

Volume 11, Issue 4

APRIL 2016



THE CONNECTION

Spring

As I drove through McBee on my Sunday morning journey to Cheraw I was struck by the beauty of the sprawling peach orchards. The trees were in full bloom and it looked as if the earth was snuggled under a pink baby blanket, safe from the morning chill. Some fields along my way were blanketed in purple, the blooms of the travelers' delight and the farmers' nemesis, Henbit. Other fields were the striking green of new wheat stalks reaching for the sun. Golden clouds of pollen billowed from the pines as I made my way through the sand hills, giving my truck a canary dusting. Wild flowers peeked through the blackened, burned floor of the forest proclaiming their resilience. Daffodils clustered where a house once stood, proudly trumpeting God's glory on the first day of Spring. Birds flitted, squirrels scurried, bees buzzed, and butterflies showed off their painted wings.

It was amazing! I was surrounded every mile by the Creator's handiwork, all of it shouting, "Look what God is doing!" It was the day that the Lord had made and I could only rejoice and be glad in it! "How could anyone miss this?" I wondered. Life—so strong, so varied, so beautiful, so amazingly detailed and marvelously

ordered! God-everywhere saying, "Look! I'm here and this is all for you!"

How exciting! How humbling...The words of Psalm 8 came to my mind:

*Lord, our Lord, how majestic
is your name throughout the earth!
You made your glory higher than
heaven!*

*What are human beings
that you think about them;
what are human beings
that you pay attention to them?*

Just think—this is the One who cares about every detail of my life and yours. The One who loves so extravagantly to show us all of this life loves us even to the point of sending his son show us Life—Life Abundant and Life Eternal!

*LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your
name throughout the earth!*

Paul Frey

Our Staff

Rev. Paul Frey, Interim Pastor
(pdfrey44@gmail.com)

Angie Smith, Administrative Assistant
(fumcangiesmith@gmail.com)

Sara Sanderson, Director of Children and Youth
(saralsanderson@hotmail.com)

Mimi Coffey, Director of Pre-School and Nursery
(fmpsn2212@yahoo.com)

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

COMING UP

*Spring BBQ, Saturday, April 2, 11am-2pm, Fellowship Hall

*United Methodist Men Breakfast, Sunday, April 10, 8:30am, Fellowship Hall.

*J.O.Y Club, Thursday, April 21, 12:00pm, Fellowship Hall

*Newsletter Deadline, Friday, April 22

Wheelbarrows, Brooms & Shovels

For the last couple of weeks, we have had some days that have been warm and sunny. Over the years, we both have loved to leave each parsonage with a little more beauty, but now with a house that is ours, we can do what we want, but a lot of the yard work is left up to Paul. However, I still love picking out plants and putting colorful planters together.

When our children and then our grandchildren were young, we liked letting them help plant things and Paul would take the children on nature walks. Paul and the children would study flowers, leaves and especially bugs—the earthworm, the caterpillar, bees, spiders, ladybugs, lightening bugs and even cockroaches. Another favorite for Paul and our grandchildren has been the wonderful “gross” slug leaving his silvery trail behind. Not everything in nature is as beautiful as the wide array of flowers we’ve planted in our yard, but the nature walks produced a curiosity about life and a wonderment of God’s creation.

Our daughter-in-love, Amy, loves gardening and during our first trip to Hawaii when Ted was stationed there, she and I went to Wal-Mart and bought some flowers for their yard. She had already been busy planning and planting her flower beds, but still needed some more color. Christian had loved the snapdragons in our patio garden, so when I saw some snapdragons, I added those to our cart. I also spotted a plastic watering can in the shape of an elephant and thought he would enjoy helping his mom. Paul had showed Christian how snapdragons talked by squeezing gently on the sides of the flower. Whenever Christian helped Amy water the flowers, he would talk to the snapdragons and as he gently squeezed their blossoms they would talk back. That love for snapdragons was carried down to David, Andrew, and Tessa.

