

The Vine

Windsor United Methodist Church

9500 Windsor Lake Boulevard, Columbia, SC
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March 2024

Our Mission: To connect Christ and community and to demonstrate the love of God to all through Jesus Christ as empowered by the Holy Spirit.

I Corinthians 13:4-8 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing

LOVE AND SACRIFICE

This year, Ash Wednesday occurred on Valentine's Day; this was an immediate way of getting my attention. With all the sadness we have heard and, in some cases, experienced, the concept of Valentine's Day on Ash Wednesday was a great distraction. We needed something extra to add to our typical Lenten Journey to inspire us even more.

I was curious about what others were thinking about this exciting collaboration of events. So, I took to the UMC Discipleship webpage. One commenter said, "There is so much potential to connect with a hurting world. Folks need to know what real love looks like." Another said, "I recognize, for many, it is important to celebrate the idea of love. So what would it look like to take the idea of love and show the reality of what love is?"

I am glad this information validates my feelings and thoughts. History says Valentine's Day originated from a ban on love. Some stories include accounts of the martyrdom of a priest named Valentinus or Valentine. Roman emperor Claudius II had nullified engagements and banned new marriages to increase the size of his army. Valentine defied the ban and continued marrying couples until he was discovered and killed on February 14, 270 A.D.

Another account tells of a priest, also named Valentine, who also was martyred on February 14, in a different year, for helping imprisoned Christians. In some traditions, he may have healed his jailer's daughter before being martyred. In others, he and the jailer's daughter fell in love—before being executed. All stories speak of love and sacrifice.

To ignore the secular would seem out of touch; besides, why not redeem it? The story of St. Valentine (whether accurate or not) is one of sacrifice, witnessing and a changed life. Sounds pretty Lenten to me.

So, to look at both days, love is one connection between them. Valentine's Day revolves around romantic love. And Ash Wednesday is a solemn reminder of Christ's sacrificial love for us. I am not saying the two are equal, but that they have the same sentiments.

During Ash Wednesday, many Christians start a time of intentional fasting and reflection. Abstaining from meals or favorite foods, or giving up some particular pleasure during the 40 days of Lent, has long served to remind people to prepare for a transformed life.

Easter Sunday is April Fool's Eve. If we are intentional during the Lenten season, our witness could change someone's life besides our transformation. Let love guide you on your journey, this year and always, into a deeper relationship with Christ and a more meaningful relationship with each other. So, I say to each of us, blessings for the Lenten journey. May your hearts be enthralled with the love of Christ and for each other.

Pastor Leatha Brown





A Life-Saving Donation! – Red Cross Blood Drive at Windsor

Article and photos by Becky Leonard

American Red Cross
Together, we can save a life

Windsor hosted a late afternoon blood drive on Thursday, February 15, offering appointments from 2:30—6:30 p.m. The Red Cross appreciates hosting sites such as Windsor UMC as the winter months are usually a time of reduced donations with an increased risk of blood shortages due to inclement weather and cold and flu season.

Many thanks to our blood drive ‘crew.’ Cousins Kathy Robinson and Linda Friar tempted us with delicious homemade chocolate and blonde brownies, both of which were an essential addition to the Red Cross snacks. Our nurse volunteers, Kristen Hill and Linda Friar, manned the check-in/registration table and monitored the donors after they gave, making sure they drank enough fluids before departing and Tremaine Sails-Dunbar helped with set-up and assisted the Red Cross with moving all of their equipment into Harbor Hall.

A special thanks to ALL of the committed blood donors who came to donate. Nine folks from our Windsor community participated along with eight more from the public. The Red Cross collected a total of 14 units of blood. Because there is no substitute for blood, donors provide the only supply of life-saving blood for those in need.

Thank you for your gift of life!



God Works Through the Ordinary: Lenten Altar Display

Article and photo by Kathy Hart

Inspiration for art can come from a variety of sources. The Lenten altar display is based on the book *Lent in Plain Sight* by Jill J. Duffield. She believes that God works through the ordinary. Do we have the eyes to see God’s presence in the ordinary, like dust, bread, coins, shoes, oil, cross, towels, thorns or stones? Through these simple items, we remember that God loves and leads, transforms and heals, guides and intervenes in ways to offer abundant life.

