



# THE CONNECTION

## Parson to Person

Prior to her death I had my mother with me for several days including the Thanksgiving Holiday, and it reminded me of how much I missed home. Don't get me wrong. I love my home and the joy of Cheraw and serving First Church. But I do miss home. There are so many memories of family times and growing up and being 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."

Your church calls you to "come home" during Advent. There are so many events taking place that will bring "light" into one's soul.

1. Weekly lighting of the Advent Wreath during worship.
2. Samaritan Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry.
3. The Shepherd's Child Party on Dec. 15 after school in the Fellowship Hall.
4. The Chancel Choir presents their annual Music Program during the morning worship service.
5. We'll sing for the Palmetto Ridge Residents on December 10 at 9:30am.
6. Christmas Sunday School Class Parties and meals.
7. Worship designed to bring the Nativity to Life.
8. A Sanctuary decorated with the beautiful symbols of Advent.
9. People will come to our door and the "bounty" of our Food Closet will be strained.
10. A strong financial finish to this year will propel us into the new year in good fashion.

Take time to make time for the church. It will be time well-spent. These are busy days yet all have the same gift of time.

Several years ago a bill board was up in a certain city asking people to remember the "reason for the season." Some of the people in the city critiqued the church for "horning" in on Christmas. Imagine that! I know that the decorations for the season have been up since prior to Halloween to get people into the Christmas Spirit. I'm pretty sure that the church's gift to people is the Spirit of Christ and the church can do what no other place can do. The church uplifts the Holy and invites people to participate in the Holiness of the season. It is powerful to use this Advent to await the Good News of God as we wait for the Lord's coming. It is wonderful to share together as family and friends services that will include Holy Communion on Christmas Eve (this year at 6:30pm). The music of this season reaches down to the human soul and touches our souls with love from above. The light we worship in the church fills the world that waits in darkness. We decorate trees because it is a tree upon which the Savior died for the world. The colors of Purple, Green, White, and Gold in the Sanctuary point to new life, to royalty and majesty. There's so much that the regular world misses during Christmas. Why not consider "coming home for Christmas?" Come home to the church which uplifts the Greatest Story Ever Told and invites us to find our place in it.

*Ken Timmerman*

### Our Staff

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

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

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

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

**Mary Lynn Watkins, Interim Director of Music**

### COMING UP

\*UMM Breakfast, Sunday, December 10, 8:30am, Fellowship Hall

\*UMW Christmas Party, December 10, 3:00pm, Fellowship Hall

\*Newsletter Deadline, Thursday, December 14, 12:00pm

\*Christmas Cantata, Sunday, December 17, Morning Worship Service

\*Blood Drive, Monday, December 18, 2-7pm, Fellowship Hall

\*Office Closed for Christmas Holiday, Thursday—Tuesday, December 21—26.

## Memorials & Honorariums

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### **IN MEMORY OF SUE MCMANUS**

Dare Marsh, M&M Ron Cundiff, M&M Doug Marsh, M&M Thomas McKinnon, M&M Larry Spears, M&M David McLean, M&M Mickey Sullivan, FUMC UMW, Syble Sanderson, M&M Jim Crawford, Chuck & Peggy Michaux

### **IN MEMORY OF FRANCES LANEY**

FUMC UMW

### **IN MEMORY OF JOHN STRAUGHN**

M&M Doug Marsh, M&M Mickey Sullivan, FUMC UMW, Syble Sanderson

### **IN MEMORY OF EDDIE STUBBS**

FUMC UMW

### **IN MEMORY OF LOIS BAKER**

M&M Doug Marsh, FUMC UMW, Syble Sanderson

### **IN MEMORY OF JERRY TURNER**

M&M George Morgan, M&M Clyde Bailey, Jessie Parker, Dare Marsh, M&M Steve Barbour, Mabel Love, M&M Ron Cundiff, Mary Burr, M&M Tavener Threatte, Jimmy Duffy, Thomas & Teresa Owen, Cheraw Red Hats, Edith Quick, New Horizons Sunday School Class, Jay & Frankie Hughes, Chuck & Peggy Michaux, Micki Lockey, M&M Paul Miles, M&M Doug Marsh, M&M Roger Wolfe, M&M John Wagnon, M&M Thomas McKinnon, Jackie McGee, M&M Larry Spears, Patty Runion, Debra Miller, Janet Clark, M&M David McLean, M&M Mickey Sullivan, M&M Keith Smith, M&M John Moore, Syble Sanderson, M&M Jim Crawford, M&M Jack VanDeman and John, Betty Thrailkill