One of my favorite memories of gardening with Christian was when he was two years old. Ted, Amy and Christian were visiting from Texas and we decided to make our somewhat less than pretty patio garden more inviting. Paul and Ted put in a fish pond (Christian loved picking out the gold fish.). Amy applied her talent to the plants and rocks and even a lantern around the patio. Then we planted clematis at the trellis, roses around the birdbath, draped geraniums and petunias from the planters on the wall, added other splashes of color among the bushes and ivy. Then we spread pine straw, added some garden statues, a bench and a Christian-size chair. All of this was done with the help (?) of a small tow-headed, food injected, high energy whirlwind. At times his “help” was more than we needed, but the real test of patience came later when it was time to clean up. As we swept the debris of dead leaves, flowers, dirt, etc. into a pile to be shoveled into the garbage can, our small

helper was using his own little shovel and putting them back in the garden. As we tried to clean up one mess, he was making another. At one point, Paul was becoming a little frustrated but he suddenly exclaimed, “This must be how God feels—cleaning up our messes, and sometimes while he’s cleaning up one we are making another.”

We are very good at making messes. Like children, we don’t always listen to our Father and we blow it. We make messes out of our marriages, our families, our jobs, our relationships with friends. Then when the trash pile gets too big, we want God’s help. Remember how Christ wept for Jerusalem.

Jerusalem! Jerusalem! Murderer of prophets! Killer of the ones who brought you God's news! How often I've ached to embrace your children the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you wouldn't let me.

MATTHEW 23:37-39 (MSG)

God wants to clean up our messes. He wants to embrace us, gather us up when we fall, but often we won’t let him. How he must weep for us at times. How he must weep over the drug addict who wreaks such havoc upon his life and his family’s. How he must weep over the father who abuses his wife and children. How he must weep over a husband or wife who betrays their marriage vows. How he must weep over his created killing each other.

The apostle Paul said it best in Ephesians: *Don't grieve God. Don't break his heart. His Holy Spirit, moving and breathing in you, is the most intricate part of your life, making you fit for himself. Don't take such a gift for granted . . . Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you. Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love, Observe how Christ loves us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't live-in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.* Based on EPHESIANS 4:30-5:2 (MSG).

I don’t know about you, but I’ve managed to make some big piles of trash in my life. But, oh the wonder of my heavenly Father. He has the biggest wheelbarrow, broom, and shovel on the block and when I ask, He cleans it all up and makes everything all fresh and beautiful again. After all, God created heaven and earth, so what better gardener could you have in your life?

God is Good, All the Time!

All the Time, God is Good!

Ruth Ann

From the Director of Youth and Children

Upcoming Events:

* Relay for Life will be held on April 29th at Chesterfield High School – A booth has been reserved for MYF, if any youth would like to participate. Please let me know by April 1 if you can join in and help!

-The mission of Relay For Life is to raise funds to improve cancer survival, decrease the incidence of cancer, and improve the quality of life for cancer patients and their caretakers.

*Youth Sunday will be held on May 1. Jake Williamson will be our speaker for this service.

Hope everyone can attend for this very special Sunday!

Our church recently hosted a Lenten Lunch held at First Baptist Church. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of you who made this lunch the best of all! All of you went out of your way to make the tables look beautiful, and prepared delicious food! Thank you all for serving in this manner.

In Christ, Sara

1 Peter 4:10

"Each of you should use what-ever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

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

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)

Good Neighbor

The Men's Class at FUMC is offering a helping hand. Do you need any help to change a light bulb, clean the gutters, rake the yard, wash the car, or go to the store? Whatever your need, give us a chance to be a good neighbor to you. We're not professionals and will not bill you for services, but

we are handy at doing many things. Our intent is not to take any work away from our local businesses and service professionals, but to simply offer a helping hand. This service is available to all FUMC members, and anyone you know who is in need of help.

You may contact Roger Wolfe at 843-537-7496.

..help change a light bulb, clean the gutters, rake the yard,.....

