



UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

Love in Truth and Action

*Only one life, 'twill soon be past.
Only what's done for Christ will last.*

What's in a Verse. Through the years of my boyhood, this famous poem (written by Charles T. Studd, a British missionary to China, India and the Congo) was on a plaque that hung by the mirror in our bathroom. I couldn't help but read it again and again, brushing my teeth or washing my hands. I think it sank deeper into my brain cells than all the Bible verses my mother pushed me to memorize.

Today I give thanks for my mother's subtle wisdom in keeping that prayer before us. It places things in the right perspective – and in the rushed, demanding, self-indulgent world in which we live, such a perspective is needed.

Now, you may have mentally pushed back a bit when I described us as “self-indulgent.” One of the challenges in leading a large church is that the congregation represents a broad selection of people. It's hard to speak in generalities because there are always some that don't fit the profile. Still, considering the perspective of the poem above, a lot of what we do with our time, abilities and resources is self-indulgent. And, it just simply won't last.



The Giving Season. We have just announced via a letter to the congregation, the beginning of our fall Stewardship Campaign. Each year we are all asked to prayerfully consider what commitment of giving we will make for the coming year. Our Commitment Sunday is October 20, when we bring our Estimate of Giving cards to the altar.

The first commitment, the Biblical tithe, is to the Operating Budget. That budget provides for the ministries, missions, staff, utilities, and maintenance of our church. With a modest cost of living increase, I expect our 2025 budget to be over \$2 million. A casual approach to “doing for Christ” won't get us there.

The second commitment is your “second mile” gift to the Building Fund. We have made great strides in paying down the debt on our facilities, which now stands at \$2.7 million. To make the monthly mortgage payment, our Building Fund commitments must be at least \$401,874 a year. Any overage allows us to make extra payments on the principle.

Doing What Counts. This congregation makes a real difference in people's lives! Union feeds the hungry, teaches the children, comforts the grieving, welcomes the stranger, teaches the Bible, glorifies God, and proclaims the saving grace of Jesus Christ! But we can only do all that if we intentionally and faithfully give, first to the Operating Budget and secondly, to the Building Fund.

Prayerfully consider what you (and your family) spend on items monthly – phone, meals out, cable, sports and outing events for instance. You will rightly make your own call on what are necessities. Your church just asks you to keep it all in the perspective of “what's done for Christ will last.”

Friends, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ~ 1 John 3:18

Blessings, Stephen

KNOW Christ, SHARE Faith, SHOW Grace

OCTOBER
2024



Our Day School's 50th Anniversary Party is happening just as this newsletter is going to print. Be sure to check out our November newsletter for pictures of the fun!

You can continue to help support our Day School by purchasing a t-shirt or magnet!

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!



New members joining Sunday, September 29 at both 9 & 11am services!
 Join us on Sunday to extend a warm Union welcome!



Wednesday Suppers at Union

Join us on Wednesday evenings for supper and fellowship for our remaining weeks at 5:15 p.m. in the FMC Gym. Online sign up is open now! Scan the QR code below to sign up for dinner.

October 2 - Lasagna Night
October 9 - Dinner Cancelled*

**This is a change from the published schedule*
 The Joy Class will be set up for the Fall Garage Sale, so we are cancelling dinner.*

Bible Study will continue as normal.

October 16 - Pizza Night
October 23 - Soup and Sandwiches Night

Scan this QR code to sign up for dinner, or go to unionirmo.org/wednesday_night_meal_form



Wednesday Night Bible Study

Rev. Taylor is leading a bible study on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:20 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall through October 23.

Plan to attend for a deep dive into the scriptures, learning about the differences between the literal interpretation and the historical interpretation of scriptures, and what our Methodist heritage teaches us to do. We will 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.

Parents of Young Children Bible Study

This study focuses on parenting our littlest ones from 4-ish years old and under. They are reading and discussing, *Habits of the Household: Practicing the Story of God in Everyday Rhythms*.

This study started on September 11, and meets every other Wednesday at 6:30pm in the Commons Room. Contact Sara Reinhardt for more information at 803-563-3336 or jsr8716@gmail.com.

Total Body Workout Class

TOTAL BODY WORKOUT CLASS

with Libby Miller! Join us beginning Tuesday, **October 1**, at 5:45pm in the Wesley Center Gym.



There is no charge to attend this class, but we request that you please sign up ahead of time so that we can be prepared with equipment for the class. Register by scanning the QR code on the right. For questions, email Eleanor Cannon at Eleanor@unionirmo.org.

◆ **MARTHA CIRCLE** ◆

We would love to have you join our group of ladies with servant hearts as we get into the word and do life together. All ages welcome!

