

UPCOMING EVENTS AT FUMC

Sunday, December 1, 2013

8:45am Adult Choir Practice (Choir Room)
10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship Service
5-7:00pm United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) (Youth Hut)
7:00pm Praise Singers Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Monday, December 2, 2013

6:00pm Boy Scout Meeting (Scout Hut)

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

6:00pm UMW Christmas Party (Fellowship Hall)
7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

5:30pm WATF (Wednesday at the First)
December 8 Bulletin Deadline

Friday, December 6, 2013

Fellowship hall reserved (Methodist Men's Bible Class Christmas Party)

Sunday, December 8, 2013

8:30am United Methodist Men's Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship Service
7:00pm Praise Singers Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Parlor Reserved

FOR SALE — FUMC has a digital piano for sale for \$500. If you are interested please contact the church office at 537-7002.

SERVING TODAY

Greeters: M&M Ellison Outen
Lobby Door Greeters: Pete Owens, Ellison Outen
Altar Guild: Kim Williamson, Susan Marsh
Nursery: Caroline Berry and Stephanie Rogers
Flowers Next Sunday: Poinsettias
Children's Church: Eric Dusa, Benson Stubbs
Counters: Jackie McGee, Jane Mayhew, John Moore
Alternate Counter: Mary Burr
Head Usher: Robert Calhoun
Hostess: Marsha Butler
Acolyte: Mason Tomberlin
Cross Bearer: Jacob Rohde
McArn Item: Canned vegetables
Next Week's Lay Reader: Ray Crouse

Worship Attendance, November 24 —152
Attendance the same Sunday last year—126

FUMC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Kurt McPherson., Pastor (pastor@fumcheraw.net)
Angie Smith, Administrative Assistant (angiesmith@fumcheraw.net)
Jonathan E. Kroepel, Director of Music (jkroepel@gmail.com)
Catrenna Buffington, Director of Preschool/Nursery (fmpscheraw@gmail.com)



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 1, 2013
1st Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE "Sleepers, Wake" J.S. Bach

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Dr. McPherson
Please sign the attendance pad and pass it to everyone on the pew.

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 122: 1 Dr. McPherson
I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

OPENING PRAYER Dr. McPherson

\*HYMN NO. 196 IN THE HYMNAL "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Hyfrydol

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE McPherson Family

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!

Leaders: 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 NO. 2090 IN THE FAITH WE SING (1st Verse Only)
"Advent Song" Advent Candle Song

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION Dr. McPherson

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.

SILENT PRAYER AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE Dr. McPherson

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**                      **Isaiah 2: 1—5**                      Ruth Middleton, Lay Reader

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**                      **Romans 13: 11—14**                      Ruth Middleton, Lay Reader

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #882 IN THE HYMNAL**  
**The Apostles' Creed, Ecumenical Version**                      Ruth Middleton, Lay Reader

**PASTORAL AND LORD'S PRAYER**                      Dr. McPherson

**\*HYMN NO. 206 IN THE HYMNAL**    **"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"**                      Houston  
Verse 1 will be sung by the choir only

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**                      Dr. McPherson

## OFFERING

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**                      **"A Call to Advent"**

**\*DOXOLOGY NO. 95 IN THE HYMNAL** **"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"**    Old 100th

**\*GOSPEL READING**                      **Matthew 24: 36—44**                      Dr. McPherson

**SERMON**                      **"The Gift of Hope"**                      Dr. McPherson

**\*HYMN NO. 706 IN THE HYMNAL**    **"Soon and Very Soon"**                      Very Soon  
*During the hymn you are invited to come to the chancel rail, kneel, pray to God,  
then return to your pew when ready.*

## \*BENEDICTION

**\*POSTLUDE**                      **"O Come, O Come Emanuel"**

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

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

**OUR PRAYER LIST** — our President, all who defend our nation, J.T. Cutchin, Sue Nichols (Pam Humphries' mother), Bailey Turner (9-yr-old from Ruby with cancer), Lois Baker, John Cook (Emily Marsh's brother).

**NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notified.**

**PASTOR'S INFORMATION** — If you need to contact the pastor, you can call the parsonage at 537-3635, the church office 537-7002 or his cell phone 864-643-9968.

**STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT** — As in past years, donations are being accepted for a 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 2013 giving record, they must meet one of three requirements: 1) The gift is received and posted to your account before December 31, 2013. 2) The contribution is dropped into the offering plate or delivered to the church office on or before December 31, 2013. 3) The envelope in which the gift is mailed is postmarked on or before December 31, 2013.

The church office will be open December 23, 2013 from 8:00am—3:30pm and December 30 and 31, 2013 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.

**LAY READERS** — I will be working on the new list of Lay Readers for 2014 in the near future. If you would like to be added or removed from this list, please let me know. *Angie Smith*

**KINSEY MULLOY AND FRED HARRIS SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS DINNER** — Will be on Sunday, December 8 at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**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.

**SUPPORT THE MCARN FOOD BANK** — The Missions Team would like to ask for your help in supporting McArn Food Bank. The shelves are extremely low and any items or monetary donations would be greatly appreciated. The cold weather is fast approaching and the need in our community is great. Sharon Hendrix does a wonderful job at the Food Bank, but needs our help. Clothing, toys, furniture, household items, blankets, as well as food, are accepted and distributed to families in need. Please do what you can to assist this worthy cause in our community. Thank you for helping God's children!

**WEDNESDAY AT THE FIRST (WATF) MEAL** — The 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 house-hold). 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.

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