

The Vine

Windsor United Methodist Church

9500 Windsor Lake Boulevard, Columbia, SC
803-788-1858 www.windsorumc.org Windsorumc@bellsouth.net

January 2025

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.



OUR 4 PRIORITIES

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." Isaiah 60:1

Happy New Year, Friends! 2025 is here, and each new year arrives with a blank slate, a fresh start. During the Advent season, we anticipated and awaited the birth of the light of the world, Jesus Christ, the incarnation of God with us, our Emmanuel. We will continue celebrating Him with joy in our hearts for the precious gift God so generously gave us.

I am excited about 2025 at Windsor, and I am excited about the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church as we, the local church, work alongside the annual conference and Bishop Fairley to cultivate their "Our 4 Priorities" at Windsor. On several occasions, I've talked about the importance of connectionalism, a basic tenet of our theology. Connectionalism emphasizes that the church's nature is primarily rooted among local congregations, not within local churches themselves, and it points to partnerships for collaboration in ministry, mission, and mutual accountability. Connectionalism gives us hope, healing, healthy churches, and effective leaders.

By developing leaders, we can collaborate with other local congregations to widen our reach in communities and work together for the common good of those in them. It's like the author of Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 wrote, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up." I recently read an article about a young, new minister who was sent to plant a church. She didn't know anything about the area, the neighborhood, or the surrounding communities. This young minister decided to think outside the box, "outside the box of the church building," I might add. She had a crazy notion. She'd go where the people were! On a Saturday morning, she set up an old, beat-up card table on the sidewalk outside a laundromat. She served communion, prayed and, most of all, listened. She listened to their needs. Before she knew it, her

sidewalk laundromat ministry grew to a congregation of one hundred twenty. It's because she listened, that's what Jesus did. He listened and met the needs of the people who came to him. That's what we must do. Listen to the needs of the community. When we listen, we can build connections with people; then, we will be astonished at what God can do and think how much we can accomplish when we join forces to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

This year, the church council and I will collaborate to measure and evaluate the current realities and missional possibilities as we examine what Windsor can do, how we can do it, and what specific action we can take to accomplish the work. Healthy churches can be phenomenal—next-level churches, which is what I envision for Windsor in 2025. Friends, please be in earnest and constant prayer not only for Windsor but also for the South Carolina Conference, Bishop Fairley, the Cabinet, and all of the local churches across the state, the country, and the world. May God's grace and mercy be with us all. *Pastor Claire*

OUR 4 PRIORITIES

South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church

Our 4 Priorities were developed over two years by Conference Leaders before being endorsed by members of the 2021 Annual Conference.

Developing Lay & Clergy Leaders

In our current reality as a denomination, strong leadership is needed among clergy and laity in our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. umcsc.org/4p-leaders

Engaging Our Communities

When a church knows who it is – both within itself and within its community – it can exist naturally as part of the community that both feeds it and is nurtured by it. Helping congregations connect begins with an understanding of demographic information. umcsc.org/4p-communities

Connecting With & Growing Disciples

When congregations are intentional in disciple-making, they are more likely to reach those who have not connected with the church and to grow them. This system should be prayerfully crafted, providing clear and tangible ways of engaging in the life of a disciple. umcsc.org/4p-disciples

Measuring Current Realities & Evaluating Missional Possibilities

The beginning of transforming the church is to measure and evaluate its current reality. Questions that help us understand our reality are: Who are we? Who is our neighbor? What are we here for? What are we going to do about it? umcsc.org/4p-possibilities

umcsc.org/4p

Join Us for Our Next SC Thrive Distribution of Free, Fresh Produce Items! Wednesday, January 15

By Becky Leonard

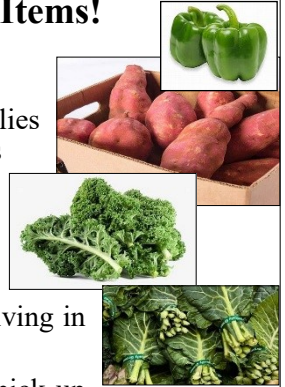
Sweet potatoes, kale, collards, peppers, rice and grits were provided for approximately 55 families at our SC Thrive distribution on November 6. In December, Windsor distributed kale, collards and sweet potatoes to 50 families.

