

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 (Brooke Freeman's Father-in-law), Lawton Harris, Jayne Burr Board, Sarah Jefferies Calhoun. **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, January 7, 2018
10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship Service

Monday, January 8, 2018
6:00pm Scout Meeting (Scout Hut)

Tuesday, January 9, 2018
10:30am Staff Meeting

Thursday, January 10, 2018
6:00pm Cub Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, January 14, 2018
8:30am UMM Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship Service

WELCOME BACK: We welcome Shane Robertson back to FUMC today. He is on vacation from the University of Montana, where he teaches. We are pleased to have him come back and visit.

THANK YOU: Thanks to all those that gave a donation to the Staff Christmas Fund, to those who brought goodies by the office, and to those who sent us Christmas cards and other gifts. We appreciate your kindness. *Ken, Sara, Angie, Mary Lynn, and Mimi*

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.

J.O.Y. CLUB: Will meet on Thursday, January 18 at noon. Reservations need to be made by noon on Monday, January 15. The meal will be shrimp creole and soups, the cost will be \$7.00.



SHEPHERD'S CHILD UPDATE

We have received all the bills for Shepherd's Child and we broke even this year. What a blessing!

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

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

A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

JANUARY 7, 2018

EPIPHANY SUNDAY BAPTISM OF THE LORD

LITURGICAL COLOR: WHITE

PARSON TO PERSON

A former Dean of Duke Chapel, Samuel Wells, has written a book entitled "Hanging by a Thread." In it he speaks to the answers faith provided and we knew by heart. He declares that those answers once confirmed what we already knew. That is no longer the case as the cross and the faith now provoke questions that leave our faith hanging by a thread. In fact, he states that the Jesus that belongs to today's church is one that gives an affirming thumbs-up to everything Christians set out to do...the one that makes a congregation a circle of holiness and a cradle of wholesomeness...that Jesus withers in the face of the cross. The church needs to be looking into the face of a crucified and resurrected Jesus. Today's new remote-control God has got nothing to do with Christianity. The Jesus of the new church is finished because no one wants to think about the cross. No one wants to think about what needs to be given up. People today want to think of what can be blessed. And many in our world want everything blessed even if it is a sin. The cheap grace that Dietrich Bonhoeffer spoke about has come to pass. People want grace without the cross and forgiveness without repentance. People come to church today to find what they want and to tell the church what they need. In my growing up days people came to the church to listen to what Christ has to say about life and how to be holy.

My son reminds me why this has happened to the church. He believes that everything can be negotiated. He rationalizes things to his advantage. This is not a criticism. It's just the current way of life. What my generation had that his generation lacks is the word "No." Today's church is not really about changing lives for many who attend. It's about being satisfied. Today's church provides counseling, nursery, a tax break place, and a place to put one's membership because it provides good community status. This is certainly not true for everyone, but it is true for some. Churches have services in our world today where the cross is never mentioned, the Bible is scoffed at, and the name of Jesus rarely mentioned. There are lessons about justice and other issues but not much talk about sin and repentance and forgiveness anymore.

Choices about missing church are easily made because all activities are the same for people today. The Church holds no power because it is just a thing to do. I'm not trying to be critical of people because the way of the world has changed. I'm being critical of those of us who stood by idly and let the world change. The busier people got the more they needed church days to give way to other choices. Therefore, Wednesday and Sundays are catch up times for a busy world. The quality of life today is of equal value to spiritual formation. The main difference is that some of our choices will not influence eternal destinations one day.

That is why I am planning for the first six months of our year together in 2018 to try to answer the question "What happened to the church and where has it gone?" From where I stand the church is life. From my point of view faith requires surrender to God. The church needs to be focal point where we gather to grow as disciples. Things that lead to anger and division are a waste of time in the church because it reveals how weak we are. Unity in Christ points to power and strength. 2018 will be a pivotal year for us here at First UMC. I hope and pray the ride will be a good one and the church that we can be will reappear.

Ken Timmerman

SENIOR ADULT EXCURTION: A day trip for adult seniors to include lunch, light shopping, and a show at the Carolina Opry Theater has been planned. The date for the day trip is Thursday, March 8, we will leave at 10:30am and go to the show at 4:00pm. Tickets for the show are \$37.60 each. Deadline for purchasing tickets is Monday, January 22, to reserve your ticket, please call the church office (843-537-7002) or Sara Sanderson (843-910-7987).



Lawton Harris plays for Christmas Party



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

SERVING TODAY

Greeter: Michelle Rohde

Lobby Door Greeters: Robert Calhoun, Theodore Burns

Nursery: Caroline Berry & Erika Kollitz

Next Week's Lay Reader: Leighton Becker

Flowers Next Sunday: OPEN

Counters: Thomas Samuel, Linda Smith, John Moore

Alternate Counters: Micki Lockey, Todd Becker

Worship Attendance, December 24 AM — 208; Worship Attendance, December 24 PM — 238;

Attendance in Sunday School, December 24 — 15

Attendance in Sunday School, December 31 — 15; Worship Attendance, December 31 — 238

Received to Date: \$398,001.34 (Includes \$16,663.50 from Contingency); Expenses to Date: \$398,309.21

Needed Weekly: \$6,968.15; Received Dec. 17 – Dec. 31: \$9,663.62

Head Usher: Robert Calhoun

Acolyte: Lawton Harris

Cross Bearer: Margaret Jean Harris

McArn Items: Canned vegetables

Hostess: Ruth Ann Jones

Head Ushers: Anthony Harris

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.**

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 asks for God's "hand's on" involvement in our lives. This prayer is our opening prayer for today. The words remain timely and timeless for Christian 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.*

Call to Worship

***Hymn No. 140**

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

FAITHFULNESS

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition (In Unison)

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low by thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. AMEN.

Life Lessons for Young Learners

Lighting 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**

***Doxology No. 95**

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

OLD 100TH

***Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

***Hymn No. 347**

"Spirit Song"

SPIRIT SONG

Scripture

John 1:15-17; 21-27

Sermon

"Genuinely Surprised"

Rev. Ken Timmerman

***Hymn No. 157**

"Jesus Shall Reign"

DUKE STREET

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

***Please stand if able.**



Caroline and Mary Crouse singing Christmas Eve AM Service