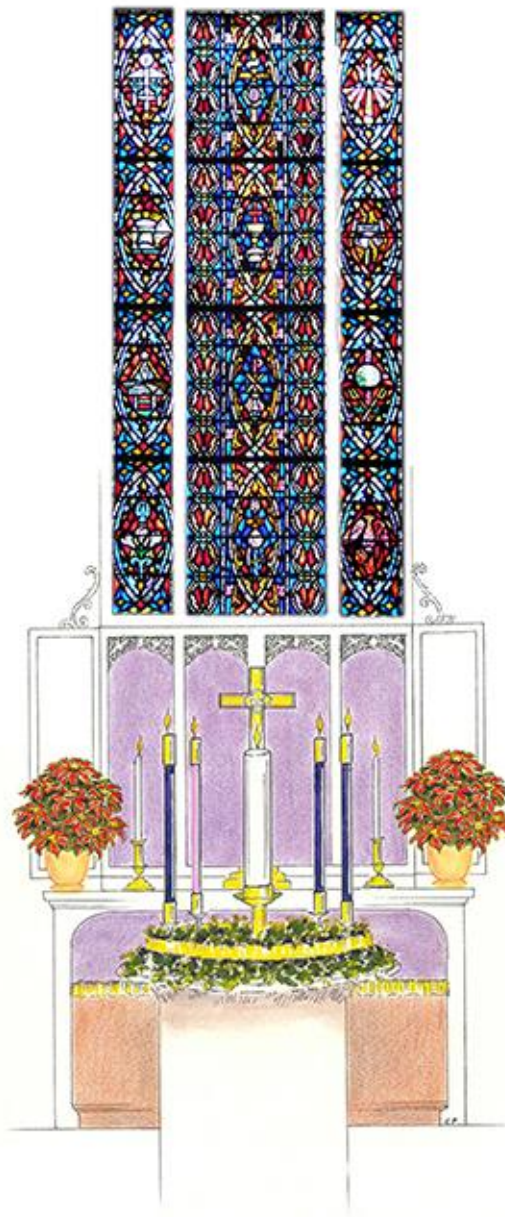


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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 13, 2020

THIRD 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

Renie Seel and Peyton Taylor

PRELUDE

“Joy to the World”

Bryson Hunter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

FIRST READING

Micah 5: 2-5a

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader: The prophets remind us that joy comes in unexpected places. We rejoice with Mary and Bethlehem that Emmanuel was born and lived among us to bring good news of great joy to all the world.

We light this candle as a sign of joy. The joy of knowing that Emmanuel is present with us and brings us joy in expected and unexpected places.

People: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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

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

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Words in Bulletin

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 61:4

SERMON

HYMN

“Alive and Breathing” (Matt Maher)

Words in Bulletin

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Bryson Hunter

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

Theodore Burns

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



216 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in
 3. O Flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, as those of old have
 mind; with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Moth - er
 air, dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery -

sung. It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the
 kind. To show God's love a - right, she bore to
 where. True man yet ver - y God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 us a Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

WORDS: Sts. 1-2, 15th cent. German; trans. by Theodore Baker, 1894; st. 3 from
The Hymnal, 1940 (Is. 35:1-2)

MUSIC: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. by Michael Praetorius, 1609

ES IST EIN ROS
 76.76.676

St. 3 © 1940, 1943, renewed 1971 The Church Pension Fund

PROMISED COMING, *see further:*

720 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

ALIVE AND BREATHING

Matt Maher (feat. Elle Limebear)

What holds your heart
What stirs your soul
What matters come to mind
The cares you keep
The thoughts you think
It's not all wasted time
Seek and you will find

Joy still comes in the morning
Hope still walks with the hurting
If you're still alive and breathing
Praise the Lord
Don't stop dancing and dreaming
There's still Good News worth repeating
So lift your head and keep singing
Praise the Lord

Years roll by
We wonder why
We lost our way from home
Our Father finds
The child inside
We had left for growing old
Awake, awake, awake my soul

Joy still comes in the morning
Hope still walks with the hurting
If you're still alive and breathing
Praise the Lord
Don't stop dancing and dreaming
There's still Good News worth repeating

