



UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

The Weak Signal

Jesus was walking through a small village. People were crushing in, wanting to see this miracle worker. There was some jostling around because they wanted to get close to him. Suddenly he stopped walking and asked, "Who touched me?"

The disciples were stunned. "Teacher, do you not see the crowds?" That didn't matter. He'd sensed the weak signal. Someone in great need, who didn't think she was worthy of notice, had reached out to touch his robe. He'd felt healing power go out from him. More than that, he knew there was someone who needed to know she was heard and seen, and worthy.

The same thing happened in the synagogue. There were officials to greet and his own followers to watch after. But Jesus took notice of a bent-over woman, barely visible in the back. His attention cut through all the noise and activity and he called her forward.

I have been reading lately about the power of AI (Artificial Intelligence) to cut through and analyze massive amounts of data and find connections that normally aren't visible. Computers can "see" patterns in our behavior, signals we might not even be aware of ourselves.

At MIT, researchers can point a camera across a room, and even through a wall, and determine whether you're dreaming or not. With 300 datapoints (such as "Likes" on Facebook or Instagram), AI can predict your personality better than your spouse or other family member. These computers can pick up on the weak signals we just don't see, or we overlook in our daily activity.

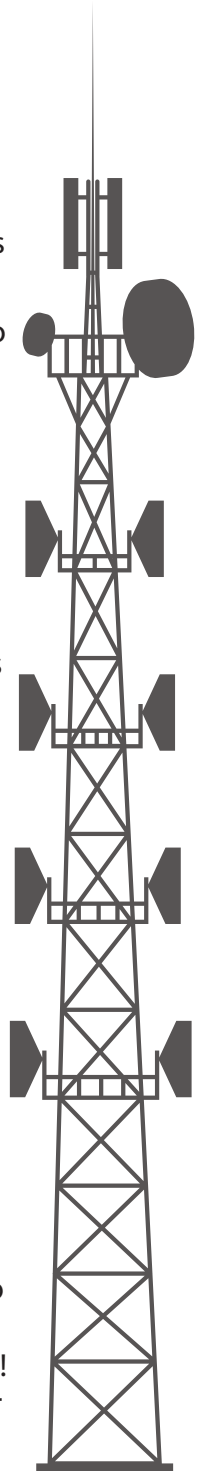
From the stories referenced above (and many others like them), Jesus was way ahead of AI, wasn't he!?! As writer Seth Godin puts it, "If the signal is very weak and the noise is large, it's easy to imagine that there's no signal at all." Jesus however, heard the weak signal and cut through all the noise to meet the need. Guess what, he still does that for us today!

I wonder if working with weak signals isn't one of God's methods. Think of the "signal" differences between Jesus' birth and his resurrection. Have you noticed that at Jesus' birth the signal is huge! There's a new star (or star alignment) in the sky that draws scholars across the desert. There's a heavenly chorus singing praise over a shepherd's field in Bethlehem. There's an official and murderous search for the "new-born king" who makes Herod feel threatened. Big signals.

At the resurrection, however, the signal is weak. A stone rolled away. An empty tomb. Women as witnesses. All the disciples afraid and in hiding. The greatest event in human history is left for "those who eyes to see, to see." Those with faith to believe, with an awareness of God's often quite but powerful ways are the ones who sense the weak signals and respond.

What if we became a people who stay alert for Godly weak signals? Can we grow in a sensitivity to God's Spirit doing new things in our midst? Can we "see" the ones, as Jesus did, who are overrun by the "noise" of life, but still need our attention and care and love? Of course we can, by His grace! We are made alive in Christ and that's part of what it means to be a Resurrection People! May your Lenten journey bring you to the fullness of joy this Easter!

-Stephen





A SERVICE OF HEALING

at Union UMC

7582 Woodrow St. Irmo, SC 29063

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

6:30 P.M.

You're invited to A Service of Healing at Union UMC

Out of his compassion, Jesus healed people to restore and reconcile the brokenness they experienced. Even now, the church is called to be a place to embrace this work. The purpose of this healing service is to provide a space for healing and wholeness to happen, where hope is renewed, and depleted bodies, minds and souls are touched in an atmosphere where we are confident that God will meet us and fill us! Come, seeking prayer for yourself, or pray for someone else. Come let God's healing love surround you.

This service is open to the public and all are welcome.

For more information please connection with us at:
unionirmoquestions@gmail.com

We're welcoming new members at both services on Sunday, March 17

If you're thinking about joining the Union family, this would be a perfect opportunity! Please get in contact with Erin at Erin@unionirmo.org about your desire to join.



Family Night Gatherings in March!

