

Coming this Fall - Adult Swim!

Do you ever watch for the release of movies you want to see and feel a little excitement when the announcement is made, "Coming this Fall." She probably won't admit it, but I think my wife, who endures my love of football season, might feel that way about any movie that isn't sports related!

Well, I don't expect to create the same excitement, but I want to pique your interest in a study I will be leading following our Wednesday Night Suppers this Fall. It's called Adult Swim. No, we haven't built a pool on campus, so let me explain.

At the Y and most community pools, there are times when it's adult swim only. The kids get out of the pool, and the adults have a chance to swim laps. We're not going to swim laps with our Bibles, but we are going to dive deeply into some into some things we normally don't take time to look at.

I could have titled the study 'Insights and Skills for Understanding and Interpreting Scripture.' But who's going to come to a study entitled that! Still, I realize one of the great divides in the church today is the way we interpret scripture. There are variations, but the two basic camps are literal interpretation and historical interpretation.



SEPTEMBER

2024

The literal interpretation gets summed up in the slogan, "The Bible says it, I believe it, and that settles it." Taking a scripture passage literally is a choice one makes, and it is usually made by having to ignore other passages that say something different.

What I call historical interpretation is part of our Methodist heritage. John Wesley, an Oxford scholar, encouraged the use of tradition (how the scripture had been interpreted by the church through the ages), the guidance of the Spirit (experience), and reason, which in his day was seen as the opposite of faith.

We will look at the challenge created by a "reason" based search for the truth of scripture and the role of faith in our searching. We will cover how scripture came to be scripture, and what are the pre-scripture sources available to us that help us understand that process.

We will also learn some basic study "tools" that anyone can use to first, seek to understand the passage in its original time and setting, and secondly, understand how the passage speaks to us in our time and setting.

I think we will discover the Holy Spirit uses scripture, and our earnest devotion to understand it, to allow us to grasp its meaning and receive insight and inspiration on many levels. And in the process, we'll have fun making a big splash!

So, bring a Bible (and notebook if you wish) and join me on Wednesday evenings beginning September 11th. Supper in the FMC gym is from 5:15 to 6:15pm. Adult Swim is from 6:30 to 7:20pm and will be in the Fellowship Hall. Life preservers will be provided!

- Blessings, Stephen

KNOW Christ, SHARE Faith, SHOW Grace



Pickleball fun

Join us for fun and fellowship! Union's Leisure Ministries Team celebrates our first six months of Pickleball with Union and community playing together in the FMC Gym. We designate one court for Beginners only and our hosts will introduce you to the game. Morning hosts are Nancy Long, Jack Martin, and Alice Martin. Lee Hogan hosts evening play and Amy Conley arranges group lessons with USA Pickleball Certified instructors. Schedules are on the church website or email us at: UnionIrmoLeisureTeam@gmail.com



Line Dancing

Line Dancing with Linda Caldwell back in May was fun for all! More Leisure Ministries

events like this are coming soon! Watch for details in the bulletin and weekly email.









United Women in Faith Spotlight: Wilson Circle

The Wilson Circle meets on the second Tuesday of the month at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Our programs and devotions are presented by members and special speakers. We enjoy wonderful fellowship as well as spiritual and mission programs that touch us as Methodist women. The missions we support are Killingsworth, the Blessing Box, and the Snack Pack Program. We also prepare gift bags at Easter and Christmas, which are delivered to our homebound church members by the members of the Ironmen group.

In support of the UWF Reading Program, we have formed a Book Club that means on the second Tuesday of the month at 1:10 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall featuring a book each month form the current year's reading list. Contact Rebecca Dixon for more information on this circle: 803-361-5046



Union United Methodist Church 7582 Woodrow St. Irmo, SC 29063

GRIEFSHARE.ORG

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 about your desire to join.

us:Join us for warm sweet rolls, Charles Wesley hymns,0-8:30 p.m.sandwiches and finger foods and watch Wesley movieDecember 10Wesley, A Heart Transformed can Change the World

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

Join us for Wesley Night Thursday, September 5 at 6 p.m.

in the Fellowship Hall

Celebrating our Methodist heritage and founder,

John Wesley.



The Rule of 72

The Rule of 72 is a quick way to estimate the length of time it will take for an investment to double in value given a fixed annual rate of return. Simply divide 72 by the annual rate of return to approximate how long it will take to double in value. For example, an investment earning 9% a year will take 8 years to double in value (72/9=8yrs). The Endowment Fund has earned a 7.8% annualized return since the inception of the fund. It would take 9.2 years for the Fund to double in value if it consistently earned that rate of return each year. But the Fund does not use compounded earnings to grow. It retains enough earnings to cover the value lost to inflation then it makes the rest of the earnings available to build new ministries. The growth of the Endowment Fund is dependent upon gifts. Please consider making a gift to the Union Endowment Fund to grow both the Fund and the ministries of Union. Go to www.unionirmo.org/endowment for more information.





