



# UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

## The Detested Four-Letter Word

I have received training not to say it, but I catch the words coming out of my mouth anyway. I've been taught to be specific when I offer something, but I guess that just takes too much thought. So, although I know better, like you, I just say what we always say, which means saying the detested four-letter word.

You've heard me say it, and I'm confident you've said it too. It happens as we leave someone who's had a loss, or is facing a challenge, and we say, "If you need anything, just let me know."

There, I said it, the word "need." No one I know wants to be in the position of needing anything, nor of having to admit it. In our culture, we value self-sufficiency, and we work hard to reach that status. We admire those who seem to have their needs taken care of. To need makes us feel weak, inferior or inadequate, and we detest it.

That's why we don't ask for help when we need it. That's why people, especially couples, don't go to counseling. It's why older adults, whose abilities begin to decline, live in fear that someone will notice they "need" help. That's why we avoid entering new groups or situations where we don't know what's expected, or needed from us, and thus we might "need" orientation or directions or help.

Now, we don't mind someone else taking care of what we need, we just don't want to admit it. After all, our favorite psalm starts out "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." Our denial of need diminishes our lives in many ways. It causes us to hide behind masks of independence and causes us to say everything is OK or "Just fine," when in fact things aren't OK or fine.

The road to spiritual wholeness (and to mental health) is one that embraces truthfulness. That means truthfulness with ourselves, with God and with others. It is a mark of maturity to admit we are human and that we are not complete in ourselves alone.

Lest we forget, Jesus repeatedly demonstrated his acknowledgment of need. He needed his heavenly Father: "the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing (John 5:19). He expressed his need of companionship from his disciples as he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Think about it, the most complete human that ever lived expressed not his self-sufficiency, but his need - of God, and of others.

Let's change the detestable word into an acceptable word of community and love. Let's continue to journey toward Hope and Healing by owning our need of God and of one another. And, by the way, if you need anything, just give me a call! -Pastor Stephen

# 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!



Charlotte Moore & Wilson Mixon



Dr. William "Bill" Thorner & Kathy Thorner



Rebel Rowlette



Tiffany Braley & George Roy, with Izzy Braley-Roy

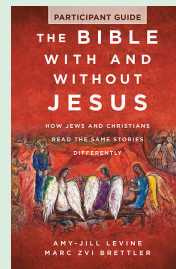
## New Member Sunday!

We're welcoming new members at both services on Sunday, **September 14!** If you're thinking about joining the Union family, this would be a perfect opportunity! Please get in contact with Tiffany, our new Administrative Assistant at [Tiffany@unionirmo.org](mailto:Tiffany@unionirmo.org) about your desire to join.

## Wednesday Suppers are starting!

Join us on Wednesday evenings through the fall for supper and fellowship. Menu's and study information are listed below. Meals are served from 5:30-6:15pm, and the activity or study is 6:30-7:30pm.

Our study for the fall is working through *The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jesus and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently* by Amy-Jill Levine and Dr. Marc Zvi Brettler.



Participant books are \$18 each. You can order your own or indicate you would like to purchase one through the church and pick it up when the study starts on Wednesday, September 17.

### Wednesday Night Schedule -

#### September 10 -

"Alzheimer's & Dementia, and telling the difference"

A presentation by Sally Langer

Sub Night catered by Groucho's Deli

#### September 17 -

*The Bible With & Without Jesus*, week 1

Mexican Night catered by Chipotle

#### September 24 -

*The Bible With & Without Jesus*, week 2

Italian Night catered by Olive Garden

#### October 1 -

*The Bible With & Without Jesus*, week 3

Zaxby's Night

#### October 8 -

### No Wednesday Night Supper

#### October 15 -

*The Bible With & Without Jesus*, week 4

BBQ Night, catered by TBA

#### October 22 -

*The Bible With & Without Jesus*, week 5

Soup and Salad Night, catered by TBA

#### October 29 -

*The Bible With & Without Jesus*, week 6

Pizza Night, catered by TBA

#### November 5 -

Snack Pack Night; dinner and activity

Online sign-ups are open now, scan the QR code on the right, or fill out one of our sign up sheets included in our weekly bulletins.



Recommended cost per person for dinner is \$9. (Union's cost per person is ~\$14.) Recommended family max (for a family of 5) is \$40.

RSVPs are due by the Sunday prior by 5pm.





