

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT FUMC

### Sunday, December 11, 2016

8:30am UMM Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)  
10:00am Sunday School  
11:00am Worship Service (Christmas Program)  
3:00pm UMW Quarterly Meeting (Parlor)

### Monday, December 12, 2016

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

### Wednesday, December 14, 2016

12:00pm *Sunday, December 18 Bulletin Deadline*  
5:30pm WATF Meal  
5:30pm UMYF activities  
6:00pm Handbell Practice (Choir Room)  
6:30pm WATF Bible Study for Adults

### Saturday, December 17, 2016

10:00am Choir Christmas Rehearsal

### Sunday, December 18, 2016

10:00am Sunday School  
11:00am Worship Service  
6:30pm Christmas Piano Concert

### SERVING TODAY

**Greeters:** M&M Jerry Turner

**Lobby Door Greeter:** Ellison Outen

**Altar Guild:** Kim Williamson and Susan Marsh

**Next Week's Lay Reader:** Susan Marsh

**Flowers Next Sunday:** Advent Poinsettias

**Counters:** Roger Wolfe, Jim Crawford, Sammy Quick

**Alternate Counter:** John Straughn

**Nursery:** Caroline Berry & Michelle Rhode

**Worship Attendance, Dec. 4** — 147; **Attendance in Sunday School, Dec. 4** — 95

**Received to Date:** \$382,566.22 **Expenses to Date:** \$377,769.17

**Needed Weekly:** \$6,523.01 **Received week of Dec. 4:** \$15,476.43

### FUMC STAFF

Rev. Ken Timmerman, Pastor ([timmerman@sc.rr.com](mailto:timmerman@sc.rr.com))

Angie Smith, Administrative Assistant ([fumcangiesmith@gmail.com](mailto:fumcangiesmith@gmail.com))

Sara Sanderson, Director of Children/Youth ([saralsanderson@hotmail.com](mailto:saralsanderson@hotmail.com))

Mimi Coffey, Director of Preschool/Nursery ([fmprsn2212@yahoo.com](mailto:fmprsn2212@yahoo.com))

Dr. Shane Robertson, Director of Music ([drshanerobertson83@gmail.com](mailto:drshanerobertson83@gmail.com))



First United Methodist Church  
A Service of Christian Worship  
The church with a heart, in the heart of Cheraw.



**December 11, 2016**  
**3rd Sunday of Advent**  
**Liturgical Color: Purple**

**\*\*Please take a moment and silence your cellphone for the duration of the worship service.**  
**This is a sacred time when God communes with His people.**

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

**\*Call to Worship**      Rev. Ken Timmerman

**\*Hymn No. 240 in the Hymnal**      "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"      Lighting of Joy Advent Candle

**Joy Advent Candle Reading**      Jacob Rohde  
We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy. May the joyful promise of your presence,  
O God, make us rejoice in our hope of salvation. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

### Children/Youth Christmas Program

**Gathering God's Tithes and Our Offerings**      Rev Timmerman

**\*Offertory**

**\*Doxology No. 95**      "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"      Old 100th

**\*Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

**Scripture Reading**      I Thessalonians 5: 16-24      Rev. Timmerman

**Sermon**      "God's Light is our Strength"      Rev. Timmerman

**\*Hymn No. 229 in the Hymnal**      "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"  
*(During the hymn you are invited to come to the chancel rail, kneel, pray to God,  
then return to your pew when ready.)*

**\*Benediction**      Rev. Timmerman

**\*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 Rev. Ken at the church office at 843-537-7002.

**OUR PRAYER LIST** — our President, all who defend our nation, Sue Nichols (Pam Humphries' mother), Larry Heustess (Lynn Tweed's friend), Bobby Sellers (Angie Smith's uncle), Raul Wetternek, Micki Lockey, Carl Li, Miriam H. Michaels (Judy Jones' sister), Calvin Freeman (Betty Board's brother), Jim Curry (Betty Board's cousin), Kristina Roy (Mason Tomberlin's roommate), Jimmy Lisenby (Ray McManus' friend), James Thurman (Angie Smith's father), Brant Thompson. **NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notified.**

**EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION** — If you should have an emergency and need Rev. Ken over the weekend, when the office is not open, please call the church office 843-537-7002 and it will be forwarded to Rev. Ken's phone.

**YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS** — In order for contributions to be posted to your 2016 giving record, they must meet one of three requirements: 1) The gift is received and posted to your account before December 31, 2016. 2) The contribution is dropped into the offering plate or delivered to the church office on or before December 31, 2016 (if you bring it after office hours, you can drop it in the mail slot in Ken's office door.) 3) The envelope in which the gift is mailed is postmarked on or before December 31, 2016.

The church office will be open December 19-21 from 8:00am—3:30pm; December 29 from 8:00am—3:30pm ; and December 30 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 Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

**CONGRATULATIONS** — Congratulations to Joe Don and Brantley Butler Reams, proud parents of twins William Thaxton and Cohen Parker Reames. Grandparents are Rhett and Marcia Butler.

