



# THE CONNECTION

## Parson to Person

### Advent 2016

#### "God's Gift—Our Hope!"

I was reading and discovered five facts about Christmas according to Jerry Brecheisen.

#### FIVE FACTS OF CHRISTMAS

1. The Exchanging of gifts is a custom that follows Christmas Day.
2. Peace on Earth means the toy is already broken.
3. The giver of a drum set is seldom appreciated.
4. People in your "Under Five Dollars" list probably didn't get you a gift.
5. The fine print in the warranty means nothing's covered unless it snows in Hawaii.

It's a cute effort to be humorous yet his "effort" sent my mind racing to a place of Advent and Christmas Facts that we embrace.

1. God offered the gift of a Savior in a way that surprised the world. (Matthew 1:26-31)
2. The favor of the Lord takes away the disgrace we must endure from people. (Matthew 1:25)
3. The Lord provides direction. (Matthew 2:5)
4. The Lord provides a place for us. (Matthew 2:7)
5. The Lord invites servants to come and see. (Matthew 2: 8-12)
6. The Lord sends witnesses forth filled with glory and with song. (Matthew 2:13-15)
7. The Lord grants us hope and fills us with wonder. (Matthew 2:7)

I have listed some of the key verses from Matthew because we all "know"

the story, but we have added or subtracted things from the biblical witness. The innkeeper was not a grouchy ole soul who gleefully sent them to the stable. There was no little drummer boy at the manger. Being sent to the stable provided privacy for the birth of a child. The inn would be a place of little to no privacy. Joseph did not walk each step to Bethlehem. The angels did not have wings. Angels are messengers and the light of God's glory shines about them. Shepherds were not nice guys. They were rough and tough and considered to be chief among sinners.

Take some time this year to familiarize your family with the Biblical "truth" of the Advent of the Christ. Remember that St. Nicklaus was a Bishop of the Church who was made a saint in his church's tradition because his life mirrored Christ. He made toys for children and delivered them in the night to all homes with children. Celebrate around the tree, exchange the gifts, share the warmth of family and friends. Shop 'til you drop! But know the truth of Advent and Christmas. God's Gift—our Hope is found in a little baby who grows to be a Savior. Which brings me to one more "fact" of Christmas. Christmas is not just for the children. It's for everyone!

The Staff of First Church wishes for you and yours a glorious Advent and a Merry Christmas.

*Ken Timmerman*

P.S. Christmas Day is on Sunday this year. Make plans to be here. Christmas morning we will not have Sunday School and we will worship together at 10:00am. Casual attire will be most appropriate. And children can bring a toy to church if you allow it as long as it is quiet.

### Our Staff

**Rev. Ken Timmerman, Pastor**  
(timmerman@sc.rr.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**  
(drshanerobertson83@gmail.com)

### COMING UP

\*UMM Breakfast, Sun., Dec. 11, 8:30am, Fellowship Hall

\*Newsletter Deadline, Mon., Dec. 12, 12:00pm

\*UMW Quarterly Meeting, Sunday, Dec. 11, 3:00pm, Parlor

\*Life Line Screening, Mon., Dec. 19, Fellowship Hall

\*Christmas Eve Service, 5:30pm, Sanctuary

#### CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

Closed Thursday—Wednesday, Dec. 22—28

Open—Thursday Dec. 29 8am—3:30 &  
Friday, Dec. 30 8am-12pm

# Memorials & Honorariums

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## ***IN MEMORY OF ISABEL CALLARD FORHAN***

Beverly McDuffie

## ***IN MEMORY OF SHIRLEY WALTON***

M&M Ellison Outen, Jackie McGee, M&M Keith Smith, Lib Norton, M&M Jeff Johnson. M&M John Moore, M&M Harold Lomas, Nell & Preston Huntley

## ***IN MEMORY OF EDYCE JACKSON BRASINGTON***

Martha Bentley, M&M Sammy Quick, M&M Roger Wolfe, Dawn Chapman, M&M Tavener Threatte, M&M Jeff Johnson

## ***IN MEMORY OF JOE MARSH***

Martha Bentley, M&M Robert Calhoun, M&M Sammy Quick, M&M Chuck Michaux, M&M Roger Wolfe, M&M Tavener Threatte, Jack & Sloan Baker, M&M Jeff Johnson

## ***IN MEMORY OF LANNY RAYFIELD***

M&M Sammy Quick

## ***IN MEMORY OF DOUG WILSON***

M&M John Moore, M&M Herbert Watts, M&M Keith Smith, Cheraw Red Hats

## Staff Christmas Gift

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As in past years, donations will be 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 16**. This is a good way to express

our appreciation to the staff for the work that they do!