## Lake Murray Salkehatchie 2025

As I sit at my desk and reflect on Lake Murray Salkehatchie, thank you doesn't seem sufficient enough, but thank you is all I can offer. As a community of faith, Union shows up and shows out! From water donations to feeding us meals, and everything in between, you were and are always there for us. What a blessing it is to have you on our side and in our corner. Without all that you do, we would not be able to do all that we do!

I wish I could share all the exciting ways that God showed up, but for the interest of space & your time, I'll spare you all the details. But a couple of things that continue to stand out are the ways God grew our camp and the ways the youth were the hands, feet, and physical appearance of Christ! Last year we had three campers and this year we had nine, our size tripled!! We also had one more adult serving on the team! God is so good!! Our youth worked hard in the oppressive July heat, scrapping, sanding, painting, etc. and not once did I personally hear them complaining. They loved our homeowner as if they had known her for a lifetime, and more than anything they accomplished, that makes me proud!

Salkehatchie is about transformation. The transformation of a home, the lives of those who live there, the lives of those who worked on the house, and the lives of those who helped in any way...that's ALL of you! I pray that we will continue to be a part of transforming lives and that next year we have twice as many youths and adults.

Thanks again for EVERYTHING!

Blessings to all- Jennifer Donkle, LMSalk Director







## Our Day School is hiring!

Union Day School is looking to hire an infant teacher from 8:30am-5:30pm. We're also looking for a custodian who would work from 4:30-7:30pm daily. If you're interested or know someone who is, please email our Day School Director, Leslie Kulp at [lkulp@unionirmo.org](mailto:lkulp@unionirmo.org).

## Mobile Spirit Night

Tuesday, September 9, 2025  
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Join us for food and fun! Come support your local day school and 15% of the evening's mobile sales will be donated back to them!



BALLENTINE

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## Support our Day School!

By checking off dinner for Tuesday night, **September 9**, and place a mobile order at Chick-fil-a in Ballentine between 5-8pm!

## Parents' Time Out

### Parents' Time Out! - Save the Date!

**October 25 - 11-2 p.m.**

We are offering an 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 (Oct. 22) to Andrea Williams at: [andreamarie6368@gmail.com](mailto:andreamarie6368@gmail.com) be sure to include any allergies when you sign up.

## Check out some of the fun from our Day School Parent Night!



## Did you know?

Irmo and Richland Fire departments have a program where they will deliver AND install smoke detectors for free to the elderly, handicapped, and people in need. They also have a detector for the deaf that connects to the bed and shakes the bed! It too is free.

Those who are interested can call the Irmo Fire department at 803-798-4979. This is the Irmo department and if the person lives in an area they don't serve, they will refer to the correct fire station! Spread the news!



## SonZone

Let's have a great year with our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders on Sunday nights from 4-5:15pm in room F227. Check out our schedule below to see what is happening each week.

**August 24th –**

4 pm - Game Night Kick off

**August 31st –**

No SonZone – Happy Labor Day

**September 7th –**

4pm – Promises series

**September 14th –**

4pm – Promises series

5:15pm – Children's Choir

**September 21st –**

4pm – Promises series

5:15pm – Children's Choir



## New Wiggle Bags!

We are so excited to have new reusable Wiggle Bags for our younger members. Please enjoy the items in the bag while we worship together. Then return the bag and it's contents to the return tub in the narthex. This helps us know which bags need updated. Thanks!



## Children's Music Ministry -

We are excited to launch our Children's (Rising Kindergarten thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade) Music team at the start of September. Be sure to join us for our kickoff!

**September 14, 5:15-6pm** in the Underground

If you have any questions please email Jaime Dow, at [jaime@unionirmo.org](mailto:jaime@unionirmo.org).

## Do you have a little one?

Check out our nursery, located downstairs. If you need help entering the hallway, ring the bell or ask the welcome desk folks to help you. Our nursery is for our youngest ones, 4 years and under, that want to play with friends their age.