Take time to see what is new on the altar each week of Lent.



United Methodist Men Breakfast Meeting

All men are invited to join Windsor’s United Methodist Men the first Sunday of the month at Lizard’s Thicket on Two Notch Road near I-20. We meet at **7:30 a.m.** Please join us for food and fellowship at our next meetings on **Sundays, March 3 and April 7.**



United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith will meet at Rehoboth UMC on Monday, March 4 at 6 p.m. We meet the first Monday of the month at either Windsor UMC or Rehoboth UMC, share some refreshments and have a short program. Please call Melanie Nanney at 803-530-3134 if you have questions.



United
Women
in Faith





WINDSOR SOUP KITCHEN AT WASHINGTON STREET UMC

Article and photos by Becky Leonard

February 5 was Windsor's first meal serving of 2024 as our January serving fell on New Year's Day, a holiday for the Washington Street UMC Soup Cellar. Having started a bagged meal format at the beginning of Covid, the Soup Cellar has maintained the format into the new year and plans to continue it in the foreseeable future.

On that February morning, Soup Cellar manager Terrence Chisolm made vegetable, hamburger and pulled pork soup. Along with a cup of hot soup, the bagged meal included a chicken salad sandwich, an orange, a doughnut, and a bottle of Gatorade. The Gatorade replaced the customary bottle of water as it was an item at Harvest Hope that was being given away free

of charge. Ferrie Ward, Debbo Lackore, Candee DePew, Michelle Nicholson and Becky Leonard helped serve the 116 guests who came that cold morning.

Windsor's next serving days will be Mondays, March 4 and April 1. If you are interested in helping on either of these two days, please contact Becky Leonard at 803-466-4222 or fleonardz@hotmail.com. We begin meal preparation around 9:15 a.m. and are finished serving at 12:30 p.m.



Windsor Food Pantry—Updated List

The number of families facing food insecurity continues to increase. Windsor's food pantry helps families who come to the church office in need of food as well as some of those who attend the Skills for Work and Life Program on our church campus.

Many thanks to those who have donated to our food pantry. If you would like to help, please consider donating food items from the following list or donating funds so that we may purchase the food (please indicate your donation is for *Food Pantry*).

We are requesting donations of canned tuna, vegetable/canola oil and white rice in 1 or 2 pound bags, however, any of the foods on the following list would be appreciated! Bins are located outside the sanctuary or you may drop off your food items at the church office.

- white rice (1 or 2 pound bags)
- spaghetti sauce
- salt
- individual fruit/applesauce cups
- Ajax liquid dish detergent and toilet paper are also appreciated.
- dried red and pinto beans (in 1 pound bags)
- vegetable/canola oil
- canned tuna, chicken and Vienna sausage
- pasta noodles (angel hair and elbow)

Thank you for helping those in need, Windsor.



Thank You, BSA Troop 2870!

Many thanks to Troop 2870 scouts. Again this year, they designated their collections from the *Scouting for Food* drive to Windsor's Food Pantry. Troop 2870 works together with Troop 287 and Pack 287 from St. John Neumann Catholic Church in distributing flyers and collecting the food donations. The food is then separated so that Windsor receives those items geared to our food pantry.

Scouting for Food is a national service project of Boy Scouts of America and takes place in our area in February. The 2024 campaign began on Saturday,

February 3 with the scouts distributing informational door hangers to neighborhood homes and ended Saturday, February 10 with the collection of bags filled with donated food items.

The scouts, adult leaders and family members all helped to make this a successful campaign. Through their efforts and the very generous donations of our neighbors, Windsor's Food Pantry was stocked. We thank Troop 2870 for their support of the Windsor Food Pantry and joining us in helping those in need.