*Staff-Parish Relations  
Committee*

## From the Director of Youth and Children

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What a great time we all had on our Zip Line Fall Retreat! Hope you all enjoy our photos, in this newsletter, as much as we enjoyed the trip!

Also in this newsletter, are photos from our work day at Operation Christmas Child Distribution center in Charlotte, N. C.

FUMC Christmas program will be held on December 11 during the first part of our worship service that day. Please make plans to attend. Participants in this years program will range from young to the young at heart!

Also on December 11 we will travel to Florence Civic Center for Ice Skating. We will leave the church at 2:00pm, and return at 7:00pm. All ages are welcomed to

join in on this fun! What a great day this will be.

Our church family will go Christmas Caroling on December 18 at 4:30pm. There is an added surprise to our group this year! You don't want to miss this! Our voices will be accompanied by Jed Reid on his guitar...so come and join in on the festivities.

We are very excited to introduce the Shepherds Child Program. We will transport kids from the Cheraw Primary School on December 16 to FUMC for a Christmas party. The kids will hear the Christmas story from our very own Reverend Ken Timmerman, enjoy snacks, and will get to open up plenty of presents with the help of our youth. If anyone from our congregation is interested in help-

ing with this event please let me know. We do not have a final count on how many will be coming from the Cheraw Primary, but the number will be printed in the bulletin as soon as we receive it.

*Merry Christmas to all of you, Sara Sanderson*

*John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."*

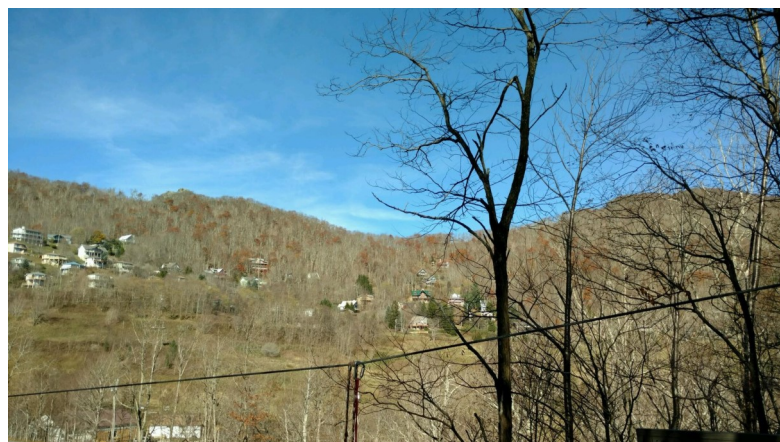


## Zip Line Trip

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Rev. Ken going through the air!





## Operation Christmas Child Work Day

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## What Accounts can my Memorials be Put in?

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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

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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

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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 December

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### Altar Guild

Kim Williamson and Susan Marsh

### Hostess

Marsha Butler

### Head Usher

Robert Calhoun

### Acolyte and Cross Bearer

Alayna Carabo (A) Zachary Carabo (CB)

### Greeters

Dec. 4 M&M Ellison Outen

Dec. 11 M&M Jerry Turner

Dec. 18 M&M Harry Board

Dec. 25 M&M David Bersinger

### Lobby Door Greeters

Dec. 4 Pete Owens, Ellison Outen

Dec. 11 Jerry Turner

Dec. 18 John Sanderson, Harold Lomas

Dec. 25 Jerry Therrell, Jerry Carter

### Nursery

Dec. 4 Sarah Allen

Dec. 11 Erika Kollitz

Dec. 18 Amanda Carabo

Dec. 25 Michelle Rohde

### Lay Readers

Dec. 4 Sammy Quick

Dec. 11 Greg Sanderson

Dec. 18 Susan Marsh

Dec. 25 Susan Marsh

### Flower Calendar

Month of December

Advent (Poinsettias)