Join us on Wednesday evenings for suppers on
March 6, 13, and 20. Dinner is 5:15-6:15 p.m.

Sign ups are available online and in our weekly bulletins.
Sign ups are due by the Sunday prior by 5 p.m.

Menu for March 6: Soup and Sandwich Night

Menu for March 13: BBQ Night

Menu for March 20: Baked ham, au gratin potatoes,
green beans, rolls, salad

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday

March 24 Worship at 9 & 11 a.m.

Palm Sunday Processionals -

Keep an eye out in our bulletins and our weekly email
for our palm processional specifics for this year.



A local Good Friday worship option for those who are interested, at Windsor UMC -

12 Noon
MARCH 29TH



Windsor UMC

9500 Windsor Lake Blvd
Columbia, SC 29223

Rev. Leatha Brown-Host Pastor



THE AACW

African American Clergywomen

Seven Last Words

United Women in Faith Spotlight: Leona Hydrick Circle

We are a group of ladies (50s/60s-ish) that enjoy meeting Sept. - May to support each other as Sisters in Christ. We gather on the first Thursday of the month, generally around 6:30 p.m. at various locations. Sometimes we meet in a member's home, at a restaurant, or at the church depending on the activity. We share our joys and prayer concerns. We have good conversation in a relaxing atmosphere, with a few laughs that are good for the soul! This is a group for fellowship with other Christian ladies.

We support United Women of Faith groups such as Killingsworth, Wallace Family Life, and Bethlehem Center. In addition, we support Epworth Independent Living Cottage by collecting snacks and/or gift cards for pizza, Uber, Chick Fil A, etc. for young adults that live there. These adults have aged out of Epworth but still need assistance with heading out into life on their own. They are provided housing and basic meals with an onsite advisor. These adults are required to either have a job, be a student, or be preparing to enter the military. We have been providing support this cottage for several years and often hear how much they appreciate our support.

We welcome all ladies to visit our meeting in hopes that you too will find Christian friends and join our Circle. For questions and information about where our meeting will be held, please reach out to Mandy Ayers at 803-622-5639!

PEP! - People Enjoying People!

Bingo & Board Games -

Wednesday, **March 13**, at 1p.m. in the Fellowship Hall! We would love to have you join us!



March Event! -

Thursday, **March 21**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a catered meal by The Peanut Man. Our speaker is Officer Christopher Stokes of Irmo Police presenting Safety in the Home and Community. Sign up sheets will be in Sunday School boxes. Cost is \$15 per person, and sign ups are due by Sunday, **March 17**. Sign ups will be in Sunday School boxes.

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

The Wilson Circle Book Club

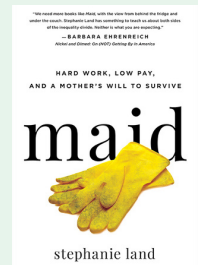
We will discuss *Daughter of Cana* by Angelia Hunt on **March 12**. Our book for our **April 9** meeting is *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive* by Stephanie Land.

These meetings will be held in the Fellowship Hall following the regular meeting of the Wilson Circle which begins at 12:00 p.m. If you are attending the Book Club but not the circle, please plan to arrive at 1:10 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Harriet Simpson at 803-530-5060 or Becky Dixon at 803-361-5046.

March
Book -



April
Book -



"IF"
Women's Weekend

MARTHA'S
EVENTS

Save the Date and join us in person for
Jennie Allen's Virtual "IF" conference
April 19th & 20th
Union United Methodist Chapel

Please join the
NIKKI CIRCLE

2024 SPRING MEETING DATES

MARCH 24TH - 4PM

APRIL 28TH - 4PM

Little Ladies Circle for ages 4-5th grade
Devotions, fellowship and fun

Meet on the playground or Wesley Center for weather
More info email mgcochcroft@gmail.com or smarant9@hotmail.com



Will you help us pack the eggs full of treats?
 We will have empty eggs available for pick up on **March 3** after both worship services. We need them returned by **March 17**! Thank you for your help!



The Big Hunt is happening!
 Are you ready for the fun of hiding tons of eggs and help our kids find their eggs?
 Mark your calendars for **March 23 at 10 a.m.** for Union's Annual Easter Egg Hunt. There will be games, crafts and of course THE BIG HUNT!
 The SIPS Coffee Truck will be there too!



Vacation Bible School is coming!
 Let's go camping **June 17-20**, Monday thru Thursday. **(Notice we have shifted our days this year).**
 We will be heading to "Camp Firelight: A summer camp adventure with God."
 Volunteer sign up will be coming soon. We will need many prayers in the planning, help with small groups, registration, crafts and recreation. Start thinking and planning to camp out with us this summer!