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

Serving in April

Altar Guild

Susan Eschenfelder and Zenda Rushing

Hostess

Carole Hennessee

Head Usher

Jeff Johnson

Acolyte and Cross Bearer

Alayna Carabo (A) Jacob Rohde (CB)

Greeters

April 3 M&M Jimmie Williamson

April 10 M&M Manuel Assef

April 17 M&M Curtis Jones

April 24 M&M Jeff Johnson

Lobby Door Greeters

April 3 Pete Owens, Ellison Outen

April 10 Jerry Turner, CC Quick

April 17 John Sanderson, Harold Lomas

April 24 Jerry Therrell, Jerry Carter

Nursery

April 3 Sally Smith

April 10 Mary Charlotte Dusa

April 17 Kim Williamson

April 24 Jean McLean

Children's Church

None during April

Lay Readers

April 3 Jenny Keefe

April 10 Jim Bennett

April 17 Eric Dusa

April 24 Lib Norton

Flower Calendar

April 3 Communion

April 10 Calhouns

April 17 Traynham Estate

April 24 Jeff and Shannon Johnson

Counters

April 3 Jane Mayhew, John Moore

Alternate: Mary Burr

April 10 Jim Crawford, Sammy Quick,
Roger Wolfe

Alternates: John Straughn, Zenda
Rushing

April 17 Jeff Johnson, Betty Hurst,
Jerry Therrell

Alternates: David McLean, Walter
Crosby

April 24 Robert Calhoun, Herbert
Watts, Brenda Rayfield

Alternate: Doug Marsh

McArn Items

April 3 Canned meats

April 10 Peanut butter, jelly, peanut
butter and jelly

April 17 Flour, sugar, corn meal

April 24 Spaghetti noodles and sauce

From the FUMC Pre-School and Nursery

Spring has sprung in the preschool & nursery. For the last month, the halls have been covered in leprechauns, bunnies, and flowers. The children have enjoyed an Easter egg hunt, a visit from the Easter bunny, and just playing outside with the wonderful weather we have had.

The school remains full with an extensive waiting list. At this time, we have 81 children enrolled and 87 on

the waiting list. After graduation in May, we will be able to enroll some of those children.

The three and four year old classes will be going to the Theater on the Green on April 20 to see *Bremontown Musicians*, presented by Porkchop Productions. The Cheraw Arts Commission brings these productions to town, and we always enjoy them. We will walk from the school to the theater if weather permits.

As mentioned last month, Elaine Barnette will be here to photograph the children the week of April 19. If you are interested in an appointment with her, call Mimi or Holly (843-537-2212).

If you haven't visited in a while, please come by anytime. I think you will be proud of your school.

In Him,
Mimi

May Newsletter Deadline

Friday, April 22, 2016

Memorials

IN MEMORY OF WATT BAKER

M&M Ron Cundiff, M&M Jeff Johnson

IN MEMORY OF CHRISTY MARSH

M&M Jeff Johnson

IN MEMORY OF MIKE BECKER

M&M Jeff Johnson

IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW PEARCE

M&M Jeff Johnson

Perfect Attendance for February

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Jean Assef, Leighton Becker, Sawyer Becker, Todd Becker, Jim Bennett, Robert Calhoun, Jane Campbell, Jerry Carter, Judy Dixon, Jimmy Duffy, Gini Eddins, Scott Eddins, Mabel Foster, Carole Hennessee, Curtis Jones, Julia Jones, Ruth Ann Jones, Henrietta Kollitz, Manfred Kollitz, Amy Lewis, Susan Marsh, John Moore, Pal Moore, JoAnne Morgan, Lib Norton, Ellison Outen, Flo Outen, Pete Owens, Edith Quick, Penny Quick, Sammy Quick, Brenda Rayfield, Shane Robertson, David Rohde, Jacob Rohde, Michelle Rohde, Thomas Samuel, Keith Smith, Linda Smith, John Straughn, Shep Straughn, Jerry Therrell, Sarah Margaret Therrell, Becky Thompson, Brant Thompson,

Jerry Tucker, Nancy Wagon, Druie Walker, Herbert Watts.

WORSHIP

Jean Assef, Manuel Assef, Allison Becker, Ashton Becker, Leighton Becker, Sawyer Becker, Todd Becker, Jim Bennett, Robert Calhoun, Jane Campbell, Ronnie Cundiff, Judy Dixon, Gini Eddins, Scott Eddins, Ruth Ann Jones, Henrietta Kollitz, Manfred Kollitz, Amy Lewis, Susan Marsh, Jane Mayhew, Sharon McKinnon, Thomas McKinnon, John Moore, Pal Moore, JoAnne Morgan, Lib Norton, Ellison Outen, Flo Outen, Pete Owens, Edith Quick, Penny Quick, Sammy Quick, Thomas

Samuel, Syble Sanderson, Keith Smith, Linda Smith, Sally Smith, Bobby Spears, John Straughn, Shep Straughn, Becky Thompson, Brant Thompson, Jerry Turner, Nancy Wagon, Druie Walker, Gaila Wilson.





