



# UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

## “Survival Basics”

Cynthia and I have enjoyed watching some of the survival shows on our streaming services. In one of them, participants can carry ten items (such as a sleeping bag, bow and arrows, ax, knife, pot, paracord, etc.) into the wilderness to see who can survive the longest. Human creativity and tenacity never cease to amaze.

I read somewhere that while most people think water is the foremost necessity in the wilderness, the first basic need is shelter. It's called the rule of threes. You can survive three weeks without food, three days without water, three hours without shelter (in extreme conditions) and three minutes without air.

Over the past few weeks, I have been with people who have gotten horrible news – information that dropped them right smack in the middle of a different kind of wilderness. Life cannot go on as it was, and emotionally, they are thrust into providing for the basics of survival.

And what are those basics? Well, I'm not a trained survivalist, but here are my suggestions.

**ACCEPTANCE.** We need assurance that we are seen and accepted just as we are with all our brokenness, wounds, inadequacy, sin, inability and imperfection. We need release from the fear of shame and rejection. We need someone to acknowledge us and welcome us.

**SECURITY.** We need an assurance that we and our loved ones are safe. We need a non-anxious presence that sends a beacon of calm through the fog of sudden change. We need trustworthy people and information to lean upon.

**AFFECTION.** We need to know that we are liked, listened to, and that our presence is desired. We need evidence that attention will be given to our needs. We need to know that someone indeed cares about us in our particularity.

**COMPASSION.** We need to experience empathy from others, and we need to be moved to empathy for others. Compassion acknowledges our interdependence in sadness, joy, anxiety, and laughter. We need someone with whom to share.

**HOPE.** We need the hope of improvement in our situation. We might be caught in the wilderness of life, but that's not where we want to stay. We need the hope of redemption and restoration.

I imagine you noticed that I didn't list "love." That word just means too many different things to people. And I feel confident that if you've experienced Acceptance, Security, Affection, Compassion, and Hope, then you've experienced love.

It's been said that every other person you encounter each day is dealing with some kind of crisis. It isn't our job to try to diagnose or fix their situation. But we can show the love of Christ by demonstrating acceptance and offering a safe place. We can listen without judgment. And we can express compassion and offer the hope we have in Christ. With those emotional basics in place, those in the wilderness of life can find their way home. In fact, these basics can help each of us to thrive every day. What's on your survival basics list?

- Stephen



## Lenten Wednesday Suppers!

Join us Wednesday evenings through March for supper and fellowship.

Dinner is 5:30-6pm in the FMC Gym; study is 6:15-7:15pm in the Fellowship Hall.

You can sign up online, with the QR code, or with the insert or tear off in our weekly bulletins. RSVPs are due by the Sunday prior at 5pm.



### Dinner Menu

**March 4** - Pizza Night  
catered by Lil House of Pizza

**March 11** - Sub Night  
catered by Groucho's Deli

**March 18** - Taco Night  
catered by Moe's

**March 25** - Baked Ziti, salad & garlic bread  
catered by Lil House of Pizza

## Holy Week Schedule



### Palm Processional 9 a.m. Worship

Children and Youth will meet in the narthex before the service to receive palms and directions. All children and youth are invited to participate.



### PA LM WALK 11am WORSHIP

Children and Youth will meet in the upstairs of the Education Building and process with palms to the sanctuary. Please have your child or youth there by 10:50am if they are not already in Sunday School



## "Pray like this..."

Study of Prayer in the Gospel of Luke

4-WEEK BIBLE STUDY SERIES  
MARCH 4-25

### Wednesday Night Bible Study

(Bring your bible, notebook, and an open heart for prayer)

Join us each Wednesday evening in March as we grow deeper in faith and fellowship through the study of the Scriptures.

Together, we will explore how Jesus prayed, what He taught about prayer, and how we can strengthen our own prayer lives through His example.

Bring your Bible, a notebook, and an open heart ready for prayer. Come ready to learn, reflect, and draw closer to God. We look forward to growing in prayer together!

Register for this study with the QR code on the right, or by visiting our website.



If you can't meet in-person, join us via Zoom Meeting with the QR code on the left!



### Flowers for the Cross on Easter Sunday

You are invited to bring real flowers Easter morning for the flowering of the cross outside the Sanctuary.

This represents the transition from Good Friday to Easter, from meditation on Jesus' death to joyful celebration of his resurrection.

### Easter Sunday Easter Lilies

The Easter lilies in the sanctuary are available for members to take home on a first come, first serve basis following the 9am worship service on Easter morning.

## Celebrating Music in March

Hello Union Family,

During the month of March, we will celebrate Music and Arts ministries here at Union. This emphasis on music will highlight the various programs and activities that are available to those looking for new ways to connect with other people.

