



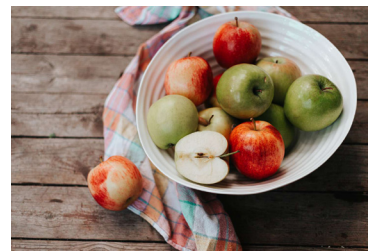
UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

What Do You See?

This is apple season and it reminded me of a story I heard years ago. A kindergarten teacher asked her class, "What is the color of apples?" Most of the children answered red. A couple of children said green. But one student raised her hand and said white. The teacher tried to explain that apples could be red or green or even golden. But never white. But the student was insistent, and finally said, "Look inside."

Children can always surprise us, and teach us, with their way of seeing things. In this case the child's view reminds us to examine the way we look – maybe not so much at apples, but at one another perhaps. The exterior view tells us of our differences. But on the inside we see that except for the presence of Christ, we are all sinners with nothing to commend us. The famous evangelist Dwight Moody was reported to pass by a wino lying in the street one day and to comment, "There, but for the grace of God, lies Dwight Moody."



The Bible teaches us that God looks upon our hearts. In kindergarten terms we'd say, "Jesus always looks inside." We humans can't seem to see beyond our outward appearances. But through the eyes of Christ, we can look beyond our differences to the way we are connected in his love. So as you enjoy the autumn apples, look inside, and remember to be careful how you look at those around you.

~~~      ~~~      ~~~      ~~~      ~~~

If we can get past Halloween, and avoid being too quickly absorbed with Christmas, November offers us a time of reflection and gratitude. We begin with our All Saint's Observance on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Pausing to give thanks for those who have gone on to the Church Triumphant makes me think of all those who have gone ahead and whose lives have blessed us.

November 5<sup>th</sup> is also the end of Daylight Savings Time (so "fall back" everyone)! And, in our Growing and Giving Campaign for our Building Fund and Ministry Fund for 2024, we celebrate the Impact of our Ministry. If you keep up with what's going on at Union, you know we won't have time to acknowledge the full scale of our impact, but we'll have reminders of the difference for good that God allows us to make in people's lives.

Our Commitment Sunday is on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Please make a special effort to be present and if you can't be here, to get your commitment card in. We need to finish strong in our giving this year, and in our preparations for next year. Continue to pray, "Lord, what do you want to do through me?"

It will be another busy month in the life of our church, but remember to pause, reflect, be grateful, and be generous. Let's make every day in November a day of Thanksgiving!

Blessings, Stephen

## Union Family Night Gatherings!

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

Sign up for the November 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 November 1:**  
Baked ham, green beans, red skinned potatoes, salad, rolls; sweet tea, lemonade, and water

## 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

### Individually Packaged Items

Mac & cheese packets, oatmeal packets, grits packets, fruit cups, applesauce cups, fruit snacks, ravioli or tuna cans, juice boxes, cereal bars, Slim Jims, granola bars, cracker packs, ramen noodle packets, Rice Krispie Treats

Snack Pack  
GIVE Page -



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

Snack Pack  
Amazon Wish List



## Snack-Pack Packing!

We had great fun after our October 4 Family Night Gathering helping Martha Circle by packing 550 Snack-pack food packs. This will cover 5 weeks worth of helping to feed hungry neighbors.







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

## Pray Union Week

Thank you for joining with us during our week of prayer, October 16-22, with our Growing & Giving Weekly Devotional. As well as participating in our Pray Union



Day during each worship service on October 22, where we passed prayer squares down each pew and asked people to pray, "Lord, what do you want to do through me?" while tying a knot on the prayer square. You can see our prayer squares and prayers prayed over Union in the picture on the left.

## Important Stewardship Dates:

Gratitude Sunday: October 29

Commitment Sunday: November 19



## "IF" Conference Friday Night Lights

The Martha Circle hosted our first "Friday Night Lights" event as a continuation of their IF conference. It was a great night of fellowship and worship alongside 28 of our sisters in Christ.

Our message was brought to us virtually from Christine Cain about facing our fears and knowing that goodness and mercy are always with us from Psalm 23:6. We are grateful for those who were able to come and look forward to another Friday Night Lights in the New Year. Stay tuned for more info!





