

OUR PRAYER LIST — Our President, all who defend our nation, Sue Nichols (Pam Humphries' mother), Bobby Sellers (Angie Smith's uncle), Raul Wetternek, Oscar Wetternek (Henrietta Kollitz's friend), Sis Funderburk, Jane Mayhew, Jim Ross (Jane Mayhew's nephew), Mary Burr, Mike Starling, Harry Board, Jeff Treadaway (Angie Smith's friend), Connie Covington (Pam Baker & Jan Rogers' mother), Terry Crocker (Dee Dee Crocker's husband), Gina Reid Merriman (Renie Seels' niece), Jim Murray, Jayne Burr Board, Sammy Boan (Amy Lewis' cousin), Lynda Coleman (Jenny Outen's friend), Betty Thrailkill, Chris Thrailkill. **NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notified.**

UPCOMING EVENTS AT FUMC

Sunday, December 17, 2017

10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship Service (Christmas Cantata)
5:00pm UMYF

Monday, December 18, 2017

2:00pm Blood Drive (Fellowship Hall)
6:00pm Boy Scout Meeting (Scout Hut)

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

10:30am Staff Meeting
5:30pm Weight Watchers

Thursday - Tuesday, December 21 - 26, 2017

Office Closed for Holiday

Sunday, December 24, 2017

10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship Service
5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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 **Monday, December 18**. This is a good way to express our appreciation to the staff for the work that they do! *Staff-Parish Relations Committee*

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS: In order for contributions to be posted to your 2017 giving record, they must meet one of three requirements:
1) The gift is received and posted to your account before December 31, 2017. 2) The contribution is dropped into the offering plate or delivered to the church office on or before December 31, 2017 (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, 2017.

The church office will be open December 4-20 from 8:30am—4:30pm, Monday through Thursday; December 27-28 from 8:30am—4:30pm; 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION AND CANDLE LIGHTING: will be December 24 at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary.

THE CHANCEL CHOIR'S CANTATA: is featured in today's worship. We thank Mary Lynn and the sanctuary choir for the music of the season.

GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS: Please consider including the church in your end of year giving. We need to finish the year strong and your gifts will help us meet all our obligations.

CHRISTMAS PRELUDES: Anyone who would like to participate on Sunday morning December 24, prior to our service beginning, by singing or playing an instrument, please call the church office and tell Angie by December 18.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 THIRD STREET, CHERAW, SC 29520

843-537-7002

www.cherawfirstumc.org



THE CHURCH WITH A HEART, IN THE HEART OF CHERAW.

A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

DECEMBER 17, 2017

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LITURGICAL COLOR: PURPLE

FUMC STAFF

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

Angie Smith, Ministry Assistant (fumcangiesmith@gmail.com)

Sara Sanderson, Director of Children/Youth (saralsanderson@hotmail.com)

Mimi Coffey, Director of Child Development Ministry (fccdm@yahoo.com)

Mary Lynn Watkins, Interim Music Director

PARSON TO PERSON

Before her death, my mother was with me for several days, including the Thanksgiving Holiday, and it reminded me of how much I miss home. I made a long trip down memory lane. Don't get me wrong. I love my current home, and the joy I have in being in Cheraw and serving First Church. But I will always miss home. There are so many memories of family times and growing up and begin together. There are so many treasured thoughts of St. John UMC and being in our family pew and singing the hymns and spending time at the altar. Bing Crosby had it right when he sang, "I'll be home for Christmas ... if only in my dreams."

What are your memories? This holy season inspires light for our souls. The Church opens its doors and waits for you to come home. Many memories are being made here.

1. Weekly our young learners have brought light to the Advent Wreath.
2. The Shepherd's Child Party on Dec. 15 after school in the Fellowship Hall helped numerous children have a joyous Christmas with the gifts that so many long for, and we told them the Christmas Story too.
3. The Sanctuary Choir presents their Cantata during today's morning worship service.
4. Christmas Eve Communion and Candle Lighting will be at 5:00pm.
5. Sunday morning worship experiences celebrate the coming birth of Christ.

Take time to make time for the church. It will be time well-spent. There are busy days, yet all have the same gift of time. Why not make the church your home with special memories? After all, it is the place where we kneel and surrender to God. It is the place where we have stood to be married. It is the place we found strength in the face of death. It is the place we invest our gifts and efforts to make a fruitful ministry. It is the place where we share our burdens and our joys. It is the place where we become one in Jesus Christ. It is the place that allows us to be a family under God's watchful eye.

The Bible speaks of God watching and guarding our hearts. I confess that I, too often, spend time watching and guarding my heart. One of my blessings this year is to surrender myself to God's care and watching and keeping. God's weakness is greater than our greatest strength according to Scripture. We have no wisdom that can equal God's wisdom. Christmas morning for me will be yet another time to yield myself to the Christ whose love can bless and define me. What about you? *Ken Timmerman*

FREE 8 X 10 POTRAIT AVAILABLE: If you had your picture taken for the pictorial directory, but did not purchase pictures, your free 8 x 10 is in the church office.

JOY TO THE WORLD FINALE

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.
Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere; Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!
Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born, And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn.
Sing, choirs of angels! Sing in exultation; O sing, all ye bright hosts of heav'n above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest! O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him.
Hark! The herald angels sing, Let the heav'nly anthems ring! "Glory to the newborn King!" Christ is King!

SERVING TODAY

Greeters: M&M Harry Board

Lobby Door Greeter: John Sanderson, Harold Lomas

Nursery: Caroline Berry & Ericka Kollitz

Next Week's Lay Reader: Greg Sanderson

Flowers Next Sunday: Poinsettias

Counters: Jeff Johnson, Betty Hurst, Jerry Therrell

Alternate Counters: David McLean, Walter Crosby

Worship Attendance, December 10 — 150; **Attendance in Sunday School, December 10** — 96

Received to Date: \$382,070.31 (Includes \$23,863.50 from Contingency); **Expenses to Date:** \$387,491.28

Needed Weekly: \$6,968.15; **Received week of December 10:** \$4,753.43

Head Usher: Robert Calhoun

Acolyte: Leighton Becker

Cross Bearer: Sawyer Becker

McArn Items: Paper products

Hostess: Marsha Butler

A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

****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

Welcome to every visitor. Please sign the attendance pad and pass it to everyone on the pew, putting the sheet in the offering plate.

"Ava Maria"

Brenne Fisher, Soprano

*Hymn No. 240

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Sanctuary Choir Cantata

"O Holy Night" By Craig Adams
*Martha Starling and Keyshawn Melton, Soloists
Michael Howle, Guest Organist
Dallas Keefe, Drums*

****Congregation to stand and sing last song with choir. Words printed on bulletin.**

Gathering God's Tithes and Our Offerings

*Offertory

*Doxology No. 95

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

OLD 100TH

*Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Scripture

Luke 2: 1-20

Sermon

"He Comes to Grant Praise"

Rev. Ken Timmerman

*Hymn No. 234

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

*Benediction

*Postlude

***Please stand if able.**



Ken's great niece that FUMC prayed for.



Choir Christmas Party.



Christmas Duffy