

UPCOMING EVENTS AT FUMC

Sunday, December 2, 2012

8:45am Genesis (Fellowship Hall)

10:00am Sunday School

11:00am Worship Service

5:00pm UMYF United Methodist Youth Fellowship (Youth Hut)

5:30pm Finance Committee Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

7:00pm Church Council Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, December 3, 2012

6:00pm Boy Scout Meeting (Scout Hut)

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

6:30pm United Methodist Women's Christmas Party (Parlor)

7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

5:30pm WATF Meal

6:30pm Adult Bible Study

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

7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Bulletin Deadline

Friday, December 7, 2012

7:00pm United Methodist Men's Bible Class Christmas Party (Fellowship Hall)

December 15 Digital Version Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, December 9, 2012

8:30am United Methodist Men's Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

9:00am Adult Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

10:00am Sunday School

11:00am Worship Service

5:00pm UMYF United Methodist Youth Fellowship (Youth Hut)

7:00pm Praise Singers Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)

Bus Reserved



First United Methodist Church
117 Third Street, Cheraw, SC 29520

www.cherawfirstumc.org

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.

December 2, 2012

1st Sunday in Advent

Prelude

"Once in Royal David's City"

Irby

Greeting and Announcements

Please sign the attendance pad and pass it to everyone on the pew.

***Ritual of Friendship**

Introit

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Dusa Family & Pete Owens

Leader: On each Sunday of Advent, we light a new candle, a sign of hope in a world full of shadows. We want to be ready to welcome the Light of the World into our lives.

People: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Leader: Let this light shine so that we may remember to bring the light of Jesus' presence to all people. Jesus said, "While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of the light." (John 12:36)

People: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Advent Candle Song

Tune to Away In a Manager

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright;

A candle of **Hope** in December's dark night.

While angels sing blessings from heav'n's starry sky.

Our hearts we prepare now, for Jesus is nigh.

Call to Worship

***Hymn No. 196 in the Hymnal**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Hyfrydol

Prayer of Confession

Ray Crouse, Lay Reader

Holy God, forgive us. During this season when our focus should be on the coming of your Son, instead we're filled with desire for material things. We succumb to the allure of advertising. We covet what others have. We seek to fulfill all the wants of our children with little regard to cost or need. In the process, we spend money we don't have and fail to appreciate the season's true meaning. Turn our hearts to you and to those who are less fortunate than we are. Help us tune out what culture calls us to believe so we can listen, instead, to your holy Word. Amen

FUMC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Paul A. Wood, Jr., Pastor (woodtz1955@gmail.com)

Angie Smith, Administrative Assistant (angie@fumccheraw.net)

Jonathan E. Kroepel, Director of Music (jkroepel@bellsouth.net)

Catrenna Buffington, Director of Preschool/Nursery (fmcscheraw@bellsouth.net)

Kevin D. Chapman, Custodian

Silent Prayer and Words of Assurance

Mini Sermon Rev. Paul Wood

Old Testament Lesson **Isaiah 9: 2 — 9** Lay Reader

***Affirmation No. 881 in the Hymnal** **The Apostles' Creed** Lay Reader

***Gloria Patri — Page No. 70 in the Hymnal** **“Glory be to the Father”** Meineke

***Gospel Lesson** **John 1: 1 — 5, 9 — 14** Rev. Wood

Sermon **“Christmas Is Not Your Birthday! . . . Really!”** Rev. Wood

Pastoral Prayer

***Hymn No. 203 in the Hymnal** **“Hail to the Lord's Anointed”** Ellacombe
During the singing of this hymn, the altar is open for those who wish to come for prayer and dedication.

Presentation of Tithes and Other Offerings

Offertory Choral Anthem **“Advent Carol”** Alfred V Fedak

***Doxology No. 95** **“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”** Old 100th

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

***Hymn No. 251 in the Hymnal** **“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”** Go Tell It on the Mountain

*Dismissal with Blessing

*Benediction

***Benediction Response** **“Until Jesus Comes”** McIntyre

*Postlude

***Indicates where you should stand if you are able.**

WELCOME VISITORS — We welcome our visitors! Please fill out the attendance sheet with your contact information. If you wish to join the church by Affirmation of Faith or Transfer of Membership, please notify the pastor at 843-537-3635.

