



# UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

## Who Has The Remote?

At a wedding reception the father of the bride made the first toast of the evening, and it was the only one I remembered. Well, I don't remember all of it, just his conclusion, which was some advice for the couple. "Remember," he said, looking primarily at his daughter, "you've got to learn to share the (TV) remote control."

We all laughed of course, but you could tell he didn't say it just for a joke. It was his way of reminding his daughter and new son-in-law that you can't assume to have things your own way, and that there are many times you have to hand control over to your spouse. It was good advice, not just for that couple, but for all of us.

I thought his imagery was insightful. Many times, it is in the little things (like sharing a remote control) where the big problems begin to show up. The respect we feel toward others becomes evident not in our public displays, but in the small acts, often overlooked by others. Are we willing to let others have choices, or do we have to have things "our way?" Are we willing to deny ourselves or be inconvenienced for the sake of someone else?

Someone once said: I don't worry about the parts of the Bible I don't understand, I have enough trouble with the parts I do understand. That being the case, we might wish the following passage from Philippians wasn't so clear and understandable. *"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus."* (Phil 2)

That passage presents us with a big challenge, especially in the contentious, ever-changing world in which we live. Today, people are often applauded for taking offense at what others say or who they are. Today, we are regularly told to look out for ourselves, or to "get ours," rather than to look *"to the interests of others."* Following the parts of scripture that are easily understood may require a counter-cultural effort.

Even in the church, there are times when we each will be inconvenienced – times when we are expected to "watch the program someone else chose," so to speak. Some people won't like this and will move on to other places or become inactive. But I think most of us realize that sharing the remote is part of what it takes to live together as the body of Christ.

"You have to learn to share the remote control," the bride's father said. It's a great reminder not just for watching TV but for living. And with football season approaching, it's a reminder I need. But then, don't we all?

Blessings to each, -Stephen



# Salkehatchie SUMMER SERVICE

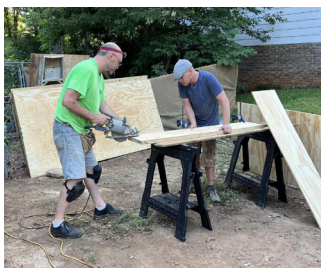
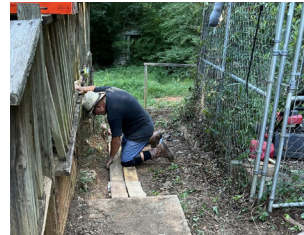


## Lake Murray Salkehatchie 2024

THANK YOU!!! On behalf of the 2024 Lake Murray Salkehatchie campers, we wish to thank the members of Union UMC for your generous support for this year's camp. Thank you for your willingness to serve and being the Hands and Feet of Christ in our community.

After a pause of 4 years, we were excited to be back in action. This year we were a small but mighty group of workers. With your support we were able to work on one site this year and as a result we completed our expectations and more. Our prayer is not only that we were able to physically change their home, but also their hearts by showing the love of Christ.

Thank you, Union for your space, meals, donations and prayers for the 13 years of dedication. We look forward to many more years to come!  
- Jason Barrs & Jennifer Donkle, Camp Directors





## United Women in Faith Spotlight: Heritage Circle

The Heritage Circle meets on the second Thursday of the month at 11:00am in the Multi-Purpose Room off the gym. Refreshments are provided each month by two of our members. Our programs are often led by one of our members on a variety of topics or we periodically bring in outside speakers as well. We concentrate on Christian fellowship, ministering support to one another and serving local missions that support women, children and the elderly. Our main missions are Killingsworth, the Brain Center and the Snack Pack Program. We also sponsor an annual church and community-wide Blood Drive. We would love to have new members join us. Please come out and visit us one month to see if we are a fit for you.



### Summer PEP Trips

Check out some pictures from our recent PEP (People Enjoying People) trips! They recently went to the Twin Creeks Lavender Farm in Williamston, as well as a trip to Niagara Falls and to the Sight & Sound Theatre. Keep an eye out for more trips they hvae planned where you might like to join them!



### ENDOWMENT FUN FACTS!!

#### INFLATION!!! WOW!!

We have all experienced increased costs, especially in the last 2 years.

