



UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

The Power of Many Working as One

I stopped while mowing grass to speak to some neighbors taking a walk. I didn't realize I was standing on a small fire ant bed. Well, I didn't realize it until several of the ants had crawled up my shoes and legs and somehow - as if on signal - began biting me.

Talk about the power of many working as one! A single ant weighs about 4 milligrams (it takes about 500 ants to equal the weight of a paperclip.) Yet those ants, working as one, drove a 200-pound man off their home – quite quickly I'd admit!

Illustrations of the power of many working as one are abundant in nature. Think about honeybees and beavers. Think of the murmuration of the purple marlins, thousands of birds flying as one body, swooping and twisting over Bomb Island every summer.

We really should need no convincing of the importance of getting involved in the church and investing our time and resources in its ministries. So many of our ministries at Union have an unmeasurable impact because many work together as one to serve Christ.

Think of our worship teams, our Day School, our youth ministries, the choir, our Bible studies, the Living Christmas Story, Vacation Bible School, yard sales, snack pack meals, Shower of Hope, mission teams, just to name the obvious. It's the power of Many Working as One.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth (1 Cor. 12): You, individually, are members of the body of Christ, for God arranged the members of the body as God chose. No member can say, 'I have no need of the other members.' To each one has been given gifts of the Spirit for the common good.

In today's divisive world, this is something we can't take for granted. One person's great abilities mean little if not connected to the body as God intended. One person's struggle or loss was never meant in God's plan, to be carried alone. One person's successes in life should increase the success of the whole body. One person's sacrifice builds up the body in Christ's love.

I am ever thankful to God that so many in Union church understand this spiritual reality. We are known for our service that reveals the heart of Christ to others. But of course, the 20/80 rule shows up here also. Twenty percent of the folk usually carry 80% of the load.

In this stewardship season, let's change those percentages. Let's be the exception - continuing to grow as the body of Christ and stepping up both in our service and in our financial giving. Keep praying: **Lord, show me how you want to use my hands, my words and my gifts so that the whole body of our church serves you. Amen.**

- Stephen





Thank you Union for showing up and eating dinner with our Day School families during Spirit Night at the Ballentine Chick-fil-a on September 15. We had a great turn out and appreciate all your support throughout the year. With your help, we raised \$557 for Union Day School!

Be sure to mark your calendars for November 9-13 for our Annual Scholastic Book Fair. This is a great opportunity to find some Christmas presents for your littlest ones as well as support our school. Part of the proceeds from each sale goes back to the Day School. Watch for more details!



SonZone is off to a great Fall start!

We hope all our 4th and 5th graders will join us in the coming weeks for some more games and bad day fun! Be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming weeks. We

will not meet for Fall Break and Trunk or Treat. Be sure to let Suzy know if your SonZoner will be here for Pumpkin Carving night. We want to make sure we have plenty of pumpkins! Also if you are not already on our email list, send Suzy your email address so you can be added: suzy@unionirmo.org.

SonZone Schedule for October

Oct. 4	Mary's Bad Day
Oct. 11	Fall Break - No SonZone
Oct. 18	Pumpkin Carving
Oct. 25	Trunk or Treat at 4:30pm
Nov. 1	The Disciple's Bad Day

Parents' Time Out! - Save the Date!

October 24 - 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 Parents' 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. Be sure to include any allergies when you sign up.



Worship Wiggle Bags Updated!

We updated our Wiggle Bags! Our Bags include an activity book and crayons, fidget toy and a NEW Doodle board.

Help us take care of them so we can share with our friends during both worship services. There will be a separate "Return Box" for the Doodle boards if they need a new battery.



November 9-13

Coming Soon!

**Family Movie Time
December 27th at 4pm
"The Star"**



**October 25th
4:30pm**

**We need your trunk
and we need you!**

Help us welcome the community for a fun night together by providing a trunk and a smiling face!

Because of you, we were able to welcome over 500 kids and their families last year.

Let's do it again!



Sign up today by scanning the QR code on the left!

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

Questions? Email Suzy – suzy@unionirmo.org

Lake Day Recap:

We enjoyed one last day of fun in the sun before heading back to school on August 2! From time on the water to laughter and fellowship, it was the perfect way to wrap up the summer together.



Kickoff Party Game Show Edition:

We had a fantastic time kicking off the school year together on August 23! The evening was filled with games, laughter, fellowship, and plenty of friendly competition. We're grateful to everyone who came out and helped make it such a memorable night.