SonZone!



Our 4th and 5th graders are learning to Be Bold this Spring!
 Join us and bring your friends Sunday nights at 4:45-6 p.m. We are meeting in the Education Building upstairs for games, snacks and of course lessons.
 Check out our schedule to see what we have going on!

March 3	Be Bold! - 3
March 10	Be Bold! - 4
March 17	Be Bold! - 5
March 24	Be Bold! - 6
March 31	Happy Easter! - No SonZone



Save the Date!

April 20 - 11-2 p.m.

June 15 - 11-2 p.m.

August 3 - 11-2 p.m.

October 12 - 11-2 p.m.

November 23 - 11-2 p.m.

Do you need a break or need to get things done around the house and childcare is so expensive?
 Check out our Parent's Time Out this year.

We are offering 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every other month 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.

RSVP by the Wednesday before to Andrea Williams at: andreamarie6368@gmail.com be sure to include any allergies when you sign up.



Easter Egg My Yard!

FILLED EASTER EGGS
DELIVERED TO YOUR
YARD & HIDDEN!
\$25/DOZ + \$10/ADDTL DOZ

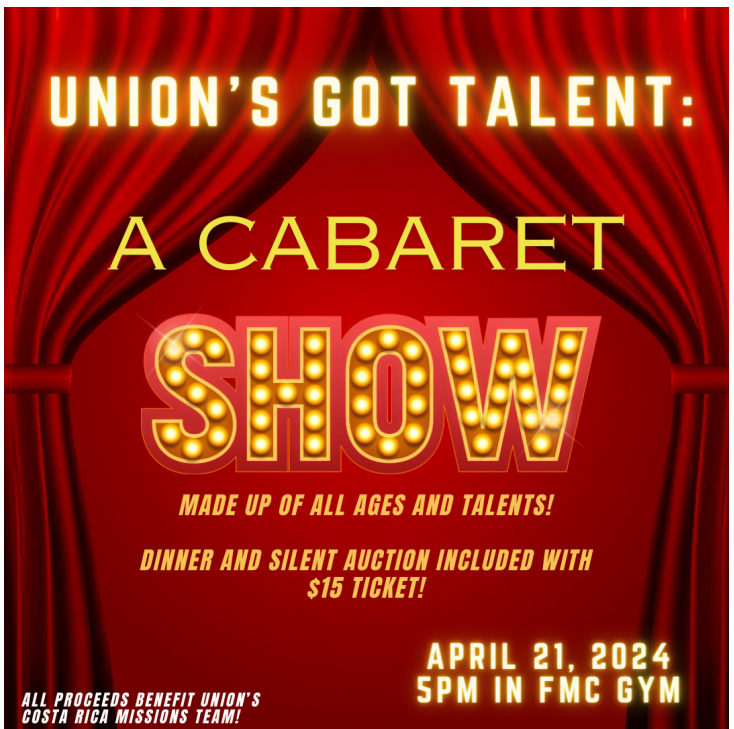
DELIVERY ON SAT 3/30 TO
ANY ADDRESS IN IRMO/CHAPIN
AREA.

All Proceeds go to Union
United Methodist Church
Youth Missions!

Sign up here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeI0ULqR9V9LjpfIBuFJMGU8h8Gdkrn9tSTxK-n9prSqYOBg/viewform?usp=sf_link



Scan the QR code on the left
to sign up for your Easter
Egg Delivery today!



UNION'S GOT TALENT: A CABARET SHOW

MADE UP OF ALL AGES AND TALENTS!

DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION INCLUDED WITH
\$15 TICKET!

APRIL 21, 2024
5PM IN FMC GYM

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT UNION'S
COSTA RICA MISSIONS TEAM!

TALENT SHOW: What is your talent? Music? Art? Baking?

"Union's Got Talent: A Cabaret Show"
will be presented on Sunday, April 21 at 5 p.m.

Submissions to perform/participate are open!

Sign up today by filling out a form during one of our
worship services or by contacting Eleanor Cannon
at eleanor@unionirmo.org!

Dinner and the show, along with a silent auction,
will be a fundraiser event for Union's Costa Rica
Missions Team.

Please begin planning how you can sign up to participate
with your Union Family in an evening of fellowship, fun
and fundraising for God's work in Costa Rica!

Confirmation Scavenger Hunt & Rehearsal - April 6, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

This is a day our confirmands and mentors
won't want to miss! There will be an awesome
scavenger hunt, lunch and rehearsal for
Confirmation Sunday.

Confirmation Sunday is April 14, 2024

Be sure to attend our one worship service
at 10:30 a.m. on April 14 to support and
celebrate everyone who is being confirmed
into our Union church family!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

PARENTS: We need your help!