So lift your head and keep singing
Praise the Lord

Let everything, let everything, let
everything
Praise the Lord

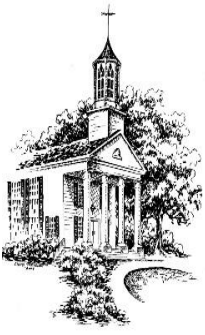
In the working, in the waiting
Praise the Lord

In the blessing, in the breaking
Praise the Lord

In the dying, the rising
Let it praise the Lord
Let it praise the Lord
Praise the Lord

Joy still comes in the morning
Hope still walks with the hurting
If you're still alive and breathing
Praise the Lord
Don't stop dancing and dreaming
There's still Good News worth repeating
So lift your head and keep singing
Praise the Lord

Joy still comes in the morning
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Don't stop dancing and dreaming
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THE CONNECTION

Volume 15, Issue 49

December 13 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...

For the joy of the Lord is your strength. Nehemiah 8:10

The focus of this third week of Advent is Joy. The Word of God is full of images and messages about joy. “In the English Standard Version of the Bible, the word joy, rejoice, or joyful appears 430 times.”¹ This joy is not a fleeting emotion or ideal circumstance. It is a gift of God that transcends the circumstances and events in our lives. Joy breaks through even the darkest of times bringing a smile to our face, lessening the burdens we carry, and giving us hope. Joy inspires our faith and encourages our hearts, minds, and souls.

Scripture names joy as a fruit of the Spirit that is Holy Spirit breathed into our lives.² We are filled with joy because God is our refuge in times of trouble.³ We know that while pain, sorrow, and mourning come into our lives on the darkest nights, God brings the light of joy in the morning.⁴ We have amazing joy because the outcome of our faith in Christ Jesus is our salvation.⁵

My favorite verse about joy is Nehemiah 8:10. It brings me great joy to know that God rejoices in us and God’s joy gives us the strength we need to live our lives for Jesus as we wait for him to return. There is a children’s Christian camp song called *Joy in My Heart*. I love how it expresses this wonderful gift of JOY from our Lord. Here it is as we used to sing it at camp. “I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart. Where? Down in my heart. Where? Down in my heart. I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart. Where? Down in my heart to stay.”⁶



May the joy of the Lord give us strength, and hope, and faith as we continue our Advent journey together!

Pastor Debra

¹ Auld, Liz, *Joy*, Crosswalk.com, 2020

² Galatians 5:22-23

³ Psalm 5:11

⁴ Psalm 30:5

⁵ 1 Peter 1:8-9

⁶ Cooke, George William, *Joy in My Heart*, 1925


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, Dare Marsh, Phillip Caulder, Connie Williamson, JoAnne Morgan, Sherry Cox, Eric Garris (Mary Burr's friend), Taylor Novinger (Dr. Novinger's son), Randy Butler, Mary-Mallete Wood, Christy Moore (Sally Smith'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.**

A mask worn incorrectly is not safe or effective.

ARE YOU WEARING YOUR MASK CORRECTLY?



Make sure:

-  Your nose, mouth, and chin are covered.
-  Your straps should hold your mask snugly around your face without any gaps.



Thank You For Your Cooperation With Our COVID-19 Safety Protocols!

- Enter Through Office Lobby
- Temperature Checks
- Exit Through Sanctuary Front Doors after Worship as Directed by Ushers
- Maintain 6ft Distance
- No Singing
- Wear Masks Properly and the Entire Time You Are in the Church

Pledges Reach Two Thirds Mark Towards 2021 Budget

The Stewardship Committee is grateful for the progress so far in our pledge campaign. Thanks to all of you who have made commitments for 2021. If you have not turned in your pledge card yet, please turn it in by the end of December. Pledge cards may be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church, brought into, called in or emailed to the church office.

The church office email is fumcangiesmith@gmail.com and phone number is 843-537-7002.



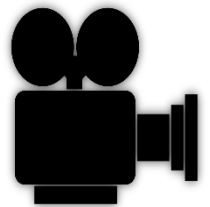
Thursday, December 24th at 6:00 p.m.

We are planning to worship together on Christmas Eve. If the coronavirus case count in our county continues to climb to unsafe levels, we will need to cancel this service. The final decision will be made on Monday, December 21st and the congregation will be notified using our one-call notification system.