## Parenting in a Technological World

Parenting in a Tech World was held October 8<sup>th</sup>! We had a good turn out of parents who wanted to learn how to handle the ever changing technology in our lives. Matt McKee and Titania Jordan wrote the book based on their personal experiences and professional jobs. We heard some scary statistics about what our tweens and teens are being exposed to but then had the opportunity to talk with other parents about how to be proactive with our kids.

One of the great questions that McKee and Jordan asked in their book is, *"what characteristics do you want your 18 year old to have?"* and then make a plan to get there. If parents want to delve deeper into to this personal journey there is a 12-15 week course that families can do at home. Check out [parentcue.org](http://parentcue.org) and search for Parenting in a Tech World, the video based study is \$40 and gives more practical support for our parents.



**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!

Sign up today in your Sunday School class or by scanning the QR code on the right!



**Added fun this year –**  
**We will have a competition for the top 3 trunks!**  
Anything from scary, silly, fun or beautiful...  
**What will your trunk look like??**



**Free Event!**

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

**Oct 29  
4:30pm**

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







## SonZone

All 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders (AND friends) are invited to hangout with us on Sundays from 4:45-6 p.m. in the Education Building. There are games and snacks and, of course, some Jesus lessons mixed in.

We had some great fun in October, you might have seen some pictures. November is looking like even more fun so mark your calendars and set aside the time and we will see you there!!

Check out our pumpkin carving fun from Oct. 22!



## Nursery for our littlest ones!

Hey parents, grandparents and friends, do you have a little one 3 years old or younger? We have a loving team of women in our nursery every Sunday from 8:45 a.m. - 12 p.m. Our nursery is led by Andrea Williams with 4 other paid staff. They have been fully background checked and follow Safe Sanctuary guidelines. Our nursery staff has been with us anywhere from 3-6 years. As you look at events offered by Union, when a nursery is provided, it is also by this awesome Nursery Team.

Our nursery can be found downstairs in the Family Ministry Center in a secure hallway (follow the signs). To keep our precious ones safe, a code is needed to enter the hallway. See our Welcome Center team members, ushers or contact Suzy ahead of time (suzy@unionirmo.org or 803.781.3013 ) to acquire the code. There is also a doorbell at the door that our nursery team will hear to let you in.

*Hear what some of our parents have to say:*

*"Andrea and her team are awesome!"*

*"They love my sweet boy so much and I never have to worry about him."*

# SonZone

| Sunday               | Topic                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Oct 29<br>No SonZone | Trunk or Treat                  |
| Nov 5                | 5 – Be the Salt and the Light   |
| Nov 12               | 6 – Serving with Humility       |
| Nov 19               | Give Thanks!                    |
| Nov 26<br>No SonZone | Happy Thanksgiving              |
| Dec 3<br>No SonZone  | TLCS                            |
| Dec 10               | 7 -Sharing in the Lord's Supper |
| Dec 17 – 6– 8pm      | Dinner and a Movie              |

Join the half a million parents using this app to raise their kids with faith and character.

Download it for free today!

PE PARENT CUE

The Parent Cue app is a great parent resource and part of the Phase family. Be sure to sync up with Union by putting in "Union UMC Irmo" when you sign up!

## Parents' Time Out



## Save the Dates!

**Nov. 11 - 3-6 p.m.**

**Dec. 9 - 11-2 p.m.**

*2024 Dates coming soon!*

Each month our nursery team offers childcare for infants through 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



## Youth Fall Retreat Recap

Fall Retreat was a blast! We ventured to Look Up Lodge on Sept. 29-Oct. 1 with 65 youth and leaders. We had an incredible time in fellowship, relaxation, growth, and worship in community with each other. We learned and talked about how our Real faith collides with our Real lives each day and how we can carry that out into the world.



## Service Night with Youth of Union

35 people spent the day together in service to kids in our community who experience food insecurity on Sunday, October 15.

We split up into 3 teams and each team was given \$200 to buy supplies and see who could pack the most complete Snack Packs with their budget. Roughly 90 bags were packed between the teams, which is still not enough to feed the 110 kids this ministry feeds weekly.

