



UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

Living the Life

The March winds bring in the April showers, the old saying goes. And the April showers bring in May flowers. That saying worked for earlier generations who had time to personally notice what was going on in their world, and not simply watch it on a cell phone video while they waited in line somewhere.

In our busy lives, May seems to bring not flowers, but an extra dose of “rush,” especially if there are children in the home. There are end of school events, end of spring sports events, end of dance season events, plays, recitals, proms, and graduations! There are church activities, weddings to attend, spring cleaning to get done, yards to attend to, and if it can be fit in, trips to make.

We manage attending to so much in our world that it makes it difficult to actually be at home in our world. This is not a nostalgic idealization of a past without social communications, hectic schedules and endless opportunities for entertainment. At most it's a painful confession of how easy it is to miss the mark – “living the life” while missing out on living fully in life.

I'm not going to tell you to “slow down,” basically because such an imperative doesn't work for me either. But I will share a meditation I have added to my morning reflection time. I think it offers a fresh perspective on the living of our lives.

What is wanted is not that we should find ultimate truth, nor that we should become secure, nor that we should have ease, nor that we should be without hurt, but that we should live fully.

Therefore, we should not fear life, nor anything in life; we should not fear death, nor anything in death; we should live our lives in love with life.

It is for us to train our hearts to live in grace, to sacrifice our self-centered desires, to find the peace without want, and when we fail, to begin again each day.*

You may have your summer weeks already planned out (some of you in detail.) Still, I hope there's some room for learning to live in grace, grace for yourself and for others. I hope our hearts and hands will be doing more “letting go” than “grasping more.” And I hope that in the midst of the craziness we can live in the peace that comes from the spirit of Christ.

“I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly,” Jesus said. (John 10:10 ESV) I don't believe he meant it as a reward at the end of the journey, but as a reality he offers us in every day. And if we mess it up today, well, we'll just begin again tomorrow. Know the love and joy of Christ – Be the love and joy of Christ – Live the life abundant!

Stephen

*McQuiston II, John, Always We Begin Again, The Benedictine Way of Living. Harrisburg, PA, Morehouse Publishing, 1996. p21.

Welcome New Members!

We have welcomed several new members into the Union family since we had our last new member section in our Union Connection! Be sure to introduce yourself to these wonderful people when you meet them in the hallways and offer them a warm welcome!



Torsten and Lacey Hallman, with Mills



Annah and Michael Hiers



Erin and Larry Lackey, with Anna



Ryan and Robyn Millwood, with Riley Ann



Nicholas and Jennifer Elledge, with Audrey and Nathan



Jennifer and Mike Wahrmund, with Caroline and Drew
(Drew not pictured)



Clayton and Kori Rosenbaum



Jared and Caitlin Stokes, with Bennet



Christie and Brendan Gates



Matt Church, pictured with Laura, wife

Mental Health for Families Event

April 27th brought us a night to talk about Mental Health in the family. How do we manage our own self care so we can give and care for our family? Kathryn Wilbur, RN, spoke with us about various areas we can make adjustments to better care for our mental health; areas such as, physical, spiritual, emotional, and financial needs. Our youth and children had time in their own break out areas for some fun and play. Thank you to our volunteers for helping to greet our families, serve dinner and clean up. We are so glad our families could explore ways they could live into hope and healing through mental health.



Stations of the Cross

During Lent, our youth directors, Eleanor and Thomas, set up Stations of the Cross for our youth and our PEP! (People Enjoying People) older adult group to go through together on March 23.

The Stations of the Cross is a historic tradition that originated from the Via Dolorosa, a procession in Old Jerusalem that is believed to be the path that Jesus took from Gethsemane to the tomb. The Stations of the Cross made its way into churches around the world as a common way of participating in the suffering of Christ and as a way to reflect and contemplate the meaning of Good Friday. There were 14 interactive stations, each with a different scripture and message to ponder.

Our youth and adults enjoyed this evening of reflectiveness in preparation of Holy Week. The Stations of the Cross remained in place until Holy Week for the congregation to partake in as well.



SonZone is a Wrap!

We had a great night May 18th as we finished up SonZone for the year. Our 4th and 5th graders helped collect items to complete Birthday Bags for Sharing God's Love. Our last night together we packed 42 birthday bags and celebrated with dinner, dessert and games. Thank you parents for sharing your kids with us this year. See you in the Fall!!





Vacation Bible School is coming! Are you ready to go on a Road Trip June 16th -19th from 6:15-8pm?

If you are ready to **volunteer** use the QR Code (right) or email Suzy (suzy@unionirmo.org). We need volunteers in all areas from Registration, Crafts, Recreation and Small Group Leaders. Child care is available for our volunteers with children 3 years old and under.

