



Ministry Budget Commitment for 2024:

I/We believe in the future of our church and want to be a part of its success. I/We will endeavor to give to the Annual Operating Budget in the following way:

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Per: (circle one) Week Month Year  
One Year Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Building Campaign Commitment for 2024:

I/We will give to the Union UMC Building Campaign in the following way:

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Per: (circle one) Week Month Year  
One Year Total: \_\_\_\_\_

These are a statement of intent and may be altered as circumstances warrant.

Name & Contact Information

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for contributing to our Growing & Giving Stewardship Campaign!

Use your phone to scan the QR code to access the commitment form online:



As faithful stewards, we promise to support the Church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES:  
As of Dec. 13

IN MEMORIAM

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

Richard Furman Jackson  
September 16, 1943 - December 13, 2023

Your pastors want to give you care and be in prayer for you. If you or someone in your family is in the hospital or having surgery, please let us know.

CHURCH STAFF

- Rev. Stephen Taylor, Lead Pastor  
Stephen@unionirmo.org  
Rev. Faye Jones, Associate Pastor  
Faye@unionirmo.org  
Rev. David Anderson, Minister of Visitation  
David@unionirmo.org  
Rev. Dick Holliday, Retired Pastor  
Rev. Paul Van Dine, Retired Pastor  
Rev. Eric Shepard, Retired Pastor  
Rev. Archie Bigelow, Jr., Retired Pastor  
Rev. Lee Cothran, Jr., Retired Pastor  
Suzy Broadus,  
Director of Ministries to Children & Families  
Ned Calvert, Facilities Manager  
Eleanor Cannon,  
Director of Youth and Leisure Ministries  
Michelle Cochcroft,  
Coord. Of Contemporary Worship  
Jake Cosentino, Production Manager  
Jenny Gantt, Assistant Day School Director  
Amy Gustafson,  
Director of Communications and Promotions  
Leslie Kulp, Day School Director  
Steve Ragan, Asst. Facilities Manager  
Joey Rothfuss, Organist  
Erin Schoolmeester, Administrative Assistant  
Frank Turner, Director of Music Ministries  
Stacie Vandervelde, Day School Finance  
Susan Vinson, Church Administrator  
Thomas Walsh, Assistant Director of Youth Ministries  
Eli Waltemire, Director of Finance  
Andrea Williams, Nursery Director

PRESENCE

Worship Update	Dec. 10
Worship:	549
On-line views:	235
Sunday School:	379

UNION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7582 Woodrow Street  
P.O. Box 705 Irmo, SC 29063  
803.781.3013

www.UnionIrmo.org

GIFTS

2023 Budget - Weekly Goal \$35,100.00

This information is unavailable at this time.

Weekly Schedule

For a complete listing of events for the month, please visit our website: www.unionirmo.org

Sunday, Dec. 17	8:30 AM Basketball Tournament Sign-Up 8:30 AM Pathfinder Class BBQ Pre-sales 9:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 10:00 AM Sunday School & Confirmation 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 2:00 PM Basketball Practice 6:00 PM The Living Nativity 7:00 PM Youth - Christmas Movie Night 6:00 PM Disciple 1 6:30 PM Jesus in the Gospels - Disciple	Narthex Narthex Sanctuary  Sanctuary FMC Gym Sanctuary FMC Gym F 223 LL 11
Monday, Dec. 18	7:00 AM Man in the Mirror 9:00 AM Bridge card players 9:30 AM Needlers 6:00 PM Basketball Practice 6:30 PM New Life Men's Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM AA	LL Fellowship Hall LL Fellowship Hall LL 5 FMC Gym LL 13 EB 211 - 213
Tuesday, Dec. 19	9:30 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Upper Room Bible Study 12:00 PM Sarah Circle 6:00 PM Basketball Practice 6:00 PM Endowment Committee Meeting 6:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting	F 223 LL 14 LL Fellowship Hall FMC Gym LL 14 LL Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, Dec. 20	6:00 AM Iron Men Bible Study 9:00 AM DOC Manager Training 3:00 PM Jungle Two's Christmas Program 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	FMC MultiPurpose FMC MultiPurpose FMC MultiPurpose LL 10 Choir Room
Thursday, Dec. 21	8:00 AM Hikopaths Day Hike 10:00 AM Christmas Eve Prep- Contemporary Team 6:00 PM Basketball Practice 7:00 PM Praise Band Practice	Off Premises Sanctuary FMC Gym Sanctuary
Friday, Dec. 22	All Day Office Closed 6:00 PM Basketball Practice	FMC Gym
Saturday, Dec. 23	6:00 AM Men's Freeplay Basketball	WC Gym
Sunday, Dec. 24	10:30 AM Pathfinder Class BBQ Pre-sales 11:00 AM Contemporary Christmas Eve Service 5:00 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Service	Narthex Sanctuary Sanctuary
Monday, Dec. 25	All Day Office Closed 7:00 PM AA	EB 211 - 213
Tuesday, Dec. 26	All Day Office Closed	



