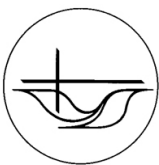


First United Methodist Church
117 Third Street
Cheraw, South Carolina 29520
843-537-7002
www.cherawfirstumc.org

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.



FUMC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Kurt McPherson, Pastor (pastor@fumccheraw.net)

Jonathan E. Kroepel, Director of Music (jlkroepel@gmail.com)

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

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THE CONNECTION

First United Methodist Church, Cheraw, SC

December 1, 2013 Volume 8, Issue 22

Pastor's Reflection

Of all of the seasons of the year I like fall the best. The myriad of colors that exist when the leaves change and the cooler temperatures makes this time of the year so very enjoyable for those who are blessed to call South Carolina home. Recently I was driving with my family through an area covered with beautiful foliage, and I was overwhelmed with the sense of beauty from our Creator's hand. Hopefully you have had an opportunity this season to take in the gorgeous scenery that surrounds us as well.

Fall also brings with it symbols of harvest and a time of thanksgiving. At our charge conference with our new district superintendent, Dr. Robin Dease, we were able to reflect upon how God has been working in our midst this past year at First Cheraw. Several individuals were able to give voice to how they felt blessed by the music, people, and ministry that make our church what it is today. I know that I am very thankful and honored to serve as the pastor of this historic church.

But as this season changes we will get ready for the arrival of winter and the coming new year. The season of the church calendar we call Advent will usher in a time when we will celebrate the coming of our Savior as a little child. For many of you this will be your favorite time of the year as we sing familiar songs, decorate the sanctuary, and adorn the Chrismon tree, and who could blame you?

Whichever season you enjoy the most, I hope you experience God in a real and fresh way knowing His love for you never changes.

In Christ,
Kurt

Our Visitors

November 3

Katie Bridgeman, Cindy Champion, Ok Yo Chang, William Eutsler, Jr., John Folger, Laura Folger, Johnnie Johnson, Ashlyn Nelson, Katie Phillips, Jean Page Watson

November 10

Ok Yo Chang, Lisa Chishium, Drew Copeland, Andrew Elvington, Patti Elvington, John Folger, Laura Folger, George Furr, Hayden Keeney, Andy Koontz, Tracy Koontz, Sally McKenzie, Bob Tietze

November 17

Jan Bentley, Terry Bentley, Ok Yo Chang, Tom Davidson, Patti Elvington, Johnnie Johnson, Gloria Williams

Newsletter Deadlines

January 1 Newsletter

Monday, December 16, 2013

Staff Christmas Gift

As in past years, donations are being accepted for monetary Christmas gift for members of the church staff. Contributions may be dropped off at the church office, mailed, or placed in the offering plate. (Please clearly designate "Staff Christmas Gift" on your check or on the envelope if making a cash donation.) The deadline for contributions is Friday, December 13. This is a good way to express our appreciation to the staff for the work that they do!

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

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

The church office will be open December 23 from 8:00am—3:30pm and December 30 and 31 from 8:00am—3:30pm 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.

December Birthdays

Dec. 6 Derek Michael Motley, Jap Roddy
Dec. 10 Donald Baker
Dec. 14 Lynn Tweed, Pam Humphries
Dec. 16 Ellison Outen, Harold Lomas
Dec. 18 James Tweed
Dec. 19 Jane Rumph, Billy Wicker, Kaleb Keefe
Dec. 20 Tom Rollings
Dec. 22 William Keith Smith, III (Tripp)
Dec. 23 Allan Chapman, Sam Eubanks
Dec. 25 Robin Bersington, Alayna Carabo
Dec. 29 Marcia Butler
Dec. 30 Jacquelyn Bette Tomberlin



December Anniversaries

Dec. 2 M&M Ron Buffington
Dec. 23 M&M Pete Baker, M&M John Moore
Dec. 31 M&M Crawford Moore

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Our contributions are needed for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Please share of your surplus with those who have precious little on which to live. (Write a check to FUMC and designate it or part of it for "Pastor's Discretionary Fund.")

Thank You

Dear Prayer Warriors at FUMC,

It is only through God's amazing grace and your steadfast prayers that OUR little miracle, Taylor Gunner Smith, is home and getting healthier every day. Your thoughts and prayers carried us all through some very dark days to the present brightest of days. We are so very thankful for each and every one of your prayers. We could certainly feel them. We ask that you continue to remember Amy, Will, Taylor and Tripp in your prayers.