Worship Night with Salem UMC:

We enjoyed a wonderful evening of worship, fellowship, and connection with our friends at Salem UMC on September 13! We are grateful for the opportunity to come together and celebrate our faith as one community.



Games & Devotional: October 11 - Join us for an evening of games, fellowship, and a devotional from 5-7:15pm in the FMC! We'd love to see you there!

Group Outings: October 18 - be on the lookout for more info from your student's small group leader soon!

BEFORE THE BELL

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY!

AUG 26TH-DEC 9TH
(NO MTGS ON OCT 7TH, NOV 25TH)



LATE START WEDNESDAYS

7:45-8:45AM

LOCATION: SONIC (BALLENTINE)

1150 DUTCH FORK RD, IRMO, SC 29063

QUESTIONS? CONTACT THOMAS OR REV. FAYE
THOMAS@UNIONIRMO.ORG OR FAYE@UNIONIRMO.ORG

Before the Bell:

Our High School late-start study, is back! Each Wednesday, students gather at 7:45am at Sonic on Dutch Fork Rd. for study, fellowship, food, and fun. We're excited to continue this time together throughout the school year as we study the Gospel of Matthew! For more information, contact Rev. Faye at faye@unionirmo.org or Thomas at thomas@unionirmo.org.

Band App

Reminder that we have a new spot for all things Youth of Union: The Band App! This is your one-stop shop for everything: communication, events (registrations still on church center), photos, etc.

Everyone needs to create an account and join via the QR code if you have not already. If you have any questions or need help, please let Thomas or Archkela know (thomas@unionirmo.org and archkela@unionirmo.org).



Common Ground

Our Sunday nights are centered around the common ground we share through our identity in Christ. Through games, dinner, a short lesson, and small-group conversations, students have the opportunity to connect, grow in faith, and build community. Most importantly, Common Ground is a place where everyone is welcomed, seen, and loved just as they are. Join us on Sundays from 5-7:15pm, beginning in the FMC Gym and ending in the Chapel.

Sharing God's Love

Christmas Toy Drive

October 11 - November 15

Toys for Ages
infant-18
Christmas PJ's
Stockings
Games
Candy



Books
Personal Care
Gift Sets
Gift Cards
Gift Wraps &
Bags

Collection bins in Narthex

Youth of Union is excited to support the Christmas Shop at Sharing God's Love for another year!

Starting October 11, help us fill the shelves by donating new, unwrapped toys, gifts, or gift cards for children and youth from infants through 18 years old. Donations can be placed in the collection box in the Narthex or dropped off by the office. Collection will run through Sunday, November 15. Thank you for helping us in this special ministry of our community.

UNION YOUTH WORSHIP TEAM

FALL 2026 REHEARSALS
4:45 - 5:30 PM

- ▶ AUGUST 23
- ▶ AUGUST 30
- ★ SEPTEMBER 13 - YOUTH BAND PLAYS
- ▶ SEPTEMBER 20
- ▶ OCTOBER 4
- ▶ OCTOBER 11
- ▶ NOVEMBER 1
- ▶ NOVEMBER 8
- ▶ NOVEMBER 15
- ▶ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 - REHEARSAL
- ★ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 - SING LESSONS AND CAROLS
- ▶ SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19 9:30 - 10:00
- ★ WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 - SING 4:00 PM SERVICE

For Youth 6th-12th grade
We meet in the "Underground" (EB 106)

Contact Jaime Dow Director of Youth and Children's Music at
Jaime@unionirmo.org or 803-391-0274



Youth Worship Team!

We had a great time leading worship for Worship Night with Salem UMC! Check out the pictures above, and to the left, to see all the fun we have at Youth Worship Team. Then be sure to check out the calendar above and add the remaining rehearsal times to your own calendar. We would love to have you join us.



FALL Community Bible Study for WOMEN



Women of G.R.I.T Series

Grace, Resilience, Identity, and Trust

We will be looking at 4 Biblical Women and explore how God worked through overlooked, wounded, courageous, and faithful women whose stories reveal true spiritual grit.



Register & Bring a Friend!



Thursdays -
October 8, 15, 29
& November 5
6:30 P.M.

Childcare will be available!



Union United
Methodist Church
7582 Woodrow Street
Irmo, SC 29063



For all questions,
Contact Us!
info@unionirmo.org



Joy Class Fall Garage Sale

Saturday, October 10, 2026

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

We need your unwanted treasures!

Items we're collecting:

Clothes, shoes, toys, bicycles, furniture, crafts, linens, housewares, sporting goods, hand tools, hardware, CDs, books, magazines, baby items, jewelry

Working: Appliances, power tools, lawnmowers, tillers, blowers, chainsaws, outdoor items, lighting fixtures.

