

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

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LITURGICAL COLOR: PURPLE

A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

*****Please take a moment and silence your cellphone for the duration of the worship service.***

The Chiming of the Hour and Prelude are times during which we quiet ourselves, centering our hearts and minds in preparation for worship. Please use those times not for socializing but for prayer and meditation. This is a sacred time when God communes with his people.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Amy & Harrison Goodwin

PRELUDE

Peyton Taylor and Jessica Elvington

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING PRAYER**

FIRST READING PSALM 71: 1-8 (Read Responsively)

In you, O LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.

Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth.

Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.

I have been like a portent to many, but you are my strong refuge.

My mouth is filled with your praise, and with your glory all day long.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader: The psalmist and the prophet remind us that you are our hope and that your Son is a great light sent to us to dispel the darkness.

We light this first candle of Advent as a sign of our hope. The hope that you will see us and guide us to Emmanuel once again this Advent season.

People: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

BLESSING OF THE CHRISMON TREE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "THE APOSTLES CREED"**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

Born of the Virgin Mary,

Suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, dead, and buried;

The third day he rose from the dead;

He ascended into heaven

And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

The holy catholic church

The communion of saints,

The forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body,

And the life everlasting. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI (Spoken in Unison)**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.
World without end, Amen, Amen.

MORNING PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN**

"Make Room" By Casting Crowns

Words in Bulletin

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9: 1-7

Rev. Debra Armstrong

SERMON

An Advent Journey: Hope

***HYMN**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Words in Bulletin

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

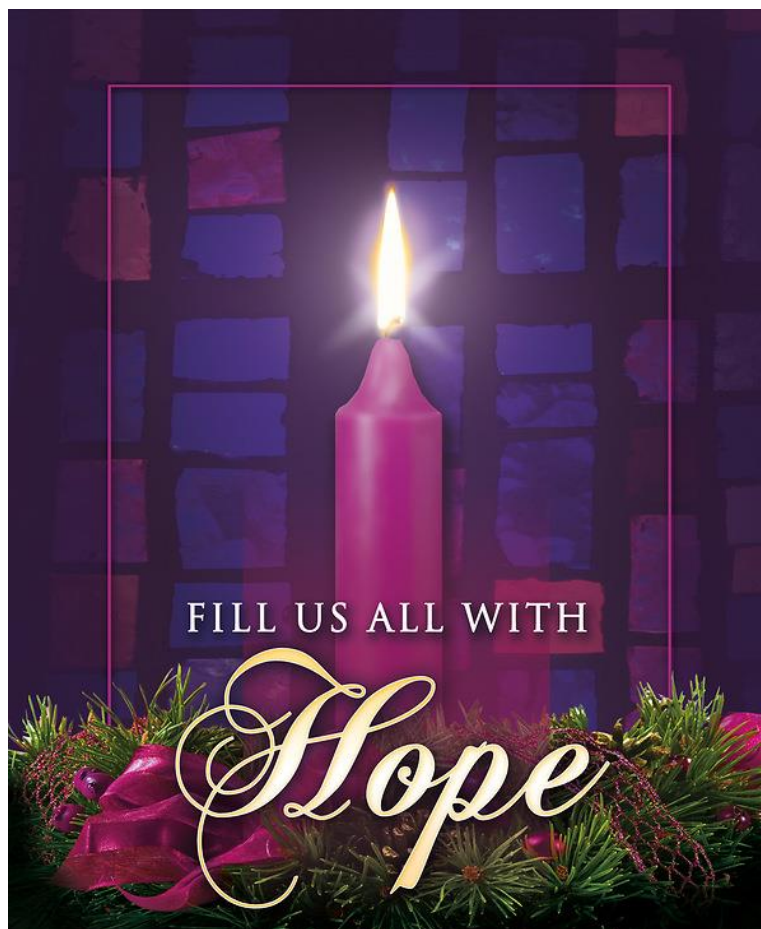
Peyton Taylor and Jessica Elvington

Please leave your offering in the basket near the door as you exit

Theodore Burns

**Please stand if able*

***REMINDER—MASKS ARE REQUIRED WHILE IN THE CHURCH BUILDING, INCLUDING
WHILE IN THE SANCTUARY.***



Make Room

Casting Crowns (Feat. Matt Maher)

Family hiding from the storm
Found no place at the keeper's door
It was for this a Child was born
To save a world so cold and hollow

The sleeping town did not know
That lying in a manger low
A Savior King who had no home
Has come to heal our sorrows

Is there room in your heart
Is there room in your heart
Is there room in your heart
For God to write His story