We hear sayings like 'purchasing power' or 'the dollar won't buy what it used to.'

#### Consider these price increases:

1lb Ground Chuck	9/2004 - \$2.51	9/2022 - \$4.89
Dozen Eggs	9/2004 - \$1.15	12/2022 - \$4.25
Big Mac	2002 - \$2.35	2024 - \$5.69
Ave Richland Co. Home	6/2019 - \$159,112	5/2024 - \$247,501

This is why the Endowment Committee takes inflation seriously and includes it in our calculations for disbursement. We want to make sure the contributions you make today can support the same facility projects, outreach and missions of the Church 40 years from now and beyond.

(For Example: Since 2019, the fund has received \$164,358 in gifts. Adjusting the gifts for inflation, our Corpus is \$192,572. We will not distribute any funds that will take the balance below the Corpus.) This allows the Legacy Gift to be permanent and maintain its purchasing power.





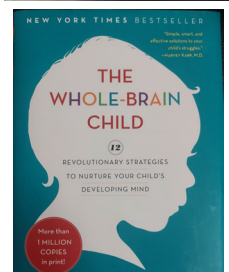
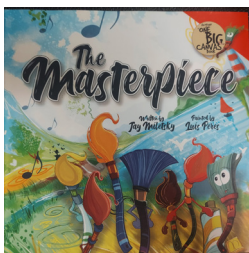
## Vacation Bible School

Let's start with a big THANK YOU to all the our volunteers the week of Vacation Bible School! And a huge THANK YOU to everyone who supported and prayed for our volunteers and kids during Bible school. We had a wonderful week learning and playing. We learned that God Goes With Us, God Will Lead The Way, God Will Share Wisdom, and God Gives Us Peace. We created so many amazing crafts from a firefly jar to a colorful cross. And our kids and volunteers did an amazing job of supporting our mission for the week, the Snack Pack Program. We hope you saw how full the Narthex was with grits, applesauce and macaroni and cheese. Have a great rest of your summer and we can't wait to see what next summer holds!



## Parent and Kid's Library

Hey Parents and Kids!! We have checked in some NEW books. Thanks to the Disciple II Class of Union who donated over 20 books for kids and parents. Stop by the Education Building upstairs and see what all has been added. Make sure to look for the great new series, much like the "Magic Treehouse" books these are called "The Hidden Scrolls." Travel to Bible times and experience what happened.







## Save the Date!

August 3 - 11-2 p.m.

October 19 - 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](mailto:andreamarie6368@gmail.com) be sure to include any allergies when you sign up.

## Sunday School Teacher Recognition!

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 4  
9-9:30 a.m.**

**Calling all children and youth Sunday School Teachers!**

If you've taught during the 2023-24 school year or you're signed up for the 2024-25 school year - we want to say thank you!

Join us for a brief reception in the Wesley Center on Aug. 4 at 9 a.m. Everyone is invited to help us celebrate these awesome teachers!

*Light Breakfast snacks will be served*

## BACK TO SCHOOL BASH



Concert by the Union Praise Band, followed by Food Trucks, games for everyone, and "Blessing the Backpacks" so make sure you bring yours!

Help us collect supplies for D5's Snack Pack program for the upcoming school year by bringing individually wrapped food items to donate!

*Everyone is welcome to join us for this evening of fun and worship!*



## Safety Town & Career Camp

What an exciting week we had! Union United Methodist had the opportunity to host 2 camps in one week July 8-11.

In the mornings preschool kids came from around the community to participate in Safety Town. Every morning the children learned so much, from their telephone number and address to when to call 911. The children had visitors from Irmo, Lexington, and Richland Police Departments to a ranger from Saluda Shoals Park. The children even had the opportunity to learn the difference between a service animal and a therapy animal.

In the afternoons elementary age kids came to Career Camp where some of our same guests from the morning shared with our older kid about their jobs. They introduced the kids to what it is to be a plumber, to pharmacist to police officer. What a great opportunity to teach kids all about what they can be when they grow up.