Please No: TVs, monitors, armoires, large office or house furniture, mattresses, box springs, high chairs, cribs, baby beds, car seats, swings, playpens, magazines, encyclopedias. No Non-Working, Soiled or Damaged items.

Donation Drop Off

Mon, Oct. 5 - Thurs, Oct. 8
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

*Your dropping items off
is helpful & appreciated!*



Donation Pick Up

To schedule a pick up, or if you have any questions, please text **(preferred)** or call Charles Ayer at 803.447.0212, as soon as possible in the coming days.



Thank you for your continued support!

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



Bunco-Ween



Ladies, join us for a spooktacular night of Bunco!

October 22, 2026 6 - 9 PM

Family Ministry Center

**Let the
Spooky
Times
Roll!**

Food, Beverages and Door Prizes!

\$25.00 per person

Register with QR code or at UnionIrmo.org
(Money will be collected at the door)

Everyone is Welcome! Bring a Friend!

Proceeds to Benefit the Snack Pack Program



**Sign up
today!**

UNION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS

Dementia & Alzheimers Information & Resources Expo

Knowledge, resources, and support - all in one place.
Join us to connect with experts, understand the
resources available in our community, and learn how to
navigate the best care for your loved one.

OUR COLLABORATORS

 Union United
Methodist Church
Stephen Ministries

 Leeza's Care
Connection



RESPITE CARE PROVIDED ON SITE

Must reserve a spot. Contact Ali at
803-888-7525 or
ali@leezascareconnection.org.

Free Admission.
Materials provided.
Opportunities to speak
directly with experts.

EVENT LOCATION:
Union's Fellowship Hall
(door with purple
balloons)

CONTACT US:
info@unionirmo.org
Parking in front, side, and
rear; across from railroad
tracks if needed.



**OCTOBER
24
2026**

10AM - NOON

**FREE
ADMISSION**

**RESPITE CARE
AVAILABLE***

*Reservation Required

Thank you Union!

The Chapel Sunday School Class extends their sincere appreciation to everyone who participated in the shredding event on Tuesday, September 15, at the church. The event was a huge success with 234 cars driving through; 10,900 pounds of paper being shredded and recycled, thus, keeping it out of our landfills! In addition, community members who showed up to the event generously donated canned goods, which amounted to 3 truckloads of food for Sharing God's Love, plus an additional \$500 cash that was also given to SGL. We hope to be able to offer this service again in the Spring.



Congratulations Linda!

We congratulate our own Linda Richardson who was awarded Union's Woman of the Year at the United Women in Faith Columbia District event on Saturday, September 20.

The Woman of the Year award recognizes a woman who has worked within her church, as part of the United Women of Faith on a circle level and a church-wide level, and in her community to inspire others to be servants of God.

Linda is one of the most hardworking and dedicated members of our unit. We truly don't know what we would do without her. She has served as her circle's chair for several years and as our Unit's Vice President for the past three years. Her vision, leadership, and exceptional organizational skills have ensured the success of every event she has led.

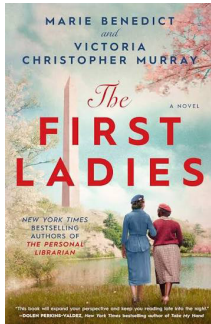
She has a remarkable gift for hospitality and is a thoughtful, faithful servant in every sense. She serves as a District Cluster Leader and she has contributed two years of service to our Shower of Hope Committee. Her selfless dedication and joyful spirit make her an invaluable member of our community and truly deserving of her recognition as Woman of the Year. Congratulations Linda!

Interested in joining the Chancel Choir for Advent and Christmas music?

You are invited to join the choir for a fun evening with food and music on Wednesday, **October 7** from 6-8pm. We will start with supper and finish by rehearsing music for our service of Lessons and Carols on December 13. No experience is needed, just a positive attitude and a desire to make beautiful music. Instrumentalists are welcome as well! Dinner will be provided in the Fellowship Hall, with rehearsal to follow in the Choir Room.

The Wilson Circle Book Club

is meeting on Tuesday, **October 13, 2026** at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing the book, *The First Ladies: A Novel*, by Marie Benedict & Victoria C. Murray. The authors explore the extraordinary friendship between First Lady Eleanor



Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune, the daughter of formerly enslaved parents. These two very different, but equally committed women became fast friends and, working together, helped form the foundation for the modern civil rights movement.

