

**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), Jeff Treadaway (Angie Smith's friend), Terry Crocker (Dee Dee Crocker's husband), Gina Reid Merriman (Renie Seels' niece), Chris Thrailkill, David Freeman (Brooke Freeman's Father-in-law), Jayne Burr Board, Brother Redfearn (Pam Humphries' friend), Amy Catoe (Jenny Keefe's cousin), Helen Humphries (Steven Humphries' mother), Steve Bilby (Harold Lomas' friend), Joe Burch, Jr. (Mary Burr's friend), Anna Owens Linton (Jessica Shepard's sister), Margaret (Maggie) Bundrick (Mary Lynn Watkins' niece), Bett Auld (Beth Thrailkill's mother), Mattie Thomas (Norma Cobb's sister), Lynda Coleman (Jenny Outen's friend), Bob Campbell (Brenda Rayfield's brother), David Rohde (David Rohde's father). **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, March 18, 2018**

10:00am Sunday School  
11:00am Worship Service  
3:00pm UMW Quarterly Meeting (Fellowship Hall)  
5:00pm UMYF (Youth Hut/Fellowship Hall)

**Monday, March 19, 2018**

6:00pm Scout Meeting (Scout Hut)  
*April Newsletter Deadline*

**Tuesday, March 20, 2018**

1:30pm Staff Meeting  
2:00pm *Deadline for Bulletin*

**Wednesday, March 21, 2018**

10:30am Grief Share (Parlor)  
12:00pm Lenten Lunch (Baptist Church)  
5:30pm WATF Meal (Fellowship Hall)  
6:30pm Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)  
6:30pm UMKF (Kid's Nook)  
7:30pm Choir Practice (Choir Room)

**Thursday, March 22, 2018**

6:00pm Cub Scouts

**Sunday, March 25, 2018**

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

**UMW QUARTERLY MEETING:** Sunday, March 18 at 3:00pm in the fellowship hall. Jimmie Williamson will present the program and talk about his recent trip to India. Our mission project for this meeting will be to bring items for our food pantry.

**WEDNESDAYS AT THE FIRST:** Our study in Ephesians this week will be Ephesians 2:11-17 as we study the Peace of Christ. Menu: Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert, tea and coffee. Eat at 5:30pm, \$7.00 per person, maximum of \$21.00 for a family.

**FOOD PANTRY REALLY LOW:** We are in need of items for our pantry.

MEATS: Spam, canned salmon, tuna, canned chicken, Vienna sausage, potted meat, Hormel completes. SOUPS: All varieties with flip top. VEGETABLES: canned corn, canned green beans, pork and beans, Chef Boy R Dee, succotash, dried beans, dried peas, Spaghetti O's, chili, Idaho potato flakes, boxed macaroni and cheese, roman noodles. BREAD, CEREALS and FRUITS: cereal boxes and bags, saltines, Lance crackers, instant grits, instant oatmeal, rice cakes, Nutra-grain bars, pop tarts, canned fruit, Little Debbie cakes, dried fruits, fruit cocktail, apple sauce, fruit snack packets. OTHER ITEMS: peanuts, jelly, peanut butter, syrup, fiber bars, pickles, pudding, raisins, chips. DRINKS: water, canned milk, dried milk, Gatorade, canned or bottled juices. PERSONAL ITEMS: toothbrush, bars of soap, wash cloths, toothpaste, dish soap, deodorant, plastic bags.

**HOW TO GROW A CHURCH:** 1. Grow in your faith and get stronger each day. 2. Make Sunday worship a joy to attend and not a chore.

**COLLEGE STUDENTS:** In the next few weeks, Ken will be travelling to our different colleges and universities to have a meal with our students. Therefore, there will be days he will be out of the office.

**EASTER SCHEDULE:** Maundy Thursday Service, March 20 at 7:00pm; Easter Sunday Sunrise Service, April 1 at 6:30am on the Church porch; Sunday School at 9:45am; Easter Worship at 11:00am. Bring flowers for the Easter cross as is our custom.

**CHOIR SCHEDULE:** If you are interested in participating in the Easter music, please join us for choir practice sessions. The schedule is: Sunday, March 18, 9:00am; Saturday, March 24, 9:00am; Sunday, March 25, 9:00am; Wednesday, March 28, 7:30pm; Thursday, March 29, Maundy Thursday, we sing! Sunday, April 1, Easter time to be announced.