UNION UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

KNOW Christ, SHARE Faith, SHOW Grace  
Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 17, 2023  
www.UnionIrmo.org

“Love Wins”  
Luke 1: 26-28

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE	Savior of the Nations Come Mary Bonnett Chancel Chimers	arr. Moklebust
*HYMN	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	UMH #240
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	The Apostles' Creed I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.	UMH #881
*MUSICAL RESPONSE	Glory Be to the Father Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.	UMH #71

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Lighting the Candle of Love

“When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

We light this candle as a symbol of Love, awaiting the One who is coming to restore humanity and who will bring peace to our weary world. Lord, manifest your joy in our hearts and help us to grasp more of your overwhelming love.

All: Lord, we are ready to receive more of your love, Praise be to God!

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER:

Inhabit our hearts, Redeemer God, as you once inhabited human flesh. Be here among us with all of your wisdom, all of your power, all of your mercy, and all of your love, that we might learn to be like God from our God who came to be like us. Holy and worthy are you, now and forever, Amen.

Children's Church Dismissal

Friendly Reminder: Children ages 3yrs-Kindergarten only

Children's Church takes place in the FMC 222 just outside the Sanctuary.  
Children are to be picked up from this location following the service.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY	Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming	arr. Howard Helvey
*Doxology:	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow	UMH #94
	Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!	

*SCRIPTURE:	Luke 1: 26-28	Pew Bible p. 931
	Leader: The Holy Scripture for the people of God. People: Thanks be to God!	



SERMON"Love Wins"Rev. Stephen Taylor

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF RESPONSEAngels We have Heard on HighUMH #238

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTIONGrace to You

\*POSTLUDECome, Thou Long-Expected Jesusarr. Mark Kellner

WORSHIP TODAY

**The lovely flowers are given:**

“Thanking God for his many blessings and in celebration of our wedding anniversary on December 21.”

- Mike & Lynn Mauldin

“In honor of our five grandchildren: Caroline, Ella, Olivia, Alex, and Easton.”

- John & Jill Bowen

**Crucifer** – Daniel Leuthner-Barrineau

**Acolyte** – Reeves Barrineau

**Advent Reader** – Sam Strait

**MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS**

Chancel Choir; Joey Rothfuss, organist; Mary Bonnett Chancel Chimers

Please don’t forget to turn off or mute electronic devices before you enter for worship. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: DECEMBER 17, 2023

- **The Living Nativity** is TODAY, Dec. 17, at 6 p.m. Join us for this service led by our Union Praise Band and watch our children participate in the story of Jesus’ birth.

- **Youth Christmas Movie Night** will be held tonight **Dec. 17**. We will be watching the timeless classic, *Elf*, and will have hot chocolate and other goodies and activities. This will begin directly after the Living Nativity in the FMC Gym. Dress cozy and bring blankets/pillows to crash on the floor together! Friends are welcome!