There is 1 regular print copy of the book in the UWF collection in the Church Library, 8 regular print copies, 6 large print copies, and a CD in the Lexington Public Library, and 6 regular print and 1 Audio book in the Richland Public Library. You do not need to be a member of the Wilson Circle to participate in the Book Club. 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.

PEP! - People Enjoying People!



Join us for **Bingo & Board Games** on Wednesday, **October 14**, at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. Whether you love a little friendly competition or just enjoy good conversation and laughter, there's a seat at the table for you. Come as you are, bring a friend, and enjoy a relaxed afternoon together - we'd love to see you there!

We're welcoming new members at both services on Sunday, October 18

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 about your desire to join.

Save the Date

Our next Service of Healing is
November 8, 2026 at 6pm

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.

There are Surviving the Holiday books that will be available at the meeting for \$10. Please let us know you'll be attending Surviving the Holidays by calling the church office or on the GriefShare website.

Tuesday, November 17, 6-7:30pm
in the Commons Room (LL3)



THE LIVING CHRISTMAS STORY

DECEMBER 4-6, 2026
6:30-9PM

Sign Ups are here!

TLCS is ready to **serve** the Irmo community for our 33rd Christmas Season. This Union UMC tradition shares the Good News of Jesus with thousands of people in the Midlands. **This is your chance to sign up and be a part of sharing the story!**



**SIGN-UP FOR
TLCS HERE**

Questions? Email UnionTLCSPosting@gmail.com

Bringing Bethlehem to life in Irmo, South Carolina!

- Trucks and Treasures of Bethlehem -

Sunday, **November 8**, 1-5pm - Join us as we pull Bethlehem out of the shed. We need many hands and a few trucks to start our journey. For those who want to join in exploring the treasures of Bethlehem, the FMC MultiPurpose room will be open for crafts.

- TLCS Breakfast and Bethlehem!

Saturday, **November 14**, 8am-12pm - We will host a drop in Breakfast in the FMC for all our volunteers and workers. Mission volunteers will work on building markets or sorting and hanging costumes. We will gather at 12pm for a community prayer.

There are multiple time slots for costume prep on November 14, 9-10:30am and 10:30am-12pm.

- Whistle While You Work -

Saturday, **November 21**, 8am-12pm - Workday in the Market with Christmas music.

- Cookies and Construction!

Sunday, **November 29**, 1-5pm - This is our last day of building before the Living Christmas Story comes to life. We will finish up outside with our afternoon workout of spreading pinestraw, hanging burlap, and finishing construction details.

(Nov. 29 continued) Inside, we will be making Christmas cookies for families riding through Bethlehem on the bus. Many hands are needed to bring Bethlehem to Irmo!

- Wednesday Night Supper: (New this year!)

Wednesday, **December 2**, 5-8pm: We will begin with a new cast orientation, break bread together with dinner, and then set up the gym, set props, and other final details. Hope to see you there! (RSVP coming soon).

Menu: Beef and Noodles, Mashed Potatoes, and Green Beans.

- Telling The Living Christmas Story!

December 4-6, 6:30-9pm, performance days!
You can be a part of the Cast or part of the Backstage Crew. If you are wondering what role is made for you, our casting team will help you find the perfect spot!

**Scan here to
bring Bethlehem
to life in Irmo!**





11th Annual
BBQ
 Sharing God's Love Fundraiser

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6th
11:00 AM - 1:30 PM
7464 WOODROW ST, IRMO, SC 29063

Please join **Coldwell Banker's Irmo/Lake Murray** office for a
 barbecue fundraiser benefitting **Sharing God's Love**.
 Your donation gets you a pulled pork BBQ plate with
 all the fixin's. Drive-thru or dine with us!




Shower of Hope 2027 - If you would like to be on the planning committee for the 3rd annual Shower of Hope Community Resource Expo and Baby Shower for 2027, please email Rev. Faye Jones at faye@unionirmo.org for more details and information!

Help Us Complete Our Brass Quintet! - Do you love making music and serving through your musical gifts? We're looking for a couple of musicians to help round out our brass quintet. We're currently looking for: one Trumpet player and one French Horn or Trombone player. If you play either of these instruments and would enjoy being part of a small group using music to bless and encourage our church family, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact the church office (803.781.3013 or info@unionirmo.org) and Kyle Wisnewski will follow up with you with more details. Come be a part of something special as we make music together!

HELP! Do you know any of these people? We have lost contact and have no way to reach out to them. If you have a phone number or email address that you can share, we'd certainly appreciate it. Or better yet, you can ask them to call or email Susan in the church office to update all information on their church record.