God Bless! In His Love, *Sally and Keith Smith*

Remember our Homebound



Frances Laney

CONVALESCENT CENTER

Eddie Stubbs

NURSING HOME

Sara Cook, Vera Meadows

RETIREMENT HOME

Polly Edwards

HOME

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

ASSISTED LIVING

Patsy Rushing, Margie Wanner
namaker

Memorials and Honorariums

In Memory of Dick Griggs

Shirley Walton, M&M Larry Spears, Jim Bennett, M&M Crawford Moore, M&M John Moore, Elizabeth Pearce, M&M David Brabham

In Memory of Laura Stubbs

Shirley Walton, M&M Larry Spears, Jim Bennett, M&M Crawford Moore, M&M John Moore, Elizabeth Pearce

In Memory of Lib Traynham

M&M Larry Spears

In Memory of Elizabeth Smith

M&M Keith Smith

In Memory of Ervin W. Funderburk

M&M David Brabham

In Honor of Mrs. Ruth "Sis" Funderburk on her 101st birthday

FUMC Kinsey Mulloy Sunday School Class

Thank You

The Ezer Sunday School class would like to thank all the line dancers who turned out to support our fundraiser for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Over \$450 was raised, half of which was graciously donated by Patti Rollings who contributed her talent and time for a most enjoyable evening. Lots of shakin' going on from both young and old(er) ... and also, an excellent way to work off the calories from those delicious desserts provided by the youth. Many thanks!

Wednesday At The First (WATF) Menus

The Wednesday At The First (WATF) meal begins at 5:30pm and is cooked by Carolyn Gary; the cost is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children under 12 years old (Maximum \$21 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 the church office no later than 3pm on Monday.

December 4

Chicken and dumplings, cabbage, apple salad, corn bread fritters, dessert and tea.

December 11

Zitti, salad, garlic bread, dessert and tea.

December 18 and December 25

No WATF

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for their support during my recent illness and surgery. The hospital visits helped me get through the hard times. Knowing that there were so many praying for me and my family was comforting. I have been so blessed and am so pleased to be back at work. Thank you for the thoughtful cards and gifts; they meant so much to me. Some even drove to Lexington to see me, and Ron and I were grateful for your visit. I am so proud that I have a Savior in Jesus Christ.

Love, Catrenna

Sunday School Perfect Attendance for October

Cindy Sanderson, Margaret Wolfe, Benson Stubbs, Austin Sanderson, Scott Eddins, Sawyer Becker, Ashton Becker, Greer Eddins, John Sanderson, Greg Sanderson, Jerry Carter, Jim Bennett, Roger Wolfe, Allison Becker, Todd Becker, Brenda Rayfield, Syble Sanderson, Anne Townsend, David Townsend, Drucilla Walker, Jackie McGee, Lib Norton, Flo Outen, Bonnie Cundiff, Amy Lewis, Susan Eschenfelder.

Worship Perfect Attendance for October

Manuel Assef, Allison Becker, Ashton Becker, Leighton Becker, Todd Becker, Sawyer Becker, Jim Bennett, Jerry Carter, Bonnie Cundiff, Ronnie Cundiff, Susan Eschenfelder, Ruth Ann Jones, Dallas Keefe, Jenny Keefe, Amy Lewis, Harold Lomas, Mary Lou Long, Jackie McGee, Thomas McKinnon, Sharon McKinnon, Lillie McPherson, Flo Outen, Syble Sanderson, Bobby Spears, Joe Stanton, Anne Townsend, Jerry Turner, Chase Watson, Lesley Watson, Margaret Wolfe, Roger Wolfe.

News from FUMC Pre-School and Nursery

I am back home with FMPSN and what a true blessing for me. The parents, teachers, and the children are so amazing and just overwhelmed me with hugs and smiles. It will take me a while to get back into the swing of things, but we are off to a running start.

Our kids are performing this week for the J.O.Y Club and our Christmas program will be soon. Listen out for the date, because I don't know when it will be myself.

Our coupon books are here if anyone is interested. There are hundreds of coupons, some for Cheraw, but mostly for the Florence area. Please support the school and purchase a book from us.

Our four year olds are having a canned food drive and are going to deliver them by wagon to the food bank. Send us a canned item to make this drive outstanding. The kids are so amazing!!

In Christian Faith, *Catrenna*

Scouting at First Church

BOY SCOUT TROOP 655

Meets weekly on Monday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30pm at the Dan Stowe Scout Hut.



CUB SCOUT TROOP 653

They have a number of Dens and Tiger Cubs. They meet on various days of the week, at various times and at various locations.

