

**UPCOMING EVENTS AT FUMC**

**Sunday, December 25, 2016**  
10:00am Worship Service

**Monday, December 26-28, 2016**  
*Office Closed*

**Thursday, December 29, 2016**  
*Office Opened 8:00-3:30*

**Friday, December 30, 2016**  
*Office Opened 8:00-12:00*

**Sunday, January 1, 2017**  
10:00am Sunday School  
11:00am Worship Service



First United Methodist Church  
A Service of Christian Worship  
The church with a heart, in the heart of Cheraw.  
**December 25, 2016**  
**Christmas Day**  
**Liturgical Color: White**



**\*\*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. 246 In the Hymnal**      **“Joy to the World”**

**\*Affirmation of Faith No. 881**      **The Apostles’ Creed**      Susan Marsh, Lay Reader

**\*Gloria Patri**

**\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**      Rev. Timmerman

**Pastoral and Lord’s Prayer**      Rev. Timmerman

**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. 234 (v1); 245 (v1); and 217 (v1)**  
**“O Come, All Ye Faithful, The First Noel, & Away in a Manger”**

**Scripture Reading**      **Matthew 1: 18-26**      Rev. Timmerman

**Sermon**      **“God is With Us”**      Rev. Timmerman

**\*Hymn No. 240 in the Hymnal**      **“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**  
*(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.**

**SERVING TODAY**

**Greeters:** M&M David Bersinger      **Head Usher:** Robert Calhoun  
**Lobby Door Greeter:** Jerry Therrell, Jerry Carter      **Hostess:** Marsha Butler  
**Altar Guild:** Kim Williamson and Susan Marsh      **Acolyte:** Alayna Carabo  
**Next Week’s Lay Reader:** Eric Dusa      **Cross Bearer:** Zachary Carabo  
**Flowers Next Sunday:** OPEN      **McArn Item:** Non-perishable  
**Counters:** Robert Calhoun, Herbert Watts, Brenda Rayfield      breakfast foods  
**Alternate Counter:** Doug Marsh  
**Nursery:** Caroline Berry & Michelle Rohde  
**Worship Attendance, Dec. 18** — 183; **Attendance in Sunday School, Dec. 18** — 113  
**Received to Date:** \$403,704.43      **Expenses to Date:** \$393,775.95  
**Needed Weekly:** \$6,523.01      **Received week of Dec. 18:** \$4,703.76

**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)

**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.

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

**Parson to Person** — There are many stories that make the rounds during this time of year. One of my favorites is the following: A certain person was driving down the highway and saw a billboard ad. The billboard had upon it a cross on one end and a Christmas tree on the other. In the center was the message, "Make sure that Christ is in your Christmas!" Immediately, this individual said, "That's just like the church. Now they are trying to "get in on' Christmas!"

The vast majority of the world understands that Christ is the reason for Christmas. The songs that are sung, the lights and decorations that shine, the generosity of spirit and soul for the needy, the forgiveness between people...all point to people understanding that Christmas is about the advent of a savior who will take up residence in human hearts and influence those lives with the Gospel. Yet, some folks are still on "another page" when it comes to this holy season. Christmas Day is all about Jesus.

Today, please celebrate this truth with your children and family. Take some time to read the Gospel account from Luke. Share a family prayer of thanksgiving for God's gift. Hold hands as a family as you pray. Celebrate what we believe as Christians!

Generations ago a messenger spoke to Joseph in a dream and revealed God's plan. Joseph, by faith and belief, gave his heart in service to God and devotion to Mary. It wasn't easy. Yet, Joseph reveals the power of silent love.

Long ago on a silent night, a silent love was given that has been awakening the world ever since.

—Ken Timmerman

**MERRY CHRISTMAS** — The staff of First Church wish for you and yours a blessed holiday time. Our prayers are for a great New Year together.

*Ken, Angie, Sara, Shane, Mimi*