

## ***First United Methodist Church***

### **Office Hours**

Mon.—Thurs.  
8:00am—3:30pm  
Friday—8:00am—12:00pm  
Lunch 1:00—1:30pm

117 Third Street  
Cheraw, South Carolina 29520  
Phone: 843-537-7002  
Fax: 843-537-7220

***December 15, 2012***

***Volume 7, Issue 24***

E-Mail: [angie@fumccheraw.net](mailto:angie@fumccheraw.net)

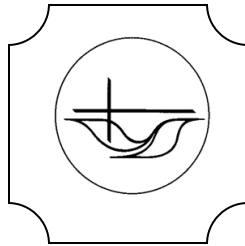
[www.cherawfirstumc.org](http://www.cherawfirstumc.org)

### **FUMC STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Paul A. Wood, Jr., Pastor ([woodtz1955@gmail.com](mailto:woodtz1955@gmail.com))  
Jonathan E. Kroepel, Director of Music ([jkroepel@bellsouth.net](mailto:jkroepel@bellsouth.net))  
Angie Smith, Administrative Assistant ([angie@fumccheraw.net](mailto:angie@fumccheraw.net))  
Kevin D. Chapman, Custodian

### ***Address Service***

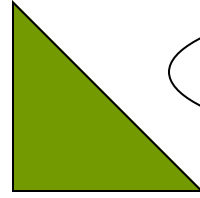
### ***Requested***



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PRSRT STD.  
US POSTAGE  
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CHERAW, SC

### **OUR MISSION**

The mission of the First United Methodist Church is to win and nurture souls for Jesus Christ by sharing and living the message of salvation.



***THE CONNECTION***  
***First United Methodist Church, Cheraw, SC***  
***December 15, 2012***

***Merry Christmas from the staff***

***Jon Kroepel***

***Angie Smith***

***Kevin Chapman***

***Paul Wood***

### ***The Innkeeper's Top 10 Excuses...***

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 10. Roman's "Stay Free" promotion a bit too successful.                 | 5. Didn't accept the Judean Express Card.                       |
| 9. Wife said he couldn't accept olive wood carvings as payment anymore. | 4. Last room left was by the ice machine.                       |
| 8. Too busy getting new "Motel One" franchise going.                    | 3. Nazareth Shriners tore up the place the night before.        |
| 7. Last pregnant lady riding a donkey took all their towels.            | 2. Closed front desk early to take family to watch unique star. |
| 6. Filled up for the "Caesar Impersonators"" convention.                | 1. No last names, no service.                                   |

### ***Church Advertises for Job Opening***

We are seeking to hire a fulltime Director of Youth and Children. First United Methodist hopes to find that special someone who will work alongside us and help the young people of Cheraw to become disciples of Jesus Christ. Duties include managing all children's and youth pro-

grams and also include responsibilities with Genesis, our monthly contemporary Sunday service. You may email your résumé to [sprc@fumccheraw.net](mailto:sprc@fumccheraw.net) or mail it to First UMC, Attn: Mrs. Lib Norton, 117 Third St., Cheraw, SC 29520. (Taken from our Facebook page)

### ***Remember our Homebound***

#### **HOME**

Robin Motley, Sabrina Tucker, Gene Huckabee, Michael Motley, Frances Laney

#### **CONVALESCENT CENTER**

Laura Stubbs

#### **NURSING HOME**

Sara Cook, , Vera Meadows

#### **RETIREMENT HOME**

Polly Edwards

#### **ASSISTED LIVING**

Patsy Rushing, Margie Wannamaker



### ***Our Visitors***

#### **November 25**

Ok Yo Chang, Drew Copeland, Carol Crouse, Paul Ludlow, Kiersten Shepard, Bryan Townsend, Elizabeth Townsend, Michael Townsend, Nolan Townsend, Chad Walton

#### **December 2**

Anne Bryan, Ok Yo Chang, Carol Crouse, Marie Davidson, Tom Davidson, Rick Fisher, Johnnie Johnson, Abigail Kulo, Fran Lewis, Paul Ludlow, Anne Wallace

### ***Where's the Organ?***

Why aren't we using the organ in our worship services? The pipe-work still remains in place in our sanctuary-all 2,000+ pipes, but the organ console is in the workshop of Robert Coulter in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Coulter has been extremely helpful to us since we first contacted him in May 2011. One issue, which has caused a lengthy delay, was that the console contained some plywood

parts; those sections of the console had to be rebuilt for the console to have a uniform appearance. Further delays have been caused by supplier error. We currently expect the organ console to be returned on January 2, 2013. For more information about this issue, you may contact the

Director of Music.

