

**UPCOMING EVENTS AT FUMC**

**Sunday, January 1, 2017**

10:00am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

**Monday—Friday, January 2—6, 2017**

*Ken out of Office*

**Monday, January 2, 2017**

*Office closed for New Year Holiday*

**Sunday, January 8, 2017**

10:00am Sunday School

11:00am Worship Service

**SERVING TODAY**

**Greeter:** Michelle Rohde

**Lobby Door Greeter:** Pete Owens, Ellison Outen

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

**Next Week's Lay Reader:** Leighton Becker

**Flowers Next Sunday:** OPEN

**Counters:** Jane Mayhew, John Moore

**Alternate Counter:** Mary Burr

**Nursery:** Caroline Berry & Sally Smith

**Worship Attendance, Dec. 25** — 141; **Attendance in Sunday School, Dec. 25** — No Sunday School

**Received to Date:** \$411,027.34 **Expenses to Date:** \$403,014.45

**Needed Weekly:** \$6,523.01 **Received week of Dec. 25:** \$7,322.91

**Head Usher:** Robert Calhoun

**Hostess:** Marsha Butler

**Acolyte:** Alayna Carabo

**Cross Bearer:** Zachary Carabo

**McArn Item:** Canned vegetables

**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.



**January 1, 2017**  
**Epiphany Sunday**  
**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.**

John Wesley determined that on the Sunday closest to the New Year that the “people called Methodist” would renew their commitment to Christ. In lieu of resolutions which people so easily make and then break, his idea was a commitment prayer that ask for God’s “hand’s on” involvement in our lives. At the conclusion of today’s service, prior to the closing hymn, we will share this Covenant Prayer. The Words remain timely and timeless for Christian people.

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

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

**\*Hymn No. 238 In the Hymnal** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

**\*Opening Prayer** Eric Dusa, Lay Reader

Almighty God, you make all things new in heaven and on earth. We come to you in a new year with new desires and old fears, new decisions and old controversies, new dreams and old weaknesses. Because you are a God of hope, we know that you create all the possibilities of the future. Because you are a God of love, we know that you accept all the mistakes of the past. Because you are the God of our faith, we enter your gates with thanksgiving and praise, we come into your presence with gladness and a joyful noise, and we serve and bless you. Amen.

**Responsive Psalter Reading, No. 741** **Psalm 4** Lay Reader

**Affirmation of Faith No. 881** **Apostle’s Creed** Lay Reader

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Life Lessons for Young Leainers** Rev. Timmerman

**Pastoral Prayer/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 No. 2130 in *The Faith We Sing* “The Summons”**

**Scripture** **Luke 15: 1-10** Rev. Timmerman

**Sermon** **“In Search of....”** Rev. Timmerman

**A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition, Page No. 607 in the Hymnal**

**\*Hymn No. 431 in the Hymnal “Let There Be Peace on Earth”**  
*(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.

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

**GRIEFSHARE** — GriefShare is a Christ-centered seminar and support group for people who are hurting from the pain of grief. The death of a spouse, child, family member or friend is devastating. Even mature Christians with a solid faith need ongoing comfort and encouragement during the grieving period. GriefShare is a network of thousands of grief recovery support groups meeting around the world. GriefShare brings together in video form some of the foremost Christian experts on grief issues, addressing the emotional, spiritual and practical needs of those in grief. A video is viewed each week followed by group discussion. Participants use a workbook to learn what God’s Word has to say about grief-related topics, to journal thoughts and to help them sort through their emotions. First United Methodist is offering a 13-week GriefShare group which begins Monday, January 16 at 2:00pm. The cost of the workbook is \$15. Group facilitators will Bonnie J. Cundiff and Sara Sanderson. If you would like to be a part of this group or if you would like to refer someone in the community to the group, please let us know by Monday, January 9, 2017. Bonnie may be reached at 843-537-2422 or 843-910-7526. Sara may be reached through the church office at 843-537-7002.

**PARSON TO PERSON** — It seems that we have been sharing a number of songs of late so why not one more? It is a song most all of us learned when we were children.

*The B-I-B-L-E...yes, that’s the book for me.  
I stand alone on the word of God;  
The B-I-B-L-E!*

It contains just a few words, but a great affirmation of the place the Bible holds in human hearts and in our faith journey. John Wesley encouraged Christian readers to read many works. Education was important to him. Yet, when it came to life-changing, John Wesley wanted to be “a man of one book” ...the Bible. As United Methodist today, we affirm and primacy of Scripture in shaping our faith.

It’s important to know the stories in the Bible and to strive to apply its truth to our living. Most every denomination reads and studies the Bible. It’s a book from which all agree comes the Word of God. Now, what some folks actually believe about the Bible is quite different. Some believe it is to be interpreted literally with each word being law unto itself. Some believe it is to be interpreted in the light of life situations and determined as to how its truths then applies to what is needed now. Some believe the Bible has lost relevance for our time, and others believe its truths to be timeless. Some believe various translations have more “God-approval” than others, while others enjoy numerous translations written using modern language. The Bible is a book of great importance to believers, and it is a book that all of us should not just read but study. To not study is to miss out on something important.

For example, I love to listen to Shane Robertson play the organ. He is able to do so not because he simply decided he liked the organ. He devoted himself to study and practice and learning this instrument! I love the organ and its music, yet if I “parked” myself at the Organ Bench on Sunday morning and began to “play”, very soon our congregation would be in pain. My love for the instrument cannot grant me the ability to play it. It takes time and effort and practice and learning to do that. It is the same with the Bible. Loving it doesn’t help us in and of itself. Carrying one doesn’t help us! One must read and study the Scriptures to “grow in the knowledge of God.”

Without study, one can be led by any voice or spirit or idea that comes along. That is one of the troubles in our great United Methodist Church today. Some formulate the church’s direction based on ideas or theory when the Bible instructs us to “have” the mind and heart of God. That is tough to do without the Bible.

Bring yours to church every Sunday.

—Ken Timmerman