



Final Details!
Bethlehem comes to life
next weekend!

Building Bethlehem - Final Set
Construction!

Today, November 30 - 1-5pm- All final details go out and EVERYTHING comes together! Burlap, pine straw, and final building needs. Help us finish bringing our backyard Bethlehem to life!

Prop Help for TLCS!

Join us on Wednesday, December 3, at 9:30am in the TLCS Village to put out the props and get each scene ready for the big performance coming next weekend!

Help Needed for the Day School
Walk Thru!

We need YOU to sign up to help with the Living Christmas Story for the Day School! It will be Friday morning, Dec. 5. We need you at the church by 8:30am to get into costume. It will be until about 10:30am. Signup sheets are in your Sunday School boxes or by contacting Phyllis Plyler at phyllisplyler@gmail.com.

Flyers & Posters are available!

Please stop by the narthex and grab a handful of posters to share everywhere you can think of. This is our 32nd year of bringing Bethlehem to Irmo, and we need your help to get the word out! Be sure to add it to your own calendar as well, either by signing up to play a role, or by driving through.

As faithful stewards, we promise to support the Church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES:
As of November 25

ROSEBUD
(in celebration of the birth of)

Carolyn Ruth Turner was born November 21. She was born to Tania and Frank Turner. Carolyn's proud big brother is Winston. Frank is Union's Director of Music Ministries.

IN MEMORIAM

We extend our sympathy to the following family on the loss of their loved one

Charles Edward Smith
May 2, 1956 - November 21, 2025

Your pastors want to give you care and be in prayer for you. If you or some-one in your family is in the hospital or having surgery, please let us know.

Weekly Schedule

For a complete listing of events for the month, please visit our website: www.unionirmo.org

Sunday, November 30		
8:30 AM	Jan's Van Mammography Sign-Up	Narthex
9:00 AM	Praise Band Warm-up	Chapel
9:00 AM	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Sunday School for all ages	
11:00 AM	Contemporary Worship Service	Sanctuary
1:00 PM	TLCS Construction	Back Parking Lot
2:30 PM	4th & 5th gr. Girls Basketball Practice	FMC Gym
3:00 PM	6th-9th gr. Girls Basketball Practice	WC Gym
4:15 PM	Junior Leaps of Faith Rehearsal	Sanctuary
5:00 PM	Adult Leaps of Faith Rehearsal	Sanctuary
5:15 PM	Youth & Children's Choir Rehearsal	EB 106 (Underground)
6:00 PM	Disciple 4	LL 14
7:30 PM	Basketball Practice	FMC Gym
Monday, December 1		
7:00 AM	Man in the Mirror	LL Fellowship Hall
9:00 AM	Bridge Card Group	LL Fellowship Hall
9:00 AM	Private Pickleball Reservation	FMC Gym
9:30 AM	Needlers	LL 5
10:00 AM	Disciple 1	F 223
6:00 PM	8th & 9th gr. Boys Basketball Practice	WC Gym
6:00 PM	Basketball Games	FMC Gym
6:00 PM	New Life SS Class Men's Prayer Meeting	LL 13
6:15 PM	Stephen Ministry Training	LL 11
6:30 PM	10th & 11th gr. Boys Basketball Practice	WC Gym
7:00 PM	AA	EB 211 - 213
8:00 PM	Men's free-play basketball	WC Gym
Tuesday, December 2		
9:00 AM	Banner Babes	LL 11
9:30 AM	Church Staff Meeting	F 223
10:00 PM	Pickleball- Open Play- members & guests	FMC Gym
10:00 AM	Upper Room Bible Study	LL 14
5:15 PM	Total Body Workout	WC Gym
6:00 PM	10-12th gr. Basketball Practice	FMC Gym
6:00 PM	Disciple 1	F 223
6:30 PM	UWF Board Meeting	LL 14

