



Volume 10, Issue 12

DECEMBER 2015



THE CONNECTION

First let me convey a big "THANK YOU!" from both Yolanda and I for your love, prayers, cards, phone calls and visits to brighten our days! It has been a long road and there is still a long way to go before I am anywhere near full cognitive and physical capacities, so please continue to keep us in your prayers. We love you all and are so thankful for each and every one of you!

And now let us turn our thoughts to the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Oh how I enjoy this time of year. There are many who feel this same way while for others the season starting with Thanksgiving and going all the way through the Twelve Days of Christmas is very difficult. Please be on special watch to lift the spirits of a brother or sister in Christ who might be grieving, lonely or distraught. All of us, as the body of Christ, are to support, love and build one another up as we share the Joy of the Lord.

Advent is a special time of year. There are decorations, family gatherings, meals, parties, special children's activities, and special worship services all to help us make preparations to celebrate the birth of the Messiah so long ago. Advent is also the time of year to make preparations for the

second coming of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord and Savior! My prayer is for us to have a holy season of joy rather than getting caught up in the rapid pace and commercialization of Christmas. I hope the special Advent devotionals will help you slow down and augment your time of focusing on your special eternal relationship with the Almighty.

And of course, we cannot forget Christmas! Christmas is a special time of celebration. The ultimate gift was given long ago: Jesus Christ, the Messiah, for the salvation of humanity. My prayer is that every heart would be touched during this season, everyone would accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and that the Joy of the Lord and the Fruits of the Spirit would be seen in and through everyone. By the way, don't expect us to take down our decorations until after the Twelve Days of Christmas because we do like to celebrate!

May we continue to give thanks each and every day and in all situations remembering whose we are: Children of God. And may each of us have a joyous season sharing the love of Jesus Christ with all we meet!

Peace and Blessings to all,

Pastor Jack

Our Staff

Rev. Jack Vickers, Pastor
(jhvickersiii@gmail.com)

Angie Smith, Administrative Assistant
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Sara Sanderson, Director of Children and Youth
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Mimi Coffey, Director of Pre-School and Nursery (fmprsn2212@yahoo.com)

Dr. Shane Robertson, Director of Music
(srobertson@chesterfieldschools.org)

COMING UP

*Kinsey Mulloy and Fred & Lorraine Harris Sunday School Class Christmas Party, Saturday, Dec. 5, 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall

*Children's Christmas Program, Sunday Dec. 6, 11:00am, Sanctuary

*Choir Christmas Program, Tuesday, Dec. 8, 7:00pm, Sanctuary

*American Red Cross Blood Drive, Monday, Dec. 14, 2-7:00pm, Fellowship Hall

*Men's Class Christmas Party, Friday, Dec. 18, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall

*Piano Concert, Sunday, Dec. 20, 6:30pm, Sanctuary

*Office Closed, Wednesday-Monday, Dec. 23-28.

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



Become a Boy Scout

From the FUMC Pre-School and Nursery

Merry Christmas from the Preschool & Nursery!

There is a lot of excitement brewing in our classes as the children anticipate Christmas!

December is going to be a busy month for us. The three and four year old classes are going to see the play, *Holly & the Secret Santa*, presented by Porkchop Productions at Theater on the Green on December 9. These productions are so much fun for the children. The adults enjoy them, as well! We

appreciate the Cheraw Arts Commission for making them available.

The three and four year old classes will present their annual Christmas program on December 17 at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to attend. Hearing and watching the children sing will bless your heart.

The school will be closed the week of Christmas, December 21-25, and New Year's Day.

Our wish for each of you is a wonderful Christmas with your family as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

In Him,

Mimi

What Accounts can my Memorials be Put in?

If you give memorials to FUMC you can designate that they go to a number of different areas of the church. Listed below are areas that your memorials can be designated for:

Endowment Fund
Memorial Fund
Music Fund
Red Bird

Salkehatchie Summer Service
Bus Fund
Youth Ministries
Children Ministries
Contemporary Service Fund
Building Upkeep Fund
Parsonage Upkeep Fund
Wednesday at the First (WATF)
Relay for Life
Grounds Upkeep Fund

Memorials can be designated to go to a number of different areas.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund
Scholarships (Streete, Norton, Harris, Burr, Hook, Eutsler, Brasington, and Laney)

One Million Books

The million book drive is an ongoing project. A box is outside the church office for you to place your new books. There are 140 children in Head Start. We want to collect enough books to give to each of these children. Please bring your

books and put them in the box.

books needed

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Contributions are needed for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Please share 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.")