Contact Suzy or Andrea if you have questions: [suzy@unionirmo.org](mailto:suzy@unionirmo.org) or [andreamarie6368@gmail.com](mailto:andreamarie6368@gmail.com)

## KIDS WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

**SEP**

**14<sup>TH</sup> - KICKOFF! 5:15-6:00 PM**

**21<sup>ST</sup> - REHEARSAL 5:15-6:00 PM**

**28<sup>TH</sup> - REHEARSAL 5:15-6:00 PM**

**OCT**

**12<sup>TH</sup> - 5:15-6:00 PM**

**19<sup>TH</sup> 5:15-6:00 PM**

**26<sup>TH</sup> - NO REHEARSAL TRUNK OR TREAT**

**NOV**

**NOV 9<sup>TH</sup> - 5:15-6:00 PM**

**NOV 16<sup>TH</sup> 5:15-6:00 PM**

**NOV 23 5:15-6:00 PM**

**NOV 30 5:15-6:00 WITH YOUTH**

**DEC**

**DEC 10<sup>TH</sup> TENTATIVE DRESS REHEARSAL 6:00PM**

**DEC 14<sup>TH</sup> CANTATA 9:00AM CHILDREN SING**

**DEC 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

**4:00 CHILDREN SING**

Contact [Jaime@unionirmo.org](mailto:Jaime@unionirmo.org) or text 803-391-0274



## SAVE THE DATE Trunk or Treat!

**October 26, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.**

Start planning how you want to participate: decorate a trunk, serve popcorn, help with crafts or games! 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 you help us welcome them?



## Youth Summer Recap

We had a ton of fun this summer doing everything from a trip to the beach, a hike/trip to Sliding Rock, open gym time, and Flight Night. Check out some of the fun we had below!



## Salkehatchie

We had 14 youth/college aged students attend Salkehatchie this summer! We had folks at the Santee, Emerald City (Greenwood), and Lake Murray camps! Check out some of the work they did below.







Confirmation Classes begin on Sunday, **September 7**, at 10am with a Parent Orientation meeting in the Underground.

If you/your student would like to be part of the Confirmation class of 2026, and have not received a registration packet, please contact Rev. Faye at [faye@unionirmo.org](mailto:faye@unionirmo.org).

## YOUTH & PARENT FAMILY WORSHIP NIGHT

SEPTEMBER 7  
5-7:30PM

DINNER, GAMES, WORSHIP,  
MEET SMALL GROUP LEADERS

## Family Worship Night

Families of Youth: You are invited to join us on Sunday, **September 7**, from 5-7:30pm for family worship night! We will start in the FMC with games and dinner and then head to the Chapel for some fun, worship, and a message. Then, you will get a chance to go and meet your students' small group leaders and get to know them better. This is a night you do not want to miss out on!

## Youth Praise Band & Worship Team

Are you interested in using your musical talents to help in Worship?

Join the Youth Music Ministry team! We have both the Youth Praise Band that plays on the first Sunday of each month at Youth and The Youth Worship Team that will be involved in church services throughout the year.

Rehearsals for the Band are from 3:30-5pm on the first Sundays. Rehearsals for the Worship Team will be every other Sunday from 4-5pm. Contact Jaime Dow with any questions at [jaime@unionirmo.org](mailto:jaime@unionirmo.org).

## BEFORE THE BELL

HIGH SCHOOL  
SPIRITUAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
STUDY



LATE START  
WEDNESDAYS  
8/27 - 10/1  
7:30-8:30AM

LOCATION: CHICKENBUTT DONUTS  
QUESTIONS? CONTACT THOMAS  
OR REV. FAYE

[THOMAS@UNIONIRMO.ORG](mailto:THOMAS@UNIONIRMO.ORG) OR [FAYE@UNIONIRMO.ORG](mailto:FAYE@UNIONIRMO.ORG)

Register for  
Before the Bell  
updates here -



## Union Basketball

Basketball season is approaching quickly! Sign up today for a season of fun, learning and playing the sport, and building your faith. All skill levels are welcome.

Registration opens **September 15** and is open until teams are full. Practices begin the week of Oct. 13, and games begin around Thanksgiving. More info will be sent out closer to time.

This is for 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders, both girls and boys! Email Thomas at [thomas@unionirmo.org](mailto:thomas@unionirmo.org) with any questions.



## Basketball Help Needed

Union Basketball needs your help! We will be hosting some games here this year for our teams, and we need help running the scores table. If you have experience in doing this and are interested, please contact Thomas Walsh at [thomas@unionirmo.org](mailto:thomas@unionirmo.org).