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 **Sunday, December 20**. This is a good way to express our appreciation to the staff for the work that they do! *Staff-Parish Relations Committee*

If you are unable to attend a worship service in the sanctuary but wish to view this service at a later date, FUMC now provides you a means to do so. Simply go to the church's website at cherawfirstumc.org, click on the tab labeled "Video Sermon Archive" and then select the service you wish to view. Each Sunday's worship service and accompanying bulletin is usually available by 2pm the day of the service.



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.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Jerry and Julia Tucker on the birth of their grandson, Andrew Boykin, on November 30. Parents are Phillip and Heather Tucker.

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.

ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE: Have you considered remembering the church in your will/bequests? The Endowment can grow through your special giving, if you would like to make a contribution to this fund, mark on the “for line” of your check Endowment Fund.



SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS: PRACTICAL HINTS FROM GRIEFSHARE:

- Recognize that the holidays are going to be tough – emotionally, relationally, physically, spiritually.
- Set realistic expectations for yourself, understanding your limitations.
- Pray and ask God to help you. Be intentional. Just because you don't feel God's presence, does not mean He's not there.
- Emotional ambushes – when you pull out Christmas ornaments, when you set the holiday table, in a store when you are shopping. Expect emotional ambushes. It won't stop them, but expectation will help lessen the surprise factor. Emotions are natural and God given – sadness, loneliness, anger. You may want to journal your feelings. It gives you a place to release pent-up emotions. It can be a healing tool for your eyes only.
- Think in advance which activities and traditions have the potential to be hard-hitting. You don't have to do everything you have always done. Having a plan helps keep you from becoming overwhelmed.
- Taking care of your physical health is important. Get enough rest, get some exercise and sunlight and make wise food choices. Be intentional about self-care.
- Gift giving can be strenuous. Consider passing on something special that belonged to your loved one. Give a gift to a cause important to your loved one in lieu of presents.
- If you are fortunate enough to be with your family, sit around the dinner table or Christmas tree and talk about your loved one. Share good memories, lessons learned from your loved one, and character traits to exemplify. Your loved one's legacy lives on through you and through all the people your loved one touched in life.
- Thankfulness is a healing too. There's always something to be thankful for. Write these down.
- One way to take focus off of your pain is to reach out to help others while you are hurting. A phone call, a text message, a card to someone homebound or with no family in the area. Adopt a needy child or family for Christmas.
- Griefshare is there to encourage you. If you have not done so already, log on to Griefshare.org and sign up for the daily encouraging emails you will receive for one year. We hope to start a new 13 week Griefshare series in the Spring. Watch for details

Bonnie J. Cundiff and Susan Marsh, Griefshare Facilitators

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.

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!

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!

IN MEMORY OR HONOR

In Memory of Walker & Jay Laney

Betty Thrailkill

In Memory of Joe Bradham

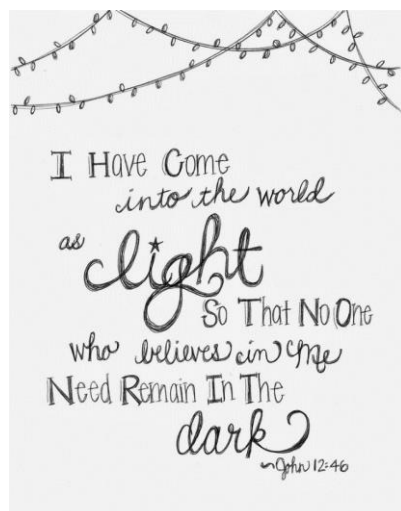
M&M Keith Smith, M&M Rhett Butler

In Memory of Jerry Therrell

M&M Mickey Sullivan

In Honor of Ellison Outen

M&M Mickey Sullivan



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 13, 2020

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

Monday, December 14, 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 15, 2020

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
11:00am **NO** Adult Exercise with Betsy Vaughn (Fellowship Hall)
12:00pm December 20 Bulletin Deadline
2:00pm Wreath Making (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
6:30pm Living Prayer Bible Study

Thursday, December 17, 2020

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
10:00am-11:00am Living Prayer Bible Study

Sunday, December 20, 2020

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

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

McArn Items: Peanut butter, jelly
Head Usher: Theodore Burns
Attendance December 6: 53

Year to Date Received: \$311,370.99
Year to Date Expenses: \$317,821.12