## ***November Perfect Attendance for Sunday School***

Leighton Becker, Sawyer Becker, Ashton Becker, Allison Becker, Dawn Leach, Caroline Berry, Shan- non Johnson, JoAnne Morgan, Lib Norton, Sarah M. Therrell, Jane Campbell, Linda Smith, Gailya Wil- son, Edyce Brasington, Norma Cobb, Jimmy Duffy, John Straughn, Shep Straughn, Brenda Rayfield, Anne	Townsend, David Townsend, Drucil- la Walker, Jerry Turner, Sammy Quick, John Sanderson, Greg Sander- son, Jerry Carter, Doug Wilson, Pete Owens, Harold Lomas, Jim Bennett, Jerry Tucker, Julia Tucker, Bonnie Cundiff, Susan Eschenfelder, Susan Marsh, John Moore.
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## ***November Perfect Attendance for Worship***

Chuck Barber, Allison Becker, Ash- ton Becker, Leighton Becker, Todd Becker, Sawyer Becker, Jim Ben- nett, Edyce Brasington, Jane Camp- bell, Jerry Carter, Bonnie Cundiff, Jimmy Duffy, Susan Eschenfelder, Bill Eutsler, Jeff Johnson, Kathryn Johnson, Shannon Johnson, Harold Lomas, Mary Lomas, Thomas McKinnon, Sharon McKinnon, John	Moore, JoAnne Morgan, Pete Ow- ens, Greg Robinson, Greg Sander- son, John Sanderson, Syble Sander- son, Linda Smith, Bobby Spears, John Straughn, Shep Straughn, Eth- el Ann Streater, Sarah Margaret Therrell, Anne Townsend, Jerry Turner, Patricia Turner, Drucilla Walker, Margaret Wolfe, Roger Wolfe.
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## ***Memorials and Honorariums***

### ***In Memory of Karlo Baker***

Nell & Preston Huntley, M&M Tav-  
ener Threatte, Margaret & Hutto  
Utsey, M&M Rhett Butler, M&M Jef-  
fery Johnson, M&M Larry Spears,  
M&M William Kinney, Jr., M&M  
Daniel McNiel, Mary Burr, M&M J.H.  
Witherspoon, Mary Anne Douglas  
Lake, Jack & Ethel Eckenstien, Billy,  
Brian & Kate McBride, M&M Keith  
Smith. Roger & Barbara Baker, Wil-  
liam Lynn Shirley, Judy, Jimmy &  
Julie Duke, Betty Thrailkill & Chil-  
dren, Flora Kennedy, James & Sarah  
Spruill, M&M Herbert Watts, Bill  
Eutsler

### ***In Memory of Lavonne Davis***

M&M Jerry Therrell

### ***In Memory of Virginia Moore***

M&M Rhett Butler, M&M Keith  
Smith

### ***In Memory of Bob Lockey***

M&M Jeffery Johnson, Rebecca  
Baker, M&M Mickey Sullivan

### ***In Memory of Elaine Motley***

M&M Jeffery Johnson

### ***In Memory of Betty Crawford***

M&M William Kinney, Jr., M&M  
Daniel McNiel

### ***In Memory of Percy Walters***

Mary Burr

### ***In Memory of Laverne Grant***

M&M Keith Smith

### ***In Honor of Paul & Kay Wood***

M&M Jerry Therrell

### ***Thank You***

Thank you to all the young adults, families and youth that participated in caroling and the chili-cook off. Congratulations to our 2nd and 3rd place winners (tied): Dusa family and Laney family. The grand prize winner was the Carabo family.

### ***Congratulations***

Congratulations to Kaleb Keefe who will graduate from Winthrop University on December 15.

### ***Newsletter Deadlines***

January 1 Newsletter

Deadline December 14 (Due to Christmas Holiday)

January 15 Digital Version Newsletter

January 10

### ***Blue Christmas: December 19***

We are proudly offering to the community a Blue Christmas Service on December 19. Like all services of worship, we will sing and praise God and hear scripture read. But we will focus on the worries, griefs and sorrows which can afflict so many of us during December. We will bring our concerns before

God who is the great healer and our ultimate source of hope.