Wednesday, December 3		
All Day	January 2026 Newsletter Deadline	Amy's Office (F216)
6:00 AM	Iron Men Bible Study	MultiPurpose Rm
7:30 AM	Before the Bell - High School Bible Study	Off Premises
9:00 AM	Set up for SCUMC Cabinet Dinner	LL Fellowship Hall
6:30 PM	10th & 11th gr. Boys Basketball Practice	WC Gym
6:30 PM	SCUMC Christmas Supper	LL Fellowship Hall
6:30 PM	Youth Leaps of Faith Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:00 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	LL 10 Choir Room
8:00 PM	12th gr. Boys Basketbal Practice	WC Gym
Thursday, December 4		
All Day	TLCS Set Up	FMC Gym
All Day	Joy Class Event	Off Premises
1:00 PM	WOW Bible Study	LL Fellowship Hall
4:00 PM	Funeral and Reception for Charlie Smith	Sanctuary
6:30 PM	6th & 7th gr. Boys Basketball Practice	WC Gym
7:00 PM	Domestic Abuse Meeting	EB 211-213
7:00 PM	Praise Band Rehearsal	Chapel
Friday, December 5		
All Day	TLCS Set Up	FMC Gym
9:00 AM	TLCS Day School Walk Thru	Back Parking Lot
6:30 PM	TLCS	Back Parking Lot
Saturday, December 6		
All Day	TLCS Set Up	FMC Gym
9:00 AM	Student Rehearsal	Chapel
6:30 PM	TLCS	Back Parking Lot
Sunday, December 7		
All Day	TLCS Set Up	FMC Gym
8:30 AM	Jan's Van Mammography Sign-Up	Narthex
9:00 AM	Praise Band Warm-up	Chapel
9:00 AM	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Sunday School for all ages	
11:00 AM	Contemporary Worship Service	Sanctuary
1:30 PM	Student Recital	Chapel
3:00 PM	6th-9th gr. Girls Basketball Practice	WC Gym
4:15 PM	Junior Leaps of Faith Rehearsal	Sanctuary
5:00 PM	Adult Leaps of Faith Rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Disciple 4	LL 14
6:30 PM	TLCS	Back Parking Lot

UNION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Stephen Ministry Congregation
7582 Woodrow Street
P.O. Box 705 Irmo, SC 29063
803.781.3013

www.UnionIrmo.org



UNION UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

KNOW Christ, SHARE Faith, SHOW Grace
First Sunday in Advent



November 30, 2025
www.UnionIrmo.org

“Ready and Waiting and Watching”
Matthew 24: 36-44

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

We Gather Together

Mary McDonald

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Sing with All the Saints in Glory

UMH #702

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

UMH #881

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*MUSICAL RESPONSE

Glory Be to the Father

UMH #71

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Lighting the Candle of Hope

Libby and Joey Tucker

“A shoot will grow up from the stump of Jesse; a branch will sprout from his roots. The Lord's spirit will rest upon him, a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of planning and strength, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord. He will delight in fearing the Lord. He won't judge by appearances, nor decide by hearsay. He will judge the needy with righteousness, and decide with equity for those who suffer in the land. The wolf will live with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat; the calf and the young lion will feed together, and a little child will lead them. The cow and the bear will graze. Their young will lie down together, and a lion will eat straw like an ox. They won't harm or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain. The earth will surely be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, just as the water covers the sea.” - Isaiah 11: 1-10

We light this candle of Hope, awaiting the One who is coming to redeem all of creation. Let us pray together.

All: Lord, we thank you for everlasting joy that is brought into the world because of Jesus Christ, Praise be to God!

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER:

God of all glory, you are coming in power to bring all nations and all peoples under the rule of your lordship through Jesus Christ. We look for the advent of your kingdom even as we celebrate your first advent in Bethlehem. Help us to be expectant people, looking beyond the challenges and trials of any moment to find hope and joy in the promise of your coming kingdom. Amen.

Children's Church Dismissal

Friendly Reminder: Children ages 3yrs-Kindergarten only

Children's Church takes place in the FMC 222 just outside the Sanctuary.