### Counters

Dec. 4 Jane Mayhew, John Moore

Alternate: Mary Burr

Dec. 11 Roger Wolfe, Jim Crawford,  
Sammy Quick

Alternates: John Straughn

Dec. 18 Jeff Johnson, Betty Hurst,  
Jerry Therrell

Alternates: David McLean, Walter  
Crosby

Dec. 25 Robert Calhoun, Herbert  
Watts, Brenda Rayfield

Alternate: Doug Marsh

### McArn Items

Dec. 4 Canned meats

Dec. 11 Spaghetti noodles & sauce

Dec. 18 Baby items

Dec. 25 Non-perishable breakfast  
foods

*Merry Christmas to all my church family at FUMC, it is a pleasure to work with such a great church. Angie Smith*

## From the FUMC Pre-School and Nursery

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First Church Child Development Ministry would like to thank everyone who participated in the Krispy Kreme fundraiser for Sophia Brock. Sophia was diagnosed with Retinoblastoma at the age of one year and is undergoing chemotherapy at Duke Hospital. The family is incurring a lot of expense with copays, missing work, hotels, and food. The fundraiser was very successful. Between donut sales and donations, the family has received close to \$7,000.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity toward this family.

The month of December is a busy one for the school. The three and four year old classes will attend a Porkchop Productions Christmas play at Theater on the Green on December 14.

The three and four year old children will have their annual Christmas program on December 22 at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited!

The school will be closed for Christmas holidays December 26 through January 2 reopening on January 3.

We wish you all a merry Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

In Him, *Mimi Coffey*



## Palmetto Ridge Assisted Living—Christmas Gift Rally

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Palmetto Ridge Assisted  
Living  
840 Manor Road  
Cheraw, SC 29520  
843-537-4197

We are kicking off our Christmas Gift Rally for the year 2016...We are asking for donations to help us in our efforts to

make sure that every resident has a gift for Christmas and to thank you again for any donations in the past, which help to make our past Christmas Rallies a success.. The following are some suggestions of items that our residents could use.

Socks Women 6-11; Men 7-13, underwear, T-shirts, men's and women's sweat suits, sleep pants, and body wash. However any donations would be truly appreciated.

Thanking you in advance,  
Regina Smith

### January Newsletter Deadline

Monday, December 12, 2016

## Perfect Attendance for October

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### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Jean Assef, Allison Becker, Ashton Becker, Todd Becker, Jim Bennett, Mary Burr, Robert Calhoun, Jane Campbell, Jerry Carter, Bonnie Cundiff, Judy Dixon, Jimmy Duffy, Susan Eschenfelder, Jeffrey Foster, Mabel Foster, Carole Hennessee, Curtis Jones, Julia Jones, Jenny Keefe, Amy Lewis, Harold Lomas, Emily Marsh, John Moore, Pal Moore, JoAnne Morgan, Lib Norton, Ellison Outen, Flo Outen, Pete Owens, Vincent Prevatte, Sammy Quick, Brenda Rayfield, David Rohde, Jacob Rohde, Michelle Rohde, Thomas Samuel, Greg Sanderson, John Sanderson, Syble Sanderson, Linda Smith, Peyton Taylor, Sarah M. Therrell, Jerry Turner, William Wicker, Margaret

Wolfe, Roger Wolfe.

### WORSHIP

Allison Becker, Ashton Becker, Leighton Becker, Sawyer Becker, Todd Becker, Jim Bennett, Bonnie Cundiff, Curtis Jones, Julia Jones, Jenny Keefe, Sharon McKinnon, Thomas McKinnon, JoAnne Morgan, Lib Norton, Ellison Outen, Flo Outen, Sammy Quick, David Rohde, Michelle Rohde





**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.

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.cherawfirstumc.org](http://www.cherawfirstumc.org)

## *Our Visitors*

### **October 23**

Lily Branham, Masi Branham, Ok Yo Chang, Drew Copeland, Alyssa Edwards, Angela Holliday, Chappell Hurst, IV., Thomas Samuel, Tony Thrailkill