SonZone is back in action on Sunday nights! We are excited to have our 4th & 5th graders together for some games, activities, lessons and snacks. We have moved to a new time starting at 4pm and a new location in the FMC, room 223. Drop off in the front of the church at the Sanctuary doors. Check out our schedule and end times. We will end at 5:30pm these first couple weeks. Then move to ending at 6pm with dinner. Make sure Suzy has your email address to keep up with what's happening each week and like us on Facebook (at Children of Union). We are looking forward to a great year!

Fall SonZone Calendar	
Sept. 1	No SonZone
Sept. 8 - 4-5:30pm	The Story of the Vineyard
Sept. 15 - 4-5:30pm	The Story of the Lost Coin
Sept. 22 - 4-6pm	The Story of the Found Son
Sept. 29 - 4-6pm	The Story of the 10 Talents
Oct. 6 - 4-6 pm	The Story of the Rich Fool
Oct. 13 - 4-6pm	The Story of the 2 Builders

Kids Night Out

Parents - Save the Date: January 4th from 3-6pm

All children infants thru 5th grade invited for a night of fun at the church! Watch for more information and how to RSVP.



Save the Date! 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 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.



3rd Grade Bibles

What a wonderful day! On Sunday, August 18, we gave our rising 3rd graders their very own Bible with their name engraved on them.

We hosted a Bible Boot Camp that afternoon where our kids and a parent had the opportunity to learn about this book they were given. We sang some silly songs, learned about a talking donkey and why it is important to spend time with this book.

It is our prayer that this gift will be a starting point for a deeper relationship with God, enhanced through the study of God's word.

> Third Grade Bibles are Presented to -Caleb Burggraf Palmer Gantt Greyson Good Patelynn McGregor Jack Parker Hadlee Bagwell Viola Bentley Luke Boatright Claire Como Andrew "ACE" Elvis Elliott Head Reagan Nicholson Finley White



SAVE THE DATE Trunk or Treat! October 27, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

Get ready to fill your car with treats! We will ask folks to sign up if they are planning to bring their trunk. We will have sign up sheets in classes and other areas starting the first of October.

Last year we had a huge turn out from our community, will help us welcome them? Kona Ice will be here again!! There will games, crafts, and other food too.

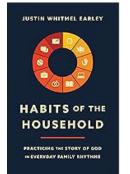
Parents of Young Children Bible Study

Come join Union's Parents of Young Children Bible Study - The study will focus on parenting our littlest ones from 4-ish years old and under.

Starting Wednesday, **September 11** at 6:30pm. We will be reading and discussing Habits of the Household: Practicing the Story of God in Everyday Family Rhythms.

Childcare is provided! Contact Sara Reinhardt for more information at 803-563-3336 or jsr8716@gmail.com.

Scan the QR code below to pick up your copy of the book today!







BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Sunday, August 4th, we kicked off the school year with our second annual Back to School Bash. The Union Praise band led us in worship and Reverend Faye Jones blessed the bookbags of over 100 children and prayed for a safe and happy school year. It was a great day in the Sanctuary and in our FMC Gym as we tried to beat the heat by having games and fun indoors. The laughter and smiles on the faces of our youth and children was an encouraging sight to see. We appreciate the many hands that went into making this a fun afternoon.

In addition to fun and fellowship, we also collected many items for our Snack Pack Program and handed out school supplies for those who need a helping hand this school year. We continue to be amazed at the generosity shown to these children by our church family. We also want to thank Moe's, Dogs on the Run, and Kona Ice of Irmo/Chapin for a wonderful dinner and dessert! The 360 degree photo booth was a also a hit for all ages!

We pray each of our children, youth, teachers, administrators, and support staff have a wonderful and safe school year!





Classes begin on Sunday, **September 8**, at 10am with a Parent Orientation meeting in the Underground. Confirmation classes will run weekly at 10am on Sunday Mornings (during the Discipleship hour) through April.

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.

NEW Sunday Night Schedule

Sunday nights have a new look to them this year!

