



# UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

## Thy Kingdom Come

Every Sunday, when the congregation joins together to say the Lord's Prayer, we pray for God's Kingdom to come to pass. "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done," we pray. This is a prayer that the rule of God will replace the rule of men and women. It should be our most fervent prayer.

Looking at our world, it doesn't take long to see that the rule of humankind is seriously flawed. It doesn't matter your political slant, we know there's always a big difference between what's promised in an election and what actually comes to pass. We make saints out of some and devils out of others, but the truth is "there is no one righteous, no, not one." And we ourselves are implicated when instead of praying for God's wisdom to guide our leaders, we judge and gossip and even slander them— things I'm pretty sure the Bible tells us not to do.

The failure of the kingdoms of this world is not just expressed in politics, nor is it only in obvious places of conflict and war. We see and feel the effects in broken homes, addictive lifestyles, unethical business practices, bureaucratic inflexibility, systemic prejudice and racism, and just plain old greed and meanness. We all know there is injustice in our world, and secretly most of us just hope to be on the side that benefits from it.

A friend of mine told me about his father's "ancient" truck. Once it was a "pick-up" truck but now it's a "patched-up" truck. The odometer broke a few years ago, after recording over 200 thousand miles. But his dad keeps tinkering with it. After a new bellowing of smoke from the exhaust, his dad reluctantly took it to his mechanic and asked, "What needs to be fixed now?" The mechanic took a quick look and told him, "Nothing. You need to stop patching this thing and get a new truck."

We are a lot like that truck owner. We've patched and tinkered with our lives, all the while thinking one day we'll get it right. We come to church looking for the scripture or the idea that explains things for us, or inspires us to get through another week. We want enough of God to get us through the immediate difficulty, but not so much that we have to make real changes in our lives. We tell ourselves that we can fix what's wrong, or at least manage it. But we resist, however, turning it all over to God. And yet we pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done."

I believe that the prayer for God's rule in our lives is the central prayer of the church. Seeking God's kingdom is the one prayer that can shatter our complacency and lead us to the life called abundant. Let's keep praying it together at church, until Jesus' prayer becomes the prayer of our lives. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Blessings, Stephen

***One Worship - April 14 - 10:30 a.m. - Confirmation Sunday***  
***Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.***



Carol McCord

## Welcome New Members!

We welcomed several new members into the Union family on March 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)*



Katherine (Kay)  
Virginia Brown



Sarah, Theresa & Oliver  
Densford



Rene'e Gilkerson



Karen & Jeff Nates



## Grits, Grace and Gratitude

On Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, the ladies of Union observed the first Saturday of Lent with the third annual Grits, Grace and Gratitude sponsored by the United Women in Faith. The ladies enjoyed fellowship and brunch together followed by Jean How's wonderful program on the season of Lent, the liturgical colors used during Lent and Holy Week as well as information and pictures of the actual crown of thorns placed on Jesus' head. As we talked through Holy Week, each participant was able to place small cloths as paraments on handmade wooden crosses. At the conclusion of the program, all attendees took home their own small wooden cross and the paraments to go with it. Many thanks to Jean How for a wonderful program and to Jonathan Tucker who made the crosses for everyone.





## United Women in Faith Spotlight: New Ventures Circle

New Ventures Circle meets September through May on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the church, in member's homes, at local restaurants, and other locations. We support the Union Snack Pack program, Killingsworth Home, church projects, and other needs with funds raised from our annual pecan sale. At Christmas and other holidays, we support local families and the veterans at Tucker Center. We also provide support for the Union Blessing Box. We get together for a Christmas party and a barbecue with spouses/friends.

Our members lead devotions and lessons. In addition, this year we have hosted two church wide events with speakers on brain health and women's self-defense (**April 8** - see page 9 for more information on this event). Our members are 55+, but women of all ages are always welcome to join us for fun, fellowship and service.

For more information, contact Lynn Myers 803-730-2645 or Doris Keith 803-518-3429.

## Praying for General Conference

The United Methodist Church General Conference is meeting April 23-May 3 in Charlotte, NC.

General Conference is the denomination's highest legislative body, and will be making many decisions in the eleven days they are meeting. While General Conference typically gathers every four years, due to the pandemic, this will be the first time they've met since May 2016.

**During these 11 days, we invite you to join us in praying for the many aspects of General Conference.** There are several ways you can participate.

**Pick up a prayer booklet**, which focuses on a different aspect of General Conference for each of the 11 days. These booklets will be ready for you to pick up in the narthex starting Sunday, April 14.

- Set aside a particular time each day to read and pray for General Conference.

- You can join us in praying the clock where day 1 will start at 8 a.m., day 2 would be 9 a.m. and so on so by the end of the 11 days, we have covered 8 a.m.- 7 p.m. in prayer.

**Sign up for a prayer vigil time slot.** General Conference meets for 11 days from 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. each day. We will have a sign-up board in the narthex starting Sunday, April 14, where you can sign up and commit to praying for General Conference during a specified time. There are 44 time slots and more than one person can sign up for a time slot.

- Set aside time to be at Union in prayer for General Conference. We will set aside space in the library, LL 13, for prayer.