**FUMC STAFF**

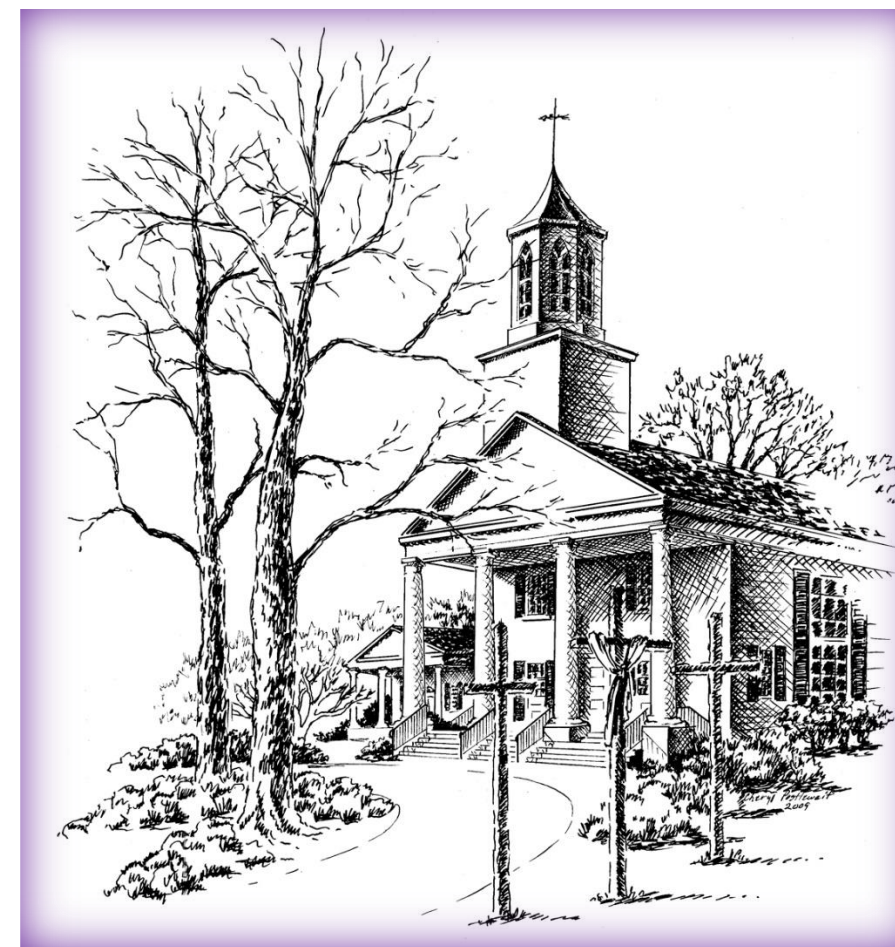
**Rev. Ken Timmerman, Pastor (timmerman@sc.rr.com)**  
**Angie Smith, Ministry Assistant (fumcangiesmith@gmail.com)**  
**Sara Sanderson, Director of Children/Youth (saralsanderson@hotmail.com)**  
**Mimi Coffey, Director of Child Development Ministry (fccdm@yahoo.com)**  
**Mary Lynn Watkins, Interim Music Director**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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

**A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

**MARCH 18, 2018**

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**LITURGICAL COLOR: PURPLE**

## PARSON TO PERSON

Fred Craddock tells of a debate in the state of Missouri some years ago about a passage of Scripture: Whoever believes and is baptized shall be saved. This preacher, redheaded, red beard, and ferocious, said to Fred, “Do you believe in the Bible?” “Yeah,” answered Fred. Here’s how the rest of the debate unfolded:

Preacher: “What does it say? Read it.”

Fred: “I read it to the people gathered.”

Preacher: “Do you believe that?”

Fred: “Well, of course, I believe that. But if you have a case of a child who dies on the seventh day of its life, or the ninth day of its life, it had no chance to believe or be baptized.”

Preacher: “Does it say ‘except’?”

Fred: “But what about people that don’t have their mental faculties.?”

Preacher: “Does it say ‘except’?”

Fred: And we went at it, back and forth. I wound up as the bleeding-heart liberal who didn’t believe the Bible, and he came off looking like the stone statue of truth, holding up the word of Christ. (*Fred B. Craddock, Craddock Stories, page 101*)

I wonder if the preacher “got married only because it was better than burning with lust.” If his children were disrespectful, did he have them stoned? Does he handle snakes? If his hand committed a sin, did he have it cut off? I am sure his answers would be “no.” His rigid spirit is making a point instead of answering Fred’s questions. Making points can provide little room for questions. Yet, it was Jesus who taught us the value of questioning and learning about God. It’s okay to have a life that doesn’t know all the answers. Questions help us seek and grow. Our preacher “friend” has forgotten that.