It costs roughly \$700 to feed these 110 children each week, and this may be the only meals they receive at home when not at school. Please prayerfully consider donating to Snack Pack.

*(Check out page 2 to learn how you can contribute.)*







## Our Youth Teams Need Basketball Coaches

We are in DIRE need of coaches for Union Basketball!!!! Basketball is in full swing, but we need some more coaches to help out!

Practices have begun and are only one night a week and the season runs from now until mid-February. NO experience necessary!

Please contact Eleanor at [eleanor@unionirmo.org](mailto:eleanor@unionirmo.org), if you are interested!

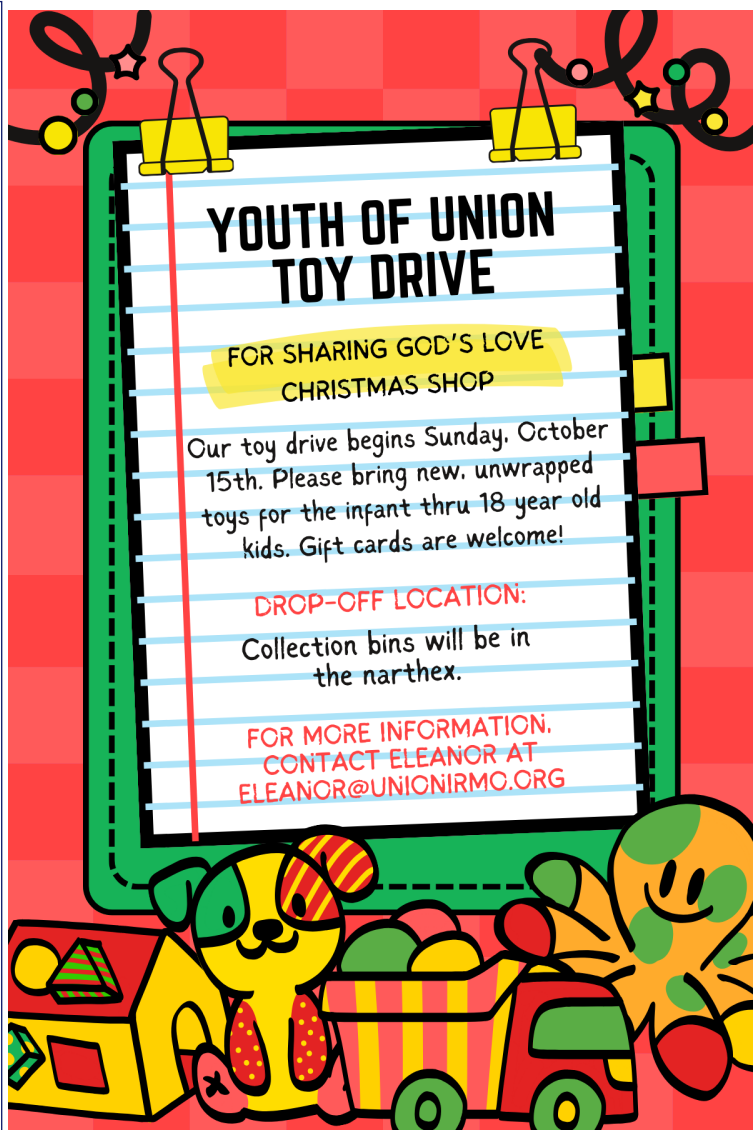
## Basketball Tournament

*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](mailto:Eleanor@unionirmo.org). <https://union.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1937085>

Basketball  
Tournament  
Sign Up -



## Confirmation Retreat

Be in prayer for our confirmands and their leaders as they go on their Confirmation Retreat, October 27-29.

They will be headed to Epworth by the Sea for a great weekend of learning about God, the Methodist doctrine, and having some fun too!

## Small Group Outings

On Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, all of our small groups will be having social outings! We did this last year, and wanted to continue it this year!

These are great times to just be in fellowship with one another and grow closer and have fun with your small group!

Parents, be on the lookout for more info from your child's small group leader in the future about your child's small group activity!



## Costa Rica Mission Team Fundraiser

Our Costa Rica Mission team is doing a fundraiser selling concessions during the State UMC Basketball Tournament in January!