Yours in SCOUTING,

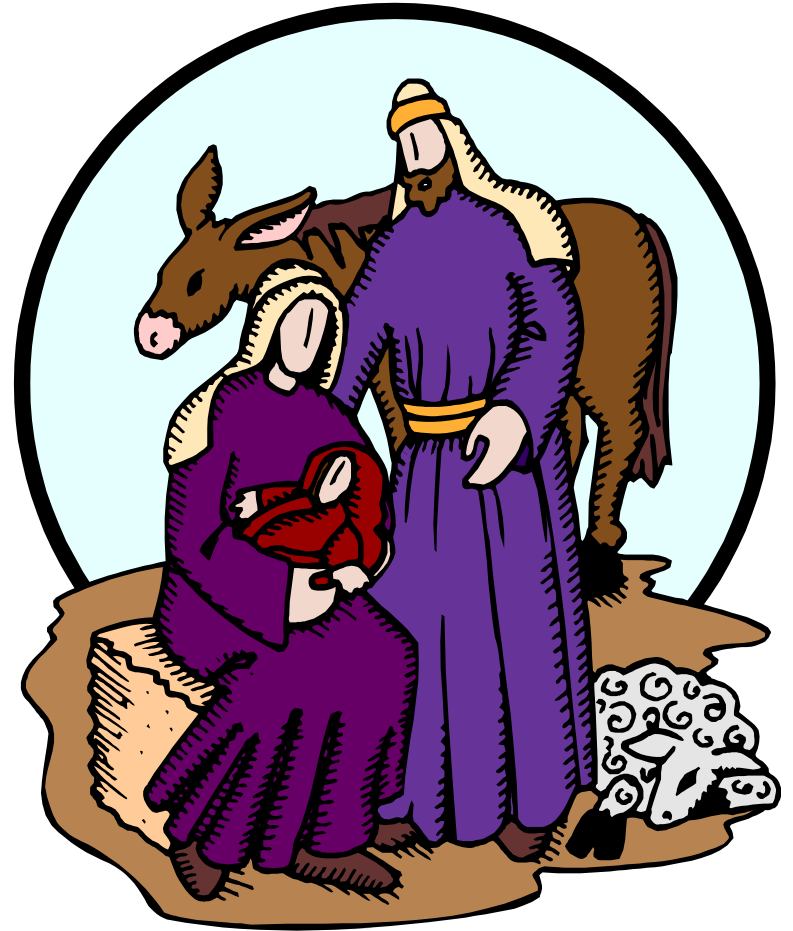
John Moore

Charter Representative, Phone number 843-537-2553

Automatic Bank Draft Reminder

Just a reminder that we have automatic bank draft for your pledge. If you are interested in signing up for this, please see Angie in the church office. If you are already signed up, your bank draft will continue to be taken out next year, unless Angie is contacted otherwise.

Pictures from Line Dancing



Merry Christmas from the
staff of FUMC

Angie

Kurt

Jon

Connie

Linda

Serving in December

Hostess

Marsha Butler

Altar Guild

Kim Williamson and Susan Marsh

Head Usher

Acolyte and Cross Bearer

Mason Tomberlin (A) Jacob Rohde (CB)

Greeters

Dec. 1 M&M Ellison Outen

Dec. 8 M&M Jerry Turner

Dec. 15 Edyce Brasington

Dec. 22 M&M David Bersington

Dec. 29 M&M Jay Leach

Lobby Door Greeters

Dec. 1 Pete Owens, Ellison Outen

Dec. 8 Jerry Turner, C.C. Quick

Dec. 15 John Sanderson, Harold Lomas

Dec. 22 Jerry Therrell, Jerry Carter

Dec. 29 Jerry Therrell, Jerry Carter

Nursery

Dec. 1 Stephanie Rogers

Dec. 8 Christy Ruffner

Dec. 15 Henrietta Kollitz

Dec. 22 Charlotte Crosby

Dec. 29 Michelle Rhode

Children's Church

Dec. 1 Eric Dusa, Benson Stubbs

Dec. 8 Jennifer Tomberlin, Austin Sanderson

Lay Readers

Dec. 1 Ruth Middleton

Dec. 8 Ray Crouse

Dec. 15 Jenny Keefe

Dec. 22 Jim Bennett

Dec. 29 Chuck Barber

Counters

Dec. 1 Jackie McGee, Jane Mayhew, John Moore

Alternate: Mary Burr

Dec. 8 Jim Crawford, Sammy Quick, Donald Baker

Alternates: John Straughn, Zenda Rushing

Dec. 15 Jeff Johnson, Betty Hurst, Jerry Therrell

Alternates: David McLean, Walter Crosby

Dec. 22 Robert Calhoun, Herbert Watts, Brenda Rayfield

Alternate: Doug Marsh

Dec. 29 Rhett Butler, Shelton Rumph

Alternate: Jerry Tucker

Flower Calendar

Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 Poinsettas

Dec. 29 Bill Eutsler

McArn Items

Dec. 1 Canned vegetables

Dec. 8 Non-perishable items

Dec. 15 Canned meats

Dec. 22 Baby items

Dec. 29 Toiletries

A Note from the Music Director

November is over and Christmas is right around the corner. Time marches on, and we can go with the crowd or be left behind. How we worship God hasn't always been as we are used to seeing week after week. If we could take a glimpse into this church 150 years ago, we would be shocked and might feel that the church service was too regimented. But, that is how members 150 years ago worshiped.