Giving to those less fortunate

From the Director of Children and Youth

CHILDREN: As always we are very busy here at First Church! The children are getting ready for a very special Christmas Performance on December 6, during the 11:00am worship service. **You do not want to miss this!!!** Please make plans to attend on December 6. --- The children will travel to Cheraw Health Care on December 9, they will hand out cards which they have made, and maybe a few other gifts. We will also have a very special Christmas party on December 16 at Piz-za Hut. The time will be announced soon. The kids will also enjoy an ice skating outing, and we will drive through the Festival of Lights in Florence on December 13. You will need \$10 for skating, and money for supper. We will leave the church at 1:30pm, and will return at 7:00pm.

One of our very dedicated members, Abby Pickrel, will be moving to Spartanburg, South Carolina, very soon. Although our hearts are already missing her, we are so very happy for Abby and her Mom. Best Wishes to both of you! We Love You, and we do wish you the very best!!!

Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope."

MYF: The youth will enjoy a pizza party, and decorate Duffy's house for the Christmas holidays.**Get ready Duffy...HERE WE COME!!!** The youth will travel to Cheraw Health Care and the Cheraw Convalescent Center on December 6. Please make plans to attend. The youth will join in with the Kids group on December 13 for a trip to Florence. We will enjoy ice skating, and drive through the Festival of Lights. You will need \$10 for skating, and money for supper. We will go Christmas caroling on December 20. We would love for our church family to come along with us! We will leave the church at 3:00pm and will return by 5:30pm, and have our Christmas party. Please bring your favorite dish. Dr. Shane Roberson will be performing along with guest pianist, Dr. David Thompson at 6:30pm that evening, so after our party we will attend the concert in the sanctuary.

As you can see, Christmas is a busy time of the year. I for one, have a love/hate relationship with this season. **But** when I know the Lord has touched another individual through one of our actions, it is worth every little bit. How many times have I been completely stressed out...and then...God happens. You know

what I mean, something so touching happens, it makes one feel silly for having that stressed out feeling. We are so blessed to live in this country, and to be able to freely worship our Lord. However, we are even more blessed, that God loves us so much. He sent His only begotten son to earth as a new born baby, knowing, He would die a horrible death on a cross, so the ones who believe in Him, can live eternally with Him in His Kingdom. **LIVING; LIVING for JESUS... this is what Christmas is all about.** We should live with the excitement of Christmas in our hearts every day, because every day someone is feeling Christmas in their own heart as they become a believer, or maybe a believer has a deeper understanding of our Lord and Savior. Jesus comes alive every single day in someone's heart, and it is our duty to God, to tell the Good News, to help others grow in their faith, and to grow in our own faith, as well. **Now that is excitement! That is CHRISTMAS!**

In Christ, Sara

Luke 2:10, "...the angel said...I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;"

From the Music Director

The Adult and Handbell Choirs have worked extremely hard this fall in preparation for the Christmas season. The Handbell Choir will perform on December 13 during the prelude and offertory. This is an amazing group that has grown musically and in number over the past few months. You will not want to miss out on their musical blessing. The Adult Choir will lead us in Worship on December 20 with their

Christmas Cantata "The Christmas Story" by Tom Fettke.

A special service will be held December 20 at 6:30pm with Dr. David Thompson and myself playing dueling pianos. This concert will include all of your favorite Christmas carols, Classical selections by Mozart and Bach, and a few standard church hymns as they performed on one piano, four hands, or two grand pianos.

The church has graciously provided the funding for an additional grand piano that will be delivered by Fox Music or North Charleston. Please be sure to tell all your family and friends about this exciting concert. Dr. Thompson and I are looking forward to a fun evening of sharing the gospel message through music.

Shane

Serving in December

Altar Guild

Kim Williamson and Susan Marsh

Hostess

Marsha Butler

Head Usher

Acolyte and Cross Bearer

Sarah Allen (A) Mary-Charlotte Dusa (CB)