Wednesday September 25th 6:30pm
Kickoff at Craft and Draft Irmo

Thursday December 12th
UWF Christmas Dinner in FMC

Bible Study and Fellowship
6:30pm in homes
10/9, 11/13, 1/8, 2/12, 3/12, 4/9, 5/14

SANDLAPPER SINGERS PRESENTS

FALL FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS

10/04/24

7PM

Union United Methodist Church

Fall Festival of Choirs

The Union Chancel Choir will be featured on the Fall 2024 Festival of Choirs performance presented by the Sandlapper Singers.

The event will be Friday, **October 4** at 7pm in the Union UMC Sanctuary. Please come support our choir and hear other outstanding choirs!

Sandlapper Singers Presents

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Fall Festival of Choirs

Friday, October 4, 2024 | 7:00pm
Union United Methodist Church; Irmo, SC
featuring the Irmo Middle School Choir, the South Carolina State University Concert Choir, and the Union United Methodist Chancel Choir

Merry and Bright

Monday, December 9, 2024 | 7:00pm
Koger Center for the Arts, 2nd Floor Lobby; Columbia, SC

Illuminare

Sunday, April 27, 2025 | 4:00pm
Eastminster Presbyterian Church; Columbia, SC

Endowment Fun Facts

It is common to think about giving to an Endowment Fund when performing Estate Planning.

To that end, below are some fun facts about Wills:

- The oldest known will is from 2548 BC Egypt, with Uah leaving all property to his wife, Teta.
- The oldest known power of attorney dates to 561 BC in Mesopotamia.
- Shortest known wills: "All to son" and "All to wife"
- Longest will: 1,066 pages, from England. It was written in four gilt-edged leather bound journals and contained a staggering 95,940 words.
- Famous Americans who have died without a will: Sonny Bono, John Denver, Howard Hughes, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- The Smithsonian Institute was created as a result of the will of Englishman James Smithson and his desire for an institution to "increase and diffuse knowledge."

SonZone

Our times are changing for October and November; we have started meeting from 4-6pm. We are still meeting in the FMC room 223. Our drop off is the same- out front near the narthex. Pick up is now in the back near the tower doors at 6pm.

Each week we have been having a great time of a lesson, games and activities. Friends are always welcome for the fun. If you want to receive emails with updates and information, contact Suzy at suzy@unionirmo.org.

Plan for a messy night of fun on Sunday, October 20 as we carve our pumpkins for Halloween.



Fall SonZone Calendar	
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
Oct. 20 - 4-6pm	Pumpkin Carving/ Pizza Party
Oct. 27 - 4:30 pm	Trunk or Treat! No SonZone
Nov. 3 - 4-6pm	The Story of the Vine & Branches
Nov. 10 - 4-6pm	The Story of the Mean Servant
Nov. 17 - 4-6pm	The Story of the Wedding Feast
Nov. 24 - 4-5:30pm	Service Night: Sharing God's Love



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 month.

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.



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Do you shop at Publix?

If so, you could help our Union Day School raise money in 3 easy steps!

1. Join Club Publix and log in to your account at publix.com. You will not be able to do this through the Publix app.
2. Go to Account and then Settings. Make sure your phone number is listed. Then click Choose Publix Partner at the bottom of the page and select our school. You can enter Union Day School in the search box. Be sure to pick the one with the Irmo, SC 29063 address. Save Changes.
3. Enter your phone number at checkout or pay with the Publix app, and Publix will donate a portion of your purchase to the Day School.



Trunk or Treat!

Are You Ready?

Fill your car with treats and join us

October 27 at 4:30pm

for Trunk or Treat!!

Let us know if you are planning to bring your trunk! We have sign up sheets

in classes, a google form (check out the QR code)

or email Suzy at

suzy@unionirmo.org

so we know how to plan.



Last year we had a huge turn out from our community, will you help us welcome them this year? Kona Ice will be here again!!

There will games, crafts, and other food too. Volunteers are always needed too, help run the games, crafts, refill trunks, set up and clean up.

If you can't make it that night but want to help, we will take treat donations the weeks leading up to the event. Leave them in the church office.

Thank you for all the fun you bring each year!!!