The first Sunday of each month

5-6:30pm - ALL Youth will meet together in the gym at 5pm for dinner, then move to chapel at
5:30-6:30pm for Worship and Large Group Session.
(Specific dates: 9/8, 10/6, 11/3, 1/5, 2/2, 3/2. 4/6, 5/4)

All other Sundays (beginning 9/22) 4-5:30pm - MIDDLE SCHOOL

(Begins in Chapel with Large Group Session, Moves to Small Groups, Back to Chapel for Prayer, then to FMC Gym for dinner) 5:30-6pm DINNER FOR <u>ALL YOUTH</u> (in FMC Gym) 6-7:30pm - HIGH SCHOOL (Begins in Chapel with Large Group Session, Moves to Small Groups, Back to Chapel Ifor Prayer, then dismissal)



Training New Acolytes & Crucifers -

BEthe Any young person currently in 5th-12th grade who is interested in becoming part of the acolyte team, which serves during the 9am service

is invited to attend an information / training session in the Sanctuary on Sunday, **September 8**, at 4pm.

Young people who usually attend the 11am service but who would like to serve their church 4 to 6 times per year as an acolyte or crucifer are also welcome to attend and learn what the job of an acolyte is all about. Anyone interested in getting information and/or in being trained should contact Gail Elfert at either celfert@aol.com or 803-466-2403 (cell/text).

Parent 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!



LOOK UP LODGE

SAVE THE DATE FOR FALL RETREAT!

Retreat will be held **September 13-15** at Look Up Lodge.

<u>Registration is open now and will</u> 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.



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!





Wednesday Suppers are 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. Online sign up is open now! Scan the QR code above to sign up for dinner.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Rev. Taylor will be leading a bible study on Wednesday nights following dinner from 6:30-7:20 p.m. Plan to attend for a deep dive into the scriptures.

PEP! - People Enjoying People!



Bingo & Board Games -Wednesday, **September 11**, at 1p.m. in the Fellowship Hall! Come join us for fun, fellowship, BINGO prizes and board games!

Swing into Fall with PEP! with the Lawhead Brothers Band and Shealy's Barbecue. On Thursday, **September 26**, at 6:30 p.m. in the FMC Gym. Cost is \$15 per person. Sign up and payment will be in Sunday School classes and are due by Sunday, **September 22**.

If you have any questions about these events or to get involved, please contact Phyllis Plyler at phyllisplyler@gmail.com.

Leaps of Faith is starting!

If you like to dance, you are invited to join one of the Leaps of Faith Liturgical dance groups. We welcome <u>all ages</u> from 4K to Senior Adult! No dance experience necessary!! Dancers will present during various Worship Services and special events.

This is such a wonderful opportunity to become part of a small group, get some great exercise, have fun, and learn to worship with mind, body, and soul. The start date, practice times, and locations are listed below. Please direct any questions to Linda Caldwell (803-422-2989) or Gloria Stansell (843-475-5978).

- Junior Leaps: (4K 4th Grade)- Sundays, 3:15-4 p.m. (Sanctuary) – Start Date September 8
- Youth Leaps: (5th Grade Adult)- Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary) – Start Date September 4
- Adult Leaps: (18 and Over)- Sundays, 4-5 p.m. (Sanctuary) – Start Date September 15



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 Wesley Center Gym (*this is a location change!*), 10:10-10:50 a.m.

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.



Jan's Van (the Lexington Medical Center's Mobile Mammography Van) will be at Union on Wednesday, **October 22,** from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.!

Sign ups start on Sunday, **September 22**, in the narthex! This mission is sponsored by Sarah Circle and named in memory of Jan Croft, who lost her courageous battle with metastatic breast cancer.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jane Davis at janesdavis@yahoo.com.



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, <u>everyone</u>!

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.

Help support our Day School by purchasing a t-shirt or magnet in the narthex on Sept. 8 & 15!

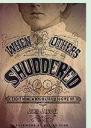
Magnets are available for \$5. T-shirts: Onesies - Youth XL are \$15. Adult shirts: S-3XL are \$20.

All profits go to support our Day School. *Thank you!*





Wilson Circle Book Club



Is gearing up for fall! Our first meeting after the summer break will be held Tuesday, **September 10**, at 1:10 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, and we will be discussing *When Others Shuddered: Eight Women Who Refused to Give Up* by Jamie Janosz. These women – Fanny Crosby, Mary McLeod Bethune, Nettie

McCormick, Sarah Dunn Clarke, Emma Dryer, Virginia Asher, Evangeline Booth, and Amanda Smith – lived at the turn of the century and were all different. They were single and married, black and white, wealthy and poor, beautiful and plain, mothers and childless. Yet each felt called to make a difference and do something to meet a pressing need in her world. There are 4 copies of this book in the UWF Library.

As you read about these eight women, please select the two that impressed you the most. Come join us and share your "top two" and the reasons they impressed you.

