

UPCOMING EVENTS AT FUMC

Sunday, December 20, 2015

- 10:00am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship Service
- 3:00pm Youth and Congregation Christmas Caroling
- 5:00pm United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) Christmas Party (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, December 21, 2015

Christmas Eve and Sunday Bulletin Deadline

Wednesday, December 23, 2015

- 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- Office Closed

Thursday, December 24, 2015

- 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service
- Office Closed

Friday and Monday, December 25 & 26, 2015

Office Closed

Sunday, December 27, 2015

- 10:00am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship Service

SERVING TODAY

- Greeters:** M&M Harry Board
- Lobby Door Greeters:** John Sanderson, Harold Lomas
- Altar Guild:** Kim Williamson, Susan Marsh
- Cross Bearer:** Mary-Charlotte Dusa
- Nursery:** Caroline Berry and Christy Ruffner
- Flowers Next Sunday:** Advent Poinsettias
- Counters:** Jeff Johnson, Betty Hurst, Jerry Therrell
- Alternate Counters:** David McLean, Walter Crosby
- Children's Church:** No Children's Church
- Next Week's Lay Reader:** Jenny Keefe
- McArn Item:** Dry goods

- Head Usher:** Robert Calhoun
- Hostess:** Marsha Butler
- Acolyte:** Sarah Allen

Worship Attendance, Dec. 13— 141
Attendance in Worship the same Sunday last year—138

FUMC STAFF

- Rev. Jack Vickers, Pastor (jhvickersiii@gmail.com)
- Angie Smith, Administrative Assistant (fumcangiesmith@gmail.com)
- Sara Sanderson, Director of Children/Youth (saralsanderson@hotmail.com)
- Mimi Coffey, Director of Preschool/Nursery (fmprsn2212@yahoo.com)
- Dr. Shane Robertson, Director of Music (srobertson@chesterfieldschools.org)



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 20, 2015
 4th Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Greeting and Announcements

Rev. Jack Vickers

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

Call to Worship (Responsive Reading)

Rev. Vickers

Praise be to God! **Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who has visited and redeemed the people.** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. **Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle (Peace)

Jessica, Kiersten and Lawson Shepard

Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

Rev. Vickers

Holy and awesome God, we stand in your presence filled with regret for our many sins and failings. Though there is greatness in us, and a deep longing for goodness, we have often denied our better selves and refused to hear your voice calling us to rise to the full height of our humanity. For there is weakness in us, as well as strength. At times we choose to walk in darkness, our vision obscured. We do not care to look within, and we are unwilling to look beyond at those who need our help. O God, we are too weak to walk unaided. Be with us as a strong and wise friend, and teach us to walk by the light of your truth. Amen.

Hymn No. 250 in the Hymnal

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Irby

Children’s Sermon

Sara Sanderson

Old Testament Reading

Micah 5: 2-5

Ray Crouse, Lay Reader

*Affirmation of Faith No. 881

The Apostles’ Creed

Lay Reader

*Gloria Patri

*Gospel Reading

Luke 1: 47-55

Lay Reader

Pastoral and Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Vickers

Hymn No. 230 in the Hymnal	“O Little Town of Bethlehem”	St. Louis
Gathering God’s Tithes and Our Offerings, Offertory		Rev. Vickers
*Doxology No. 95	“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”	Old 100th
*Presentation of Tithes and Offerings with Prayer		
Christmas Cantata		
New Testament and Gospel Reading	Hebrews 10: 5-10 & Luke 1: 39-45	Rev. Vickers
Sermon		Rev. Vickers
* Hymn No. 234 in the Hymnal	“O Come, All Ye Faithful”	Adeste Fideles
	<i>(During the hymn you are invited to come to the chancel rail, kneel, pray to God, then return to your pew when ready.)</i>	
* Benediction		Rev. Vickers
* 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 537-7002.

OUR PRAYER LIST — our President, all who defend our nation, Sue Nichols (Pam Humphries’ mother), Logan, Gary & Lacy Gause (Dee Dee Pickrel’s friends), DeAnna Starling, Mike Starling, Hope Griggs (Kelly Dusa’s friend), Lindsey Griggs (Mary-Charlotte Dusa’s friend), Walter Crosby, Becky Thompson, Cindy Brooks (Sally Smith’s friend), Carabo Family. **NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notified.**

PIANO CONCERT – This afternoon, at 6:30pm, Dr. David Thompson and Shane will present a dueling piano concert featuring works (Christmas and Traditional Hymns) composed for one piano, four hands and two pianos. The church has graciously provided the funding to rent another grand piano provided by Fox Music in North Charleston, SC. Please mark your busy calendars, bring a friend or two, and enjoy an evening of great music.

David B. Thompson is currently Professor of Music at Limestone College in Gaffney, SC where he teaches private and group piano, music theory and history, accompanies the college chorus, and is Co-Chair of the Musical Theater major. Dr. Thompson completed his Masters and Doctorate in piano pedagogy at the University of South Carolina and his BA in piano performance at Limestone College. Dr. Thompson lives in Gaffney with his wife, Sharon and has two married children, Jenna and Will. He is especially proud of his granddaughters, Maci and Abigail.

YOUTH AND CONGREGATION ACTIVITIES — The youth and anyone from the congregation that would like to join this afternoon for caroling should meet at 3:00pm at the church.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE — The Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be at 5:00pm in the sanctuary.

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.

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS — In order for contributions to be posted to your 2015 giving record, they must meet one of three requirements: 1) The gift is received and posted to your account before December 31, 2015. 2) The contribution is dropped into the offering plate or delivered to the church office on or before December 31, 2015. 3) The envelope in which the gift is mailed is postmarked on or before December 31, 2015.

The church office will be open December 21, 22, 29, 30, 2015 from 8:00am—3:30pm and December 31 from 8:00am—12:00pm 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. Regular office hours will resume on Monday, January 4, 2016.

ITEMS FOR MCARN FOOD BANK — Sharon at the McArn Food Bank has asked for donations of gently used or new coats, hats, gloves, socks, blankets and toys. These can be placed in the baskets by the church office.

POINTSETTIAS — Beginning Christmas Eve and for the rest of the Advent season, there will be white poinsettias placed in the sanctuary. If you would like to make a donation to the flower fund in honor or memory of someone, you can do so by marking your donation “Flower Fund” and placing it in the offering plate or dropping it off at the church office.

ADOPT A CHILD FOR CHRISTMAS — If anyone would like to adopt a child on behalf of the Pee Dee Coalition for Christmas, please contact Pam Baker at 843-910-1883.

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS — The office will be closed Wednesday—Monday, December 23—28; the office will close at 12:00pm on December 31. Regular office hours will resume on Monday, January 4, 2016.

FLOWER CALENDAR — The flower calendar for 2016 has been placed in the lobby by the church office. If you have a special Sunday you would like to put flowers in the church, stop by and sign up.