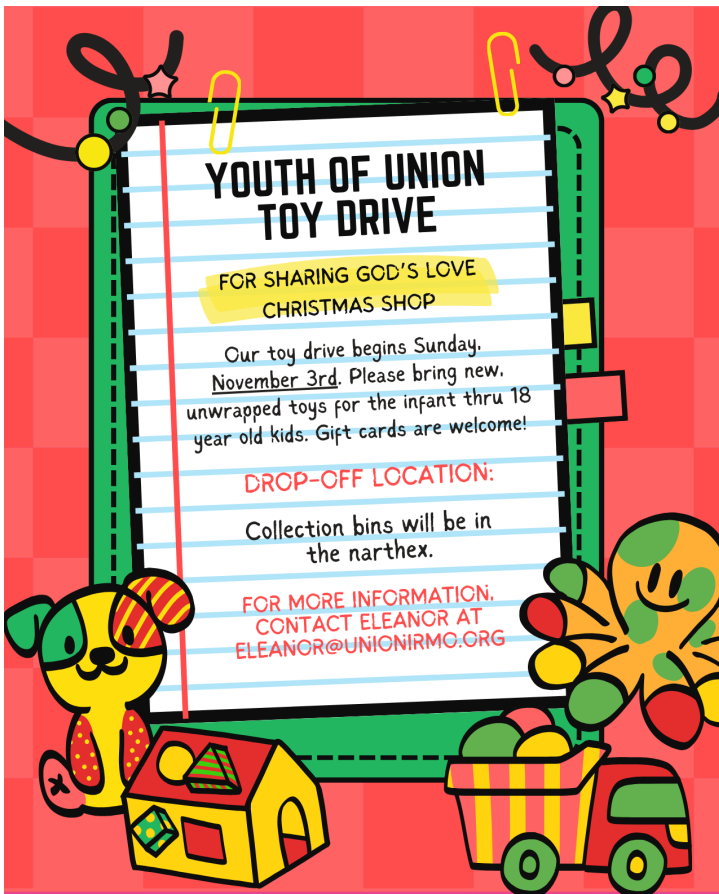
This is a free event to our community so be sure to share the news of this fun event with your neighbors!



Youth Fall Kick Off - Olympic Games Fun!

We held the 2024 Youth of Union Olympics as we kicked off the new year and had a blast! We did everything from breaking to relays to arm wrestling. Check out the fun we had!





TOY DRIVE for Sharing God's Love Santa Shop

Kicks off Sunday, **November 3**,
and runs through November 24.

Youth of Union will be collecting NEW toys,
games, gift cards, wrapping paper, etc.
to take to Sharing God's Love to set up their
Toy Shop for Christmas!

Donation bins will be in the Narthex.
Contact Eleanor with any questions at
Eleanor@unionirmo.org.

VOLUNTEERS

NEEDED

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!



NEW ANIKO Schedule Update!

**We are switching back to our "old" schedule,
as of Sunday, September 29, and going
forward for everyone.**

We will have recreation time and games at 5pm
in the FMC Gym, followed by dinner at 5:30pm.
Then we will head to the chapel for large group
teaching and small groups and wrap up at 7:15pm.

**We will still have worship night on the first
Sunday of each month from 5-6:30pm.**

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: 10/6, 11/3, 1/5, 2/2, 3/2, 4/6, 5/4)

**Thank you for your flexibility in this
and for any confusion!**



WE NEED COACHES!

If you are interested in being a Union
Basketball coach for the upcoming season,
please contact Eleanor Cannon at
eleanor@unionirmo.org.
Commitment is 1 practice and 1 game per
week from November-February.

Basketball Sign Up

Sign up will open for Union Basketball on
October 14! This is for anyone in 4th-12th
grade and is open to all.

Cost is \$25 per person.

Practices will begin the week
of November 11.

Sign up, starting October 14,
with the QR code on the right.



JOY CLASS FALL GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY, OCT. 12, 2024

TIME: 8AM - 1PM



Union members and friends, we need your unwanted treasures

including: clothes, shoes, toys, bicycles, furniture, crafts, housewares, linens, video and audio tapes, CDs, books, jewelry, sporting goods, hardware, hand tools, and baby items.

WORKING: Appliances, power tools, lawnmowers, tillers, blowers.

Please: No TVs, monitors, armoires, large office furniture, mattresses, box springs, high chairs, cribs, baby beds, car seats, swings, playpens, encyclopedias, magazines, non-working, soiled or damaged items.

Since our storage space is very limited, you are encouraged to hold items until the week of the garage sale.

Dropping off items during garage sale week is very helpful and appreciated.



Donation pickups and drop offs begin Monday, Oct. 7, through Thursday, Oct.10, from 9 am to 6 pm and Friday, Oct. 11, 9 am to 12 noon.

If you need to schedule a pickup, please call as soon as possible during the coming days.

To schedule a pickup or if you have any questions, please contact **Charles Ayer at 803-447-0212.**

Thank you for your continued support.

ARTY PARTY



Canvas Painting



Bow Making



Diamond Art
Christmas Ornaments



United Women in
Faith

CALLING LADIES OF ALL AGES!

COME JOIN UNION UWF FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN!

Sunday, October 13, 2024 12:30pm-2:30pm, FMC Gym
\$15.00/person for your choice of Activity

Pizza Lunch Will Be Served

Register On-Line via the Church Website

Or in Person in the Narthex Sept. 29th or October 6th.

Deadline to sign up is October 9th.