Shepherds counting sheep in the night
Do not fear the glory light
You are precious in His sight
God has come to raise the lowly

Is there room in your heart
Is there room in your heart
Is there room in your heart
For God to write His story
You can come as you are
But it may set you apart
When you make room in your heart
And trade your dreams for His glory
Make room in your heart
Make room in your heart

Mother holds the Promise tight
Every wrong will be made right
The road is straight and the burden's light
For in His hands He holds tomorrow

Is there room in your heart
Is there room in your heart
Is there room in your heart
For God to write His story
You can come as you are
But it may set you apart
When you make room in your heart
And trade your dreams for His glory
Make room in your heart
Make room in your heart
Make room in your heart
Make room in your heart

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 196

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy
 2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,
 yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

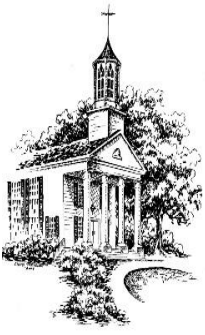
let us find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -
 now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of
 spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf -

ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744
 MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

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THE CONNECTION

Volume 15, Issue 47

November 29, 2020

The Mission of First United Methodist Church is to win and nurture souls for Jesus Christ by sharing and living the message of salvation.

www.cherawfirstumc.org

A Few Words from the Pastor...

On Sunday, November 29th, we once again begin the season in our church calendar that we call the Advent season. Advent means “arrival.” During the four weeks of the Advent season we prepare our hearts, our minds, and our souls for the arrival of the Lord Jesus Christ. We prepare to celebrate his first arrival, his birth. We also anticipate, prepare, and celebrate the promise that one day he will come again.

Charles Wesley’s hymn, “*Come , Thou Long Expected Jesus,*” proclaims that Jesus in the long expected one, the Messiah, the one all of Israel waited for hundreds of years to see. In the church today we experience this long expectation, this waiting, this hunger, for the arrival of the anointed Son of God during Advent. The difference for us is that Jesus arrived. He was born, lived, died, and rose again to set us free.

Our faith in Jesus releases us from bondage to sin, to death, and to fear. Because Jesus lived, died, and rose again we live abundant lives as forgiven people in the now but not yet completed work of God on this earth. We have consolation, strength, hope, and joy in our hearts and in our lives now and we know that there will be even more when Jesus returns for his second arrival.

With the restrictions of COVID-19 it might be tempting to rush to and through the Advent and the Christmas seasons this year. Let’s not do that. Instead let us take this pause built into our Christian calendar to make sure we are ready for the arrival of the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the Mighty Counselor, the Good Shepherd, the Messiah, the Holy One, the Lamb of God, the Logos, the Light of the world, the bread of Life, the Savior, the Redeemer who will reign forever and ever. Let us savor this time together as we anticipate and then celebrate the arrival of Jesus the Christ together.

Pastor Debra

OUR PRAYER LIST — Our President, our Congress, all Governors, Mayors, State, County, and Local employees, all health care workers, EMT's, all who defend our nation, all who make decisions for our nation, Jane Mayhew, Jane Campbell, Jeff Foster, Mabel Foster, Betty Thraikill, Sarah Margaret Therrell, Jim Bennett, Margaret Stanton, Tony Thraikill, Rebecca Baker, Dare Marsh, Phillip Caulder, Connie Williamson, JoAnne Morgan, Walker Laney Family. **NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notified.**



There Is Still Time to Participate in the 2021 Stewardship Campaign

One of the acts of gratitude that is essential for the life of our church is for us to generously offer our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. God has given us everything we have and asks that we give back by supporting our church. If you were not able to take part on Commitment Sunday, you can mail in or bring your pledge card to the church. It takes all of us offering our first and best to God for our church to thrive.



THANK YOU: Thank you to all who supported our Operation Christmas Child shoebox Ministry this year! Your love and kindness made it possible for 51 children to feel your love and the love of Jesus. I appreciate everyone filling a shoebox, making a donation, and your prayers for these boxes and all the children who will receive them. Thanks for all your support. Jenny Keefe



Shepherd's Child Christmas Party

We will have a little different format this year due to COVID-19, so we will need more volunteers to help the day of the party. Please let Trina Mills know if you are willing to help.

The Shepherd's Child Christmas party will be Dec. 18 at 1:00 p.m. We plan to have 36 children. The names of the children will be ready for you to choose on Sunday, November 29th as you enter church. You can also come by the church during office hours to choose a name.

If you would like someone to shop for your child, you can donate money for your child. We also need monetary donations to purchase supplies for the party.

To make a monetary donation for your child's gifts or to help with supplies for the party, you may give the money to Trina Mills, to Angie Smith in the church office. or put it in the offering plate labeled Shepherd's Child Party.