- Set aside this time slot during your day to pray for General Conference.

**Follow our social media pages** and keep an eye out for our posts praying for General Conference and share it! The more people praying for General Conference, their discernment and wisdom, the better!

**Check out our website**, starting Sunday, April 14, where we will have a link to an online version of the prayer booklet. You will be able to read it there or download your own copy.

**Thank you for joining with us in praying for General Conference.**



## Union's Endowment Fund

Are you familiar with the Union UMC Permanent Endowment Fund? The Fund was established to provide you with a way to leave a lasting gift that will provide for the missions and ministries of Union church for generations to come. While current cash gifts are always welcomed, we are asking that you consider making a planned gift by remembering the Endowment Fund in your estate planning. The gift you give is permanent, meaning that the gift you give will be used to generate income and capital gains, which are used for distributions, but the principal gift will always remain in the fund.

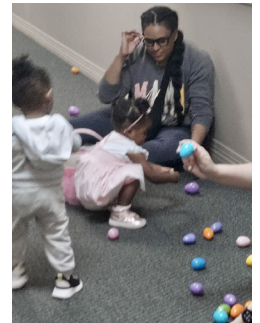
A gift to the Endowment Fund ensures that Union will continue to have an impact on the lives in our community for generations to come. To find out more about the Endowment Fund and ways in which you can give to the Fund, please see the Endowment webpage on our Union website under the "More" menu option, or go directly to the page by typing <https://www.unionirmo.org/endowment> into your web browser.





## World Day of Prayer with Union Day School

The Prayer Warriors ministry teamed up with our Day School for a week of prayer leading up to World Day of Prayer on March 1. The theme for the week was "Jesus loves the little children". The children learned about prayer and other topics such ways to pray and that people all over the world pray in different languages. They ended the week with a small prayer gathering, singing songs, and praying together! Thank you to Susan Harrison and Ann Copelan for organizing such a special event!



## Easter Egg Hunt!

We had so much fun hunting eggs during our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 23<sup>rd</sup>!! Our children had a great time making Easter bags, egg / cross reveals, and chompers that revealed a chick or bunny. Then we tested our skills at Easter egg ring toss, Chick bowling, Egg on a spoon race and a bean bag toss. All around the gym we had giant foam eggs with clues on that our families had to find to complete the scavenger hunt.

Then, of course, the BIG hunt happened! We had 3 areas where families were divided up to hunt Easter Eggs. Baskets were filled and little feet were everywhere finding eggs all over our church campus. Thank you Union for all your help before and during our morning of fun! We appreciate all your time and treat filled eggs! We are already looking forward to next year's hunt!







## SonZone!

Hey Friends! We are in the downhill swing of our SonZone year and we are excited about the next couple weeks.

We hope all our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will join us Sunday nights at 4:45 p.m. for some games, snacks and lessons on being BOLD.

Watch the schedule as there are some special weeks we won't meet.

April 7	Do pets go to heaven?
April 14	Does the bible say some sins are worse than others?
April 21	No SonZone - Youth fundraiser
April 28	Where is God in hard times?
May 5	What does the bible say I'm supposed to be when I grow up?
May 12	No SonZone - Happy Mother's Day!
May 19	Wrap Party - Foam Party (Definitely wear soapy clothes!)



### 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 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.

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



## Vacation Bible School is coming!

Are you ready for a week of Camp fun?

Join us for Vacation Bible School as we head to "Camp Firelight: A summer camp adventure with God".

**June 17-20 (Mon- Thurs) from 6:15-8 p.m.**

The QR codes are active and ready to hear from you!

**Volunteers** - let us know how you can help! Some areas we will need help are: small group leaders, crafts, recreation, pack snack bags (before our week), traffic, and prayers for all our team and participants.

Volunteer Sign Up -



Parent Sign Up -



**Parents** - sign your kids up! (Please fill out a separate form for each child).

Be on the look out for our VBS friend Lumen...he will be stopping to check on preparations and be with us all week as we learn about God's love!

**Save the Date** and help us celebrate as we close our Vacation Bible School week at a Fireflies baseball game!



**June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:05 p.m.** we have reserved a block of tickets for a night out. Tickets will be \$11 each.

Watch for a link and how to order your tickets. This is open to anyone who wants to enjoy a night of baseball.





## Winter Retreat Fun Feb 16 - 19



## Middle School Lock In Fun March 2-3







## 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!

Sign up for  
Union's Got Talent  
by scanning this  
QR code!



## 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#/>

## UNION'S GOT TALENT: A CABARET

## SHOW

*DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDED WITH  
\$15 TICKET!*

*SILENT AUCTION WITH A LARGE VARIETY OF  
ITEMS TO BID ON!*

✪✪ ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT UNION'S  
COSTA RICA MISSIONS TEAM! ✪✪

APRIL 21, 2024  
5PM IN FMC GYM

## 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](mailto: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!

## Chick-fil-A Night!

Join the Costa Rica Mission team at Chick-Fil-A in Ballentine starting at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> as they raise money to support their mission this summer!