Rebecca Leigh Marsh (Becky)

Christopher Horton Martin

James Dirk Mastin (Dirk)

Lori Macey Mastin

John Gavin Matthews

Cynthia Ann McCoy

James Franklin McCoy, III (Mac)

William Thomas McDainel, IV (Trey)

Lillian Grace McKinney (Lilly)

Sally Michelle Meritt

Janet Hipp Miller

Michael Stewar Mills

Patrick Myers

Gayle Parsons Owens

Jonathan Scott Pierce

Marcus D. Plato (Marc)

Allan Marshall Quick

Robert E. Seaman, III

Melody Slashinski

Matthew Cole Smith

Pamela Spires

Karen Swift

Taylor Varney

Amy Westbury

Michael Westbury

Julie Ann Whiteside

Wes Edward Whiteside

George Wiley

Sarah Wiley

Honorariums - August 22 - September 27

Honorariums received in honor of:

Aldersgate gift given in honor of Dub Hammett by Charles and Gail Elfert

A gift was given to the Organ Fund by the Union United Women in Faith

Memorials - August 22 - September 27

Memorials received in memory of:

Jo Anne Whitehead By: Charles and Gail Elfert, Jeannie Jeter, and David and Betty Moxley

Jobie Rivera By: David and Betty Moxley

Rev. Richard "Dick" Holliday By: Debora and Mark Bellissimo, and Charles and Gail Elfert

Pam Knudsen By: Jack and Alice Martin, Sandra Johnson, Dalton and Barbara Parker, Roberto Stragiotti and Karen Rhodes, Jeannie Jeter, Joan and Thomas Goff, and David and Betty Moxley

Susan Swails By: Jeannie Jeter, and Helen and Charles Looney

Linda Diggie By: Bob and Connie Warren, Bill and Barry Lide, the John Rowland Sunday School Class, Union's United Women in Faith Wilson Circle, Jeannie Jeter, Deborah Cox, Robert and Ann May, David and Betty Moxley, and Jack and Alice Martin

Sharon Hanson By: Jeannie Jeter

Zach Mendenhall By: the John Wesley Sunday School Class

Gene Zentz By: John and Katherine Rosendahl

Cynthia Gayle Sheriff By: Joanne McKie

Aldersgate gift given in memory of Eugene Thompson, by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thompson

Aldersgate gift given in loving memory of our "fur baby" Riley by Steve and Sylvia Livingston

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

IN MEMORIAM

Erin and Rob Schoolmeester in the loss of Rob's father,
William Lawrence "Larry" Schoolmeester.

Kenneth Elroy Beale
May 15, 1943 - September 25, 2026

Recently noted deaths:

Katherine Turner
July 6, 1945 - October 29, 2012

Agnes Hood
January 16, 1944 - March 16, 2023

Kay Bittering McPherson
September 17, 1952 - June 19, 2025

ROSEBUD

(in celebration of the birth of)

Harper Anne Vinson was born on August 31, 2026.
She was born to Courtney and Alex Vinson.
Her proud grandparents are Susan and Tim Vinson.



Looking ahead at the Advent & Christmas Season

December 4-6 - Union presents **The Living Christmas Story** to our community.

See page 9 for more information on this event.

December 13 - **Lessons & Carols Service** at 9am
Contemporary worship will be in the Chapel at 11am.

December 20 - **The Living Nativity** at 6pm

December 24 - **Contemporary Worship** at 4pm
Traditional Worship at 7pm

December 27 - **ONE Worship** service at 10:30am
Sunday School will start at 9:30am on December 27

The November Union Connection Deadline is October 14.

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

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

Looking ahead at Newsletter Deadlines:

For the December issue - November 4.

For the January 2027 issue - December 9.

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 Recreation Ministries

Thomas Walsh

Assistant Director of Youth & Recreation Ministries

Archkela Lane

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

Julie Beale

Day School Finance Director

Stacie Vandervelde

Day School Administrative Assistant

Emily Brown

Facilities Manager

Brian Wisniewski

Assistant Facilities Manager

Steve Ragan

Nursery Coordinator

Andrea Williams

Production Manager

Jake Cosentino

Organist

Joey Rothfuss



Union United Methodist Church
7582 Woodrow Street
P.O. Box 705
Irmo, SC 29063-0705

Visit us on the Web at www.UnionIrmo.org

If you would like your name removed from this newsletter mailing list, please contact the church office at 803-781-3013.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

Trunk or Treat!

**October 25 -
4:30 p.m.!**

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



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