Children are to be picked up from this location following the service.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY:

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH #94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*SCRIPTURE: Matthew 24: 36-44 Leader: The word of our Lord for the people of God. People: Thanks be to God!		Pew Bible p. 903
SERMON	“Ready and Waiting and Watching”	Rev. Stephen Taylor
PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER		
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus	UMH #196
*BENEDICTION		
*CHORAL BENEDICTION		
*POSTLUDE	<i>Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus</i>	Mark Kellner

WORSHIP TODAY

The lovely flowers are given: “To the Glory of God and in memory of Max Lampl.” - Ken, Annette and Jonathan Nash	Acolyte – Jonathan Nash
“To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dan and Norvelle Judd” - Mary Margaret Judd	MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS Chancel Choir; Joey Rothfuss, organist

Please don't forget to turn off or mute electronic devices before you enter for worship. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: NOVEMBER 30, 2025

- **The final details for The Living Christmas Story are coming together this week!** Check out the tear off for all the information and where we need your helping hands!

- **SonZone** is off the next couple weeks. We hope you enjoy your Thanksgiving (Nov 30th) and participate in TLCS (Dec 7th). We will get together **December 14** for our Christmas Party from 4-5:15pm. This will be our wrap up for the year and hope you can join us. Kids are asked to bring a wrapped ornament to share in our exchange.

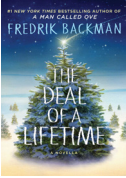
- **Thank you** for supporting our Union Basketball program! If you want to place an order for merchandise please contact Elaine Starks at jebstarks@yahoo.com. The order will be placed the first week of December.



- **Children and Family Devotional** – Are you looking for a way for your family to slow down and focus this season? We have an Advent Devotional just for you, 25 Days of Christmas. It can be found on the 2nd floor of Education Building near the Sunday School classes. There are stories, questions, activities and crafts to do as a family. We hope this will be a great resource for you.

- **The January newsletter deadline** is Wednesday, **December 3**. This is earlier than normal because of where Christmas falls! If you have an article, story or announcement you would like included in this upcoming newsletter, please send it to Amy at amy@unionirmo.org.

- **Annual Chrismons for our children!** Next Sunday, **December 7**, during both worship services, we will be giving a Chrismon ornament to our children during Kids Talk. Thank you to the Banner Babes for making these for our children to hang on their Christmas trees at home. What a wonderful gift to help remind our kids who we celebrate.



- **The Wilson Circle Book Club** will meet Tuesday, **December 9**, at the Lakeview Retirement Home at 2134 N. Lake Drive, Columbia following the Wilson Circle’s luncheon at 11:30 a.m. We will be discussing *The Deal of a Lifetime* by Fredrik Backman. While this book is not on the UWF approved Reading List, it was chosen because of its Christmas theme. There are 2 copies of the book in the UWF Collection in the Church Library. This is a short book; so, if you check it out, please return it to the Library quickly so others can read it.

If you are attending the Book Club meeting, you are invited to attend the luncheon as well. The cost is \$12 cash to be paid upon arrival. Please contact Harriet Simpson at 803-530-5060 by Sunday, December 8, if you plan to attend the luncheon and the Book Club meeting. If you are not attending the luncheon, plan to join the group in the lobby about 12:45 p.m.

* Please stand as you are able. Assistive hearing devices are available from the ushers.
NURSERY available in the Family Ministry Center: exit the hallway at the front right of the Sanctuary and take elevators to lower level.

UMH - The United Methodist Hymnal
TFWS - The Faith We Sing Hymnal
**CCLI#1197820 ONELICENSE # A-713187

- **PEP! Christmas Lights Excursion – December 11** - Join PEP! on Thursday, December 11, for a Christmas excursion to enjoy neighborhood Christmas lights from the comfort of our church bus! We will meet at the bus parking area at 4:45PM and depart at 5:15PM. We’ll ride through area neighborhoods to view the lights, with an optional stop at Lizard’s Thicket for supper (on your own). Participants may: Stay for supper and continue viewing lights afterward, or Return to the church after supper, or Be dropped off at the church instead of going to supper.