Reading the Bible and affirming Scripture does not indicate faith. Faith is a relationship with God. The Scriptures lead us to relationship with God. This relationship is dependent on prayer, questions, the cross, the resurrection, inspired truth, and God’s grace. Our ever-growing faith must be about “who we know” as well as “what we know.” But the WHO will always be greater than the WHAT.

As the Body of Christ, we have much to learn. It takes a lifetime! As the Church, we put our lives into Christ’s own heart and invite him to rule ours. We are part of the Christian FAITH...not the Christian FACTS. As believers, we have nothing to prove as followers of Christ other than we follow him where he leads. Some places he leads us are easy and others are hard. Yet, he is with us and in us every step of the way. I love the Bible and I study it. It leads me closer to Jesus. Some Christians like to flaunt their knowledge of Scripture before others, and all that does is diminish chances of people wanting to read the Bible. Open your hands and hearts to the Lord’s truth for what it can and will do to you. That’s better than a preacher who hits people over the head with strict interpretations of the Bible that have no room for questions, and little room for growth into the faith. Our following Christ is motivated by his love for us all and his truth which helps us grow in the faith by the questions we ask. *Ken Timmerman*

**FINAL LENTEN LUNCH OF 2018:** First Baptist on Wednesday at 12:00 noon.

**FUMC BBQ:** The FUMC and Boy Scout Troop 655 Spring BBQ is scheduled for Saturday, April 7 from 11am-2pm. Tickets are printed and are ready to sell. If you would like to help sell tickets, please contact Angie in the church office. We try to sell tickets before the day of the BBQ as weather is always a concern. Any church member or friend of the church can volunteer to sell tickets. Thank You.

**EASTER EGG HUT:** The Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, March 31 at 10:00am.

### SERVING TODAY

**Greeter:** M&M Harold Lomas

**Lobby Door Greeter:** Jim Crawford, Rhett Butler

**Nursery:** Caroline Berry & Nancy Wagnon

**Next Week’s Lay Reader:** Sophia Prevatte

**Flowers Next Sunday:** Palm Sunday

**Counters:** Jeff Johnson, Betty Hurst, Jerry Therrell

**Alternate Counters:** --David McLean, Walter Crosby

**Worship Attendance, March 11 - 146; Sunday School Attendance, March 11 - 77**

**Received to Date:** \$105,160.86; **Expenses to Date:** \$99,395.50

**Needed Weekly:** \$7,269.25; **Received Sunday, March 11:** \$2,382.00

**Head Usher:** Theodore Burns

**Acolyte:** Alex Lee

**Cross Bearer:** Lydia Lee

**Hostess:** Lib Norton

**McArn Items:** Paper products

## 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.

**Call to Worship** “What A Mighty God We Serve”

**\*Hymn No. 128** “He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought” HE LEADETH ME

**\*Confession Prayer (In Unison)**

**We confess that our center is not always you, O God. With words, we declare that you are our hope of glory, yet through our living, we reveal other things that figure into our hope. Forgive us for thinking that life is left for us to figure out and to define. Forgive us when our faith doesn’t match our mountains. Restore to us the connection our faith grants us to know you and love you. Put us to the task, and help us perform our task of being the church. For we pray in the name of Jesus, who calls us His body. Amen.**

**Declaration Of Forgiveness (by the Pastor):**

May the almighty and pardoning God who caused light to shine....shine into our darkness and forgive our sin and cleanse us from unrighteousness. Amen

**Life Lessons for Young Learners**

**Responsive Psalter Reading No. 785** Psalm 51:1-17 Jacob Rohde, Lay Reader

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

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Morning Prayer/The Lord’s Prayer**

**Gathering God’s Tithes and Our Offerings**

**\*Offertory** “Thy Will Be Done” *Mary Crouse, Soprano*

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

**\*Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

**\*Hymn No. 2069** “All Hail King Jesus” KING JESUS

**Scripture** Colossians 2:6-10

**Sermon** “Stay in Love with God” Rev. Ken Timmerman

**\*Hymn No. 298** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” HAMBURG

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

**\*Please stand if able.**

*.The flowers are place in the sanctuary today to the glory of God and in honor of our church and church family and in memory of Dick Griggs and Flo Outen by Scott, Gini, Cameron and Greer Eddins.*