Windsor UMC is among several churches partnering with SC Thrive as a monthly food distribution point to strengthen the nutrition and food supply for residents in the Northeast Columbia area (zip code 29223), which is considered a “food desert.” The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a federal program that helps supplement the diets of residents living in these “food deserts” by providing foods like fruits, vegetables and whole grains at no cost.



Windsor volunteers provide the hands and feet for the distribution. They pick up the food at the warehouse, package the boxed produce into family-sized portions and set the food out for families.

This food is available to ALL of us, free of charge, and changes during our local growing season. Everyone in our congregation and the local community is invited to come to pick it up. Our next distributions are scheduled for **Wednesdays, January 15 and February 5**. An email will be sent out closer to that time, reminding folks of the date and giving the times of the distribution. If you would like to volunteer to pick-up, package or distribute the food, please contact Kathy Hart or Becky Leonard.



37 Shoeboxes!

By Becky Leonard

Many thanks to those who turned in traditionally filled shoeboxes, built shoeboxes online or made a donation so that more shoeboxes could be built. Our total for this year's drive was 37 shoeboxes! Windsor delivered twelve shoeboxes to a local collection site and a total of 25 shoeboxes were built online. Our online total included those built by folks through the Windsor goal page link and additional shoeboxes built with donated funds after the link closed.

Thank you to Gene and Kara Lewis who delivered the traditional shoeboxes to the drop-off site, and to you, Windsor, for your support in helping to take the Gospel to children around the world.



WINDSOR SOUP KITCHEN AT WASHINGTON STREET UMC

Article and photos by Becky Leonard


Windsor UMC continues helping with the noon-time meal servings at Washington Street UMC Soup Cellar on the first Monday of the month. Prior to Covid, the meal serving was a sit-down affair with enough tables to seat 60 folks at a time. However, at the beginning of Covid and with social distancing in effect, a bagged meal format was instituted in order to be able to continue providing a meal to those in need in downtown Columbia. The Soup Cellar has retained this bagged meal format for more than four years and plans to continue it in the foreseeable future.


On Windsor's November 4 serving day, 125 guests came through and received a meal. That morning's offering included: a cup of vegetable and beef stew soup, a tuna fish or peanut butter and jelly sandwich, an orange, a donut, bottle of water or raspberry tea and Halloween candy! Michelle Nicholson, Debbo Lackore, Patty Fowler, Tremaine Sails-Dunbar and Becky Leonard were the serving crew that morning.

The following month, Windsor served 119 guests. The December 2 noon meal was very similar to November's and included a cup of vegetable soup, an egg salad or peanut butter and jelly sandwich, an orange, donut and bottle of water. Debbo Lackore and her daughter, Caralee Workman, Michelle Nicholson and Patty Fowler served that morning.

Windsor's next serving days will be January 6 and February 3. If you are interested in helping on either of these days, please contact Becky Leonard at 803-466-4222 or fleonardz@hotmail.com. We begin meal preparation around 9:15 a.m. and finish serving at 12:30 p.m.



All blood types needed.  American Red Cross




BLOOD DRIVE

Windsor United Methodist Church

Thursday, February 13th
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Harbor Hall

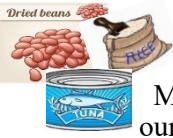
For an appointment, please scan the QR box below, or visit www.redcrossblood.org and use Sponsor Code: **WindsorUMC**



Create a flurry of hope! Come give blood Jan. 27 to Feb. 28 for a \$15 e gift card!

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

© The American National Red Cross | 10022014-0001



Windsor Food Pantry

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

Thank you for helping those in need, Windsor.

