

UPCOMING EVENTS AT FUMC

**Sunday, December 15, 2013**

8:45am Adult Choir Practice (Choir Room)  
 10:00am Sunday School  
 11:00am Worship Service  
 5-7:00pm UMYF (Chinese Christmas)  
 7:00pm Praise Singers Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

**Monday, December 16, 2013**

6:00pm Boy Scout Meeting (Scout Hut)  
*January 1 Newsletter Deadline*

**Tuesday, December 17, 2013**

7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

**Wednesday, December 18, 2013**

*December 22 Bulletin Deadline at noon*  
*December 24 Bulletin Deadline at 3:00pm*

**Thursday, December 19, 2013**

*December 29 Bulletin Deadline at 10:30am*

**Sunday, December 22, 2013**

8:45am Adult Choir Practice (Choir Room)  
 10:00am Sunday School  
 11:00am Worship Service  
 7:00pm Praise Singers Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
*Bus Reserved*

**SERVING TODAY**

<b>Greeter:</b> Edyce Brasington	<b>Head Usher:</b> Robert Calhoun
<b>Lobby Door Greeters:</b> John Sanderson, Harold Lomas	<b>Hostess:</b> Marsha Butler
<b>Altar Guild:</b> Kim Williamson, Susan Marsh	<b>Acolyte:</b> Mason Tomberlin
<b>Nursery:</b> Caroline Berry and Henrietta Kollitz	<b>Cross Bearer:</b> Jacob Rohde
<b>Flowers Next Sunday:</b> Poinsettias	<b>McArn Item:</b> Canned meats
<b>Children's Church:</b> No Children's Church	<b>Next Week's Lay Reader:</b> Jim Bennett
<b>Counters:</b> Jeff Johnson, Betty Hurst, Jerry Therrell	
<b>Alternate Counters:</b> David McLean, Walter Crosby	

Worship Attendance, December 8 —154  
 Attendance the same Sunday last year—140

**FUMC STAFF**

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



First United Methodist Church  
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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 15, 2013**

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

**PRELUDE** "Savior of the Nations, Come" J.S. Bach

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Luke 1: 47 Dr. McPherson  
 My soul magnifies the Lord,  
**And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

**OPENING PRAYER** Dr. McPherson

**\*HYMN NO. 224 IN THE HYMNAL "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"** In Dulci Jubilo

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** The Carabo Family

Leader: On the third Sunday of Advent, we light three candles. Our hope grows stronger, and our joy grows brighter as we prepare to celebrate Christ's coming. We remember also in this time of shadows those whose tears still water the ground with sadness, and we pray that God will bring all people home with shouts of joy.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus. In your light we will trust and not be afraid.**

Leader: In God's promised new heaven and new earth: "The city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it."

**People: Come, Lord Jesus. In your light we will trust and not be afraid.**

Leader: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus. In your light we will trust and not be afraid.**

**ADVENT SONG NO. 2090 IN THE FAITH WE SING (3rd Verse Only)**  
 "Advent Song" Advent Candle Song

**UNISON PRAYER** Dr. McPherson

Merciful God, always with us, always coming: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles. We have ignored the promise of your kingdom. We get distracted by all the busyness of this season.

Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born to us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.

**SILENT PRAYER AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Dr. McPherson

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**ANTHEM**

**"Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus"**

David Hurd

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Isaiah 35: 1—10**

Chuck Barber, Lay Reader

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**James 5: 7—10**

Chuck Barber, Lay Reader

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #881 IN THE HYMNAL**

**The Apostles' Creed**

Chuck Barber, Lay Reader

**PASTORAL AND LORD'S PRAYER**

Dr. McPherson

**\*HYMN NO. 218 IN THE HYMNAL "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"**

Carol

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Dr. McPherson

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

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

**\*GOSPEL READING**

**Matthew 11: 2—11**

Dr. McPherson

**SERMON**

**"Are We There Yet?"**

Dr. McPherson

**\*HYMN NO. 250 IN THE HYMNAL "Once in Royal David's City"**

Irby

*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**

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

*The flowers are placed in the sanctuary today to the glory of God and in honor of Ellison Outen's 90th birthday by his family.*

**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, Sue Nichols (Pam Humphries' mother), Bailey Turner (9-yr-old from Ruby with cancer), Lois Baker, John Cook (Emily Marsh's brother), Doug Wilson, Bill Eutsler.

**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.

**FLAG RETIRING CEREMONY** — The Boy Scout troop invites each of you to a Flag Retiring Ceremony on Monday, December 16 at 6:30pm at the Scout Hut.

**GENESIS COMMUNION SET** — A beautiful pottery communion set has been donated to the church to be used in the Genesis services. This communion set is given in loving memory of Robert "Bob" Lockey by his family.

**CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING** — The offering that will be taken up at the Christmas Eve service will go to the Pee Dee Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Assault.

**THANK YOU** — Many thanks to everyone who contributed to Operation Christmas Child. Approximately 70 boxes were completed and are on their way to making some child's Christmas extra special. Special thanks to Jenny Keefe for heading this project and all the youth and parents who put the boxes together.

— *Missions Team*

**POINSETTIAS** — Poinsettias that are placed in the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas have been purchased by the flower fund. If you would like to contribute to the flower fund in memory or honor of someone during this season, you can do so by calling or bringing your information to the church office.

**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.

**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.

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