**ZOAR UMC LIFE NATIVITY DRIVE THROUGH** — The 17th Annual Live Nativity Drive Through at Zoar United Methodist Church will be this afternoon from 6—8:30pm.

**SPRC TRAINING** — The Hartsville District SPRC Training will take place this afternoon from 3-5pm at St. John's UMC, 45 Roseborough Road, Lugoff, SC. Please make plans to attend this event.

**ADVENT INFORMATION** — The Advent Wreath is in place and light is added to it each week. It is an important part of Advent and we have it as more than a decoration in the church. Wreaths are a part of Advent and Christmas decorations. However, the candles on the Advent Wreath represent four gifts from God: Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. The wreath is a circle which is a symbol of eternity and the Christ candle sits in the center of eternity. Jesus called himself the light of the world and so we bring light to the wreath on each Sunday of Advent, on Christmas Eve, and on Christmas Day.

**CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP** — Christmas morning we will not gather for Sunday School. We will have worship at 10am. The dress is casual. As a family gathers about the Christmas Tree, so will we. We will sing the hymns of the day, hear the Christmas Story from the Scripture, enjoy the joy we all find in young learners, and have a brief sermon. What a great day it promises to be. Imagine, there are some churches that forego Christmas Worship on Christmas Sunday. It promises to be a pinnacle day for our church family. **NURSERY WILL NOT BE PROVIDED FOR THIS SERVICE. BRING YOUR BABIES TO CHURCH TO CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTHDAY.**

**STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION** — Amount of Pledges \$272,284.00; Number of Pledge Cards Received 77.

**STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT** — 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*

**ICE SKATING** — Will leave at 2pm this afternoon.

**CAROLING** — Caroling on Sunday, Dec. 18 from 4-5pm, Jed Reid will accompany us on his guitar.

**CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE** — Will be on Christmas Eve at 5:30pm.

**SHEPHERD'S CHRISTMAS CHILD PROGRAM** — If you are interested in sponsoring a child in the Shepherd's Christmas Child Program, please contact Sara at 843-910-7987. The presents will be due by Thursday, December 15.

**PARSON TO PERSON** — Max Lucado, in his book, *The Applause of Heaven*, says something important for us to remember: "while the theologians were sleeping and the elite were dreaming and the successful were snoring, the meek and penitent were kneeling. They were kneeling before the One only the meek and penitent will see. They were kneeling in front of Jesus."

Christmas is a time for gifts. Ours comes from heaven and as we kneel before God in wonder of all God's grace, we find that we can be blessed with the kind of spirit and faith that transforms the world. The prayer for all is that our watching and waiting will yield discovery...of God's son..."this day, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Today our children will be singing for us. I love when children express their faith. They are free of the cynicism many older folks have and they freely run to Jesus only wanting to be assured of His love. Lend your ears, but also your hearts for they will bring a message that is needed by this world. I also like how the children are giving something to the church and its worship. They are not takers, but givers. They are not just the church's future. They are the church's now.

It has been said and I agree that Christmas is for children. It is for all God's children. The wonder of Bethlehem grows to be a Savior and King. Think about it and worship him during this blessed Advent.

—Ken Timmerman

**LIFE LINE SCREENING** — What You Don't Know Can Hurt You! **\*If you are age 21-80 learn your risk for developing 6 different chronic diseases; \*\$3 out of every \$4 spent on healthcare is for treatment of chronic disease; \*Better lifestyle habits can help prevent 80% of heart disease and 90% of type 2 diabetes.** The *6 for Life Health Assessment* measures your risk of developing 6 chronic diseases, including heart disease, congestive heart failure, stroke, diabetes, COPD and lung cancer. A customized report will determine which risk factors contribute most to your disease risk and are within your control to change. Finger-stick blood tests along with biometric measurements are included with this assessment. First United Methodist Church will be hosting a Life Line Screening preventive health event on Monday, December 19, 2016. Protect your health by registering today for the *2 for Life Health Assessment* for \$79. Call [1-888-653-6441](tel:1-888-653-6441) or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/advantagemembers](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/advantagemembers) to schedule your appointment. Take control of your health; Knowledge is empowering.

**WATF MEAL AND BIBLE STUDY — NEW SIGN UP PROCEDURE — NO SIGN — NO EAT**

The Wednesday at the First meal will begin at 5:30pm this Wednesday. **The menu will be zeti, salad, garlic bread, desert and tea.** The cost of the meal is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children under 12 years old (Maximum \$21 for a household). In order for us to purchase enough food for this meal, it is important that you sign up for the meal. There is a sign up card in the bulletin for you to fill out and put back into the offering plate today; youth must sign up if they plan to eat with Sara. **The WATF Bible Study will begin at 6:30pm; study will be on Luke 15: 1-10, "Lost and Found."**

**PIANO AND ORGAN CONCERT** — Mark your Calendars! Piano and Organ concert on Dec.18 at 6:30pm. Dr. David Thompson will join us again this year along with Barbara Dickson.