Volunteer
Sign Up -



Thanks for volunteering for Vacation Bible School!

We have one more volunteer meeting coming up. Please plan to attend this one (June 1) if you missed the one on May 27. This is a time when we will hand out t-shirts and leader materials. We will also go over the big picture stuff for the week and what to expect. We will wrap up each session with some Safe Sanctuary training for those that need training.

Sunday, June 1st at 10am in LL14

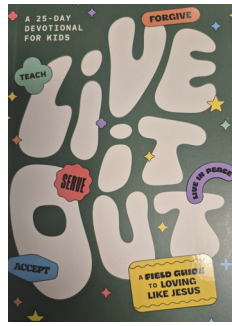
Parent
Sign Up -



Parents and Grandparents if you are already planning your summer fun, be sure to register your kids for VBS (left). Bible School is open for children turning 4 by Sept 1st thru finished 5th grade. If you have any questions be sure to contact Suzy.

Bringing Vacation Bible School to life!

Can't make it the week of VBS? Help us set up and decorate the Wesley Center and Narthex. On **June 7** and **June 14** from 10am -12pm we will be moving rooms around, putting up decorations, and sorting supplies. Just show up and join the fun. Many hands make light work and we can use your hands! We will have clean up following VBS on Friday, **June 20**, at 10am too. Thank you for all the prayers and support!



Summer Family Devotional

Summer is coming and schedules get crazy, but stay on track with Sunday school for our children with this devotional. "Live It Out" is an interactive devotional for families with elementary and younger children to do together this summer. They are available for pick up in the Education Building at the Sunday School sign in table. Grab one for your family's summer adventures today!



VBS at Grace UMC

This year Union is partnering with Grace UMC on Harbison for Vacation Bible School. They will have kids and volunteers coming here to Union and we want to give Union the

opportunity to participate in their summer fun.

They are hosting 4 weeks of: **Joy in the Mess**. On the following Thursdays, **June 12, June 26, July 10 and July 17**, from 5:30-7:30pm families are invited for dinner, activities and lessons together. This is guaranteed to be fun with Rev. Meg Cook! Contact Rev. Cook (mscook@umcsc.org) to let her know you will be coming, or use the QR code on the right to sign up today!



Worship Wiggle Bags!

We are excited that in the coming weeks we will be updating and changing our system a bit. Parents please be on the look out for our new reusable bags. We ask that all items and bags be returned at the end of worship, to be used again.

The bags will include the same quality and fun items just with a reusable bag and toys. You will see canvas bags on the tree and a tub at the base to return the bag that your child used. We hope kids (and families) enjoy the new bags!

Parents' Time Out! - Save the Date!

August 9 - 11-2 p.m.

We are offering 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. break for infants through kindergarten. 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.



Congratulations to our 2025 Confirmands!

James, Bennett Kate, Mollie, Wallis, Georgia, Cora, Bo, Grant, Taylor, Bennet Grace, and Kate

We are so proud of you and excited to continue to support and walk with you as you grow in your faith!

Youth of Union 2025-2026 Schedule

Our schedule is out for the upcoming year!
If you have not received a copy in your email,
please reach out to Eleanor or Thomas.
(eleanor@unionirmo.org or thomas@unionirmo.org)

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Sunday, Aug. 3! - 5:30 p.m.

Concert, food trucks, games & more!

Check out page 6 for more info!

Mission Trip Prayers

We have 2 mission teams this summer: One heading to Western NC on June 7-12 to do hurricane relief work, and the other going to Salkehatchie July 12-19. Please be in prayer for both of these teams to do the work God is calling them to do this summer.

Pancake Coordinator Needed

Once a quarter, during the Sunday School hour, we have a pancake breakfast for our youth! We are looking for someone who could help to organize and coordinate this breakfast. You would help with getting the items needed the week of, and helping to cook/clean up on those Sundays from 9-10:30am. Please contact Thomas at thomas@unionirmo.org if interested.

Graduation Sunday is June 1, 2025

Join us this Sunday, June 1, at both 9 and 11am services as we celebrate our graduates for 2025!

Youth of Union Summer Schedule:

Check out our finalized summer schedule below!

Signups are here as well!

- **Service Day:** Wednesday, **June 25th** - Join us as we head downtown to be in worship and fellowship with other brothers and sisters experiencing homelessness/food insecurity. We will meet at Union at 8:30am to pack lunches and then head downtown to Veterans Park (1411 Gadsden St) to participate in their weekly bible study and pass out the lunches. This is a great opportunity to be/show the love of Jesus to our brothers and sisters experiencing homelessness and to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. We will return to the church by 12:30pm.