Invite a friend to a meaningful service in our sanctuary December 19 at 6:30. (NOTE: Our final Wednesday At the First meal of the year will begin at 5:30. Sign up for the meal by calling the church office at 843-537-7002.)

### ***Jingle Bell Rock Update***

Our youth raised more than \$1,800 through the First Annual Jingle Bell Rock concert held December 8 at the Theater on the Green. The youth will be donating \$350 to McArn Community Ministry, and the remainder of the proceeds will support the youth

ministries of First United Methodist Church. Many thanks go out to Agape Hospice, The Link newspaper, Pee Dee Outfitters, the many adults who helped with the concert and everyone who attended.

### **Genesis—Contemporary Worship**

January 20 at 8:45 in the fellowship hall.

Invite a friend to join you.



### ***Wednesday At The First (WATF)***

The Wednesday At The First meal will begin at 5:30pm with Bible Study following at 6:30pm each Wednesday.

#### Menus for December

December 19 Bar-b-que chicken, rice and gravy, field peas, biscuits, dessert and tea.

December 26 NO WATF

### ***2012 Estimate of Giving Update (End of November)***

Giving at 100% for 11 months \$308,141.00

Actual Giving for 11 months \$282,910.00

Difference **-\$ 25,231.00**

FUMC is \$25,231.00 behind the 100% giving level. Are you at 100% of your Estimate of Giving level for 2012?

### ***Flower Fund***

The Walters flower fund is almost depleted. The Altar Guild would welcome contributions to this fund so that we can provide flowers when no one signs up for a Sunday.



### ***Pastor's Discretionary Fund***

Friends, I appreciate your continued support of the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. With it I am able to provide much-needed assistance to Cheraw-area residents. Usually, they ask for help because their power is about to be cut off. I counsel with these persons and make referrals to agencies such as McArn Community Ministry. You may know that our church now shares confidential client information with other members of CAMAN, the Chesterfield and Marlboro Assistance Network. CAMAN has made this part of my ministry much more productive.

Additional, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund is used on occasion to assist members of our congregation. Otherwise, the fund is now depleted.

If you, your class or your fellowship group are inclined to contribute to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, please designate a gift to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

*Paul Wood*

### ***Bank Draft Service Offered***

First United Methodist Church is pleased to announce that effective in January 2013 we will offer bank draft service for monthly giving. Drafts must be established on a monthly basis. Drafts on your account will occur on the 10th of each month or the next business day. Angie Smith, our Administrative Assistant, will handle the bank

draft so it will remain entirely confidential.

If you are interested in this process please contact Angie Smith in the church office at 537-7002. First United Methodist Church is pleased to offer this convenient manner of systematic giving at no cost to the church member.

## Baptisms and New Members

Congratulations to Nathan and Landon Rogers, sons of Woody and Stephanie Rogers, who received baptism on November 25. Also, Stephanie was received into the church's roll of Professing Members. Addi-

tionally, the Goodwin family joined as Professing Members. They are Dr. Harrison Goodwin, Mrs. Amy Goodwin and their son and daughter Tyler and Meghan Goodwin.



### YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

In order for contributions to be posted to your 2012 giving record, they must meet one of three requirements:

1. The gift is received and posted to your account before December 31<sup>st</sup>.
2. The contribution is dropped into the offering plate or delivered to the church office on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>.
3. The envelope in which the gift is mailed is postmarked on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Church Office will be open Friday, December 28 from 8:00am—12:00pm and Monday, December 31 from 8:00 am - 3:30 pm to assist you with year-end giving matters. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the church office at 843-537-7002.

## From the Director of Music

Hope, Love, Peace, and Joy; these are all words that we hear at Christmas-time. "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men," in the hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" reminds of what the author of the Gospel of Luke records the angels sang at the Nativity of Christ. For nearly 2, 000 years, the church has sung what is referred to as the "Gloria." The "Gloria" is the second part of the Ordinary of the Mass, which is sung most of the year by Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, and Lutherans. This joyous song of praise is omitted during Advent and Lent, as these church bodies view the seasons of Lent and Advent to be seasons of preparation and penance.

