

UPCOMING EVENTS AT FUMC

Sunday, December 18, 2016

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

Monday, December 19, 2016

12:00pm Christmas Eve Bulletin Deadline
Life Line Screening (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

12:00pm Sunday, December 25 Bulletin Deadline

Wednesday, December 21, 2016

12:00pm Sunday, January 1 Bulletin Deadline

Thursday, December 22, 2016

6:00pm FMC Child Development Ministry Christmas Program
Office Closed

Friday, December 23, 2016

Office Closed

Saturday, December 24, 2016

5:30pm Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 25, 2016

10:00am Worship Service

SERVING TODAY

Greeters: M&M Harry Board

Lobby Door Greeter: John Sanderson, Harold Lomas

Altar Guild: Kim Williamson and Susan Marsh

Next Week's Lay Reader: Susan Marsh

Flowers Next Sunday: Advent Poinsettias

Counters: Jeff Johnson, Betty Hurst, Jerry Therrell

Alternate Counters: David McLean, Walter Crosby

Nursery: Caroline Berry & Amanda Carabo

Worship Attendance, Dec. 11 —209; **Attendance in Sunday School, Dec. 11** — 126

Received to Date: \$394,407.71 **Expenses to Date:** \$390,276.68

Needed Weekly: \$6,523.01 **Received week of Dec. 11:** \$11,840.58

Head Usher: Robert Calhoun
Hostess: Marsha Butler
Acolyte: Alayna Carabo
Cross Bearer: Zachary Carabo
McArn Item: Baby items

FUMC STAFF

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



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



December 18, 2016
4th 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. 234 in the Hymnal** "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Peace Advent Candle Reading Kathryn Johnson. Lighting of Peace Advent Candle

We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace. May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Choir Program
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
"Morning Star"
"Chosen by God"
"Why Do the Shepherds Sing"
"Morning Star" (Finale)

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**

***Hymn Sing No. 221 (v.4) & No. 245 (v1)** "In The Bleak Midwinter" & "The First Noel"

Scripture Reading Luke 1: 26-35 Rev. Timmerman

Sermon "God's Light is Our Deliverance" Rev. Timmerman

***Hymn No. 239 in the Hymnal** "Silent Night, Holy Night"
(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.

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 promise to be a pinnacle day for our church family.

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

CAROLING — Caroling this afternoon from 4-5pm, Jed Reid will accompany us on his guitar. Everyone is welcome to participate.

CHRISTMAS EVE — Service of Holy Communion and Candlelight begins at 5:30pm. Assisting with Holy Communion will be Austin Sanderson.

CONGRATULATIONS — James C. Williamson, Ph.D has been named as the Eighth President of The North Carolina Community College System; more details of his upcoming Installation Ceremony will be announced at a later date.

Parson to Person — When John Glenn ventured into space it was a great day for NASA. A great deal of work, ingenuity, and effort combined to thrust the United States into the Space Age. As John orbited the earth, he took note of all the instrument panels before him. It was humbling because he said in that precise moment he realized that all the precise work before him had gone out to the lowest bidders. When one is in space circling the globe at incredible speed, it is humbling to note that someone wanted “bargain prices” for the equipment.

Everyone loves a bargain and a deal! (And I am among those who likes to find a bargain.) But sometimes bargains backfire! Things that are bought at minimum prices and effectiveness can diminish quickly. Something we might hope will last a long time may not last long at all. There is something to be said for making sacrifices and paying premium prices because quality has a tendency to last longer.

As Advent begins it is a time to pause and reflect on God's gift to the world. God's gift is costly as God's plan calls for sending the highest and greatest heaven has to offer. God's love does not come on the minimum side, but on the extravagant. The advent of Jesus into a manger defines the length to which God goes to communicate his desire to teach us and show us the Way. The time Jesus spends among us reveals the width of God's patience as he comes to teach us rather than simply control us. The cross reminds us of the depth of God's love and how far God is willing to go in order to save us from sin and self. The resurrection teaches us that God's gift is one that goes on and on and on.

Advent is a time for waiting and preparation and rebirth. We wait again for the wonderful news that Christ is born among us. We prepare hearts and lives to receive and honor his birth. In the midst of Christmas commercialized, the church stands up and out to “preach and teach” the true meaning of this holy season. The church also invites everyone to consider their response to God's love. How will we respond to a God who gives the maximum? —*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 to schedule your appointment. Take control of your health; Knowledge is empowering.

PIANO AND ORGAN CONCERT — This evening at 6:30pm. Dr. David Thompson will join us again this year along with Barbara Dickson.