



The Vine

Windsor United Methodist Church

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

May 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.

May 1, 2025

***Because the world is poor
and starving, go with bread.***

***Because the world is filled
with fear, go with courage.***

***Because the world is in
despair, go with hope.***

***Because the world is starved
for something real, go with
the truth. Because the world
is weary of wars, go in peace.***

***Because the world is not always
fair, go with justice. And***

***Because the world will die without
it, go with Christ's love. Amen.***

Bread for the World Liturgy

<https://www.bread.org>

Hunger has been on my mind a lot these last few weeks. I know what it's like to be hungry. Maybe you do too. In 2008, I was laid off from my paralegal job, through no fault of my own, but because of the financial crisis created due to falling house prices, predatory lending practices, and home loan defaults. I was fortunate enough to have unemployment benefits for a year; during that time, I applied for all sorts of jobs. Law firms weren't hiring, so I applied for any clerical work, retail jobs, and almost anything I was remotely qualified for, even jobs I wasn't qualified for. I often never heard a word back from these potential employers, or when I did, I was told "you're overqualified." Nobody wanted to hire me. It was devastating. Savings were running quite low; unemployment benefits were nearing the end. Bills stacked up. I couldn't pay my rent or car payment. A

good friend took me in; however, she was a small business owner and wasn't in much better financial shape. This was a dark time.

Finishing off the last slices of bread, peanut butter, and jelly, Mother Hubbard's cupboard was bare. Yes, friends brought food and kept me fed. That reliance on friends wasn't sustainable; people get worn out helping after a while. They thought I was lazy and not trying hard enough to find a job. Little did they know the daily humiliation of fruitless searching and the overwhelming feeling of hopelessness. I'm getting to the hunger part. Unemployment benefits ran out. The bank account was drained. During all this, I never once gave up on God. I prayed. Oh, how I prayed. Another friend who attended the Catholic church recommended I contact Catholic Charities because they had a food bank. It became evident that I had to suck up my pride and, much like Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, "I relied upon the kindness of strangers." Maria at Catholic Charities food bank fixed me up with all sorts of fresh produce, bread, cheese, and other staples. She recommended that I go to the North Texas Food Bank ("NTFB") since they were better positioned to provide long-term help.

Little did I know that the friendly lady at NTFB was there to help me apply for SNAP, otherwise known as food stamps. Tears rolled down my face. Never in all my life had I been so mortified. Growing up in my family, food stamps were considered for the poorest of the poor, for the people who couldn't see their way out of poverty. I sat there, flooded with shame, disgraced, and in utter despair. The kind lady, whose name was Angelica (Angel), assured me it was only for a season, and I would get back on my feet soon. Joseph, a burly, bearded biker dude, helped me negotiate the food bank. He even loaded the food into the trunk. Joseph prayed for me. He told me there was nothing to be embarrassed about, and once, when he was hungry, food stamps and the food bank helped him through a rough patch. It's no coincidence these helpers' names were *Maria, Angel, and Joseph*. The irony wasn't lost on me.

Continued on page 2

I got through the rough patch, and if it hadn't been for SNAP, I would've been without food. It breaks my heart that grants for our local food banks have either been entirely cut off or drastically reduced. The USDA recently nixed more than \$1 billion from two programs that helped food banks and school meal programs buy local foods, including \$660 million for school children. The U.S. Agriculture Secretary, Brooke Rollins, recently described the programs as "nonessential." Friends, denying hungry people food isn't the way of

Jesus. As Christians, as United Methodists, we're supposed to feed the hungry. The Lord told the disciples, "Give them something to eat" (Luke 9:13-17) The mission and ministry of Jesus Christ remain the same. With God's help and our prayers, we will fulfill the Lord's work. Amen.

Pastor Claire



Fowler Scholarship Application Now Available

By Becky Leonard

The Edgar A. Fowler Scholarship Fund was established in 1978 as a memorial to Reverend Fowler, who nourished and developed Windsor United Methodist Church in its early years. The interest earned annually from this fund is awarded as one or more scholarships to students pursuing an education in a field involving service to mankind; including, but not limited to, the ministry, counseling, mental health, social work, nursing, medicine and teaching. Other fields of study may be considered with documentation by the applicant as to how this field of study is applicable to a helping profession.

