

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 20, 2020

FOURTH 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

Angela Holliday and Bryson Hunter

PRELUDE

Jed Reid

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader: Prophets predicted it, Angels announced it, and Mary embraced the good news that she would carry and give birth to God's son. This son, God with us, Emmanuel comes with the Advent gift of peace.

We light this candle as sign of peace. The peace of God that surpasses all understand and comes with the birth the Christ child.

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

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" Casting Crowns

Words in Bulletin

HOMILY

An Advent Journey: Peace

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (The Christmas Story from Luke)

Leighton Becker – Narrator

Peyton Taylor – Mary

Bryson Hunter – Joseph

Jacquelyn Tomberlin – Angel

Sawyer and Ashton Becker – Shepherds

Annsleigh Becker – Littlest Angel

Thanks to Paul Miles and Susan Marsh for helping with lights, sound, and costumes.

HYMN

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Words in Bulletin

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Jed Reid

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.



I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Casting Crowns

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play
And mild and sweet their songs repeat
Of peace on earth good will to men

And the bells are ringing (Peace on Earth)
Like a choir they're singing (Peace on Earth)
In my heart I hear them
Peace on earth, good will to men

And in despair I bowed my head
There is no peace on earth I said
For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men

But the bells are ringing (Peace on Earth)
Like a choir singing (Peace on Earth)
Does anybody hear them?
Peace on earth, good will to men

Then rang the bells more loud and deep
God is not dead, nor doth He sleep (Peace on Earth, peace on Earth)
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail
With peace on earth, good will to men

Then ringing singing on its way
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good will to men

And the bells they're ringing (Peace on Earth)
Like a choir they're singing (Peace on Earth)
And with our hearts we'll hear them
Peace on earth, good will to men

Do you hear the bells they're ringing? (Peace on Earth)
The life the angels singing (Peace on Earth)
Open up your heart and hear them (Peace on Earth)
Peace on earth, good will to men
Peace on earth, Peace on earth
Peace on earth, Good will to men

Silent Night, Holy Night

239

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 1. *Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft, ein - sam wacht*
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light;
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won - drous star, lend thy light;

round yon vir - gin mother and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
nur das trau - te hoch - hei - li - ge Paar, Hold - er Kna - be mit lock - igem Haar,
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia!
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 with the an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh, schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818, alt.; sts. 1, 2, 3 trans. by John F. Young;
 st. 4 trans. anon. (Lk. 2:6-20)
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

STILLE NACHT
 Irr.



THE CONNECTION

Volume 15, Issue 50

December 20 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...

God is not the author of confusion but of peace. 1 Corinthians 14:33

This last week of Advent as our anticipation grows and the time to celebrate the birth of our Savior draws closer, we focus on the gift of peace. Throughout God's word are many beautiful images of God's peace. Lions lying with lambs (Isaiah 11:6), weapons of war being beat into plowshares to prepare fields (Isaiah 2:4), and human hearts that are not troubled or afraid. (John 14:27).

Johan Galtung, who is often referred to as the father of peace studies, speaks of two kinds of peace. He identifies them as negative peace and positive peace. Negative peace he defines as the absence of violence. When an armed conflict has ceased there is negative peace because something undesirable has stopped. Galtung defines positive peace as moving beyond the absence of violence into a creative process where restoration, reconciliation, and productive relationships create and maintain peace in nonviolent ways.¹

Jesus' birth was the inbreaking of both of these kinds of peace and more into the world. The Prince of Peace brought not only the physical aspects of peace but the spiritual peace that surpasses all human understanding. It is peace that guards our hearts and minds in all circumstances. It is peace that makes it possible for all to be well with our souls even in the midst of life's storms. It is a gift from God.

This Christmas let us all celebrate together the Prince of Peace born one Holy night in a manger. May this Christmas be filled with God's peace that blesses us with peace and strengthens our souls (Psalm 29:11)

Pastor Debra



¹ Negative Versus Positive Peace, www.irenees.net › bdf_fiche-notions-186_en

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), Sam Eubanks. **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.