## Costa Rica Mission Trip

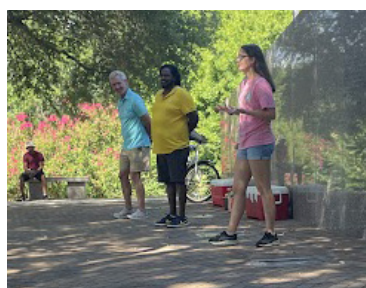
We were truly blessed with an amazing trip to Costa Rica. Our team of 28 worked alongside a group from The Church of the Resurrection from Kansas City and the people of Santa Marta. We were able to make great progress on the Parsonage and Education Building at the church in Santa Marta, as well as assist with the day care at the Costa Rica Missions Project. God was truly at work as we did hard, physical labor in working on the buildings, spending time and building relationships with the children at the day care, and building/growing in relationship with one another.

THANK YOU to all of you in our incredible Union Church family who supported our team with both prayers and financial gifts. We were honored to serve God and our greater church family in Costa Rica and represent Union while doing so.



## Summer Activities

This summer, besides our trip to Costa Rica, we have had fun playing kickball, having a movie night, serving at Sharing God's Love, and participating in a Bible Study with The Real Church who ministers specifically to those experiencing homelessness. Check out some of the fun!





## Youth Leadership Breakfast & Training

Sunday, **August 18**, at 10am in the FMC Gym Multipurpose Room. This training is for ALL Youth Leaders - Sunday School and Small Group. Please plan to attend! Contact Eleanor Cannon if you have any questions at [Eleanor@unionirmo.org](mailto:Eleanor@unionirmo.org).



YOUTH OF UNION:  
JOIN US FOR FOOD, SWIMMING &  
BOATING!

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\*WE'LL ALSO WELCOME OUR RISING  
6TH GRADERS INTO THE FAM!\*

August 18th  
3p.m. - 5p.m.  
2000 Johnson Marina Rd. - Chapin

Bring towel, life jacket (if you have one), sunscreen & friends!



## YOUTH CONFIRMATION

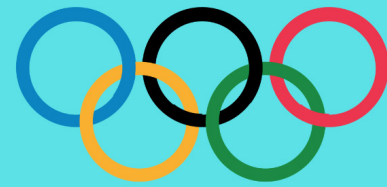
Classes begin on Sunday, **September 8**, at 10am with a Parent Orientation meeting in the Underground. If you/ your student would like to be part of the Confirmation class of 2025, and have not received a registration packet, please contact Eleanor Cannon at [Eleanor@unionirmo.org](mailto:Eleanor@unionirmo.org).

## Kitchen Sign-Ups

Parents: We need your help again in the kitchen for the upcoming year to help prep, serve, and clean up after youth meals. We ask that each parent sign up for at least 1 Sunday per year. Sign up today!



## YOUTH OF UNION 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 25**  
**5-7 PM**  
**BRING FRIENDS!**

## Parent Worship Night

YOUTH PARENTS come out for our first "ministry" night to worship together with our students on **September 8!** Students and parents are welcome to meet for dinner and recreation time in the FMC Gym starting at 4:30pm before we head over to the Chapel for worship & large group. Following worship, you'll go to your student's small group room to meet their leader and see what Youth of Union is all about! Don't miss this fun night of worship and connection!

All parents are strongly encouraged to attend!  
Friends are always welcome!

## 9/13-15 FALL RETREAT

LOOK UP LODGE

## SAVE THE DATE FOR FALL RETREAT!

Retreat will be held **September 13-15** at Look Up Lodge.  
**Registration will open August 1 and will close September 8.**

Sign up now and plan to be part of this weekend of spiritual refreshment and fellowship! Cost will be \$200. Financial assistance is available. Contact Eleanor Cannon with any questions at [Eleanor@unionirmo.org](mailto:Eleanor@unionirmo.org).







## Our Union Day School turns 50 this fall!

Join us in celebrating 50 years of Learning through Play on **September 22** from 3-5 p.m. in the Wesley Center.

**All are invited** - past and current - teachers, students, parents, administrative staff, volunteers, supporters, everyone!