Meeting dates and books to be discussed for the remainder of 2024 are: **October 8** – *Land of Silence: A Novel* by Tessa Afshar, **November 12** – *The Rocking Chair Prophet* by Matthew Kelly, and **December 10** – *The 13th Gift* by Joanne Huist Smith.

If you have questions, please contact Harriet Simpson at 803-530-5060 or Becky Dixon at 803-361-5046.

Oct. 6, 13, 20 Bulletin Announcements -

Amy will be out for two weeks in October. Please look ahead at your calendars and send any announcements you would like included in the bulletin during those weeks to Amy by Monday, <u>September 16</u>.

Be sure to include the dates you want your announcement to run when you send it!

Amy's email is: amy@unionirmo.org. Thank you!

Apple Picking with PEP!

A PEP! Excursion is planned for Thursday, **October 3**, 2024. We will visit Jeter Mountain Farm in the Western North Carolina Apple Country. There will be apple picking via the fun tractor-pulled wagon ride to the many different orchard stops. You will view the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains.

There is no charge for the excursion. Lunch is on your own. We will meet in the area where the buses are parked no later than 8:15 a.m. and depart **promptly at 8:30 a.m.** Riders will need to contribute money to cover the cost of refilling the gas in the bus prior to returning to the church. <u>Estimated return</u> time is between 6-7 p.m.

For any questions, please contact Faye Bailey via email at fayebailey424@gmail.com. There is limited space so if you sign up, please show up. **FIRM** Deadline is September 22.



The Living Christmas Story (TLCS)

Is celebrating our 31st year anniversary of Union providing this special gift to the Community. We have more than 600 volunteer/cast positions to fill across the 3 performances, so we hope that you and your family will sign up to participate! You are welcome to participate in more than one performance and in different roles. We also encourage you to invite others to participate with you!

Please put these dates on your Calendar: TLCS Set Construction:

Nov. 3 (Sun), Nov. 9 (Sat), Nov. 17 (Sun), Nov. 24 (Sun), Dec. 1 (Sun)

TLCS 2024 Performance: Dec. 6, 7, 8 (Fri-Sun) from 6:30-9 p.m. TLCS Set Take-Down:



Dec. 14 (Sat)

TLCS Volunteer sign ups are open now through the end of October. Roles will be assigned based upon the order that your signup is received. So please sign up to participate as soon as possible! To sign up, please scan the QR code above, or you can also visit our website and click on "Event Sign Ups" along the bottom.

> If you have any questions, please email: UnionTLCSCasting@gmail.com.

Memorials - July 28 - August 25

Memorials received in memory of:

Susan Derrick By: Connie and Bob Warren Nancy Sauer By: The Aline Leitner Fellowship Sunday School Class, Judy Weston, Joan and Thomas Goff, Mandy and Charles Ayers, and Llewellyn and Herb Hames Dave Lambert By: Llewellyn and Herb Hames Janet Whitt Ruark By: Llewellyn and Herb Hames Tom Chmura By: Gail and Charles Elfert Rev. Roger Lindler By: Jane Graham

Union Tablecloths

Union is very fortunate to have a supply of tablecloths for use at church functions. Unfortunately, several are missing! If you took some home to launder, then please return them to the gym kitchen.

The Kitchen Committee has placed sign-out and sign-in sheets where the cloths are stored to keep track of the linens. This is an honor system so please do your part to make it successful.



Sharing God's Love Executive Director Position

Sharing God's Love (SGL) is our local cooperative ministry that works with community families and individuals facing emergencies related to their basic living needs. SGL is seeking applications for the position of Executive Director.

If you or someone you know is interested, please contact the SGL Search Committee, Sharing God's Love, P.O. Box 1021, Irmo, SC 29063, or email to info@sharinggodslove.net by September 15, 2024.

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

Nancy Kaup Sauer August 31, 1931 - July 26, 2024

Mark and Domi Kyle in the loss of Mark's brother, **Dallas Todd Kyle.**

Margaret and Roy Jones in the loss of Margaret's father, **Clifton Neel Edwards, Jr.**

Michelle Edwards in the loss of her father, Michael Joseph Edelmayer.

Celebrating the Birth of:

Derrick Carson Smith was born July 2. He was born to Cameron and Ashley Smith. His grandparents are Clarke and Paige Smith, and Harold and LaDonna Derrick.

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.

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

The October Union Connection Deadline is September 11.

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 Administraor 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

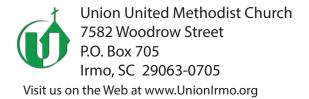
Facilities Manager Ned Calvert

Assistant Facilities Manager Steve Ragan

Nursery Coordinator Andrea Williams

Production Manager Jake Cosentino

Organist Joey Rothfuss



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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Consection Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

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