With your help, we will be able to have a successful party for these children even in the midst of a pandemic.

Your Help Needed!

We do not currently have a person on staff to provide music for worship. Volunteer musicians are providing the music for the prelude and postlude each Sunday. We are using recordings of hymns. If you can play the guitar, piano, organ we need your help to provide music for our worship service in this transition. Please contact Jenny Keefe at 843-601-2586 and offer to share your God-given talents with our church.



We have some needs for our food pantry. It is helpful to have items that have pull-top lids. Food for the pantry may be dropped off at the church on Sundays or Tuesday – Thursday during office hours. Items needed at this time are:

- Canned meat
- Canned Meals—Beef Stew, Ravioli, Beenie Weenies, etc.
- Ramen Noodles
- Canned fruit (we have plenty of applesauce)
- Instant Grits
- Instant Oatmeal
- Low sugar nutritious cereal

Individual packs of cookies, cheese crackers, peanut butter crackers, etc.

PAINTING CLASS: Beth Maier, a local artist, helped us last year get funds for the Shepherd's Child party. I have planned a painting lesson for December 2 at 6:30pm at her studio in Teal's Mill or at Mt. Olivet, depending on the number we have. Beth donates her time, her supplies, and we pay \$25.00 to paint. She lets us keep the money for the Shepherd's Child Party and we have a neat picture, too. Social distancing will be in place. Please join us. If you can attend, please call Trina Mills at 843-910-0518.

GIVE TO THE MCARN FOOD BANK IN HONOR OF SOMEONE SPECIAL: If you normally give a gift to a special friend, but would like to do something different this year, why not give a monetary donation to the McArn Food Bank in honor of that special person. These donations can be dropped in the offering plate on Sunday, brought by the church office during office hours, or mailed directly to McArn Food Bank, 131 Second Street, Cheraw, SC 29520. Along with your donation, please put who the donation is given in honor of, their address, and your name and address, for notes to be sent to them about the donation.

BOOK AVAILABLE: Copies of the book titled "Resurrection, A Pastor's Reading of the Major New Testament Resurrection Passages" by Pastor Phil Thrailkill, are available in the church office. They are \$15.00 each and the money is being donated to FUMC.

OFFICE HOURS THE WEEK OF CHRISTMAS: The office will be open on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, December 21, December 22, and December 23 the week of Christmas.

J.O.Y CLUB: The J.O.Y Club will not meet anymore this year, but plans are being made to meet on Thursday, January 21, 2021, providing Covid is gone and things are safe to meet at that time.

HEAD USHERS NEEDED: If you would like to head usher, please call Theodore Burns at 843-287-1836 or Angie Smith at 843-537-7002.

PASTORAL VISITS: Pastor Debra is scheduling pastoral care visits. These will be porch or driveway visits and the pastor will wear a mask. Please do not wait for a scheduled time if you need pastoral care. Pastor Debra is available by email, phone, text, and video chat. The pastor's contact information is: Church Office: 843-537-7002; Cell Phone: 843-253-3132; or email daarmstrong@umcsc.org.

FACEBOOK FAN? As you are hopefully aware, during this extended time of social distancing due to the coronavirus, your FUMC staff has continued to try to keep you informed through the various means of emails, One Calls, personal phone calls, and our FUMC Facebook page! Please know that as we continue to "endure" some extended social distancing protocol, your FUMC staff will continue to post pictures, comics, and uplifting messages in order that we might "stay connected". If you would like to share something uplifting or humorous with our FUMC family via the FUMC Facebook page, please submit your post to Angie at: fumcangiesmith@gmail.com.

MEMORIAL GIFTS: If you would like to give an "in memory" gift to FUMC, you may designate it to any area listed below: Contingency Fund, Endowment Fund, Memorial Fund, Music Fund, Adult Exercise Class, Salkehatchie Summer Service, Bus Fund, Youth Ministries, Children's Ministries, Building Upkeep Fund, Parsonage Upkeep Fund, Grounds Upkeep Fund, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Flower Fund, and named Scholarships. Call the church office for more information.

DID YOU KNOW? First UMC offers a Nurture and Care Ministry. If you have a loved one who could use a visit and/or a word of cheer, and/or if you know of a shut-in who needs some care and attention, please contact the church office. Please note that while our Nurture and Care volunteers have "re-modeled" their ways of reaching out due to our current social distancing recommendations, they are continuing to contact shut-ins via phone calls, greeting cards, and porch "deliveries"! So please let us know if there is someone of whom you are aware who would appreciate some extra TLC!