Collards, Sweet Potatoes, Kale and Lettuce Takeover Harbor Hall

By Kathy Hart

Windsor is helping to strengthen the nutrition and food supply for residents in the Columbia Northeast area (zip code 29223) through SC Thrive by being a distribution point. The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a federal program that helps supplement the diets of residents living in “food deserts” by providing foods like fruits, vegetables and whole grains at no cost. Windsor’s effort requires the hands and feet of many volunteers—some with strong muscles. Some with pick-up trucks. Some to help display, stack and bag. Food distribution happens once a month on a Wednesday. A notice will be sent by email regarding the March Wednesday. Everyone in our congregation is invited to come to pick up vegetables. If you are coming to volunteer, we suggest wearing work clothes and Playtex-type kitchen gloves. For more questions, contact Kathy Hart, Charles Shipman or Becky Leonard.



Photos by Becky Leonard



Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

By Kathy Hart

Windsor was a frenzy of activity on February 13. We prove over and over again that Windsor serves the community by opening our doors for community events, while still maintaining our church traditions at the same time. Many thanks to the Men of Windsor, Ivey Hart, Charles Shipman, Fred Leonard, John Mullikin, Tremaine Sails-Dunbar, John Woodard and Mark Brown who flipped pancakes and sausage patties for the thirty attendees at Windsor’s Annual Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper.



Photos by Becky Leonard



Strangers in the Fabric Store

By Kathy Hart

Leviticus 19:34 "You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself,"

On a recent ordinary day, I was picking out fabric to use on the altar table. I selected three shades of purple and a beige piece that looked like dust. As I was pushing my cart through the store, a lady stopped me and said, "I really like those colors together. I don't know what you are making, but it's going to be beautiful." I said, "This will be used on the altar table at my church for our Lenten season." She asked, "Where do you go?" I said, "Windsor United Methodist Church across from E.L. Wright Middle School." We parted. I handed the bolts of purple fabric to the clerk in the fabric department to cut to my specified length. The gentleman waiting behind me said, "Those colors go so well together." I said, "This will be used on the altar table at my church for our Lenten season." He asked, "Where do you go to church?" I said, "Windsor United Methodist Church, across from E.L. Wright Middle School." And then I said, "I really like your royal blue fabric. It is one of my favorite colors." He said, "I'm getting this to cover the drum set in our church's sanctuary." I said, "Ahh. We cover our drum set with fabric, also. Unfortunately, our drummer just joined the Army." Then the fabric clerk said, "I used to be a drummer." I said, "Come, be our drummer." She said, "My drumming days are over." We laughed over the connections we made in our short conversation. It was like we had known each other for a long time. What connections have you made lately?

Ash Wednesday (Foolish Love is in the air.)

By Kathy Hart

The Lenten season at Windsor kicked-off on February 14 with Pastor Brown's message based on Dr. Rev. Michelle Morris's book, *Foolish Love*, and the imposition of ashes. This followed a delicious Lenten lunch of soups, sandwiches and homemade desserts. Many thanks to the cooks. Familiar faces, some who we haven't seen in a while, were among the 17 people present. No worries, we still have a seat at the table for you. Come on Wednesdays through Lent at 11 a.m. for lunch and 12 p.m. for a Lenten message.

For the February 20 Lenten lunch, Linda Friar made her Wild Rice and Chicken Soup which was a fan favorite. Because of the many requests for the recipe, we are including it here.

Wild Rice and Chicken Soup

Ingredients:

8 cups of water
1 box of Uncle Ben's Long Grain and Wild Rice mix
1 envelope of Lipton Noodle soup mix.
1 celery stalk, finely chopped
1 large carrot, finely chopped
½ cup chopped onion (optional)
2 cans of Cream of Chicken soup (undiluted)
2-3 cups of cubed cooked chicken breasts
1 chicken bouillon cube
A lot of love.

Instructions:

Place chicken breasts (1½ pounds of chicken) in pot. Cover with water. Add bouillon cube. Bring to boil. Simmer for 45-60 minutes. Cool and cut into cubes.
In large pot, combine water, rice and its full packet of seasoning, dry Lipton Noodle Soup mix. Bring to boil. Cover and simmer for 10 minutes. Stir in celery, carrots and onions. Cover and simmer 20-30 minutes or until carrots are tender. Stir in 2 cans of Cream of Chicken soup and cubed chicken. Cook until vegetables are tender.
For a heartier soup, use 3-4 stalks of celery and 4-5 medium carrots.
For a quicker cooking time, substitute a rotisserie chicken for the chicken breasts.