### **October 30**

Buddy Brooks, Darlene Coleman, Raleigh Coleman, Madison Davis, Michele Davis, Patrick Davis, Robin Dease, Anna Feagin, Chappell Hurst, IV., Johnnie Johnson, Mary Johnson, Walker Jones, Sue Lee, Collin McManus, Oliva Samuel, Thomas Samuel

### **November 6**

Anne Bryan, Ok Yo Chang, Dennis Chapman, Gloria Chapman, Drew Copeland, Johnnie Johnson, Mary Johnson, Jed Reid, Jan Rogers, Thomas Samuel, Nonie Turner, Becky Wetternek, Annette Willett, Ed Willett, Amberly Williams, Liz

Williams, Taylor Williams

### **November 13**

Anne Bryan, Ok Yo Chang, Susan Davidson, Angela Holliday, Johnnie Johnson, Mary Johnson, Walker Jones, Olivia Samuel, Thomas Samuel, Julien Springs, Judy Springs, Gloria Williams.

## **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. 21 Renie Seel  
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

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## **Saturday, December 3, 2016**

District Event with Bishop, 9:00am, Fellowship Hall

Fred Harris/Kinsey Mulloy Classes Christmas Dinner, 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall

## **Sunday, December 4, 2016**

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship, 11:00am, Children/Youth Christmas Program

## **Monday, December 5, 2016**

Staff Meeting, 10:00am, Pastor's Office

Deadline to sign up for WATF Meal, 12:00pm

YMKF (K-5), 3:30pm, Kid's Nook

Boy Scouts, 6:00pm, Scout Hut

## **Wednesday, December 7, 2016**

Sunday, December 11 Bulletin Deadline 12:00pm

WATF Meal, 5:30-6:30pm, Fellowship Hall

WATF UMYF Meal and Activities, 5:30, Fellowship Hall/Youth Hut

WATF Adult Bible Study, 6:30-7:30pm, Fellowship Hall

WATF for UMYF, 5:30-7:30pm

## **Friday, December 9, 2016**

Methodist Men's Sunday School Class Christmas Dinner, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall

## **Sunday, December 11, 2016**

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

UMW Quarterly Meeting, 3:00pm, Parlor

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship, 11:00am

## **Monday, December 12, 2016**

Staff Meeting, 10:00am, Pastor's Office

Deadline to sign up for WATF meal, 12:00pm

YMKF (K-5), 3:30pm, Kid's Nook

Boy Scouts, 6:00pm, Scout Hut

## **Wednesday, December 14, 2016**

Sunday, December 18 Bulletin Deadline, 12:00pm

WATF Meal, 5:30-6:30pm, Fellowship Hall

WATF UMYF Meal and Activities, 5:30, Fellowship Hall/Youth Hut

WATF Adult Bible Study, 6:30-7:30pm, Fellowship Hall

WATF for UMYF, 5:30-7:30pm

## **Saturday, December 17, 2016**

Christmas Rehearsal, 10:00am

## **Sunday, December 18, 2016**

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship, 11:00am

## **Monday, December 19, 2016**

Life Line Screening, Fellowship Hall

Staff Meeting, 10:00am, Pastor's Office

Christmas Eve Bulletin Deadline, 12:00pm

YMKF (K-5), 3:30pm, Kid's Nook

## **Tuesday, December 20, 2016**

Sunday, December 25 Bulletin Deadline, 12:00pm

## **Wednesday, December 21, 2016**

January 1 Bulletin Deadline, 12:00pm

## **Thursday and Friday, December 22 and 23, 2016**

OFFICE CLOSED—CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

## **Saturday, December 24, 2016**

Christmas Eve Service, 5:30pm, Sanctuary

## **Sunday, December 25, 2016**

Worship, 10:00am (Casual Attire)

## **Monday, December 26, 2016**

OFFICE CLOSED—CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

## **Tuesday—Wednesday, December 27—28, 2016**

OFFICE CLOSED—ANGIE VACATION

## **Thursday, December 29, 2016**

Office opened from 8:00am—3:30pm

## **Friday, December 30, 2016**

Office opened from 8:00am—12:00pm