

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, 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), Pam Walter (Angie Smith's cousin), Gina Reid Merriman (Renie Seels' niece), Jim Murray, Jayne Burr Board, Sammy Boan (Amy Lewis' cousin), Lynda Coleman (Jenny Outen's friend). **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 3, 2017

10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship Service
5:00pm UMYF

Monday, December 4, 2017

6:00pm Boy Scout Meeting (Scout Hut)

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

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

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

7:30pm Adult Choir Practice (Choir Room)

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*

WATF: will return in 2018. Please note there will be hand bell practice on Wednesdays at 6:00pm and Choir practice at 6:30pm.

ADVENT THOUGHT: What is it we seek this advent? Let us pray that the Hope of the World instills hope in every human heart.

PRESS ON: We continue to receive pledge cards for 2018. If you have not submitted yours, please do so by placing it in the offering plate during the Offertory or on the Altar rail at the conclusion of the worship service. Cards are available in the Narthex.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS: to Jenna Quick and Jacob Mitchell who were united in Holy Matrimony, December 2, at First Church. Reverend Ken Timmerman performed the ceremony. Let us pray for this young couple as they begin a new life together.

ANSON SINGERS: will present Handel's Messiah on Sunday, December 3 at 3:00pm at the First United Methodist Church in Wadesboro. The address is 118 East Morgan Street. Accompanying the singers will be the Piedmont Triad Strings.

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

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 3, 2017

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LITURGICAL COLOR: PURPLE

PARSON TO PERSON

In a recent Advent Study, *Where Heaven Touches Earth*, the author states that we “understand the story of Christ’s coming into the world. We know the drill. We can sing the hymns. We can even get that certain feeling as all the people in the church light candles and sing “Silent Night.” We know the words, the familiar rituals, the smells, the meals, and the music, but sometimes the reality of the coming of Christ seems like something very distant, something almost unreal. We ask the question, ‘What does this have to do with me...really?’ The answer is that Christ is a gift of God...for you...this day...a Savior.

I’m told that the day after Christmas comes and shoppers will go to stores to return gifts. Perhaps the size is wrong, or the color isn’t right. Perhaps we already have one of whatever we’ve been given. Perhaps we had something else in mind. Perhaps, the gift isn’t what we want. Stores will be packed with people returning gifts. How grateful I am that Jesus is a gift no one needs or wants to return. The Spirit of God comes to us in the form of a baby and brings hope to this world. Hope is a thing many people have in short supply. And even when we do hope, for some of us that means we “hope” life works out to suit us. The difference with the gift of the Christ child is that this gift calls for us to give back to God.

Advent is about receiving God’s gift and offering our gifts to God. Our presence and prayers and service help “mark” this special season. Through Operation Christmas Child, the Shoebox ministry, through the Shepherd’s Child program at the church, and through offering our change to Salvation Army kettles, we do our part to make the Christmas of others. Our financial support of the church is a gift of God as well. We need a strong financially finish for the year to honor our obligations.

God’s faithfulness is the gift of a Savior. The candles on the Advent Wreath point to our Savior and represent, Hope, the Way, Joy, Peace, and Christ. We’ll light these candles on Sunday morning following our Life Lessons for Young Learner. Our faithfulness finds its life in what we offer as a gift to God. And it is time for us to do that as we PRESS ON. “A Savior is coming who is Christ the Lord.”
Ken Timmerman

ZOAR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH DRIVE THROUGH NATIVITY: The Live Drive Through Nativity will be Sunday, December 10 from 6:00-8:30pm. Come and enjoy this annual event.

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.

SHEPHERD’S CHILD IS COMING: Who wants to participate? Contact the Church Office and let us know. Our planned day is the final day of school prior to the Christmas break. Last year we had a grand response. It is our prayer to help more children this year. It is a good thing to be known as a church that uses its resources for the good of children.

MERCY IN ME: We are asking our Chesterfield County churches to designated December 3, 2017, as “Mercy in Me Clinic Sunday” and to take up a special offering for our support. With your help we can continue to meet many of the medical needs of the uninsured in our County.

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 **“Merry Christmas!”** JOHNSTON

Mary Lynn Watkins, Soprano

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

Call to Worship

***Hymn No. 196** **“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”** HYFRYDOL

*Opening Prayer (In Unison)

With expectant hearts, we wait for you, O God. May the power of your presence bless us as we look to you for the greatest gift this world can receive. May His Advent bring peace to this world and hope to every heart. As the lights and decorations light the world in preparation of his coming, we ask that your light be refreshed in each of us. Thank you for your love made known in Jesus in whose name we pray. AMEN

Life Lessons for Young Learners

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

***Affirmation of Faith No. 881** **“The Apostles’ Creed”**

*Gloria Patri

Morning Prayer/ The Lord’s Prayer

Gathering God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

***Offertory** **“In the First Light”** KAUFLIN

***Doxology No. 95** **“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”** OLD 100TH

*Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

***Hymn No. 211 (vs1 & 3)** **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”** VENI EMMANUEL

Scripture **Luke 1: 68-79**

Sermon **“He Comes to Guide”** Rev. Ken Timmerman

***Hymn No. 220** **“Angels from the Realms of Glory”** REGENT SQUARE

*Benediction

*Postlude

***Please stand if able.**

SERVING TODAY

Greeter: Ellison Outen

Lobby Door Greeter: ---

Nursery: Caroline Berry & Nancy Wagnon

Next Week’s Lay Reader: Mary Charlotte Dusa

Flowers Next Sunday: Poinsettias

Counters: Thomas Samuel, Linda Smith, John Moore

Alternate Counters: Micki Lockey, Todd Becker

Worship Attendance, November 26 — 144; **Attendance in Sunday School, November 26** — 86

Received to Date: \$259,228.99 (Includes \$16,663.50 from Contingency); **Expenses to Date:** \$364,992.11

Needed Weekly: \$6,968.15; **Received week of November 26:** \$2,478.00

Head Usher: Robert Calhoun

Acolyte: Leighton Becker

Cross Bearer: Sawyer Becker

McArn Item: Canned meats

Hostess: Marsha Butler