Courtesy of Linda Friar

Mitchell Brown, New Army Recruit

By Mark and Pastor Leatha Brown

Mitchell Brown, son of Mark and Pastor Leatha Brown, has joined the Army. He is at Fort Moore which is near Columbus, Georgia. He is taking classes for a few weeks. After his classes are completed, he will be assigned to a unit and begin his basic training. We can only receive calls from him on Sundays. He is doing fine and still is excited about his new venture. Although he is not real thrilled about the food. We shared everyone's concerns you have about him and the desire to have his address. He said, and I quote, "Tell them I love them." Please join us in prayer for him to stay focused and encouraged.



Photos by Becky Leonard



 **U.S. ARMY**
BE ALL YOU CAN BE.



Financial Summary through January 31, 2024

	Income through January 31, 2024	Expenses through January 31, 2024	2024 Budget	Percent of Total
Regular Income (offering, Sunday school, fees, other)	\$ 17,172.29		\$ 213,550.00	8%
Administration (buildings, staff, & staff expenses)		\$ 19,179.28	\$ 219,792.00	9%
Apportionments		0.00	2,845.00	0%
Nurture (worship, communications, education, family ministries, music ministry & youth)		512.93	3,796.00	14%
Outreach		0.00	0.00	0%
Witness (evangelism & LRE)		0.00	850.00	0%
Total Regular Income & Expenses	\$ 17,172.29	\$ 19,692.21	\$ 227,283.00	9%



**God Bless
America!**

**Please Pray for:
Our Military,
Law Enforcement Members,
First Responders,
Healthcare Workers
and their families.
People affected by the ongoing
violence, fire, hurricanes, tornadoes
and other bad weather.**



Average Attendance

10 a.m. Worship Service—Sanctuary	
January 1 to January 31, 2024	47
February 1 to February 29, 2024	45

All Sanctuary worship services are held with COVID-19 protocols in place.

Sunday School

January 1 to January 31, 2024	11
February 1 to February 29, 2024	12

Sunday School figures reflect those participating in Zoom, GoToMeeting, conference call and in-person classes.

Terra Bella Worship Service

January 1 to January 31, 2024	8
February 1 to February 29, 2024	8

Our Windsor Family

WINDSOR'S DEEPEST SYMPATHY to...

- † Rev. Franklin and Becky Buie on the loss of Becky's brother, Wayne Lineberger on February 4. Wayne was a long-time non-resident member of Windsor.
- † Isaac and Joyce Byrd on the passing of Isaac's brother-in-law, Dick Szczepanski on February 5 in Florida.

If you have a "Windsor Family" item that you would like to share with our church family, please notify the church office at windsorumc@bellsouth.net or 803-788-1858.



7 Prayers For April

May your finances multiply.
 May your health improve.
 May your friends be blessed.
 May your family be loved.
 May your pains lessen.
 May your worries disappear.
 May God bless you.
 Amen.

Calendar March 2024

Saturday, March 2

8:30 AM Prayer Group (Conference call)
3:00 PM Fil-Am Praise Band Rehearsal - HH

Sunday, March 3

7:30 AM UMM Breakfast - Lizard's Thicket
9:00 AM Sunday School (see *Leaf* for details)
9:00 AM Filipino American Church - HH

10:00 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary

7:00 PM BSA Troop 2870 - HH/Pavilion

Monday, March 4

9:00 AM WCLA CoOp - All Classrms, HH/Pav
6:00 PM UWF - Rehoboth UMC
7:30 PM AI Anon - Rm 8

Tuesday, March 5

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms
2:00 PM SL&WP Speech & Audio - Rms 5&10
3:00 PM Richland Library Tutoring - Rms 5&10

Wednesday, March 6

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms
11:00 AM Lenten Lunch/ Worship Service - HH/K

