center for weather

PEP! - People Enjoying People!

Bingo & Board Games - Wednesday, **October 11**, at 1p.m. in the Fellowship Hall! Come join us for fun, fellowship, BINGO prizes and board games!

PEP! HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY

October 19 | 6:30 PM

Union UMC's Fellowship Hall

Join us for a fun and unforgettable Halloween celebration at our Halloween Party! Bring a finger food to share.

Sign up by Sunday, Oct. 15.
Costumes optional, BUT the party isn't!
All are welcome!

Prizes will be awarded for:
Most Original, Best Couple,
Best Theme, Scariest & more!

Jan's Van

Wednesday, October 18 9am-4pm

REGISTER TODAY!

The Lexington Medical Center's Mammography Van is coming to the Union UMC parking lot!

Contact Jane Davis at janesdavis@yahoo.com to register.

Mammograms cost \$486 without insurance, so donations are being accepted to pay for those mammograms that are not covered.

Please help by donating to "Jan's Van" at UnionIrmo.org, Click 'GIVE'



JOY CLASS FALL GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY, OCT. 14, 2023

TIME: 8AM - 1PM



Union members and friends, we need your unwanted treasures, including: clothes, shoes, toys, baby items (**excluding** baby beds, mattresses, car seats, swings, playpens) bicycles, furniture, crafts, housewares, linens, video and audio tapes, CDs, books, jewelry, sporting goods, hardware, hand tools, **WORKING**: appliances, power tools, lawnmowers, tillers, blowers.

NO: Extra large office furniture, armoires, mattresses, box springs or soiled, torn, damaged items.

Since our storage space is very limited, you are encouraged to hold items until the week of the garage sale.

Your dropping off items is very helpful and appreciated.

Donation pickups and drop offs begin Monday, Oct. 9 through Thursday, Oct. 12, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday, Oct. 13. 9 a.m. to 12 noon.



If you need to schedule a pickup, please call as soon as possible during the coming days. To schedule a pickup or if you have any questions, please contact **Charles Ayer** at **803-447-0212**.

Thank you for your continued support.

Calling
Union ladies of
ALL ages!

Join us for a
holiday
**Arty
Party!**

Hosted by the
United Women
of Faith!

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22
12 - 2 P.M.**

We will share a pizza lunch and then will split into stations where you can choose to: paint, make Christmas ornaments, learn about flower arranging, or how to make your own beautiful bows for any season!! There is something for everyone and all talent levels!

Moms, this is the perfect activity to spend with your girls,
youth and children alike, on a Sunday afternoon!

**Registration is \$15 for adults; \$10 for children and youth (includes lunch)
with a \$40 maximum per family.**

Registration will be in the Narthex through October, or directly through
Libby Tucker at libby@joeytucker.com or 803-920-6497.

You must register in advance so that we have the supplies needed!

Help Keep Our Blessing Box Stocked This Fall

Please consider picking up a few of these items to donate the next time you're in the grocery store. There is a collection box in the narthex.

Thank you for your continued support!

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



The Living Christmas Story (TLCS)

Is celebrating our 30th year anniversary of Union providing this special gift to the community. We have more than 600 volunteer/cast positions to fill across the 3 performances, so we hope that you and your family will sign up to participate! You are welcome to participate in more than one performance and in different roles. We also encourage you to invite others to participate with you!

Please put these dates on your Calendar:

TLCS 2023 Performance:

Dec. 1, 2, 3 (Fri-Sun) from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

TLCS Set Construction:

Nov. 4 (Sat), Nov. 12 (Sun), Nov. 18 (Sat), Nov. 26 (Sun).

TLCS Volunteer sign ups are open now through the end of October.

Roles will be assigned based upon the order that your signup is received. So please sign up to participate as soon as possible! To sign up, please click on our website or scan the QR code to the right.



If you have any questions, please email:
UnionTLCSCasting@gmail.com.

The Fourteenth Annual Sharing God's Love Benefit Golf Tournament

Thanks to everyone and their support of Sharing God's Love and the success of the Golf Tournament on Monday, September 11.

We had 68 golfers and 50+ sponsors.

We appreciate everyone!

Memorials - August 20th - September 24th

Memorials received in memory of:

Forrest Bouknight By: Connie and Bob Warren

Woody Burch By: Connie and Bob Warren

Cammy Wann (Fran Wann-Fulghum's daughter) By: John and Resel Bourne

John Lucas By: Reva and Jim Miller

Lesley and Keith Berkeley By: Reva and Jim Miller

Butch Butler By: Reva and Jim Miller

Danny Fidley (Beth Montgomery's father) By: Kelly Reese

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

IN MEMORIAM

Reida Baines

December 31, 1949 - September 2, 2023

Merry DuBose Cobb in the loss of her mother,

Patsy Roberts "Pat" DuBose

Beth Montgomery in the loss of her father,

Richard Daniel "Danny" Findley

Julie Wagner in the loss of her father,

Charles Cooper "Charlie" Rivers

Keith Berkeley

December 19, 1931 - September 7, 2023

Lesley Berkeley

December 1, 1932 - September 10, 2023

William Thomas "TMac" McDaniel, III

July 28, 1950 - September 9, 2023

Meghan Thompson in the loss of her father,

Billy Arant

Leola Burch in the loss of her husband,

John Kirkwood "Woody" Burch, Jr.

Lauryn Harbour in the loss of her father,

Doug Werdebaugh

We celebrate the birth of:

Clara Jane Parrott was born September 5.

She was born to Amelia and Cullen Parrott.

She has an older sister, Macie. Her grandparents are Ronnie and Laurie Jackson.

**The November Union Connection
Deadline is October 13.**

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

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

Assistant Director of Youth Ministries

Thomas Walsh

Director of Music Ministries

Frank Turner

Coordinator of Contemporary Worship

Michelle Cochcroft

Day School Director

Leslie Kulp

Assistant Day School Director

Jenny Gantt

Facilities Manager

Ned Calvert

Assistant Facilities Manager

Steve Ragan

Nursery Coordinator

Andrea Williams

Production Manager

Jake Cosentino

Organist

Joey Rothfuss



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

Trunk or Treat!

**October 29 -
4:30 p.m.!**

Join us for games, crafts,
popcorn, snacks, & trunks
filled with treats!



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