Our Visitors

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 Third Street
Cheraw, SC 29520

Phone: 843-537-7002
Fax: 843-537-7220
E-mail: fumcangiesmith@gmail.com

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

February 28

Ok Yo Chang, Gloria Chapman, Kevin Chapman, Drew Copeland, Lucille Gray, Angela Holliday, Chappell Hurst, IV, Stephen Johnson, Olivia Samuel, Thomas Samuel, John Wagnon.

March 6

Ok Yo Chang, Marie Davidson, Susan Davidson, Susan Griffin, Angela Holliday, Hunter Lee, Keyshawn Melton, Thomas Samuel, Susan Stripling.

March 13

Anne Bryan, Bill Caughman, Ginger Caughman, Dennis Chapman, Gloria Chapman, Kevin Chapman, Linda Coffy, Lyle Coffy, Drew Copeland, Susan Davidson, Ruth Ann Frey, Elliot Herring, Keiersten Shepard.

March 20

Ann Adams, Ok Yo Chang, Lisa Chisholm, Angela Holliday, Thomas Samuel

Birthdays and Anniversaries in April

BIRTHDAYS

April 4 Kayla Buffington Hearl
April 5 Brant Thompson
April 6 Jim Bennett
April 9 Becky Thompson
April 10 Anthony Harris, Steven Humphries
April 13 Jensen Tomberlin
April 18 Laura Harris
April 19 Lindsey Sanderson, Amanda Carabo
April 22 Sarah Miles, Mary Lomas
April 23 Michelle Kessier
April 29 Marianne Crawford
April 30 Walter Crosby, Jim Crawford, IV.

ANNIVERSARIES

April 8 M&M Peter Swarr
April 10 M&M M&M Eric Dusa
April 11 M&M Lawrence Hammonds
April 13 M&M Paul Miles
April 17 M&M Todd Becker
April 18 M&M Zach Mills
April 23 M&M Jerry Turner
April 24 M&M John Sanderson
April 26 M&M Jim Crawford, III
M&M David Tucker



Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary

April Calendar

Saturday, April 2, 2016

Spring BBQ, 11am-2pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 3, 2016

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship, 11:00am

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

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

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

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

WATF Bible Study, 6:30pm

Handbells, 6:00pm, Choir Room

Adult Choir Practice, 7:30pm, Choir Room

Sunday, April 10 Bulletin Deadline, 12:00pm

Sunday, April 10, 2016

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

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship, 11:00am

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

Monday, April 11, 2016

Boy Scouts, 6:00pm, Boy Scout Hut

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

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

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

WATF Bible Study, 6:30pm

Handbells, 6:00pm, Choir Room

Adult Choir Practice, 7:30pm, Choir Room

Sunday, April 17 Bulletin Deadline 12:00pm

Sunday, April 17, 2016

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship, 11:00am

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

Monday, April 18, 2016

Boy Scouts, 6:00pm, Boy Scout Hut

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

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

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

WATF Bible Study, 6:30pm

WATF (Wednesday At The First) Bible Study, 6:30

Handbells, 6:00pm, Choir Room

Adult Choir Practice, 7:30pm, Choir Room

Sunday, April 24 Bulletin Deadline, 12:00pm

Thursday, April 21, 2016

J.O.Y Club, 12:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Friday, April 22, 2016

May Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, April 24, 2016

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship, 11:00am

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

Monday, April 25, 2016

Boy Scouts, 6:00pm, Boy Scout Hut

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

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

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

WATF Bible Study, 6:30pm

WATF (Wednesday At The First) Bible Study, 6:30

Handbells, 6:00pm, Choir Room

Adult Choir Practice, 7:30pm, Choir Room

Sunday, May 1 Bulletin Deadline 12:00pm