Thursday, March 7

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

Saturday, March 9

8:30 AM Prayer Group (Conference call)
3:00 PM Fil-Am Praise Band Rehearsal - HH

Sunday, March 10

9:00 AM Sunday School (see *Leaf* for details)
9:00 AM Filipino American Church - HH

10:00 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary

7:00 PM BSA Troop 2870 - HH/Pavilion

Monday, March 11

9:00 AM WCLA CoOp - No Classes
7:30 PM AI Anon - Rm 8

Tuesday, March 12

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms
9:00 AM Provisional Pastors Meeting - HH
2:00 PM SL&WP Speech & Audio - Rms 5&10
3:00 PM Richland Library Tutoring - Rms 5&10
6:00 PM RCSD Citizen Academy Alumni - HH

Wednesday, March 13

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms
11:00 AM Lenten Lunch/ Worship Service - HH/K

Thursday, March 14

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

Saturday, March 16

8:30 AM Prayer Group (Conference call)
9:30 PM Leadership Development Workshop - HH
3:00 PM Fil-Am Praise Band Rehearsal - HH

Sunday, March 17

9:00 AM Sunday School (see *Leaf* for details)
9:00 AM Filipino American Church - HH

10:00 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary

7:00 PM BSA Troop 2870 - HH/Pavilion

Monday, March 18

9:00 AM WCLA CoOp - All Classrooms, HH/Pav
7:30 PM AI Anon - Rm 8

Tuesday, March 19

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms
2:00 PM SL&WP Speech & Audio - Rms 5&10
3:00 PM Richland Library Tutoring - Rms 5&10

Wednesday, March 20

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms
11:00 AM Lenten Lunch/ Worship Service - HH/K

Thursday, March 21

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms
9:00 AM Richland Herb Society - HH/K

Saturday, March 23

8:30 AM Prayer Group (Conference call)
3:00 PM Fil-Am Praise Band Rehearsal - HH

Saturday, March 23

6:00 PM Prayer Meeting - HH

Sunday, March 24

9:00 AM Sunday School (see *Leaf* for details)
9:00 AM Filipino American Church - HH
10:00 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary
7:00 PM BSA Troop 2870 - HH/Pavilion

Monday, March 25

9:00 AM WCLA CoOp - All Classrooms, HH/Pav
7:30 PM AI Anon - Rm 8

Tuesday, March 26

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms
2:00 PM SL&WP Speech & Audio - Rms 5&10
3:00 PM Richland Library Tutoring - Rms 5&10

Wednesday, March 27

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms
11:00 AM Lenten Lunch/ Worship Service - HH/K

Thursday, March 28

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms
6:00 PM Richland Herb Society - Rm 10

Friday, March 29

9:00 AM - African American Clergy Women -
Sanctuary/HH/K/All Classrooms

Saturday, March 30

8:30 AM Prayer Group (Conference call)
3:00 PM Fil-Am Praise Band Rehearsal - HH

Sunday, March 31

9:00 AM Sunday School (see *Leaf* for details)
9:00 AM Filipino American Church - HH
10:00 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary
7:00 PM BSA Troop 2870 - HH/Pavilion

**THIS CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO
CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE**
If you have any additions, changes and/or
corrections to the calendar, please notify Julie in
the office (803-788-1858). Thank You.



March

Ivey Hart	1
Norma Thompson	11
George Ruppe	11
Linda Hershey	12
Kathy Hart	14
Madison Blanding	14
Sharon Emory	19
Stephanie Kitchens	20
Bea Stout	22
Crawford Latham	26
Sam Frierson	26
David Williams	28




April

Rock Schmidt	1
Steve Finley	3
Betsy Meade	4
Kris Hartley	9
Suzanne Frierson	12
Kalani McCoy	12
Karri McCoy	13
Megan Stout	13
Nicholas Kitchens	18
Deborah Lounds	18



Sounds of the Spirit Choir

Photos by Becky Leonard



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church™

THE VINE

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Send articles by the 20th of the month by email to Julie at windsorumc@bellsouth.net or place articles in *The Vine* mailbox in Room 10.