

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 6, 2020

SECOND 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

Zenda & Jackson Rushing

PRELUDE

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel” Bob McGee

Ruth Ann Jones

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING PRAYER**

FIRST READING ISAIAH 40: 1-11

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader: The prophet Isaiah and the gospel of Mark remind us that work must be done in our hearts and our lives to prepare for Jesus and make a way for God. It requires faith to let God be at work in us. Yet, when we let God in, healing and transformation begin.

We light this candle as a sign of faith that God will make a way for the light of salvation to enter every heart and bring healing and transformation through God’s Son, Emmanuel.

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 (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**

“Let Faith Arise” Chris Tomlin

Words in Bulletin

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1: 1-8

Rev. Debra Armstrong

SERMON

An Advent Journey: Faith

***HYMN**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Words in Bulletin

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

“Star-Child” Shirley Murray/Carlton Young

Ruth Ann Jones

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.***



Let Faith Arise

By Chris Tomlin

Be still, there is a healer
His love is deeper than the sea
His mercy, it is unfailing
His arms are a fortress for the weak

Let faith arise
Let faith arise

I lift my hands to believe again
You are my refuge, You are my strength
As I pour out my heart, these things I remember
You are faithful, God, forever

Be still, there is a river
That flows from Calvary's tree
A fountain for the thirsty
Your grace that washes over me

Let faith arise
Let faith arise

I lift my hands to believe again
You are my refuge, You are my strength
As I pour out my heart, these things I remember
You are faithful, God
You are faithful, God, forever

I lift my hands to believe again
You are my refuge, You are my strength
As I pour out my heart, these things I remember
You are faithful, God, forever

Let faith arise, let faith arise
Open my eyes, open my eyes
Let faith arise, let faith arise
Open my eyes, open my eyes

I lift my hands to believe again
You are my refuge, You are my strength
As I pour out my heart, these things I remember
You are faithful, God, forever

And I lift my hands to believe again
You are my refuge, You are my strength
As I pour out my heart, these things I remember
You are faithful, God
You are faithful, God, forever

Let faith arise
Let faith arise

211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive
 2. O come, thou Wis-dom from on high, and or - der all things
 3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on
 4. O come, thou Root of Jes - se's tree, an en-sign of thy

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone-ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show
 Si - nai's height in an-cient times once gave the law
 peo - ple be; be - fore thee ru - lers si - lent fall;

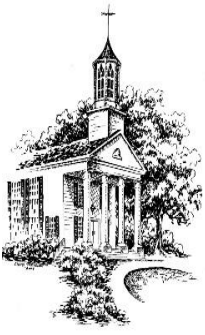
Refrain

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 and cause us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-
 in cloud and majes - ty and awe.
 all peo-ples on thy mer - cy call.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

WORDS: 9th cent. Latin; trans. st. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab *The Hymnal*, 1940; st. 2, Henry VENI EMMANUEL
 Sloane Coffin, 1916; st. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986 LM with Refrain
 MUSIC: 15th cent. French; arr. and harm. by Thomas Helmore, 1854

Sts. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab © 1940, 1943, renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund; trans. sts. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd; © 1989 The United
 Methodist Publishing House; antiphons © 1962 Sisters of St. Benedict



THE CONNECTION

Volume 15, Issue 48

December 6, 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 by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8 NRSV

Our focus for the second week of Advent is faith. Throughout the Bible we hear the message that faith in God is necessary in our walk with the Lord. We see faith displayed by Abraham, David, Hannah, Isaiah and all the prophets, Esther, Moses, Joshua, Daniel, and Naomi to name but a few. These men and women demonstrated faith by believing in the promises of God and trusting in his faithfulness in both the good and the difficult situations of their lives. The writer of Hebrews says, "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 1:11)

This deep believe and trust in God for what they could not see shows up all over the place in the Advent of Jesus' birth. Mary had faith and agreed to be the mother of God's son. Joseph had faith and married Mary just as the angel instructed. Elizabeth had faith rejoicing with Mary in her pregnancy. Mary and Joseph had faith as they traveled to Bethlehem.

As we continue to prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior once again on Christmas day, let us take a faith check in our individual lives and our life together as a community of faith. Are the challenges we face right now clouding our view of God's promises? Are we finding it hard to trust that God has a way for us and a future for us? Or is it that our faith and reliance on God is stronger than ever because of the challenges we are facing in 2020?

Wherever we find ourselves this Advent season we can be confident that the gift of salvation God sent through Christ Jesus is there for us no matter what. No one and no circumstance can take away our salvation. Nothing can take away God's love for us. We do not have to let anything, or anyone rob us of our faith in Christ.

Enjoying God's creations outside often reminds me of these promises of God. This past week a friend sent me a picture of a word written in seaweed she saw on a beach walk. May this reminder of the presence of the Savior in our lives give you hope and strengthen your faith.

Pastor Debra



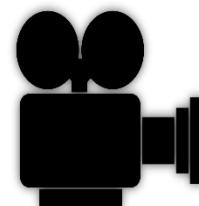
OUR PRAYER LIST — Our President, our Congress, all Governors, Mayors, State, County, and Local employees, all health care workers, EMT's, all who defend our nation, all who make decisions for our nation, Jane Mayhew, Jane Campbell, Jeff Foster, Mabel Foster, Betty Thraikill, Sarah Margaret Therrell, Jim Bennett, Margaret Stanton, Tony Thraikill, Rebecca Baker, Dare Marsh, Phillip Caulder, Connie Williamson, JoAnne Morgan, Sherry Cox, Eric Garris (Mary Burr's friend), Taylor Novinger (Dr. Novinger's son), Randy Butler. **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, email to fumcangiesmith@gmail.com, 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.

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.

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.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 6, 2020

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

Monday, December 7, 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 8, 2020

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
12:00pm December 13 Bulletin Deadline
11:00am **NO** Adult Exercise with Betsy Vaughn (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

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

Thursday, December 10, 2020

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

Sunday, December 13, 2020

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



McArn Items: Cereal and breakfast items

Head Usher: Eric Dusa

Attendance December 29: 59

Year to Date Received: \$297,573.22

Year to Date Expenses: \$313,866.34

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