How do we prepare for the coming of Christ in our lives? We, too often, fall into evil snares of commercialism and want to celebrate Christmas and sing Christmas carols during the month of December. At the same time, once Christmas day is past and all the presents have been unwrapped, we want to take down Christmas tree and stop singing the songs of Christmas. We need to remember there are 12 days of Christmas, December 25-January 6<sup>th</sup>. There is an ongoing debate among clergy, church musicians, and church members as to how best to celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons.

On Sunday, December 9, 2012, Pastor Paul preached about the second coming of Christ and of patience. It is human nature to want to be gratified and satiated in the present, and do not want to prepare ourselves. Most high school and college students cannot expect to do well on a final examination if he/she doesn't prepare by studying throughout the semester. The choir

sang a Taizé chant entitled "Prepare the Way of the Lord," which was based upon the words of the prophet Isaiah. We must believe in the salvation that Jesus brings.

How do we receive the "Unspeakable Gift" of God? As adults we have a hard time accepting that anything is free; however, Christ was freely given as the Savior of the human race. No matter how old we are, if we are to receive the fullness of God, we must receive with child-like faith that doesn't question the sovereignty of God and the sacrifice that Christ made on our behalf.

"Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let Earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him Room..." This joy comes only through receiving Christ and allowing him to be first in one's life. As carolers sing the songs to shut-ins, they bring the love and joy of God to those whose days may seem long and dreary. God's gift of music can help transform and move us and others to a higher plain.

Finally, if we don't have hope, we don't have anything. The belief in hope of the forgiveness of sins and resurrection of the dead is all in vain if we don't know Christ. We must strive to follow the lead of John the Baptist, whose popularity proceeded Christ's, but quickly diminished after Christ's baptism. By humbling ourselves, we allow Christ to work through us, and it's then we can truly have an abundance of joy.

It is my prayer that each and every person experiences Hope, Love, Peace, and Joy this year.

Sincerely

*Jon Kreopel*

### ***Custodian's Duties***

Kevin Chapman, our custodian, has a lot of job duties at the church. While he is so willing to help, his regular job duties are important. If you would like Kevin's assistance, please coordinate special requests as far in advance as possible through Angie Smith in the

church office. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

-- The Staff-Parish Relations Committee

### ***The Light Side***

A cartoon depicts two smiling women. They're apparently cleaning up from Christmas because they're holding some characters in a manger scene such as a camel and a king. One says: "Do you know what would have happened if it had been three wise women instead of three wise

men?" "No, what?" asks her friend. The first replies: "They would have asked directions, arrived on time, helped to deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole and brought practical gifts!"

# *Merry Christmas!*





## ***December 2012***

### **Sunday, December 16, 2012**

Adult Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room, 9:00am

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship Service, 11:00am

UMYF, Youth Hut, 5:00pm

Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting, Choir Room, 5:30pm

Praise Singers Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall, 7:00pm

### **Monday, December 17, 2012**

Community Greeters Meeting, Choir Room, 3:30pm

Boy Scout Meeting, Scout Hut, 6:00pm

### **Tuesday, December 18, 2012**

Praise Band Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall, 7:00pm

December 23 Bulletin Deadline

### **Wednesday, December 19, 2012**

Wednesday At The First (WATF) Meal, 5:30pm

WATF Adult Bible Study, Fellowship Hall, 6:30pm

WATF Children's Ministries (K—5th Grade), 6:30pm

Adult Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room, 7:30pm

December 24 Bulletin Deadline

### **Thursday, December 20, 2012**

December 30 Bulletin Deadline

### **Sunday, December 23, 2012**

Adult Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room, 9:00am

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship Service, 11:00am

Praise Singers Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall, 7:00pm

### **Monday, December 24, 2012**

Office Closed — Christmas Holiday

### **Tuesday, December 25, 2012**

Office Closed — Christmas Holiday

### **Wednesday, December 26, 2012**

Office Closed — Christmas Holiday

### **Thursday, December 27, 2012**

Office Closed

### **Sunday, December 30, 2012**

Adult Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room, 9:00am

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship Service, 11:00am

Praise Singers Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall, 7:00pm

### **Monday, December 31, 2012**

Boy Scout Meeting, Scout Hut, 6:00pm