### **IN MEMORY OF DOUG WILSON**

Syble Sanderson

### **IN MEMORY OF ANNE TOWNSEND**

FUMC UMW, Syble Sanderson

### **IN MEMORY OF BRANT THOMPSON**

FUMC UMW

### **IN MEMORY OF PETE OWENS**

Dare Marsh, M&M Doug Marsh, M&M Mickey Sullivan, FUMC UMW, Syble Sanderson

### **IN MEMORY OF SHIRLEY WALTON**

Syble Sanderson

### **IN HONOR OF ELLISON & FLO OUTEN**

M&M David McLean

### **IN HONOR OF JAKIE AND ETHEL ANN STREATER**

John & Carolyn Streater

### **IN HONOR OF RUTH "SIS" FUNDERBURK**

Salley Bradford

### **IN HONOR OF GINGER OUTEN CAUGHMAN**

Virginia Outen Miller

### **IN HONOR OF PHIL THRAILKILL**

Betty Thrailkill

## From the Interim Director of Music

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Christmas time is here...bringing lot's of cheer and music, music, Music! It is indeed "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year". Our church musicians are preparing for a wonderful month of Christmas music for our church — from the preludes on Sunday morning to our last note on Christmas Eve!

One of my most favorite songs to sing is simply entitled, "Merry Christmas!" by Helen Johnson. The words are included below. This is my pray-

er for each of you this Christmas 2017. Merry Christmas!

"Merry Christmas"

Comes the joyful sound again- "Merry Christmas!" everywhere; Sentimental hearts are stirred by the magic of these words, as they join to warm the cold December air. They've been ringing down the corridors of time—always bringing thoughts of mirth. But how often they are sung with no reverence for God's Son—On the wonder of His birth— Did you know

that this was not a fairy story? It's recorded in your books of history; But the thing they fail to mention is that God supplied redemption thru His gift to you and me— May you know Him—as you never did before, in the New Year soon to start — So that every single day—you can mean it when you say—"Merry Christmas!" from His birthplace in your heart!

In Christ's Love  
Mary Lynn

## Endowment Fund Update

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The Endowment Fund committee would like to thank the FUMC Child Development Center for their recent contribution to the Endowment Fund.

Current Amount in the Endowment Fund  
\$114,200.00

# Serving in December

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## Hostess

Marsha Butler

## Head Usher

Robert Calhoun

## Acolyte and Cross Bearer

Leighton Becker (A) Sawyer Becker (CB)

## Greeters

Dec. 3 Ellison Outen

Dec. 10 Patricia Turner

Dec. 17 M&M Harry Board

Dec. 24 M&M Mike Elmore

Dec. 31 M&M Mack Atkinson

## Lobby Door Greeters

Dec. 3

Dec. 10 C.C. Quick

Dec. 17 John Sanderson, Harold Lomas

Dec. 24 Jerry Therrell, Jerry Carter

Dec. 31 Jerry Therrell, Jerry Carter

## Nursery

Dec. 3 Caroline Berry, Nancy Wagnon

Dec. 10 Caroline Berry, Christy Ruffner

Dec. 17 Caroline Berry, Erika Kollitz

Dec. 24 Caroline Berry, Lesley Jean Watson

Dec. 31 Carline Berry, Michelle Rohde

## Lay Readers

Dec. 3 ---

Dec. 10 Mary Charlotte Dusa

Dec. 17 Hollis Dusa

Dec. 24 Greg Sanderson

Dec. 31 Lilly Melton

## Flowers

Poinsettias

## Counters

Dec. 3 Thomas Samuel, Linda Smith, John Moore

Alternates: Micki Lockey, Todd Becker

Dec. 10 Roger Wolfe, Jim Crawford, Sammy Quick

Alternate:

Dec. 17 Jeff Johnson, Betty Hurst, Jerry Therrell

Alternates: David McLean, Walter Crosby

Dec. 24 Robert Calhoun, Herbert Watts, Brenda Rayfield

Alternate: Doug Marsh

Dec. 31 Rhett Buter, Shelton Rumph

Alternate: Jerry Tucker

## McArn Items

Dec. 3 Canned meats

Dec. 10 Spaghetti noodles and sauce

Dec. 17 Paper products

Dec. 24 Ketchup, mustard, mayo

Dec. 31 Drink mixes (Kool-Aid, lemonade, etc.)