Reminder for Lay Servants


By Kathy Hart

If you are a Lay Servant, it is time to sign up for the Winter Lay Servant Academy. You received the brochure by email within the last few weeks, listing the classes available. I will be facilitating a class about storytelling entitled, "Dancing with Words." We will be using the book by the same name, authored by Ray Buckley. For more information, contact Kathy Hart.



Windsor Community Caroling

Caroling took place on December 21, at Forest Lake Manor and Terra Bella Retirement Communities.



Photos by Ivey Hart




United Women in Faith

The UWF will meet Monday, January 6 at 6 p.m. in Harbor Hall. All women are invited to attend. Rev. Claire Van Den Berg will be our guest speaker.



United Women in Faith

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, January 5 and February 2.**



2024 Windsor Families Helping Families

By The Outreach Team

Thank you for helping make this Christmas much brighter for the 17 children in six families in need in this year's Windsor Families Helping Families program. Several of the children and their families – which were selected by Ms. Nelly Jolley, outreach worker for Richland School District 2 – have faced and continue to face unemployment issues. Two families were new to the community. Many thanks, Windsor, for your support, donations and sponsorship. BSA Troop 2870 (all female troop) sponsored one young lady on Ms. Jolley's list. Together, we provided much needed shoes and clothing, and wish list items of winter coats, toys, art supplies,

educational games, diapers and sporting equipment for the children.

Tuesday, December 10, was our gift distribution day. The rain held off and all of the moms (and one dad) were able to come pick up their children's gifts. They were welcomed into the annex garage with Christmas music, your beautifully wrapped gifts, and greeters Nelly Jolley, Kathy Hart, Janice Negus and Becky Leonard. Along with gifts, families received a Christmas card from Pastor Claire and a box of candy canes. With Nelly Jolley as interpreter, we were able to converse with those moms who needed a little extra help with English. All of them were very grateful for the blessings received through this outreach ministry. A couple of moms commented that they had prepared their children that there would not be any gifts this year.

Many thanks to everyone who helped to change that! Our thanks to: Nancy and Mel Wolff, Kathy and David Williams, Janice Negus, Donna Benson, Tremaine Sails-Dunbar, Patty Fowler, Mitzi Shipman, Kathy and Ivey Hart, Susan and Steve Finley, Kara and Gene Lewis, Michelle Nicholson, the Tuesday Bible Study Group (Kristen Hill, Barb Hamilton, Kathy Robinson, Dianne and Matt Dixon, Linda Friar and Susan Finley), Debbo Lackore, Peggy Hill, Isaac and Joyce Byrd, Becky and Fred Leonard and BSA Troop 2870. This was the sixth year BSA Troop 2870 participated and we thank them for their tremendous support.

Thank you all for the love shown to these families in need. Windsor, you helped to make their Christmas special knowing that others care about them.

Thank You from Ms. Nelly Jolley

Dearest WUMC members, friends and Troop 2870,

On behalf of the Skills for Life and Work Program, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude for the thoughtful and generous gifts you provided to many of our neediest R2 children this Christmas. Our distribution day was a time filled with emotional conversations, love and gratitude from our families. This Christmas and every day, you make a difference for them. Your kindness, efforts and compassion have truly touched our hearts, and we are incredibly grateful for your warm support and love.

May God bless you all abundantly, and may you continue to spread joy and kindness throughout the year.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2025!

With love and gratitude,

Nelly Jolley



Photos by Nelly Jolley and Becky Leonard

Secret Sisters' Christmas Brunch

Article and photos by Kathy Hart

Secret Sisters met on Saturday, December 7, for the Secret Sister Christmas Brunch. In addition to revealing our secret sisters and swapping gifts, sisters made birdseed tree ornaments which the Fil-Am children enjoyed hanging on an outside tree in front of the sanctuary.

If you are interested in becoming a Secret Sister for the next round which will begin in January 2025 and end in June, please contact Kathy Hart at kathyivey@sc.rr.com.