Applications are available from the church office. Completed applications should be returned to the church office and will be accepted through **Friday, June 13**. Applicants will be notified of a decision in July. The funds become available to recipients after July 2025.

Windsor Welcomes ARA-VIKTORIA

By Teresa Kitchens

Thanks to the efforts of Katrina Garvin, we were introduced to Ara-Viktoria McKinney-Bookman who is our new Music Director. Ara-Viktoria made her official debut on Sunday, April 27, and the reviews have been outstanding. She is a multi-talented musician, theatrical performer, and a certified educator. She is currently employed as the Choral Director at Carolina Springs Middle School and is working toward her Doctorate of



Education. We are truly fortunate to have someone with her level of talent and professionalism at Windsor. Without a doubt, Ara-Viktoria will enhance our worship service with her musical talent. Please welcome Ara-Viktoria by showing your support and participation in the worship service. Together we will glorify God with beautiful music.

Photos by Becky Leonard

A Mother's Day Prayer

Dear Lord,

*Please watch over
and support all mothers
on earth and in heaven . . .*

*and help them to know how much
they are loved and appreciated
on Mother's Day and every day.*

RightQuotes4all.Com





Easter 2025



*Photos by
Noreen Doughty
and
Becky Leonard*





WINDSOR SOUP KITCHEN AT WASHINGTON STREET UMC

Article and photos by Becky Leonard

Washington Street UMC Soup Cellar first opened its doors in October 1979, serving a simple, nutritious meal to those in need in downtown Columbia. Changes to the noon-time meal have occurred over the course of the past 45 years. Their current bagged meal format arose as a necessity to be able to continue to safely provide a meal to those in need during Covid. The Soup Cellar has retained this bagged meal format for five years and plans to continue it in the foreseeable future.



Churches throughout the Columbia area help Monday through Friday with the preparation and serving of the noon meal. Windsor UMC helps on the first Monday of the month and 120 guests came through on Windsor's March 3 serving day. The meal included a cup of vegetable, turkey and black-eyed pea soup, along with either a chicken salad, bologna, turkey or peanut butter and jelly sandwich, an orange or cup of peaches, donut and bottle of water. Michelle Nicholson, Debbo Lackore, Patty Fowler, Tremaine Sails-Dunbar and Becky Leonard were the serving crew that morning.

Windsor served 137 guests the following month. The April 7 meal included a cup of bean, rice and hamburger soup, chicken salad, tuna or peanut butter and jelly sandwich, two clementine oranges, a donut and bottle of water. The morning's serving crew included Michelle Nicholson, Debbo Lackore, Candee DePew, Patty Fowler, Tremaine Sails-Dunbar and Becky Leonard.

Windsor's next serving days will be May 5 and June 2. 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.



Windsor Food Pantry

Many families face food insecurity. Windsor's food pantry helps those who come to the church office in need of food as well as some attending the Skills for Work and Life Program on our church campus.

Outreach thanks all who have supported 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 also are appreciated.
- dried red and black 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, Windsor and Windsor UMM!

Thank you to Windsor's UMM, who have provided financial support to the Food Pantry for more than five years. Outreach greatly appreciates their continued support and that of the Windsor congregation, which makes this ministry possible.

Charles is Going to Prison

By Charles Shipman

During the first full week in June, there is a Kairos Ministry for residents at the Broad River Facility.

I will be part of that and need Windsor's help.

How can you help?

1. It costs \$150 to finance a resident for this event. I have contributed \$150 and would like Windsor to match that amount. All contributions are welcome—\$1 or more. If you decide to help with this, please make your check payable to Kairos SC and put Broad River on the memo line. Please get them to me and I will deliver them to the Kairos treasurer. You will receive notification of your contribution.

Also, look for the large water bottle to collect your loose change and your \$1 bills when you come to worship on Sundays.

2. Cookies, brownies and cakes would also be helpful for the residents. The last week in May would be good timing for me to receive these items.

3. Also, small posters would be great—placemat size. No stickers and only first names. The last week in May also would be great to receive posters.

Thanks so much for your help. Please feel free to contact me at 803-622-4713.



Our Windsor Family

CONGRATULATIONS!

Welcome to the world Caleb Joel McCoy born March 1, 2025 and weighing 7 lbs. 8oz. It has been a whirlwind of excitement in the McCoy household with our new addition. Thank you to our Windsor family for all of the gifts, prayers, calls and texts. We surely do feel the love as we go through this adjustment period. Baby Caleb is now 8 weeks old and we will be back soon after he gets his first round of shots. We miss you all.