## 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 all ages 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 - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade)- Sundays, 4:15-5 p.m. (Sanctuary) – **Start Date September 7**
- **Youth Leaps:** (5<sup>th</sup> Grade - Adult)- Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary) – **Start Date August 27**
- **Adult Leaps:** (18 and Over)- Sundays, 5-6 p.m. (Sanctuary) – **Start Date September 7**



## Training New Acolytes & Crucifers -

Any young person currently in 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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 7**, at 3pm.

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).

## Rest in Dignity Burial Service

The remains of nearly 25 people are buried each quarter at the Richland County Cemetery, the final resting place for the unclaimed and often forgotten. Union United Methodist Church is honored to support the Richland County Coroner's Office in their upcoming Rest in Dignity Burial Service, Sunday, **September 7**, 2-2:30pm, to give these people the proper burial they deserve.

Please join us for this service at 779 Old Clemson Road, in Northeast Columbia off of Clemson Road. (Take I-20 East to Florence, then take Exit 80, Clemson Road. Turn left off ramp and continue until you turn left at Old Clemson Road.) Rev. Stephen Taylor will offer words of comfort and some of our Choir Members will sing. The cemetery is located at the top of a hill, so please wear comfortable shoes and bring a folding chair, as seating is limited. "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." – Matthew 25:40

## Wilson Circle Book Club



Is gearing up for fall! Our first meeting after the summer break will be held Tuesday, **September 9, 2025** at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing *Forgiving What You Can't Forget: Discover How to Move On, Make Peace with Painful Memories, and Create a Life That's Beautiful Again* by Lysa TerKeurst. Susan Harrison will be leading the discussion.

There are two copies of the book in the UWF collection in the Church Library, 4 copies in the Lexington Public Library, 3 in the Richland Public Library, plus ebooks. It's also available through Hoopla. 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.

## Calling all singers!

The Chancel Choir has a new rehearsal time. Please join us Wednesday nights from 7-8:15pm for rehearsals. The Union Chancel Choir provides music for the 9am Traditional Worship service. The choir will be learning music for the upcoming fall and Advent season. Various types of choral repertoire are programmed throughout the year. All experience levels are welcome! For questions or concerns, please contact Frank Turner, Director of Music Ministries. email~ frank@unionirmo.org

## PEP! - People Enjoying People!



### Bingo & Board Games -

Wednesday, **September 10**, at 1p.m. in the Fellowship Hall! Come join us for fun, fellowship, BINGO prizes and board games!

**September Dinner & Event** - Join us for a catered dinner and come to learn about Epworth. On Thursday, **September 25**, 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 21**.

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

### PEP Events Coming Up! -

**October** - We're taking a trip to go Apple Picking! (Keep an eye out for more details!)

**November** - Dinner and "Great Songs from Films You Remember," a presentation from one of the teachers at The Shepherd's Center at St. Andrews.

**December** - Join us as we create a Bethlehem experience for our Day School students to walk through and share The Living Christmas Story with our little ones.



Ladies, Come Join  
**Union United Women in Faith**  
for an Evening of



Tuesday, October 14, 2025

7:00pm—9:00pm

Union United Methodist Church  
Family Ministry Center

Don't know how to play? No Problem! Our UWF Ladies will be there to help you. It's easy, fun and a great way to meet people. You can register online at [unionirmo.org](http://unionirmo.org). Just click on Event Sign Ups at the bottom of the first page and go to this event. Or, you can register with the QR code below. Registration deadline is Tuesday, October 7th so we can prepare accordingly. You will pay your admission at the door.



**\$25.00 Per Person**



**Door Prizes**

Wear Your Witch Hat  and Get an **Extra Door Prize Ticket!!**



**Bunco Prizes for  
Most Wins, Most Buncos, Most Baby Buncos, Most Losses**



**Heavy Appetizers and Beverages**



**Proceeds to benefit the  
Lexington District 5 Snack Pack Program**

7582 Woodrow Street

Irmo, SC 29063

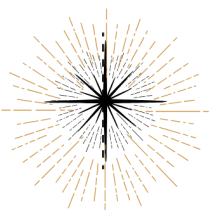


## Congratulations Lollie!

We congratulate our own Lollie Haselden who recently was awarded the Suzanna Wesley Award of Excellence by the South Carolina United Methodist Men. The Suzanna Wesley award recognizes a woman who has given faithful service to the church in a leadership position and who has demonstrated devotion, witness and instruction that leads others to a deeper understanding of the faith and service to Jesus Christ. Lollie works as the Executive Assistant to our Bishop and at Union volunteers in our youth ministry. She and her husband, the Reverend Rett Haselden, are leaders of The Village Sunday School class. They have two boys, Wyatt and Thomas.