Greeters

Dec. 6 M&M Ellison Outen

Dec. 13 M&M Jerry Turner

Dec. 20 M&M Harry Board

Dec. 27 Dr.&Mrs. David Bersinger

Lobby Door Greeters

Dec. 6 Pete Owens and Ellison Outen

Dec. 13 Jerry Turner and C.C. Quick

Dec. 20 John Sanderson and Harold Lomas

Dec. 27 Jerry Therrell and Jerry Carter

Nursery

Dec. 6 Alayna Carabo

Dec. 13 Kristina Allen

Dec. 20 Christy Ruffner

Dec. 27 Lesley Jean Watson

Children's Church

Dec. 6 Nancy Wagnon and Hannah Leach

Dec. 13 Sara Sanderson and Sarah Allen

Lay Readers

Dec. 6 Micki Lockey

Dec. 13 Lib Norton

Dec. 20 Ray Crouse

Dec. 27 Jenny Keefe

Flower Calendar

Dec. 6—27 Advent Poinsettias

Counters

Dec. 6 Jane Mayhew, John Moore

Alternate: Mary Burr

Dec. 13 Jim Crawford, Sammy Quick, Roger Wolfe

Alternates: John Straughn, Zenda Rushing

Dec. 20 Jeff Johnson, Betty Hurst, Jerry Therrell

Alternates: David McLean, Walter Crosby

Dec. 27 Robert Calhoun, Herbert Watts, Brenda Rayfield

Alternate: Doug Marsh

McArn Items

Dec. 6 Dry goods

Dec. 13 Canned meats

Dec. 20 Spaghetti noodles & sauce

Dec. 27 Kool-Aid/Drink mixes

January Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Memorials

In Memory of Susan McKenna

Shirley Walton

Perfect Attendance for October

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Debbie Adams, Jean Assef, Jerry Carter, Norma Cobb, Bonnie Cundiff, Jimmy Duffy, Pam Humphries, Curtis Jones, Julia Jones, Henrietta Kollitz, Manfred Kollitz, Mary Lou Long, JoAnne Morgan, Lib Norton, Pete Owens, Sammy Quick, Brenda Rayfield, Shane Robertson, Jacob Rohde, John Sanderson, Shari Stubbs, Sarah Margaret Therrell, Anne Townsend, David Townsend, Jerry Turner, Herbert Watts, Margaret Wolfe, Roger Wolfe.

WORSHIP

Debbie Adams, Jean Assef, Manuel Assef, Mary Burr, Jerry Carter, Bonnie Cundiff, Ronnie Cundiff, Jimmy Duffy, Lori Madsen, Randy Madsen, Sharon McKinnon, Thomas McKinnon, JoAnne Morgan, Lib Norton, Pete Owens, Cheryl Postlewait, Sammy Quick, Bobby Spears, Anne Townsend, Jerry Turner, Druie Walker, Margaret Wolfe, Roger Wolfe.





Our Visitors

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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.

We're on the Web!
www.cherawfirstumc.org

November 1

Caleb Atkinson, Ruth Atkinson, Ok
Yo Chang, Lucille Gray, Kaitlynn
Hatcher, Corry Hudson, Cindy
Jeach

November 8

Ok Yo Chang, Lori Madsen, Randy
Madsen, Ellen Thraikill

November 15

Madison Davis, Laural Edwards,
Lucille Gray, Angela Holliday,
Chappell Hurst, Lori Madsen,
Randy Madsen, Madison
McKimmey, Olivia Samuel, Thomas
Samuel, Betsy Tetsch, Madelene
Tetsch

Birthdays and Anniversaries in December

BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 6 Jap Roddy
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 Bersinger, Alayna Carabo
Dec. 29 Marcia Butler
Dec. 30 Jacquelyn Bette Tomberlin

ANNIVERSARIES

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



Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary

December Calendar

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

WATF (Wednesday At The First) Children's Activities (K-5th Grade), 4:30pm, Kid's Nook

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

Handbells, 6:00pm, Choir Room

Adult Bible Study, 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall

Adult Choir Practice, 7:30pm, Choir Room

Sunday, December 6 Bulletin Deadline 12:00pm

Saturday, December 5, 2015

Harris and Mulloy Sunday School Classes Christmas Party, 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 6, 2015

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship, 11:00am (Children's Christmas Program)

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

United Methodist Women Quarterly Meeting Christmas Party, 3:00pm, Parlor

Christmas Program Rehearsal, 6:00pm, Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall.

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

Monday, December 7, 2015

Christmas Program Rehearsal, 6:00pm, Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall

Boy Scouts, 6:30pm, Boy Scout Hut

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Christmas Program, 7:00pm, Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

WATF (Wednesday At The First) Children's Activities (K-5th Grade), 4:30pm, Kid's Nook

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

Handbells, 6:00pm, Choir Room

Adult Bible Study, 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall

Adult Choir Practice, 7:30pm, Choir Room

Sunday, December 13 Bulletin Deadline, 12:00pm

Sunday, December 13, 2015

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

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship, 11:00am

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

Monday, December 14, 2015

Red Cross Blood Drive, 2-7:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Boy Scouts, 6:30pm, Boy Scout Hut

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

WATF (Wednesday At The First) Children's Activities (K-5th Grade), 4:30pm, Kid's Nook

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

Handbells, 6:00pm, Choir Room

Adult Bible Study, 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall

Adult Choir Practice, 7:30pm, Choir Room

Sunday, December 20 Bulletin Deadline 12:00pm

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Pre-School Christmas Program, 6:00pm, Sanctuary

Friday, December 18, 2015

Men's Class Christmas Party, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 20, 2015

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship, 11:00am

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

Piano Concert, 6:30pm, Sanctuary

Monday, December 21, 2015

Sunday, December 27 Bulletin Deadline, 12:00pm

Wednesday-Monday, December 23-28, 2015

Office Closed

Sunday, December 27, 2015

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship, 11:00am

Tuesday, December 29, 2015

Sunday, January 3 Bulletin Deadline