Photos by Felicia McCoy

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

United Women in Faith

By Melanie Nanney

United Women in Faith will meet at 6 p.m. in Harbor Hall on Monday, May 5 we'll learn about the Lutheran Refugee Program. Click on the link below for more information. They currently need towels, blankets, bedding and lamps.

<https://lscarolinas.net/new-americans-program/>.

We'll have a light meal if you can bring something to share.

Contact Melanie Nanney at 803-530-3134 for more information.



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, May 4 and June 6.



Financial Summary through February 28, 2025

	Income through February 28, 2025	Expenses through February 28, 2025	2025 Budget	Percent of Total
Regular Income (offering, Sunday school, fees, other)	\$ 30,525.23		\$ 202,000.00	15%
Administration (buildings, staff, & staff expenses)		\$ 42,346.17	\$ 248,569.00	17%
Apportionments		0.00	0.00	0%
Nurture (worship, communications, education, family ministries, music ministry & youth)		388.08	2,816.00	14%
Outreach		0.00	0.00	0%
Witness (evangelism & LRE)		0.00	415.00	0%
Total Regular Income & Expenses	\$ 30,525.23	\$ 42,734.25	\$ 251,800.00	17%



**God Bless
America!**

Please Pray for:
Our Military,
Law Enforcement,
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

March 1 to March 31, 2025	37
April 1 to April 30, 2025	45

10 a.m. Worship Service—YouTube

March 1 to March 31, 2025	33
April 1 to April 30, 2025	28

Sunday School

March 1 to March 31, 2025	10
April 1 to April 30, 2025	12

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

Terra Bella Worship Service

March 1 to March 31, 2025	4
April 1 to April 30, 2025	7

Lenten Services Attendance

Ash Wednesday Service	32
Maundy Thursday	34
Good Friday Service	38
Sunrise Service	28
Easter Service	54

..... A PRAYER FOR

Father's DAY

Gracious God,
 bless fathers and all father
 figures with such love and
 faithfulness that children
 flourish and grow in
 uprightness and joy.
 Bless those who long to be
 fathers and those for whom
 this day is difficult.
 Amen.

ICA



Use the QR code for electronic giving
with Vanco.



Calendar May 2025



Thursday, May 1

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

Saturday, May 3

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

Sunday, May 4

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, May 5

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

6:00 PM UWF Meeting - HH/K

6:30 PM Al Anon - Rm 8

Tuesday, May 6

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 - Sanctuary

Wednesday, May 7

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

6:00 PM Finance Meeting - HH

Thursday, May 8

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

6:00 PM BNA General Meeting - HH

Saturday, May 10

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

Happy Mothers Day



Sunday, May 11

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, May 12

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

6:30 PM Al Anon - Rm 8

Tuesday, May 13

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 - Sanctuary

Wednesday, May 14

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

Thursday, May 15

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

Saturday, May 17

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

Sunday, May 18

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, May 19

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

6:30 PM Al Anon - Rm 8

Tuesday, May 20

1:00 PM Bible Study - Classroom 10

6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Classroom 9

Saturday, May 24

3:00 PM Fil-Am Praise Band Rehearsal

6:00 PM Fil-Am Prayer Meeting

Sunday, May 25

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, May 26



OFFICE CLOSED

6:30 PM Al Anon - Rm 8

Tuesday, May 27

1:00 PM Bible Study - Classroom 10

6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Classroom 9

Wednesday, May 28

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

Thursday, May 29

6:00 PM Richland Herb Society - Classroom 10

Saturday, May 31

3:00 PM Fil-Am Praise Band Rehearsal

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.



May

Sharon Wing	5
Lane Hinson	10
Marlene Nelson	21
Katy Hinson Bearden	22
Mitzi Shipman	23
Molly Walters	26
Kathy Robinson	27
Irene Nicholson	28
Linda Jackson	31



June

Melanie Nanney	5
Richard Taylor	6
Frances Huggins	7
Faith Davis	8
John Dixon	9
Charmaine Ruppe	11
Karen Taylor	26
Becky McMillion	29



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Lenten Altar

Photo by Julie Milhouse



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.