Each Sunday we have a meal for our Youth and
we need YOUR help to make these meals happen!

Sign up at the link below to help prepare and
serve a meal on a Sunday evening. We do ask that
each parent signs up for at least 1 meal each year.

There are plenty of spaces open,
so let's get them filled!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D48AEA92AA5FDC25-sunday2#/>

Joy Class Spring Garage Sale



We need your unwanted treasures!

Joy Class Spring Garage Sale!

Save the date: April 27, 2024

Please save your treasures and donations. Drop offs and pick ups start April 22-25 from 9 AM-6 PM and Friday, 9 AM-12 noon.

PLEASE: No TVs, monitors, armoires, large or metal desks, large furniture, mattresses, box springs, high chairs, cribs, baby car seats, magazines, encyclopedias, NON WORKING, SOILED or DAMAGED items.

If you have any questions please contact Charles Ayer at 803-447-0212. Thank you for your continued support!

**The Church office will be closed
March 29 for Good Friday.**

Memorials - January 28 - February 25

Memorials received in memory of:

Dr. Dave Gatti By: Lisa and Alan Bishop

James Walter Rone By: Nora Whitley

Billy McCathern By: Ruthie and Bob Cooper, Llewellyn and Herb Hames, Jane Graham, Carol and Robert Hill, and Ronda and William Richardson

Richard Jackson By: Llewellyn and Herb Hames

Reida Baines By: Llewellyn and Herb Hames

Forrest Bouknight By: Llewellyn and Herb Hames

Robert Gantt By: Llewellyn and Herb Hames

William "Bill" Melven By: Llewellyn and Herb Hames

Keith and Lesley Berkeley By: Llewellyn and Herb Hames, and Jane Graham

Bryan Graham By: James Locicero, Llewellyn and Herb Hames, Kathy and Sid Upton, Margaret and George Todd, Leona McCathern, Wendy and Joe Clark, Janet and Gene Zentz, and Brenda and Phil Teague

Bo Ellisor By: Llewellyn and Herb Hames, and Ronda and William Richardson

John Lucas By: Llewellyn and Herb Hames

Ron McCathern By: Llewellyn and Herb Hames, Jane Graham, Carol and Robert Hill, and Brenda and Phil Teague

Richard Findley (Beth Montgomery's Father) By: Llewellyn and Herb Hames

Alice Milligan By: Alice Marlowe

Tedi Neely Butler By: Kelly and Gary Davis, and Robin and E. Keith Adams

Evelyn McEntyre (Joyce's Stokley's Mother) By: Elizabeth and Donald Allen



Best of Niagara Falls, Canada, and the Amish Country Trip - July 13, 2024

This is a PEP! trip, but is open to all family and friends. Also included: *Daniel* at the Sight & Sound Theatre. Trip starts **July 13, 2024**.

Meals included are 5 Continental Breakfasts and 3 Dinners. Price per person: Double: \$1389; Triple: \$1279; Quad: \$1225; Single: \$1779.

Deposit of \$350 per person and insurance is due at the time of booking. ***Claim your spot now!*** Final payment is due June 13, 2024.

Please contact Faye Bailey at faye Bailey424@gmail.com or 803.331.4349 for itinerary, reservation forms and questions.



**Join us on Sunday, April 28,
as we celebrate our Day School
during both services!**

Light refreshments with our families
will be served in the Wesley Center
at 10 a.m.

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

IN MEMORIAM

Joyce Stokely in the loss of her mother,
Evelyn McEntire

Betsy Drye in the loss of her father,
Robert A. Johnson

Chase and Megan Jones in the loss of a close friend
(and Union visitor),
David Fuller

Betty Thomas Willyerd in the loss of her father,
Rev. J. Herbert Thomas

ROSEBUD **(in celebration of the birth of)**

Clara Rose Walsh was born February 1.
She was born to Hailey and Thomas Walsh,
our Assistant Director of Youth Ministries.

James Callan Ford was born February 16.
He was born to Kelsey and Joe Ford.
His grandparents are Rev's Stephen and Cynthia Taylor.

Jensen Ryan Waltemire was born February 20.
He was born to Kayla and Eli Waltemire,
our Finance Director.



The April Union Connection Deadline is March 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 Director
Eli Waltemire

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



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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



Nurturing a
Healthy
Heart

**A Lenten Sermon Series
February 18 - March 17**

*Join us in person or online,
to hear each piece of this series!*

**YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR
Easter Egg Hunt!**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD
AT 10 A.M.**

At Union UMC
7582 Woodrow St. Irmo, SC 29063

Families with children up to 5th grade
will hunt together.

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