There is no charge for the excursion. Riders are simply asked to contribute toward refilling the bus gas at the end of the trip. Sign-up deadline: December 7 (or earlier if the bus fills). Sign-up sheets will be in the classrooms. For more information, contact Faye Bailey at 803-331-4349 or fayebailey424@gmail.com.

- **Youth of Union Christmas Party**- Join us on Sunday, **December 14**, from 5-7:15pm for our annual Christmas Party in the FMC Gym! We will have games, a gingerbread house competition, and our small group gift exchange! Gift limit is \$10 and no gag gifts. You do not want to miss out on this!

- **Jan’s Van Sign Up is Open!** - Mark your calendars, Jan’s Van (Lexington Medical Center’s Mobile Mammography Van) will be at Union UMC on Monday and Tuesday, **January 19-20, 2026**, from 9am-4pm. Stop by the table in the narthex to learn more and to sign up for your spot today.

Important 2025 Year End Giving Reminders

- All contributions for 2025 must be received by Wednesday, December 31 to be recorded on your 2025 giving statement. If you are mailing a year-end contribution, please be sure to mail it in time that we receive it prior to December 31st. Any contributions received after December 31, will be included on your 2026 giving statement.
- If you are considering a stock gift for 2025, please consider starting the process now. It can take a week or more for these transactions to be processed by the brokerages. If you are making a stock gift, please make sure you use our correct account at Fidelity for us to receive the gift. Laura in the finance office can provide this information to you. (laura@unionirmo.org) Also, please let Laura know that a gift is being sent so that we can be sure to credit it to the correct donor.
- If your address has changed during 2025, please make sure the church has your correct address as we prepare your year-end giving statements.
- All expense reimbursements that relate to 2025 should be turned into the church office by December 31st. Any reimbursements requests related to 2025 received after December 31st may be applied to the 2026 budget rather than the 2025 budget.

- **Parking Reminder:** Kindly avoid parking on the sidewalks in front of the chapel and sanctuary. Let’s be considerate of our neighbors and ensure the sidewalks remain clear for pedestrians. Thank you!



- **The Endowment Fund** has some great news to share during this season of giving thanks! Our fund has done well so far this year, thanks to steady earnings growth and congregational donations. We are pleased to announce that we anticipate having funds available for 2026 projects and missions. Thanks to your continued support, we will be able to invest in programs that make a difference to our church and our community. The official announcement and exact funding amount will be made in early 2026. Applications are now being accepted for consideration in advance of the announcement. Happy Thanksgiving from the Endowment Committee!

Please join the
NIKKI CIRCLE

Rescheduled for today!

**November 30 -
12:30-1:30 PM
PICNIC LUNCH & CRAFTS**

Bring your own lunch and join us in the Wesley Center for holiday craft time.

Nikki Circle is for young ladies ages 4-11
Devotions, fellowship and fun

Please RSVP to Carolyn Nicholson- 704-502-8348

Upcoming Schedule for Children and Youth Choir
Sunday, November 30 - Combined rehearsal with children and youth - 5:15-6:00 pm
Sunday, December 7 - No rehearsal - TLCS
Saturday December 13 - 9:30-10:15am - Combined dress rehearsal in the Sanctuary
Sunday, December 14 - Youth and Children sing for Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 14- Combined Rehearsal with children and youth - 5:15-6:00 pm
Wednesday, December 24 - Youth and Children Sing for the Contemporary Worship Service at 4pm
Sunday, December 28 - No rehearsal

Congregational Concerns

If you have a prayer concern, please write the information below and place it in the offering basket. You may also fill out the Prayer Request form on our website or you can email it to: Prayers@Unionlrmo.org.

Share with:

☐

Pastors

☐

Prayer Team

Prayer Requests...

Name (optional)