A MINISTRY OF SERVICE: Our Nurture and Care Committee offers a transport ministry by members of First UMC. If you or a loved one needs a ride to a doctor's appointment or a medical errand, please call the church office. We have several volunteers on the roster who are willing to give you a lift, in strict compliance with the current COVID-19 guidelines. Please don't hesitate to call the church office if you are in need of this valuable ministry of service to others!

*Wonderful
counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting
father,
Prince
of Peace*

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

December 6 Jap Roddy
December 7 Jacob Rohde
December 10 Chase Watson
December 12 Michelle Rohde
December 14 Lynn Tweed, Pam Humphries
December 16 Ellison Outen, Harold Lomas
December 18 James Tweed
December 19 Jane Rumph, Billy Wicker, Kaleb Keefe
December 20 Tom Rollings
December 21 Renie Seel
December 22 William Keith Smith, III (Tripp)
December 23 Allan Chapman, Sam Eubanks
December 25 Alayna Carabo, David Rohde
December 29 Marcia Butler
December 30 Jacquelyn Bette Tomberlin

ANNIVERSARIES

December 23 M&M Pete Baker, M&M John Moore



**American
Red Cross**

**The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™**

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

BLOOD DRIVE

When: Tuesday Dec. 1st

Times: 1:00pm – 6:00pm

**Where: First United Methodist Church
In the Fellowship Hall**

**To schedule your appointment please call Angie Smith at
843-537-7002 or go to www.redcrossblood.org and use
sponsor code FUMCcheraw**

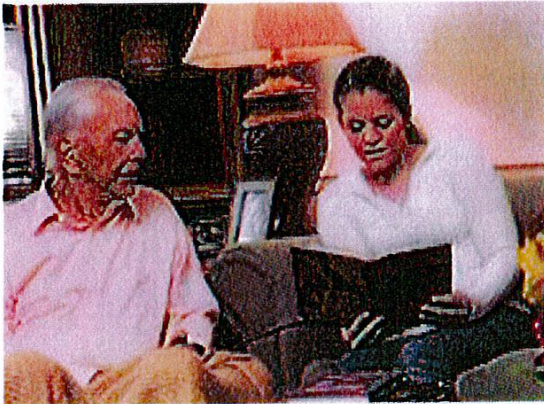
*All presenting donors will be entered into a drawing for a chance to
win and Outdoor Living Experience powered by Propane!*

**ALL DONATIONS WILL BE TESTED FOR THE COVID19
ANTIBODIES**

Become a Hospice Volunteer

Crescent Hospice Needs You!

Apply Today & Sign Up for Training



Crescent Hospice provides end of life care that listens with respect, cares with compassion, supports with choice, and confronts with understanding. Wherever one calls home.

Some ways you can help include providing companionship or providing respite so a family member can take a break. Are you willing to donate your time and talents to make a difference in someone's life?

Share Memories

Hold a Hand

Sing Song

Walk a dog

Be a Friend

Read

Bake

Write a letter

To Learn more contact:

Andrea Perkins, Volunteer Coordinator
843-439-9207 AndreaPerkins@hospicesc.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 29, 2020

10:00am **NO** Sunday School
10:00am Worship in Sanctuary
5:30-7:00pm UMYF
5:00pm **NO** Fireflies

Monday, November 30, 2020

Church Office Closed
5:00pm **NO** Plarn Meeting (Kinsey Mulloy Classroom)
6:00pm **NO** Cub Scouts (Fellowship Hall)
6:30pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
12:00pm December 6 Bulletin Deadline
11:00am **NO** Adult Exercise with Betsy Vaughn (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
7:00pm Living Prayer Bible Study

Thursday, December 3, 2020

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
10:00am-11:00am Living Prayer Bible Study
6:00pm SPRC Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, December 6, 2020

10:00am **NO** Sunday School
10:00am Worship in Sanctuary
5:30-7:00pm UMYF
5:00pm **NO** Fireflies

IN MEMORY OR HONOR

In Memory of Claretha Bridges Hooks

Lib Norton

In Memory of George Sanabria-Flores

Lib Norton

In Memory of Ray Hahn

Lib Norton

In Memory of Betty Brown Caulder

Craig, Derek, and Lib Norton

In Honor of M&M Walter Crosby

M&M Glenn Marsh

McArn Items: Drink mixes and crackers

Head Usher: Eric Dusa

FUMC STAFF

Rev. Debra Armstrong, Pastor (daarmstrong@umcsc.org) 843-537-7002 O 843-253-3132 C

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

Holly Haire, Child Development Ministry Director (fccdm@yahoo.com)

Now Hiring! - Music Director