We are asking for donations of chips, cookies, sodas, gatorades, etc. to help offset the cost of those going on this trip! This is a great way to help support those who are answering the call to serve on this trip that will be happening in June 2024. Donations can be dropped off at Eleanor/Thomas's office.

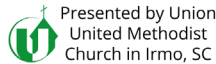




## THE LIVING CHRISTMAS STORY

December 1-3, 2023  
6:30 - 9:00 PM

30th Annual  
Drive-through Nativity  
FREE ADMISSION



Presented by Union  
United Methodist  
Church in Irmo, SC

### Casting Call!

The Living Christmas Story (TLCS) is celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of Union providing this special gift of Comfort and Joy to our community.

The deadline to sign up to participate in TLCS 2023 is **October 31**. We are currently very far below the number of volunteers needed. We need at least **60 more** volunteers for Saturday, and at least **90 more** volunteers for Sunday. If you do not want to be a cast member, we still need several more volunteers to help with Traffic and a few more to help with Costumes.

To sign up to participate in TLCS, please scan the QR code on the right.

If you have already signed up and are able to participate on **additional night(s)**, please email [uniontlcscasting@gmail.com](mailto:uniontlcscasting@gmail.com) to update your availability.



Please email [uniontlcscasting@gmail.com](mailto:uniontlcscasting@gmail.com) with any questions. Thank you!! - TLCS Casting (Glenna Dean Wildt and Annette Nash)

### Building Bethlehem - Set Construction Begins!

Many people will be needed to help construct our backyard Bethlehem. Construction will take place on the all the weekends in November. Dates and times are listed below. We will need trucks, small trailers, and ladders if you have them. No special skills needed, just a willingness to help.

Saturday, Nov. 4 - 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 12 - 1-5 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 18 - 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 26 - 1-5 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 9 - 8 a.m.-12 p.m.



### Order your TLCS T-shirts today!

To commemorate our 30 years of history, we're selling t-shirts! Wear your shirt around town to remind the community of Union's annual Christmas tradition!

Long sleeve (\$20) and short sleeve (\$15) options are available. You can order your shirts in the narthex through October with cash or check, or order with the google form and prepay through the church website. **Place your orders by Nov. 5, and shirts will be here in mid-November!** Check out our website or scan the QR code below to order!

#### TLCS T-shirt Order Form



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

#### TLCS T-shirt Payment Form



### The Living Christmas Story Posters & Flyers

Posters and Flyers will be available starting the first couple weeks of November in the narthex. Please pick some up and distribute in your neighborhood and take to businesses, your offices, retirement homes and other places you can think of to be posted. We need your help to spread the word about this Christmas gift to our community.

### TLCS 30 Year Celebration

Starting November 1, you'll start to see a display that moves around campus. We are collecting Union's memories of the Comfort & Joy that TLCS has brought to our congregation and the community over the last 30 years.

Time to dig out your pictures and favorite memories and add them to the display!

We will have our 30 Year Celebration on **November 29** at 6:30 p.m. with Christmas carols, cupcakes and a blessing! Join us!





# MUSIC AT UNION

## FALL 2023 CONCERT SERIES

**NOVEMBER 5**  
**4PM**

**RUTTER REQUIEM  
PERFORMANCE  
AT SHANDON UMC**

This is a collaborative performance presented by Union, Shandon, Trenholm Road, Cayce, Mt. Hebron & Trinity-Blythewood United Methodist Churches.



**NOVEMBER 12**  
**3PM**

**USC GAMECOCK &  
GARNET CHORALE  
CONCERT  
AT UNION UMC**



**DECEMBER 3**  
**3PM**

**ADVENT ORGAN  
RECITAL  
AT UNION UMC**



**DECEMBER 10**  
**9AM**

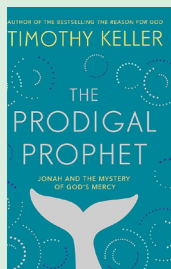
**LESSONS &  
CAROLS SERVICE  
AT UNION UMC**

Union UMC: 7582 Woodrow St. Irmo, SC, 29063

## All Saints Sunday - November 5

This is a special Sunday to remember those we miss and who have gone before us. Plan to come early to worship on Sunday, **November 5**, and take an opportunity to write the name of a loved one on a piece of paper and pin it and a bell to the banner.