How do we worship today? Christendom is changing and adapting the music of the Eastern Culture. Oh, No! Drums, cymbals, percussion, and other non-Western music has infiltrated the church. And why, you may ask. Simply speaking, just as we are mission oriented and send money to assist the people of other countries, we in turn invite them into the "fold." I am a descendant of German immigrants, both of whom left Prussia and German territories in the 1860's to set out for a better life for themselves, and looked for the most fertile farmland. Researching my ancestors, I found that my Great-Great Grandfather was German Lutheran. His name was Theodore, but my Great-Great Grandmother's name was Johana, which she dropped to just Hanna in 1940's. The same was true of my namesake, Edward Johan Kroepel; according to draft records, he changed his name to Edward John in 1919. His siblings did the same. They all attended a rural German Lutheran church, where all services were conducted in German until World War II.

From psychology, we learn that we are multisensory beings. Much of the time, we are not aware of what our subconscious is absorbing. Light, noise, and allergens all influence our overall health. For the past 5 years, the Board of Trustees has tried its best to nurse a failing sound system. Week after week, I would often receive feed-

back from individual reports that they just could not hear the spoken word. Even though this has never been a part of my job, I have felt inclined to work with the Trustees to solve the audio problems.

Seeing that there was no alternative but to replace our dead audio system, in September, the Board of Trustees embarked upon an arduous task of finding a reputable sound company. The Trustees invited and received bids from 3 companies. The Trustees took a look at the needs of the church, consulted with me and Kurt, but the Trustees made the final decision on which company and what equipment we could afford and needed.

The uses of the new system will allow us to once again be able to hear. It will be great to hear Kurt's sermon on Sunday and to hear the Word of God proclaimed by young and old. Our music program will greatly benefit from the new system for years to come. By the time that you read this, the new system will have been installed, and I will be thankful that the Word of God will be heard once again.

We still need more people in the chancel choir. I have asked a number of people to join, but many have respectfully declined. We do not judge a person on how well he or she sings, as I can work with anybody to help make the process easier. If the problem is time constraints, I can work around that and find time to work with you.

If anybody is interested in taking piano from me, I am willing to give church members a handsome discount. Let me know if you would like to learn to play.

In Christ,
Jon Kroepel

December

Sunday, December 1, 2013

Adult Choir Practice, 8:30am, Choir Room

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship, 11:00am

Kinsey Mulloy & Fred Harris Class Christmas Party, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Praise Singers Rehearsal, 7:00pm, Sanctuary

Monday, December 2, 2013

Boy Scout Meeting, 6:00pm, Scout Hut

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Wednesday at the First (WATF), 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 8 Bulletin Deadline, 12:00pm

Friday, December 6, 2013

Methodist Men's Bible Class Christmas Party, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 8, 2013

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

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship, 11:00am

Finance Committee Meeting, 6:00pm, Kinsey Mulloy Classroom

Church Council Meeting, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Parlor Rented, 3:00-5:00pm

Monday, December 9, 2013

Boy Scout Meeting, 6:00pm, Scout Hut

Tuesday, December 10, 2013

Praise Band Rehearsal, 7:00pm, Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Wednesday at the First (WATF), 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 15 Bulletin Deadline, 12:00pm

Saturday, December 14, 2013

Fellowship Hall Reserved

Sunday, December 15, 2013

Genesis Service, 8:45am, Fellowship Hall

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship, 11:00am

Praise Singers Rehearsal, 7:00pm, Sanctuary

Monday, December 16, 2013

Pre-School Board Meeting, 6:00pm, Kinsey Mulloy Classroom

Boy Scout Meeting, 6:00pm, Scout Hut

January 1 Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, December 17, 2013

Praise Band Rehearsal, 7:00pm, Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 18, 2013

Sunday, December 22 Bulletin Deadline, 12:00pm

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Christmas Eve Service Bulletin Deadline, 12:00pm

Sunday, December 29 Bulletin Deadline, 3:00pm

Sunday, December 22, 2013

Adult Choir Practice, 8:30am, Choir Room

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship, 11:00am

UMYF (United Methodist Youth Fellowship), 5-7:00pm, Youth Hut

Bus Reserved

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service, 6:00pm, Sanctuary

Office closed

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, December 25, 26 and 27

Office closed

Sunday, December 29, 2013

Adult Choir Practice, 8:30am, Choir Room

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship, 11:00am

Tuesday, December 31, 2013

Blood Drive, 1:00—6:00pm, Fellowship Hall