- **Basketball Tournament Help** – We need your help this January as Union is hosting the South Carolina UMC Tournament again! The dates are **Jan. 5-7**. We need a host of volunteers (50+ people) who aren’t Basketball parents, as well as good representation of Union as spectators! If you’re interested in and willing to volunteer by selling wristbands, running a scoreboard or in another way, please sign up at the link below 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>

- **Youth: Sign up NOW for Revolution 24!!!** - **Jan. 26-28** - This will be an incredible weekend of worship, fellowship, and fun! We will lock-in at the church the entire weekend and head downtown to the Township Auditorium for sessions. Worship will be led by SONS the Band and the word will be brought by Reggie Dabbs.The theme this year is We are One, based on Ephesians 4:2-6. Cost is \$100. Deadline to register (and get a t-shirt) is **Dec. 28!** Sign up today at the link below or on our website! Financial assistance is available as always, reach out to Eleanor at eleanor@unionirmo.org if needed. <https://union.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2028154>

- **The Living Christmas Story – Thank you!** - The 30<sup>th</sup> edition of TLCS started with a celebration on Wednesday, November 29, that included prayers for the rainy weekend forecast and God delivered! A total of **3,617 visitors** drove through Bethlehem and **169 dayschool students** walked through Bethlehem to become part of the story! While TLCS has come and gone, the blessings will continue.

*With gratitude and love we put away our “Backyard Bethlehem” for another year, but not before thanking the many people who made it possible.* This church-wide ministry involved people of all ages from newborns to our most senior members. We are grateful to all who helped. Volunteers prepared, repaired, and washed hundreds of costumes, laid miles of electrical wiring, placed lights, directed traffic, fed the cast and crew, assigned cast members, helped publicize the presentations, and did many other jobs, large and small, that were necessary for Union’s presentation of the story of our Savior’s birth. This was truly a church-wide ministry! And judging from all the comments of appreciation from people who traveled through our “backyard Bethlehem” it was worth every hour spent in our labor of love!

\* Please stand as you are able. Assistive hearing devices are available from the ushers.

NURSERY available in the Family Ministry Center: exit the hallway at the front right of the Sanctuary and take elevators to lower level.

UMH-The United Methodist Hymnal

\*\*CCLI#1197820 ONELICENSE # A-713187

- **The 2024 altar flower calendar is out!** Sign up for flowers and recognize a special Sunday in your life by stopping by the table in the Narthex. The cost is \$42.50 per vase.

- **Please note, the church office will be closed:** Friday, Dec. 22, Monday, Dec. 25, and Tuesday, Dec. 26, for the Christmas holiday.



Christmas Eve Services

Contemporary Candlelight at 11 a.m.

Traditional Candlelight at 5 p.m.

Happy New Year!

December 31 - New Years Eve

9 a.m. - Traditional worship

11 a.m. - Contemporary worship

Join us as we finish 2023 in worship!

THIS CHRISTMAS WE ASK THAT YOU CONSIDER DONATING TO OUR SNACK PACK PROGRAM AND HELP US FILL THE BELLIES OF THE CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY...

THE SNACK PACK MISSION

Snack Pack provides nutritional food for students who do not have enough to eat through the weekend. A growing need for the basics of a healthy meal has been identified in the district.

The hope in supplying nutritional food is not only to fill a hungry belly, but also to give children the focus to be ready to learn come Monday morning with out the worry of hunger.

Union is currently feeding 117 children per week at one school in our district.

AVERAGE COST/WEEK:

14 food items for each child

\$7.28 per food bag per week

117 children each week

Total Cost: \$852 per week

Stop by our Giving Tree in the Narthex for specific items we’re collecting.

Scan here for simple shopping or donate on our ‘GIVE’ page

Congregational Concerns

If you have a prayer concern, please write the information below and place it in the offering basket. You may also fill out the Prayer Request form on our website or you can email it to: Prayers@UnionIrmo.org.

Share with:

☐ Pastors

☐ Prayer Team

Prayer Requests...

Name (optional)