## Wilson Circle Book Club



The Wilson Circle Book Club meets Tuesday, **November 14**, at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to discuss the book, *The Prodigal Prophet: Jonah and the Mystery of God's Mercy* by Tim Keller. 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.

## Charge Conference - November 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The Advent season is fast approaching! Join us in worship for the time leading up to Christmas. Our first Sunday in Advent is **November 26**.

## SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

### Grieving? Know someone who is?

**November 19, 3-5 p.m. in LL3**  
At Union UMC: 7582 Woodrow St. Irmo, SC, 29063  
Register on our website or at this link:  
<https://www.griefshare.org/holidays/events/49172>

## Thanksgiving Dinner -

You're invited to our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, **November 23**, from 12-2 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room near the gym. If you don't have family plans, join your Union church family and make new friends too.

We furnish the meat and ask you to bring a side dish or two. Call Judy Keating 803.917.2798 or Joy Bouknight at 803.413.1029 for more information.

## Open Position: Union Church Financial Director Full-time Position

Send inquires and/or resumes to:  
Susan Vinson, Office Administrator,  
at: Susan@UnionIrmo.org

## Start planning now to join us for Advent Suppers!

We will have dinners and activities for families of  
all shapes and sizes.

Add these dates to your calendar!

**December 6**

**December 13**

Sign ups for both dinner and activities will be  
available starting November 12th.



## Jan's Van

On Wednesday, October 18, 2023, Jan's Van (Lexington Medical Center's Mobile Mammography Van) was at Union United Methodist Church in Irmo, SC and was happening as this newsletter was being put together!

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

Be sure to check back next month for more details about this wonderful event, and dates for 2024!

## 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                   |

## 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.

## Memorials - September 24th - October 22nd

### Memorials received in memory of:

**Forrest Bouknight By:** Jo Anne B. Timmerman

**William Thomas McDaniel By:** Purvis Bane, Cynthia Vannoy, The Joy Sunday School Class, Al and Pam Haselden, and Morgan and Joyce Stokely

**Lesley and Keith Berkeley By:** Jean Eng

**Woody Burch By:** GM Funtimers, Joan and Thomas Goff, Faye Davis, and Alice and Jack Martin

**Doug Werdebaugh (Lauryn Harbour's Father) By:** The Pathfinders Sunday School Class



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

**IN MEMORIAM**

Kimberly O'Leary Woodward in the loss of her mother,  
**Linda Geddings Craft**

Stephen & Cynthia Taylor in the loss of  
their brother-in-law,  
**Rev. Bob Keely**

Glenn & Linda Fogle in the loss of his mother,  
Rachel Salley and Sarah Fogle in the loss of  
their grandmother,  
**Lucy Willette Fanning Fogle**

Kelly McLaren in the loss of her uncle,  
**Johnny**

**Welcome New Members!**

A correction from the October newsletter in the New Members Section - Oliver, Kelly, and Campbell were here to join the church. Trace Rabon was unable to attend on September 17. You'll find their picture below.

Oliver, Kelly,  
and Campbell  
Rabon

*Not pictured:  
Trace Rabon*



**The December Union Connection  
Deadline is November 15.**

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

**Articles should be submitted to Amy via email  
([amy@unionirmo.org](mailto:amy@unionirmo.org)).**

**The Church office will be closed  
November 23 & 24 for Thanksgiving.**

**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**

Day School Finance  
**Stacie Vandervelde**

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](http://www.UnionIrmo.org)

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
P-A-I-D  
IRMO SC  
PERMIT NO. 1

Dated Material  
Please Deliver Immediately

# UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina



**Trunk or Treat!**  
**Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**4:30 p.m. in the**  
**Back Parking Lot!**



*Growing & Giving*

UNION UMC 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

**Commitment Sunday!**  
**Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**Both Services - 9 & 11 a.m.**

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

[www.unionirmo.org](http://www.unionirmo.org)

Ministers:  
Rev. Stephen Taylor, Senior Minister  
Rev. Faye Jones, Associate Minister