FLOWERS — The flowers are placed in the sanctuary today to the glory of God and in honor of our children Tyler and Megan Goodwin by Harrison and Amy Goodwin.

OUR PRAYER LIST our president, our nation, Brady & Sue Nichols (Pam Humphries' parents), Bailey Turner (8-yr-old from Ruby with cancer), Taylor Novinger (Dr. Novinger's son), Betty Thrailkill (cancer—would appreciate visits and phone calls), Pal Moore. **NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notified.**

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR MERCY IN ME FREE MEDICAL CLINIC — TODAY, DECEMBER 2 — The Mercy In Me Free Medical Clinic provides much-needed assistance to working people in our area who do not have medical insurance. The Director, Dr. Gabe Simpson and his staff (all volunteers) serve in Christ's name. First United Methodist has provided valuable support to the Free Medical Clinic. Today we are receiving a special offering for the clinic. The Missions Ministry Team and Pastor Paul Wood ask everyone to be generous to the clinic and the people it serves.

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.)

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 31st. 2.) The contribution is dropped into the offering plate or delivered to the church office on or before December 31st. 3.) The envelope in which the gift is mailed is postmarked on or before December 31st.

The Church Office will be open December 28 from 8:00am—12:00pm and 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.

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 please to offer this convenient manner of systematic giving at no cost to the church member.

LIVE DRIVE-THRU NATIVITY — We are all invited to the Live Drive-thru Nativity to be held December 9 from 6:00 until 8:30 p.m. at Zoar United Methodist Church. There is no charge for the event, but Zoar UMC is accepting food donations for the Chesterfield County Food Bank. The church is located at 2842 Zoar Road, Cheraw, SC 29520.

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

SERVING TODAY

Head Usher: Robert Calhoun

Lobby Door Greeters: Pete Owens, Ellison Outen

Altar Guild: Kim Williamson and Susan Marsh

Nursery: Caroline Berry & Eleni Chapman

Children's Church: Eric Dusa

Counters: Jackie McGee, Jane Mayhew

Alternate Counters: Walter Crosby, John Moore

Greeters: M&M Ellison Outen

Hostess: Marsha Butler

Acolyte: Austin Sanderson

Cross Bearer: Greer Eddins

McArn Item: Canned vegetables

Flowers Next Sunday: Poinsettias

Next Week's Lay Reader: Jenny Keefe

Last Week's Worship Service — 126; Worship Attendance in 2011 for the same Sunday — 145

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY — The United Methodist Women's Christmas Party is on Tuesday, December 4 at 6:30pm in the Parlor. Each lady is asked to bring a finger food for the meeting; also a cleaning item or an item for a child to be donated to the Pee Dee Coalition Home.

WEDNESDAY AT THE FIRST (WATF) MEAL — The meal begins at 5:30pm and is cooked by Carolyn Gary; the cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12 years old (Maximum \$21.00 for a household). Sign up on the worship attendance sheet, or call the church office (537-7002) and ask that your name be added to the list of "regulars". Reservations must be in to the church office no later than 3:00pm on Monday.

6:30—7:30 — Children's Ministries hour (K—5th grade)

6:30—7:30 — Adult Bible Study (The Parables of Jesus)

No Youth Activities on Wednesday.

MENU— (December 5) Fried chicken,, collards, mac and cheese, fat back, corn bread, dessert and tea.

BIBLE STUDY ON THE PARABLES OF JESUS — The church has begun a seven-week study series on the parables of Jesus. Paul Wood is teaching the classes on Wednesday nights at 6:30 in the fellowship hall. Parables are presented as video recreations. All adults and youth are welcome to take part.