Music plays a vital role during worship, and we are always looking for people to help "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord." Whether you are a singer, dancer, or instrumentalist- there is something for you to be a part of at Union.

This church has been blessed with people who love to share their time, talents and gifts. If you are an artist that would like to join an arts ministry, I hope that our music emphasis will encourage you to join the fun. If you enjoy listening to the musical offerings, I hope that you will take time to share your appreciation with our dynamic and passionate music leaders.

Sing on!

Frank Turner

## Music Staff

Frank Turner - Director of Music Ministries

Michelle Cochcroft - Coordinator of Contemporary Worship

Jaime Dow - Children's and Youth Music Director

Joey Rothfuss - Organist

## Worship Production Ministry

Jake Cosentino - Production Manager

Bill Blitch - Video and Live Stream Lead

## Leaps of Faith Dance Ministry

Linda Caldwell - Director

Gloria Stansell - Little Leaps Director

## Here is a list of Music & Arts Groups

Chancel Choir - Leads worship for the Traditional 9am service.

Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:15pm

Praise Band - Leads worship for the Contemporary 11am service.

Praise Band Ensemble - Adults and youth starting in 4<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to sing several times during the year

Leaps of Faith: Lady Leaps, Youth Leaps and Little Leaps

Provides special dance pieces for both services.

- Lady Leaps - Rehearse on Sundays, 5-6pm in the Sanctuary

- Youth Leaps - Rehearse on Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30pm in the Sanctuary

- Little Leaps - Rehearse on Sundays, 4:15-5pm in the Sanctuary

Mary Bonnett Chancel Chimers - Handbell group that shares special music during the Traditional service.

Children's Worship Choir - Check out spring schedule below

Youth Worship Choir - Check out spring schedule below

Sound and Audio Production - People who help run the sound board and screens during both worship services.

If you are interested in joining a particular group, please reach out to the director/lead person.



CELEBRATE  
**MUSIC IN MINISTRY**  
March 22 - 9 & 11am

Each service will be different and unique!  
We are also celebrating 20 years of contemporary worship at Union!

### Kids Worship Schedule- 5:15-6:00

Feb 8

Feb 15

Feb 22

March 8

March 15

March 22

April 12

April 19

April 26

May 17

### Dates to Sing:

March 22 at 9:00 with

Chancel Choir

April 26 Joint Service for  
Confirmation

### Youth Worship Schedule

Feb 8 4:45- 5:30

Feb 22- 4:45-5:30

March 1 Youth Band

March 8 4:45-5:30

March 15 4:45-5:30

March 22 Sing with

Chancel Choir at 9:00

and rehearsal 4:45-5:30

March 29 no rehearsal

April 19 4:45-5:30

April 26 Sing Joint Service and  
rehearsal 4:45-5:30

May 3 Youth Band

May 17- Sing Grad Sunday and  
4:45-5:30 Party

# Help us prep for our Egg Hunt!



Will you help us pack the eggs for our egg hunt full of treats?

We will have empty plastic eggs available for pick up on **March 8** after both worship services. Please help us fill the eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt.

The only limit is that the candy be individually wrapped. Please no loose candy. We need them returned by **March 22!** Thank you for your help!

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

March 21 - 11-2 p.m.

May 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. break for infants through 6 years old. We ask for \$10 per child to cover the cost of lunch and supplies for the 3 hours.

RSVP by the Wednesday before to Andrea Williams at: [nurseryuumc@gmail.com](mailto:nurseryuumc@gmail.com). Be sure to include any allergies when you sign up.

## SonZone

All 4th and 5th graders join us each week for some fun and a lesson. We meet from 4-5:15pm in F227 off the Sanctuary. As always, there are games, a lesson and a snack! We are looking forward to our Easter lessons and mission project! Parents if you aren't on the email list, let Suzy know ([suzy@unionirmo.org](mailto:suzy@unionirmo.org))

## March SonZone Calendar

March 1	Promise to help me stand strong
March 8	Easter Lesson
March 15	Snack Bag Packing
March 22	Resurrection Rolls and Easter games
March 29	Palm Sunday - No SonZone

You are invited to our **EASTER EGG HUNT!**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28 AT 10 A.M.**

At Union UMC  
7582 Woodrow St. Irmo, SC 29063

All children through 5th grade are invited to join in the fun!

Families will hunt together and we have a tiny tots hunting area just for our littlest ones.

There will be crafts, games, photo area and of course the BIG Hunt!

Parents, there will be free coffee to help keep up with all the energy!

Meet us in the FMC gym off the back parking lot.