(Those pictured from the left: Lollie Haselden, Jessica Brodie, and Tammy Fulmer.)

## THE LIVING CHRISTMAS STORY



### How will you Serve?

- Pray
- Plan to Participate
- Ask a Friend to Serve
- Share a Poster
- Share on Social Media
- Bring a Truck
- Pick up Pine Straw
- Pull Sets out of Storage
- Assemble Scenes
- Install Lights
- Hang Burlap
- Set out the Props
- Sew Costumes
- Make Cookies
- Sign up as a Cast Member
- Preschool Walk Through
- Be a Scene Coordinator
- Help put on Costumes
- Prepare & Serve Food
- Drive Bus
- Direct Traffic
- Take Pictures
- Clean up FMC
- Clean Costumes
- Rake up Pine Straw
- Put Away Props
- Take down the Sets
- Share the Good News

Imagine a World of

*Amazing Love*

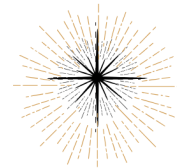


UNION UMC



DEC 5-7, 2025

## Dates and Notes



### SIGN-UP HERE FOR TLCS



Roles given in order of Sign Up

### ORDER 2025 T-SHIRT DESIGN

Wear it around town



Cost: \$15  
Order by Oct. 5

### BUILDING BETHLEHEM

**Sat, Nov. 1:** 8-12 pm;  
Breakfast

**Sat, Nov. 8:** 8 am-12pm;  
Costume Prep (9am-12pm)

**Sun, Nov. 9:** 1pm-5pm

**Sat, Nov. 15:** 8 am-12 pm;  
Costume Prep (9am-12pm)

**Sun, Nov. 23:** 1-5 pm;  
Cookies Too

**Sun, Nov. 30:** 1-5 pm;  
Final touches!

### SET TAKE DOWN

**Sat, Dec. 13**

\*\*Sets need to be down this weekend, due to Christmas events. All hands on deck.



LEARN MORE ABOUT TLCS

UNION TLCS WEBSITE



VIDEO LINK

## Memorials - July 28 - August 24

### Memorials received in memory of:

**Flora Kennedy By:** Jan Westmoreland-Sipes

**William Kennedy By:** Eleanor Sheppard, Fae Sox, Kathryn Robinson, and Charles and Gail Elfert

**Jeff Rychener By:** Stephen Taylor, and Anna Bess Tisdale

## Honorariums - July 28 - August 24

### Honorariums received in honor of:

**Brendan and Christie Gates By:** David and Susan Harrison

**Clara and Bowie Gates' Baptism By:** David and Susan Harrison

**Bill Blitch By:** The Joy Sunday School Class

**Parker Long By:** Celeste and Brian Long

**Stephen Taylor By:** John Michael and Beth Montgomery, and Jim and Lisa O'Donnell

**Jamie Horton By:** Vickie Williams



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

**IN MEMORIAM**

Stacy Burgraff in the loss of her mother,  
**Mary Socha.** Stacy has been a long time nursery worker here at Union.

Jon and Meredith Rychener in the loss of  
Jon's brother, **Jeff Rychener.**

**ROSEBUD**

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

**Carson Briggs Springfield** was born on August 2. He was born to Bradley Springfield and Megan Bray. Carson's proud grandparents are Karen and Gene Springfield.

**Cooper James Gannon** was born on August 14. He was born to Jay and Carling Gannon. Cooper's proud grandparents are John and Sue Gannon.

The Church office will be closed  
September 1 for Labor Day.

The October Union Connection  
Deadline is September 10.

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**

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  
**Thomas Walsh**

Administrative Assistant  
**Tiffany Braley**

Director of Music Ministries  
**Frank Turner**

Coordinator of Contemporary Worship  
**Michelle Cochcroft**

Children's and Youth Music Director  
**Jaime Dow**

Day School Director  
**Leslie Kulp**

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**



Union United Methodist Church  
7582 Woodrow Street  
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Irmo, SC 29063-0705

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# UNION Connection

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](http://www.unionirmo.org)

Ministers:  
Rev. Stephen Taylor, Senior Minister  
Rev. Faye Jones, Associate Minister