If you have any memorabilia - photos, tshirts, etc. from your time with our day school, please bring it by the Wesley Center and lend it to Jenny and Leslie for the celebration. We would love to have photos from all 50 years to share with everyone!

Any memorabilia is needed by **September 8**.

**Important:** Make sure your name is located on the memorabilia so they can make sure to get it back to you.

Keep an eye out in the bulletin for ways you can help to support our Day School! There will be t-shirts available for pre-order and magnets for sale as well! More details to come.

## Sunday Wiggle Bags

The John Rowland Sunday School Class is pleased to provide Wiggle Bags for the children of Union to help keep them happy during the service. You will find them on the "tree" located beside the welcome desk.

If your child does not wish to take his/her bag home, you may "recycle" it by leaving your empty, flattened bag on the table behind the welcome desk.

Our wonderful custodians have taken the initiative to save any they find, which prompted us to ask you to do the same.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact Ann Martin at [annsmartin@bellsouth.net](mailto:annsmartin@bellsouth.net).



## An Appreciation of the Ministry of Jonathan and Felecia Holston

JOIN US AUGUST 11 | 3-5 P.M.

RSVP by Aug. 4 at [holstons.eventbrite.com](http://holstons.eventbrite.com)



ALL ARE WELCOME

UNION  
UMC  
IRMO



## We're welcoming new members at both services on Sunday, September 29

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](mailto:Erin@unionirmo.org) about your desire to join.

## Wednesday Suppers Starting!

Join us on Wednesday evenings for supper and fellowship starting Wednesday, **September 11**, at 5:15 p.m. in the FMC Gym and continuing through October 23. We are still determining the menu so keep an eye out for more details coming soon! Bible Study, taught by Rev. Taylor, will follow supper in the Fellowship Hall.

If you, your Sunday School class, women's group, men's group, or a group of neighbors would be willing to help serve the meal and clean up, we need the help! Please let Erin know what dates you are available by emailing her at [Erin@unionirmo.org](mailto:Erin@unionirmo.org). Thank you!



Join Rev. Taylor for an introductory class on the United Methodist Church. Perfect for new folk, those considering membership to Union, or as a refresher course.

Four Sundays beginning **September 8**, in the MultiPurpose Room, off the FMC Gym, 10:10-10:50 a.m.





# Grief Support Group

*Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one*

At a GriefShare group, you'll find understanding, guidance, relief, and a safe place to navigate the challenges of grief. Come join us!

## Contact Us Today

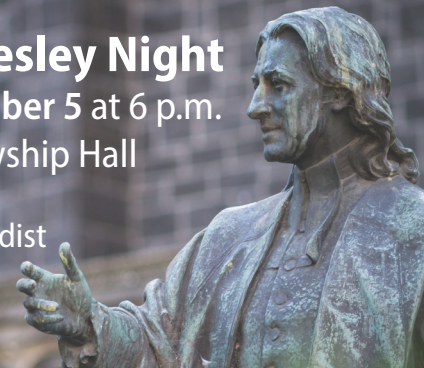
**Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
September 3 - December 10  
In the Commons Room**

Sign up by using the FindAGroup link at [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org), sign up under the Union link, or by calling the church office.

[griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org)

**Join us for Wesley Night**  
Thursday, September 5 at 6 p.m.  
in the Fellowship Hall

Celebrating our Methodist heritage and founder, John Wesley.



Join us for warm sweet rolls, Charles Wesley hymns, sandwiches and finger foods and watch Wesley movie: *Wesley, A Heart Transformed can Change the World*

Sponsored by the John Rowland Class  
*Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!*



## *The Fifteenth Annual* **Sharing God's Love** Benefit Golf Tournament

### Love to golf?

Join us for the **Sharing God's Love Golf Tournament** on Monday, September 9!

All of the net proceeds will benefit your neighbors in need in the Dutch Fork, Irmo, St. Andrews, and Ballentine communities. Established in 1984, Sharing God's Love has faithfully provided thousands of families with food, clothing, personal hygiene items, and financial aid for utility, medical, and other emergency expenses.

During 2023, 3,214 families, totaling 10,223 people, including 599 new clients, received assistance valued at \$1,429,996, plus \$1,226,395, in assistance to other agencies.