All you have to do is place a Mobile Order and mention Union when you place the order and the Costa Rica team will receive 10% of all sales from mobile orders that night! Tell your family and friends to go as well and get some good chicken and support this amazing team!

## Gather and Grow at Union UMC

featuring messages from  
Jennie Allen's "IF" Retreat



Join your sisters in Christ for this years  
"IF" women's workshop  
as we set our eyes on Jesus  
April 19th & 20th  
Union United Methodist  
7582 Woodrow Street  
Irmo, SC  
Hosted by the Martha Circle

**Friday**  
**4:30-5:30pm**  
Meet & Mingle at  
Craft & Draft Irmo  
(optional)  
7583 St Andrews Rd  
**5:45-6:00pm**  
Registration at  
Union UMC  
**6:00-9:00pm**  
Dinner, Worship &  
Fellowship

**Saturday**  
**8:30-9:00am**  
Light breakfast  
**9:00am-12:00pm**  
Worship & Fellowship  
  
Questions? call or text  
803-463-1586



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

During the 10 a.m. hour we  
will have a drop-in in the  
Wesley Center, with light  
refreshments, come meet  
and greet our children and  
their families!



## Joy Class Spring Garage Sale



**Saturday, April 27, 2024 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

***We need your unwanted treasures!***

*Please hold items until the week of the garage sale due to limited storage.*

### **Items we're collecting:**

Clothes, shoes, toys, bicycles,  
furniture, jewelry, housewares, linens,  
sporting goods, hardware, crafts, video  
& audio tapes, CDs, books, baby items

**Working:** Appliances, mowers,  
& power tools

**Please: No TVs, monitors, armoires, large  
or metal desks, furniture, mattresses, box  
springs, high chairs, cribs, magazines,  
encyclopedias, Non-Working, Soiled or  
Damaged items.**

### **Donation Drop Off**

Mon, Apr. 22 - Thurs, Apr. 25

9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Fri, April 26 - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

*Your dropping items off is helpful & appreciated!*

### **Donation Pick Up**

To schedule a pick up, please call as  
soon as possible, contact Charles Ayer  
at 803.447.0212

*Thank you for your continued support!*







## Pickleball at Union has begun!

We've had a great start to this new activity! For the first three weeks we did an introductory class, taught by Amy and Scott Conley, where those who were interested could come learn how to play. We also had open play on Tuesday evenings held by the Leisure Team members that offered a faster paced atmosphere for people to jump in and start playing.

We are excited to share the FMC Gym is now open and available for open play Adult Pickleball on Tuesdays from 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. as well as Fridays from 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. most weeks. Reserved play is available on Tuesdays from 12-6 p.m. and Fridays 12-5 p.m. Tutorials are available, if needed. Please contact the UnionIrmoLeisureTeam@gmail.com if you need a tutorial.

You may sign up as a single or with a partner. Please do not sign up a team. Teams may contact the church office for occasional private reservation of the gym.

Every person who enters the court must sign a Union Recreation and Leisure Ministries Liability Waiver, which you can find on our website or on the Pickleball sign up page.

Sign up by scanning the QR code (right) to reserve your slot for Pickleball today!



Sign up for  
Pickleball  
here!



### Do you need the help of a TRANSPORTATION ANGEL?

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 ANGELS 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.

### Special Thanks

Many heartfelt thanks to all our Union family for the outpouring of care, calls, prayers, cards, and more over the loss of Kim. We appreciate everyone of you!

- Jimmy Munn & family

## Memorials - February 26 - March 25

### Memorials received in memory of:

**Bryan Graham By:** Barbara and Mac Graham, and Janette and Lester Blackwell

**Kim Munn Chandler (Jimmy Munn's daughter) By:** Llewellyn and Herb Hames

**Luke Utter By:** Judy Weston, Joan and Orris Bickley, Patricia Swygert, Mandy and Charles Ayers, Aline Leitner Fellowship Sunday School Class, and Llewellyn and Herb Hames



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

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Robert “Bob” E. McClintock**  
**May 22, 1930 - February 2024**

Joan Bickley in the loss of her brother,  
**Rev. James F. Shealy**

**William “Luke” L. Utter**  
**June 17, 1929 - February 28, 2024**

Jimmy Munn in the loss of his daughter,  
**Kim Munn Chandler**

Brian Samson in the loss of his mother,  
**Iola Samson**

Corey Ann Lacey in the loss of two son-in-laws.

Jean and George How in the loss of their niece,  
**Mary Katherine “Katie” Shealy**

Renee Pippin in the loss of her mother,  
**Harriet Wilfong**

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

**Olivia Ann Pellicci** was born March 17. She was born to Joel and Sarah Pellicci. Her sister is Maddie. Olivia's grandmother is Anita Pellicci, and her great grandparents are Bob and Jackie Hall.

Several staff are attending a conference in Georgia, April 23-25. The office will still be open, but there will be limited availability to those attending the conference.

**The May Union Connection Deadline**  
**is April 12.**

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**

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**

Assistant Day School Director  
**Paige Morgan**

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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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.

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# UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina



*Join us this Sunday  
for Easter Sunday!  
Celebrate Christ is  
risen with us!*

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