# Mobile Spirit Night

Tuesday, March 31, 2026  
5-8 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!



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## Union Basketball Recap!

We had an incredibly successful season of Union Basketball with all 8 of our teams and that is in huge part thanks to you! Thank you so much for your support through the Pep Rally, buying Union gear, and coming to cheer on our teams. **Shoutout to our 8th and 9th grade boys team for being co-champions and our 12th grade boys team for being the runners up in their age division!** Hope to see everyone back in full force next season!



Thank you again for your support of Souper Bowl Sunday! Thanks to your generosity, we raised close to \$950 for Sharing God's Love to feed our neighbors. We couldn't do this without you!

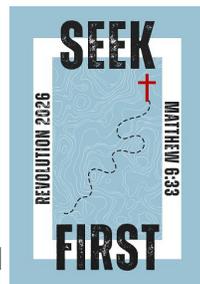
## Middle School Lock-in -

Registration is now open for our Middle School Lock-In on **March 21!** We will head to Stars and Strikes for bowling, laser tag, and video games and then wrap up the night with ice cream. We will finish Sunday morning after attending worship and Sunday Morning Discipleship together. Sign up today for a night of fun, food, and fellowship together.



## Revolution

**NEW DATES! - March 27-29** - This year's theme for Revolution is Seek First, based on Matthew 6:33. This will be an incredible weekend of worship, fellowship, fun, and learning how we can seek God first in all things. We will crash at Union for the weekend and have an awesome time together!



You can still register up until the event, a tshirt is just not guaranteed. Cost is \$100. If needed, financial assistance is available, contact Thomas. Sign up today with the QR code!



## Snack Pack

In place of regular youth on Super Bowl Sunday, we continued our theme of the "Souper" bowl and helped pack snack packs. Please don't forget to pray for and donate to this vital ministry of our church that feeds 147 kids in our district weekly! Thank you to the Martha Circle for allowing us to come and pack.



## Confirmation Sunday is April 26, 2026

Be sure to attend our one worship service at 10 a.m. on April 26 to support and celebrate everyone who is being confirmed into our Union church family!

## A Return to the Holy Land

Tour groups have returned to Israel. Reverends Stephen and Cynthia Taylor are planning an 8-day trip departing January 11, 2027. If you would like more information about this trip, an Interest Meeting will be held on Sunday, **March 1**, at 4:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall, or email to [stephen@unionirmo.org](mailto:stephen@unionirmo.org).

COMING SOON

# UMC 101



with Rev. Stephen Taylor  
**March 8, 15, 22**  
 10:10 - 10:50 AM  
 MultiPurpose Room (off of FMC Gym)

## UMC101

Rev. Taylor's introductory course on the United Methodist Church will be offered for three Sundays starting Sunday, **March 8**. Learn about our beliefs, our use of scripture, our history, view of baptism and Holy Communion and our ways of doing ministry.

**March 8, 15, and 22** in the Multi-Purpose Room (off the FMC gym) from 10:10 to 10:50 AM.

## We're welcoming new members at both services on Sunday, March 29

If you're thinking about joining the Union family, this would be a perfect opportunity! Please get in contact with Tiffany at [Tiffany@unionirmo.org](mailto:Tiffany@unionirmo.org) about your desire to join.



Save someone's  
 life today

# HERITAGE CIRCLE BLOOD DRIVE

Sign up to give blood!

**Sunday, March 22**  
**8:00 AM to 1:00 PM**  
**FMC Gym**



OR

Visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter "29063" in the "Find a Blood Drive" search box to sign up for a time slot today!

## Congratulations!



Women of  
**Union United Methodist Church**  
 on your participation in  
**United Women in Faith**  
 (formerly United Methodist Women)



*For the Past 125 Years!*



**Come Help us Celebrate this  
 Achievement at Our**

## Grits, Grace and Gratitude Brunch

**Saturday, March 14, 2026**  
**Family Ministry Center**  
**10:00am—12:00pm**



Sign Up On-Line at  
[unionirmo.org](http://unionirmo.org) or use this  
 QR code.

**Grit** Perseverance Leadership Resilience Mission Connect Character

Nurture Family Spiritual Fellowship Strong Expanding **Courage** Impact

Empower Education **Grace** Kindness Thriving Mercy Purpose

Come See How our UWF Ladies Embody this  
 Compassion Opportunity Inspire Influence **Gratitude**

Powerful Mindset  
**United Women in Faith**

Impact **Thankfulness** Blessings Grateful Well-Being Children Together

Developing Ministry Innovation Acceptance Optimism Productive

Sign up to join our United Women in Faith in celebrating this 125 year anniversary today! By scanning the QR code above or by visiting our website. Deadline to register is Tuesday, March 10.