Photos by Kathy Hart and Becky Leonard



The Fil-Am children hung the peanut butter and birdseed ornaments.



UMM
Christmas Dinner,
December 12—70 Folks!

One Candle Wipes Out the Darkness

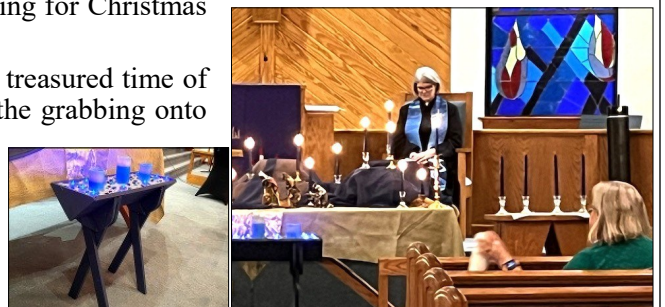
Article and photo by Kathy Hart

As I sat in the stillness of the semi-dark sanctuary with only a few lit candles, I felt Jesus' words speaking to me.²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28-29 NIV

In our lives, we all experience times of darkness when we are saddened by the death of loved ones, by the pain and loss of physical abilities, by our shortcomings, by our insecurity, by our loss of our hopes and dreams, by broken relationships, and by feeling overwhelmed by the daily news. It is difficult to feel the joy of Christmas when we are so very weary and burdened and blue. Even the pressures of preparing for Christmas can make us weary and burdened.

The Blue Christmas worship service on December 19, was a treasured time of finding rest for our souls, a time when it was easy to visualize the grabbing onto Jesus' yoke and casting our heavy burdens to him. Following the final hymn, "Silent Night," I went forth with a lighter soul and refreshed hope in my heart.

This is my personal invitation for you to join me at the 2025 Blue Christmas worship service.



Financial Summary through November 30, 2024

	Income through November 30, 2024	Expenses through November 30, 2024	2024 Budget	Percent of Total
Regular Income (offering, Sunday school, fees, other)	\$ 184,793.51		\$ 225,000.00	82%
Administration (buildings, staff, & staff expenses)		\$ 224,064.08	\$ 249,544.00	90%
Apportionments		517.34	2,845.00	18%
Nurture (worship, communications, education, family ministries, music ministry & youth)		2,643.82	2,450.00	108%
Outreach		0.00	0.00	0%
Witness (evangelism & LRE)		294.41	790.00	37%
Total Regular Income & Expenses	\$ 184,793.51	\$ 227,519.65	\$ 255,629.00	89%



**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

November 1 to November 30, 2024	42
December 1 to December 31, 2024	38

10 a.m. Worship Service— YouTube/Facebook

November 1 to November 30, 2024	38/90
December 1 to December 31, 2024	31/163

Sunday School

November 1 to November 30, 2024	8
December 1 to December 31, 2024	9

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

Terra Bella Worship Service

November 1 to November 30, 2024	10
December 1 to December 31, 2024	6



**Patients with
sickle cell disease
rely on blood donors.**

BLOOD DRIVE

Windsor United Methodist Church



Harbor Hall

9500 Windsor Lake Blvd
Thursday, February 13, 2025
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

To make an appointment, please
Scan the QR code on the left or visit
www.RedCrossBlood.org and enter
Sponsor Code: **WindsorUMC**

Pro Tips:

Hydrate! Eat a Well-Balanced Iron Rich Meal!

*Complete RapidPass the morning of Feb 13th prior
to arrival.*

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



The Twelve Days of Christmas Altar

December 29 Fifth
Sunday Service had hot
cider and cookies
afterwards.