#MaskUpWisconsin
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH SERVICES

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.

NOTES OF ENCOURAGEMENT: Amy Smith has been having some health issues and if you would like to send her a note you can do so to this address: Amy Smith, 880 North Rutherford Road, Apt. D., Taylors, SC 29687.



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 **this 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.



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.



SHEPHERD'S PARTY THANK YOU: A huge thank you to all who donated money for the Shepherd's Child party. It was a huge success. The parents received a \$50 gift card and a ham. Also, thanks to all who helped by sponsoring a child and providing gifts. I could not have pulled this party off without the help of the volunteers who wrapped gifts and stuffed them in bags and carried them to the Sanctuary. Last, but not least, thanks to all who worked the day of the party. Thanks to Kim Williamson for the candy bags. We surely made these children's Christmas very special.

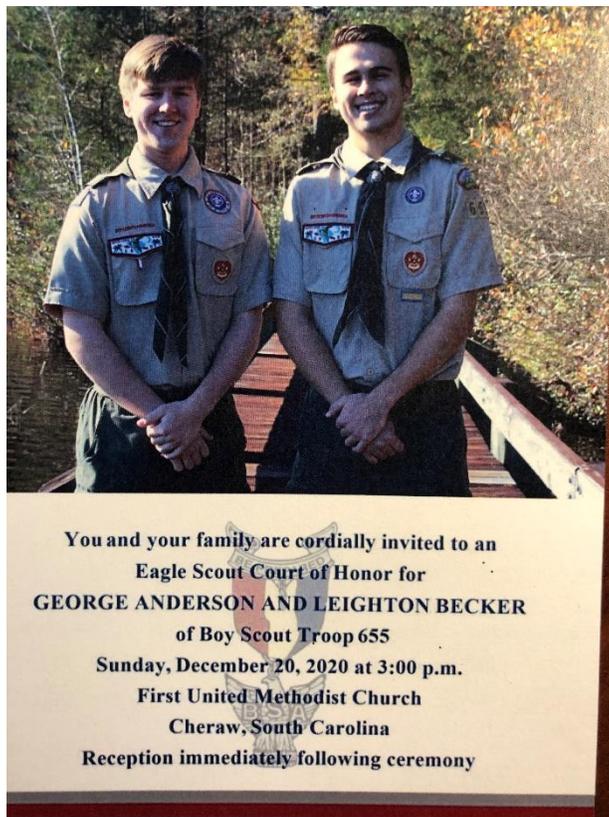


We have some needs for our food pantry. It is helpful to have items that have pull-top lids. Food for the pantry may be dropped off at the church on Sundays or Tuesday – Thursday during office hours. Items needed at this time are:

- 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.

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 Homer Stanton

M&M Doug Marsh

In Memory of Jerry Therrell

M&M Doug Marsh

In Memory of Margie Wannamaker

M&M Doug Marsh

In Memory of Sara Wicker

M&M Doug Marsh

In Memory of Jean Leach

M&M Doug Marsh

In Memory of Flo Outen

M&M David McLean

In Honor of Ellison Outen

M&M David McLean

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 20, 2020

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

Monday, December 21, 2020

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
12:00pm December 27 Bulletin Deadline
5:00pm **NO** Plarn Meeting (Kinsey Mulloy Classroom)
6:00pm **NO** Cub Scouts (Fellowship Hall)
6:30pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

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

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

9:00am-Noon Church Office Open

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Church Office Closed

Friday, December 25, 2020

Happy Birthday Jesus and Merry Christmas to All

Sunday, December 27, 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: Flour, sugar, and corn meal mix

Head Usher: Eric Dusa

Attendance December 13: 56

Year to Date Received: \$327,136.75

Year to Date Expenses: \$324,006.37