Registration and sponsor forms can be found in the church office. Contact Jim Sharp at 803-727-7297 or Ron Feaster at 803-741-4846 if you would like to give, get involved, or with any questions.



## Another Big Trustee Thank You!

**Many thanks to all these volunteers and groups for their hard work across our campus!**

- Hannah & Brian Majewski for cleaning underbrush at the Mosely Street exit.
- Jim Sharp for power washing and cleaning all the entrance door canopies.
- Larry Blosser, Tim Vinson and members of the Chapel Class for clearing away two trees on campus.
- The Journey Class for cleaning the carpets in our administrative offices, the tower entrance of the Family Ministry Center and the office entryway.
- The New Life Class for clearing the stumps on the church property behind the dental office.
- Bob Travis for having the sprinkler system repaired.
- Larry Blosser and Bob Travis for trimming the shrubs around the dental office, painting the sidewalks and over-seeing the pavement sealing of the dental office parking lot.
- John Rowland Sunday School Class for paying for the carpet cleaning in room F227.
- Brian Wisnewski, Jim Sharp and Ned Calvert for installing the new signs all around the church campus.
- Our youth for cleaning their rooms.



Newly poured sidewalk by the Sanctuary; repaired sidewalks at the entrance to the church offices and in front of the Wesley Center.



These are just some of the new signage installed around our campus. Can you find all the new signs? Many thanks to the Trustees committee and Amy Gustafson, our Communications Director, for designing and seeing this project through.



### Calendar Reminder - Welcome back from summer!

As many of us gear up to start our meetings like Circles, Bible Study, Committees, etc., please be sure to communicate with Susan, our Office Administrator, to get your event on our calendar. Email or call with the name of your group, dates and times of meeting, room desired and a contact number. Questions? Call or email Susan at [susan@unionirmo.org](mailto:susan@unionirmo.org).

## Memorials - May 26 - July 28

### **Memorials received in memory of:**

**Dave Lambert By:** Mary Lou and Lyle Campbell, and Joyce and Morgan Stokely

**Delia Heath By:** Judy Weston, and The Aline Leitner Fellowship Sunday School Class

**Susan Derrick By:** Brooks Family Foundation, and Donna and Bill McElveen

**Tom Chmura By:** Libby and Donnie Allen

**Rev. Roger Lindler By:** Donna and Bill McElveen

## Honorariums - May 26 - July 28

In honor of **Jacqueline and Allen White** and their children to the Snack Pack Program. Given by Sue and Paul Hinson

Given in honor of Margie Mitchell to the Needlers by Carolyn Champion

Given in honor of Joye Mann to the Banner Babes by Carolyn Champion



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

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Delia K. Heath**

**October 21, 1939 - June 15, 2024**

**Susan Frost Derrick**

**June 12, 1938 - June 22, 2024**

Bob and Roberta Ferrell in the loss of Roberta's brother, **Rev. Roger Lindler.**

**Durham Truesdale Harrison**

**July 14, 1938 - July 7, 2024**

Frank and Tania Turner in the loss of Tania's grandmother, **Jane Ellen Tisdale**, as well as Frank's grandmother, **Johnnie B. Liddell-Turner.**

Lynn and Mike Myers in the loss of their son-in-law, **Tom Chmura.**

**Rev. Lee Cothran, Jr.**

**April 28, 1935 - July 16, 2024**

**ROSEBUD**

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

**Merritt Brunson Sharp** was born May 20.

She was born to Justin and May Sharp.

Her siblings are Sutton and Jones. Merritt's grandparents are Jim and Melanie Sharp.

**The Church office will be closed  
September 2 for Labor Day.**

**The September Union Connection  
Deadline is August 14.**

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)).**

## 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

**Laura Mars**

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 Director

**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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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.

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# UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

Join us for **ONE SERVICE** August 4th!

Sunday School Teacher Recognition at 9 a.m.

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

*ONE Service at 10:30 a.m.*

Back to School Bash at 5:30 p.m.



*Everyone is welcome to our Back to School Bash for a concert, food trucks & Blessing the Backpacks! See pg. 5 for more!*

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