Calendar January 2025

Wednesday, January 1



Friday, January 3

9:00 AM BNA Board Meeting - Classroom 10

Saturday, January 4

8:30 AM Prayer Group (Conference call)

3:00 PM Fil-Am Praise Band Rehearsal - HH

Sunday, January 5

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

6:00 PM BSA Troop 2870 - HH/Pavilion

Monday, January 6

9:00 PM WCLA CoOp - All Classrooms, HH/Pav

6:00 PM UWF Meeting - HH/K

6:30 PM Al Anon - Rm 8

Tuesday, January 7

9:00 AM SL&WP - All classrooms

12:00 PM RL Here Comes Kindergarten - HH

12:30 PM Richland Library Storytime - HH

1:00 PM Bible Study - Classroom 10

3:00 PM Richland Library - Classrooms 5&10

6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Classroom 9

Wednesday, January 8

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

Thursday, January 9

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

6:00 PM Worship Team Meeting - Annex

Saturday, January 11

8:30 AM Prayer Group (Conference call)

9:00 AM Taking down the Green

3:00 PM Fil-Am Praise Band Rehearsal - HH

Sunday, January 12

9:00 AM Sunday School (see *Leaf* for details)

9:00 AM Filipino American Church - HH

10:00 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary

6:00 PM BSA Troop 2870 - HH/Pavilion

Monday, January 13

9:00 AM WCLA CoOp - All Classrooms, HH/Pav

6:30 PM Al Anon - Rm 8

Tuesday, January 14

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

12:30 PM Richland Library Storytime - HH

1:00 PM Bible Study - Classroom 10

3:00 PM Richland Library - Classrooms 5&10

6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Classroom 9

Wednesday, January 15

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

11:00 AM SC Thrive Distribution - HH

Thursday, January 16

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

Saturday, January 18

8:30 AM Prayer Group (Conference call)

3:00 PM Fil-Am Praise Band Rehearsal - HH

Sunday, January 19

9:00 AM Sunday School (see *Leaf* for details)

9:00 AM Filipino American Church - HH

10:00 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary

6:00 PM BSA Troop 2870 - HH/Pavilion

Monday, January 20

MLK Day - Office Closed

9:00 AM WCLA CoOp - All Classrooms, HH/Pav

6:30 PM Al Anon - Rm 8



Tuesday, January 21

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

12:00 PM RL Here Comes Kindergarten

12:30 PM Richland Library Storytime - HH

1:00 PM Bible Study - Classroom 10

3:00 PM Richland Library - Classrooms 5&10

6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Classroom 9

Wednesday, January 22

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

6:00 PM Church Council Meeting - HH

Thursday, January 23

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

Saturday, January 25

8:30 AM Prayer Group (Conference call)

3:00 PM Fil-Am Praise Band Rehearsal

6:00 PM Fil-Am Prayer Meeting

Sunday, January 26

9:00 AM Sunday School (see *Leaf* for details)

9:00 AM Filipino American Church - HH

10:00 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary

6:00 PM BSA Troop 2870 - HH/Pavilion

Monday, January 27

9:00 AM WCLA CoOp - All Classrooms, HH/Pav

6:30 PM Al Anon - Rm 8

Tuesday, January 28

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

12:30 PM Richland Library Storytime - HH

1:00 PM Bible Study - Classroom 10

3:00 PM Richland Library - Classrooms 5&10

6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Classroom 9

Wednesday, January 29

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

Thursday, January 30

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

6:00 PM Richland Herb Society - Classroom 10

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.



Tina Hathaway	3
Barbara Catoe	6
John Woodard	13
Charles Shipman	17
Joyce Byrd	20
Janice Negus	25
Shah Hussain	31



Nancy Wolff	3
Brianna Hinson	6
Rev. Franklin Buie	7
Ben Catoe	13
Rev. Claire Van Den Berg	26

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**November 24
Windsor UMC and
Fil-Am Combined
Worship Service and
Fellowship Meal**



*Photos by
Becky Leonard*



Windsor United Methodist Church

Try the QR code for
electronic giving
with Vanco.



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™

THE VINE

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Julie Milhouse, Publisher

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.