- **Overnight Beach Trip:** Sun. **June 29**- Mon. **June 30** - We will meet at Union at 8am to head to St. Simons Island for some time in the sand and sun. We will have dinner together, before heading to The Gathering Place for The Main Event! The Main Event is a time of games, worship, and a lesson with other youth. This will be a great time of fellowship and worship together. We will stay overnight at Epworth by the Sea and head back Monday morning after breakfast. Cost is \$50 per person.



- **Hiking Trip:** Wednesday, **July 9th** - Join us as we head to NC for a hike and trip to Sliding Rock! We will meet at Union at 8:30am and return to the church by 7pm.

You will NEED to bring the following:
Lunch/Snacks, Water Bottle, Backpack,
Sunscreen and Bug Spray. This is going to be a great day, so we hope to see you there!



- **Soup Cellar Day!** Friday, **July 25th** - Join us as we head downtown to the Washington Street UMC Soup Cellar to prepare and serve food to those experiencing homelessness/food insecurity. We will meet at Union at 9am and return by 1pm.



- **Open Gym:** Thursday, **July 31st** - Join us from 10am-2pm in the FMC gym to hang out and fellowship, play 9 square, basketball, and just spend time together! Bring your own lunch.

- **Flight Night:** Saturday, **August 2nd** - Join us for Flight Night as we wrap up the summer! Meet at Flight in Irmo from 7-9pm and we'll have some fun together before school starts back.

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Sunday, August 3rd - 5:30pm

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!



Union UMC
7582 Woodrow St
Irmo, SC 29063

Snack Pack Needs

INDIVIDUAL PACKAGING

Mac & Cheese packets
Oatmeal packets
Grits packets
Fruit cups
Applesauce cups
Fruit snacks
Ravioli or tuna cans
Juice boxes
Slim Jims
Cereal bars
Granola bars
Cracker packs
Ramen noodle packets
Rice Krispie Treats

Want to help with Snack Pack?

You can head to the grocery store and help us stock up on the items listed above, donate funds directly, or order food from our wish list and have it shipped to Union.

Snack Pack GIVE Page -



Snack Pack Amazon Wish List -



Memorials - May 4 - May 25

Memorials received in memory of:

Jerry Washabau By: Charles and Gail Elfert

Llewellyn Hames By: Charles and Gail Elfert

Jim Lewis By: Randy and Sarah Smith

Iris Bouknight By: Lynn and Marsh Willis

Elizabeth Carter By: Frances Brown, James Baker and Layne Miller

Nancy Sauer By: Sue Gannon

Florence Mullen (Betty Hamby's mother) By: Coby Bowers

Job Opening

Union's Staff Parish Relations Committee seeks applicants for a part-time Administrative Assistant. Erin Schoolmeester has served our congregation for the past three and a half years, but has now moved on to other pursuits. Please contact Susan Vinson, our Church Administrator, at susan@unionirmo.org for job details.

Be in prayer over all the various groups and camps that will be on Union's campus (and out and about) this summer!

Youth of Union's Mission Trip to North Carolina - June 7-14

Vacation Bible School - June 16-19

Safety Town - July 7-10

Lake Murray Salkehatchie - July 12-19

Jan's Van

Save the date for Jan's Van!

January 19 and January 20, 2026

Registration will begin in November.

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

IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth "Lib" Carter
May 2, 1936 - April 28, 2025

Barbara Immerso in the loss of her mother,
Betty Smith.

Bettye Hamby in the loss of her mother,
Florence Madeline Mullen.

Carol Newsome Detwiler
April 29, 1939 - May 13, 2025

Celebrating the birth of

Genevieve "Vivi" Elise Morgan was born on May 5.
She was born to Paige and Ben Morgan.
Vivi's siblings are Maddie, Emilia, Walker and Lucy.
Paige is an Assistant Director at our Day School.

ROSEBUD

(in celebration of the birth of)

Maren Blake Hallman was born on May 7.
She was born to Lacey and Torsten Hallman.
Maren's proud big brother is Mills.

Anna Kate Best was born on May 6.
She was born to Pressley and Meagan Best.
Anna's proud big brother is Carter.

Clara Catherine and Bowie Lovelynn Gates
were born on May 9. Clara and Bowie were born
to Brendan and Christie Gates. Proud great
grandparents are Dave and Susan Harrison.

The Church office will be closed
July 4 for Independence Day.

The August Union Connection
Deadline is July 16.

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

Finance Director
Laura Mars

Director of Communications and Promotions
Amy Nedbalek

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
Tim Alewine

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

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UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

class of
2025

Happy Graduation!

GRADUATE SUNDAY

June 1 - 9 & 11 a.m.

**BACK TO
SCHOOL BASH**

Sunday, Aug. 3! - 5:30 p.m.

Concert, food trucks, games & more!

Check out page 6 for more info!



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