Proceeds to Benefit

KILLINGSWORTH
transforming women

Sign up today by
scanning the QR code
below!



PEP! - People Enjoying People!



Bingo & Board Games -

Wednesday, **October 9**, at 1p.m. in the Fellowship Hall! Come join us for fun, fellowship, BINGO prizes and board games!

PEP! HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY

October 24 | 6:30 PM

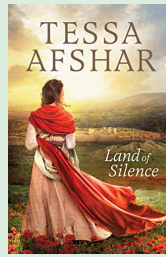
Union UMC's FMC Gym

Join us for a fun and unforgettable Halloween celebration at our Halloween Party! Bring a finger food to share.

Sign up by Sunday, Oct. 20.
Costumes optional, BUT the party isn't!
All are welcome!

Prizes will be awarded for:
Most Original, Best Couple,
Best Theme, Scariest & more!

Wilson Circle Book Club



Our next meeting will be Tuesday, **October 8**, at 1:10 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing *Land of Silence: A Novel* by Tessa Afshar. This is a fictional account of the woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment and was healed.

Meeting dates and books to be discussed for the remainder of 2024 are: **November 12** – *The Rocking Chair Prophet* by Matthew Kelly, and **December 10** – *The 13th Gift* by Joanne Huist Smith. The November meeting will be held at 1:10pm in the Fellowship Hall. Plans for December are TBD. All are welcome to join us.

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



November Book



December Book

Jan's Van

Tuesday, October 22
9am-4pm
Register today!

The Lexington Medical Center's Mammography Van is coming to the Union UMC parking lot!

Contact Jane Davis at janesdavis@yahoo.com to register.

Signups have started 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.





Union Hoedown Dance Party & BBQ

Hosted by Union's Leisure Ministries team, our first Union Hoedown Dance Party will take place on Saturday, **November 9**, from 5:30-8:30pm in the FMC Gym!

This all-ages family event will feature a Cornhole Tournament, Line Dance instruction by Linda Caldwell, and a dance party facilitated by a DJ!

We will have barbeque for dinner, catered by Hudson's Barbecue. This is a **WHOLE FAMILY** event to get our Union Fam mingling and moving!

Tickets will be \$15 per person or \$50 per family of 4+, sold in advance!

Tickets will be on sale Sunday, October 20 & 27 in the Narthex. Plan to be there!

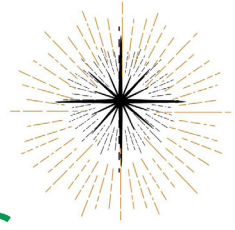
For questions, email Eleanor@unionirmo.org.

Surviving the Holidays

The holidays present unique challenges for people who are grieving. Surviving the Holidays is designed to provide support, understanding and tools to navigate through this season.

November 17 at 6pm in the Commons Room

THE LIVING CHRISTMAS STORY 2024 UNIONUMC



TELL SOMEBODY



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 - August 26 - September 22

Memorials received in memory of:

Clifton Neal Edwards, Jr. By: Mandy and Charles Ayers, and Llewellyn and Herb Hames

Billy McCathern By: Penny and Rob Thompson

Delia Heath By: Minola and Stephanie Beck

Dallas Kyle By: Llewellyn and Herb Hames

Marie and Wayne Starnes By: The Aline Leitner Fellowship Sunday School Class

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

Courtney and Alex Vinson in the loss of
Courtney's great grandmother,
JoAnn Hensley.

Mary Hammond in the loss of her stepson,
Thomas Hammond

Marie H. Starnes
December 21, 1939 - September 5, 2024

Wayne C. Starnes
November 24, 1935 - September 7, 2024

Rev. Archie Rufus Bigelow, Jr.
March 5, 1932 - September 14, 2024

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



Help Keep Our Blessing Box Stocked This Fall

Please consider picking up a few of these items to donate the next time you're in the grocery store. There is a collection box in the narthex.

Thank you for your continued support!

Cereal	Instant Grits
Canned Chili	Canned Ravioli
Canned Chicken	Jelly
Noodles & Sauce	Canned Soup
Canned Green Beans	Mac & Cheese (pkt. or cup)
Prepared Rice Packets	Tang (instant drink mix)
Instant Oatmeal	Canned Corn
Canned Tuna	Instant Mashed Potatoes
Peanut Butter (smooth)	Tea Bags

The November Union Connection Deadline is October 16.

The Union Connection is a monthly publication of
Union United Methodist Church.

**Articles should be submitted to Amy via email
(amy@unionirmo.org).**



Union United Methodist Church
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Visit us on the Web at www.UnionIrmo.org

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UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

Trunk or Treat!

**October 27 -
4:30 p.m.!**

Join us for games, crafts,
popcorn, snacks, & trunks
filled with treats!



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

