

**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, Sammy Boan (Amy Lewis' cousin), Lynda Coleman (Jenny Outen's friend), Betty Thrailkill, Chris Thrailkill, David Freeman (Brook Freeman's Father-in-law), Lawton Harris, Jayne Burr Board. **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 31, 2017**

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

**Monday, January 1, 2018**

*Office closed*

**Tuesday, January 2, 2018**

10:30am Staff Meeting

**Thursday, January 4, 2018**

*Life Line Screening*

**Sunday, January 7, 2018**

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

**FLOWER CALENDAR:** A flower calendar for 2018 has been placed in the lobby by the fellowship hall. Please take a moment to go by and sign up for a Sunday or two to put flowers in the church.

**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.

**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. Today and this week following, plus next Sunday are our final opportunities in 2017 to make our gifts to the church.

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 THIRD STREET, CHERAW, SC 29520

843-537-7002

[www.cherawfirstumc.org](http://www.cherawfirstumc.org)



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

***A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP***

***DECEMBER 31, 2017***

***FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY***

***LITURGICAL COLOR: WHITE***

#### FUMC STAFF

Rev. Ken Timmerman, Pastor ([timmerman@sc.rr.com](mailto:timmerman@sc.rr.com))

Angie Smith, Ministry Assistant ([fumcangiesmith@gmail.com](mailto:fumcangiesmith@gmail.com))

Sara Sanderson, Director of Children/Youth ([saralsanderson@hotmail.com](mailto:saralsanderson@hotmail.com))

Mimi Coffey, Director of Child Development Ministry ([fccdm@yahoo.com](mailto:fccdm@yahoo.com))

Mary Lynn Watkins, Interim Music Director

**\*\*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.**

**PARSON TO PERSON**

I am grateful for the many clippings and stories many friends send to me. Below is a recent “offering” sent to me. As the New Year begins, I am one who declines to make resolutions about what I will improve. Instead I want to make decisions that will lead me to face life in a positive way because so many things in life are not easy.

IT IS NOT EASY  
To apologize,  
To begin over,  
To be unselfish,  
To take advice,  
To admit error,  
To face a sneer,  
To be charitable,  
To keep on trying,  
To be considerate,  
To endure success,  
To profit by mistakes,  
To forgive and forget,  
To think and then act,  
To keep out of the rut,  
To make the best of little,  
To subdue an unruly temper,  
To maintain a high standard,  
To shoulder a deserved blame,  
To recognize a silver lining,  
But it always pays.

Having faith and being servants of Christ will never be easy, but will bring forth a return on the investments we make. Sundays in January, I will be preaching about responding to the Lord’s word and working to make the world a better place. One of the places we do that is in worship. It is my desire that out of our children’s group meetings, we will have music on one Sunday a month from our group of children or from an individual child. This is something I have hoped for in every church I have served. Parents, please help by getting your children to their Wednesday evening gathering at the church with Sara. We will continue with Bible Study, and I hope it will grow stronger with more people involved. January 17 will begin our WATF (Wednesdays at the First), and we will finish our study on Max Lucado’s book, *Anxious for Nothing*, during the next few weeks. We will still seek more members for the choir. Lift up your voice and join the choir. At least eight more members are needed. Our goal is thirty. A new basketball goal will be put in place for our youth. I am convening a group of people to work with me and with Sara on the creation of a Youth Suite. We will not utilize the existing structure for this but will “create” elsewhere. Again, we need parental help is getting youth to Sunday evening gatherings. It is very important for their spiritual development. I will speak to creating Cottage Prayer Groups and will ask individuals in our neighborhoods to create opportunity for fellowship, prayer, and study to take place away from the church building and in homes. In the light of tragedies occurring in other churches as we see on the news, I will ask us to create a safety plan for our church and implement it this year. We will continue to speak about our Endowment Fund efforts and ask people to support this. It will work toward our church’s stable future. I will ask all of our church members to sacrificially give as we move into our future because a growing church will require more gifts. Please continue being greeters of new faces among us. You are the best ambassadors the church has.

I will have prepared a six-month preaching and music schedule by mid-January. I will share with you the focus of preaching for the beginning of 2018. I will prepare this schedule January 7-13. I covet your prayers during this time of reflection and study. 2018 is a time for us to PRESS ON for God’s glory and the building of First UMC in Cheraw. As the Spirit of Christ grows within us and the flame of the Spirit inspires us and the love of God binds us together...all things are possible. God bless you and yours and Happy New Year. *Ken Timmerman*

**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.*

**Call to Worship**

**\*Hymn No. 246** “Joy to the World” ANTIOCH

**\*Opening Prayer (In Unison)**

**We gather as people with grateful hearts for your gift of a Son. He will change every human heart and in changing us, he will change the world. We praise you for your way and how Jesus called himself that Way. Help us to surrender minds and hearts to your guidance and teachings that we might be the Body of Christ. We seek his mind rather than our own and ask you to inspire us to take being saved as a source of strength and hope. As Jesus brings light to this world, may we mirror his light and always pray in his holy name. 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** Lawton Harris  
**\*Doxology No. 95** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” OLD 100TH  
**\*Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

**\*Hymn No. 245** “The First Noel” THE FIRST NOEL

**Scripture** Psalm 23

**Sermon** “My Shepherd?” Rev. Ken Timmerman

**\*Hymn No. 219** “What Child Is This” GREENSLEEVES

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude** \*Please stand if able.

**SERVING TODAY**

**Greeters:** M&M Mac Atkinson **Head Usher:** Robert Calhoun  
**Lobby Door Greeter:** Jerry Therrell, Jerry Carter **Acolyte:** Leighton Becker  
**Nursery:** Caroline Berry & Michelle Rohde **Cross Bearer:** Sawyer Becker  
**Next Week’s Lay Reader:** Eric Dusa **McArn Items:** Drink mixes (Kool-Aid, lemonade, etc.)  
**Flowers Next Sunday:** Poinsettias **Hostess:** Marsha Butler  
**Counters:** Rhett Butler, Shelton Rumph