Community Resource Expo  
**Shower  
 of Hope**

HOSTED BY  
 UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH OF UNION UMC - IRMO

Save the date for this community-wide event!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Shower of Hope**  
**May 2 - 8am-1pm**

If you're involved with a circle, check with them to see how you can help! Or check out the Amazon wish-list by scanning the QR code on the right and how you can support us there!



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

**IN MEMORIAM**

Tippi Craig in the loss of her sister,  
**Mary Louise "Weesie" Anderson.**

**Sharon K. Hanson**  
July 28, 1939 - February 2, 2026

**Rev. Paul Edwin Van Dine**  
June 19, 1939 - January 25, 2026

**Virginia "Jenny" Gwendolyn Sizemore**  
May 24, 1934 - January 23, 2026

**ROSEBUD**

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

**Katherine Elizabeth Waters** was born February 12, 2026. She was born to Adam and Emily Waters. Katherine's proud big brother is Admiral. Her grandparents are Marsha Waters, and Mark and Liz Kellam.

**Save the Date!**

**Spring Healing Service**

April 12 - 6pm

**Confirmation Sunday**

April 26 - 10am

**Joy Class Spring Garage Sale**

April 25 - 8am-1pm

**Memorials - January 15 - February 20**

**Memorials received in memory of:**

**Jeanette Coulter By:** Harriet Simpson, Joan Bickley, Alice and Jack Martin, and David and Betty Moxley

**Bill McElveen By:** Alice and Jack Martin, and David and Betty Moxley

**Rev. Paul Van Dine By:** ALewis and Arlene Milligan, Bill and Barry Lide, the John Rowland Sunday School Class, David and Deborah Bruner, Herb Hames, Alice and Jack Martin, David and Betty Moxley, David and Anne Elam, and George and Jean How

**Sharon Hanson By:** Bill and Barry Lide, Lewis and Arlene Milligan, the John Rowland Sunday School Class, Harriet Simpson, Robert and Ann May, David and Deborah Bruner, Etta Parker, Bob and Connie Warren, Herb Hames, Alice and Jack Martin, David and Betty Moxley, Tracey Quillen, Frank Braddock, Edwin and Jackie Breland, Jean Ellen Duke, Virginia Gibson and Lawrence Kutys, Shirley Miller, John and Natalie O'Bradovich, David and Anne Elam, and George and Jean How

**Michael Goff, Tom Goff's brother By:** Bob and Connie Warren, and Herb Hames

**Peggy and Walter, Steve Leszczyszyn's parents By:** Herb Hames

**Gladys Cooke Rose, Lora McKinney's mother By:** Herb Hames

**Shirley Owens, Beth Sawyer's mother By:** Herb Hames, and Phillip Teague

**Lessie Detwiler, Bill Lide's sister By:** Alice and Jack Martin

**Susan Moxley, David Moxley's sister By:** Alice and Jack Martin

**Our Ministry Team**

Senior Minister

**Rev. Stephen Taylor**

Associate Minister

**Rev. Faye Jones**

Minister of Visitation

**Rev. David Anderson**

Check out a full list of our ministry staff on our website at [UnionIrmo.org](http://UnionIrmo.org)!

The Church office will be closed on April 3 for Good Friday.

**The April Union Connection  
Deadline is March 11.**

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)).



**PEP! Trip: Washington, DC**

America's 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration

**September 2, 2026** | 5 Days | Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary with Union

UMC PEP! on a guided Grand Tour of Washington, DC, including Monticello, Arlington National Cemetery, Smithsonian Museums, National Cathedral, Memorials, Mt. Vernon, DC sightseeing and more. Meals included: 4 Continental Breakfasts, 2 Lunches & 2 Dinners. Pricing per person: Double \$1,345 | Triple \$1,255 | Quad \$1,215 | Single \$1,659; Deposit: \$350 per person — paid directly to Christian Tours. Early booking discounts available thru May 30.

To reserve: Contact Christian Tours at 800-476-3900 Important! When reserving, be sure to mention Union UMC, Irmo SC. Contact Faye Bailey at (803) 331-4349 | [fayebailey424@gmail.com](mailto:fayebailey424@gmail.com) with questions.



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

Visit us on the Web at [www.UnionIrmo.org](http://www.UnionIrmo.org)

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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You are invited to our  
**EASTER  
EGG HUNT!**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28  
AT 10 A.M.**

All children through 5th grade are invited to join in the fun!  
Check out **page 4** for more info on this event!



*Easter  
Sunday!*

**April 5  
Worship at 9 & 11 a.m.**

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