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## From the First Church Child Development Ministry

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The Child Development Ministry is happy to announce that we have a new sign beside the entrance to the parking lot. If you haven't noticed it, be sure to look for it. A lot of time and effort was spent planning and obtaining it.

There are a few activities planned for the month of December. The 3

and 4 year old classes will attend the play, *Holly and the Christmas Kerfuffle*, a Porkchops Production at Theater on the Green on December 6.

We will have a Christmas program on December 14 at 6:00pm in the sanctuary. The 3 and 4 year olds will be performing. Come join us

and get your hearts blessed!

The school will be closed for Christmas holidays December 21 through January 1. We will reopen on January 2.

Merry Christmas to all!

In Christ's Service,

Mimi

# Birthdays and Anniversaries in December

## BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 6 Jap Roddy  
Dec. 7 Jacob Rohde  
Dec. 12 Michelle Rohde  
Dec. 14 Lynn Tweed, Pam Humphries  
Dec. 16 Ellison Outen, Harold Lomas  
Dec. 18 James Tweed  
Dec. 19 Jane Rumph, Billy Wicker, Kaleb Keefe  
Dec. 20 Tom Rollings  
Dec. 21 Renie Seel  
Dec. 22 William Keith Smith III (Tripp)

Dec. 23 Allan Chapman, Sam Eubanks  
Dec. 25 Robin Bersinger, Alayna Carabo, David Rohde  
Dec. 29 Marcia Butler  
Dec. 30 Jacquelyn Bette Tomberlin

## ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 23 M&M Pete Baker,  
M&M John Moore



## From the Director of Youth and Children

When I was growing up (well, to be honest, until I was 37 years old), my favorite part of Christmas --- *other than my son Austin* --- was going to my Grandmother's house. I still go to my Grandmother's house, only now I go there in my memory.

My Grandmother did not have a lot of money, but she had what mattered...and that was Jesus. She taught all her family to love one another, stay close with one another, to do what the Good Lord says, and to also have a healthy fear of the Lord.

I was blessed; I am blessed...but there are many children and adults in this world who do not have family in their lives. If you ask a child/teen, who does not have family who will

spend time with them, this is what they want for Christmas; their family to be together. Something so simple...spending time with family.

I have talked with many kids/teens, and my heart breaks when I know there is nothing I can do to fix their situation. When I ask God what to do, He always works through me...and His goodness is shown.

This is what the Shepherds Child Program is about. --- Jesus working through us...Jesus; His goodness and His love

I wish I could take all kids to my Grandmother's house...I wish I could give all kids a loving family...I can't...but **we** can give something even better...and it is the same thing my Grandmother

gave me...lessons about a changed heart and living for Jesus...and a memory for a lifetime...

**Thank you to all who have signed up to help with the Shepherds Child Program.**

However, we are still in need of money/gifts for the Shepherds Child Program...We have 21 names left...Please contact me @ 843-910-7987 for more information. In the Love of Christ,  
Sara

*Psalm 90: 17, "May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us-yes, establish the work of our hands."*



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**

117 Third Street  
Cheraw, SC 29520

Phone: 843-537-7002  
Fax: 843-537-7220  
E-mail: [fumcangiesmith@gmail.com](mailto:fumcangiesmith@gmail.com)

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.cherawfirstumc.org](http://www.cherawfirstumc.org)

**JANUARY  
NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE**

Thursday, December 14, 2017  
Noon

## What Accounts are for Memorials?

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If you give memorials to FUMC you can designate that they go to a number of different areas of the church. Listed below are areas that your memorials can be designated for:

Endowment Fund  
Memorial Fund  
Music Fund  
Red Bird

Salkehatchie Summer Service  
Bus Fund  
Youth Ministries  
Children Ministries  
Contemporary Service Fund  
Building Upkeep Fund  
Parsonage Upkeep Fund  
Wednesday at the First (WATF)  
Relay for Life  
Grounds Upkeep Fund

*Memorials can be designated to go to a number of different areas.*

Pastor's Discretionary Fund  
Scholarships (Streete, Norton, Harris, Burr, Hook, Eutsler, Brasington, and Laney)

## Good Neighbor

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The Men's Class at FUMC is offering a helping hand. Do you need any help to change a light bulb, clean the gutters, rake the yard, wash the car, or go to the store? Whatever your need, give us a chance to be a good neighbor to you. We're not professionals and will not bill you for services, but

we are handy at doing many things. Our intent is not to take any work away from our local businesses and service professionals, but to simply offer a helping hand. This service is available to all FUMC members, and anyone you know who is in need of help.

You may contact Roger Wolfe at 843-537-7496.

*..help change a light bulb, clean the gutters, rake the yard,.....*

## Pastor's Discretionary Fund

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Contributions are needed for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Please share your surplus with those who have precious little on which to live. (Write a check to FUMC and designate it or part of it for "Pastor's Discretionary Fund.")



*Giving to those less fortunate*

# December Calendar

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## **Sunday, December 3, 2017**

Sunday School, 10:00am  
Worship, 11:00am  
UMYF, 5:00pm, Fellowship Hall/Youth Hut

## **Monday, December 4, 2017**

Boy Scouts, 6:00pm, Scout Hut

## **Tuesday, December 5, 2017**

Staff Meeting, 10:30am, Pastor's Office  
Weight Watchers, 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall

## **Wednesday, December 6, 2017**

Sunday, December 10 Bulletin Deadline, 9:00am  
Handbell Practice, 5:30pm, Choir Room  
Choir Practice, 6:30pm, Choir Room

## **Thursday, December 7, 2017**

Cub Scouts, 6:00pm

## **Friday, December 8, 2017**

Men's Class Christmas Party, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall

## **Sunday, December 10, 2017**

UMM Breakfast, 8:30am, Fellowship Hall  
Sunday School, 10:00am  
Worship, 11:00am  
UMW Christmas Party, 3:00pm, Fellowship Hall  
UMYF, 6:00-7:30pm, Fellowship Hall/Youth Hut

## **Monday, December 11, 2017**

Boy Scouts, 6:00pm, Scout Hut

## **Tuesday, December 12, 2017**

Staff Meeting, 10:30am, Pastor's Office  
Weight Watchers, 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall

## **Wednesday, December 13, 2017**

Sunday, December 17 Bulletin Deadline, 9:00am  
Handbell Practice, 5:30pm, Choir Room  
Choir Practice, 6:30pm, Choir Room

## **Thursday, December 14, 2017**

January Newsletter Deadline, 12:00pm  
Cub Scouts, 6:00pm

## **Friday, December 15, 2017**

Kinsey Mulloy/Fred Harris SS Class Christmas Party, Fellowship Hall

## **Sunday, December 17, 2017**

Sunday School, 10:00am  
Worship, (Christmas Cantata) 11:00am  
UMYF, 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall/Youth Hut

## **Monday, December 18, 2017**

Sunday, December 24 Bulletin Deadline 9:00am  
Christmas Eve Bulletin Deadline, 12:00pm  
Blood Drive, 2-7pm, Fellowship Hall  
Boy Scouts, 6:00pm, Scout Hut

## **Tuesday, December 19, 2017**

Staff Meeting, 10:30am, Pastor's Office  
Weight Watchers, 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall  
Sunday, December 31 Bulletin Deadline 12:00pm

## **Wednesday, December 20, 2017**

Handbell Practice, 5:30pm, Choir Room  
Choir Practice, 6:30pm, Choir Room

## **Thursday—Tuesday, December 21-26, 2017**

*Office Closed for Christmas Holiday*

## **Sunday, December 24, 2017**

Sunday School, 10:00am  
Worship, 11:00am  
Christmas Eve Service, 6:30pm, Sanctuary

## **Sunday, December 31, 2017**

Sunday School, 10:00am  
Worship, 11:00am