

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 28, 2021

1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT/HANGING OF THE GREENS

LITURGICAL COLOR: PURPLE

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Michael Williams

PRELUDE

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

arr. Pethel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ray Crouse

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ray Crouse

Leader: In the days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hill; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say:

People: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us God's ways and that we may walk in God's paths."

Leader: Bring branches of cedar and holly, bring evergreens and a pine tree, hang wreaths and garlands.

People: Make the church fragrant with the smell of living things and our holy play. In acts of hanging greens and listening to the words of prophets and seers let us make our hearts and this space a place of inward and outward preparation for the One who comes to give us second birth.

OPENING PRAYER

Ray Crouse

Good Lord, by your mercy guide our outward actions in such ways that our inward being is formed in faith, hope, and love. May the decorations we offer engage our senses during the days of Advent and enliven our praise and worship, in the name of the child of Bethlehem, our risen and coming savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 881**

“Apostles Creed”

***GLORIA PATRI**

GREATOREX

***OPENING HYMN NO. 196**

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

MORNING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Debra

HANGING OF THE WREATH

Nancy Wagnon

Pastor: How shall we make this place a reminder of our need of repentance and that faithfulness and integrity comes from God our maker and redeemer?

People: Let us hang a wreath as we speak the words of Hosea. I will heal [my people's] disloyalty; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you. I am like an evergreen cypress; your faithfulness comes from me. Those who are wise understand these things; those who are discerning know them. For the ways of the LORD are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them. (Hosea 14:4, 8-9, NRSV)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

PRESENTATION OF THE POINSETTIAS

Michelle Rohde and Norma Cobb

Pastor: Here in this place, we prepare for the coming of the Lord. Here we will remember his Advent, his birth in Bethlehem, weak and helpless as an infant. We will praise the Lord for angels who announced his birth and shepherds and wise men who followed his star. And here we rekindle our prayer, "Come, Lord Jesus" as we await his coming as the bright and morning star.

People: We bring these poinsettias whose star shape leaves remind us that Jesus is the bright morning star. May we let the light of the Christ's star shine in our lives.

BLESSING AND LIGHTING OF THE CHRISMON TREE

Pastor Debra/Jackson Rushing

Pastor: Holy Lord, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of your Son who rescued us from the darkness of sin by making the cross a tree of life and light. May this tree arrayed in splendor remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor Debra

Pastor: Loving God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. May the keeping of Advent open our hearts to God's love, so that the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness in our world today. Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let this wreath be a constant reminder for us to prepare for the coming of Christ, so that we may be filled with hope, peace, joy, and love. Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath each week. May their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, forever and ever. **AMEN.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Harrison and Amy Goodwin

People (sung): "O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear."

Reader 1: God of justice and peace, healing and comfort, we see all that is wrong and wonder where you are.

Reader 2: We are a broken people, unable to work together for our common good. We cannot see or hear each other even within our own families and communities.

Reader 1: We are a suffering world, our nations are filled with conflict and violence. The fragile earth cries out with longing for redemption.

People: We, God's people, long for God's presence, saying with the prophet: "If only you would tear open the heavens and come down!" (Isaiah 64:1, CEB)

Reader 2: On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this candle to remind us that God will come into the world, bringing us hope

A purple candle is lit.

People (sung): "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."

OFFERTORY PRAYER***DOXOLOGY**

VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above ye, heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

CHORAL ANTHEM**"Prepare the Way, O Zion"**

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 25

SERMON**"The Inn: Making Room"**

Pastor Debra

CLOSING HYMN NO: 209**"Blessed Be the God of Israel"**

MERLE'S TUNE

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Debra

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

“Emmanuel”

Congregation

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.

***POSTLUDE**

Fantasy on “Kingsfold” (O Sing a Song of Bethlehem)

John Carter

****If you are able, please stand.***

¹ Blessing and prayers, <https://www.umcdiscipliship.org/sear/results?q=hanging%20of%20the%20greens>

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 Campbell, Jeff Foster, Mabel Foster, Jim Bennett, Phillip Caulder, Judy Quick, Scott Tomberlin, Tony Thrailkill, Theodore Burns, Margaret Stanton, Dennis Presley (Jenny Keefe’s friend), Frances (Mary) Smith (Kim Williamson’s friend), Jim Eanes (Rev. Kim Eanes’ Father), Joyce Quick Family, Mears and Rumph Families. **NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notified.**

MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF JERRY B. LEACH

M&M John Wagnon



2nd Sunday of Advent

December 5th

11:00 a.m.

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 12th

11:00 a.m.

4th Sunday of Advent

December 19th

11:00 a.m.

Christmas Pageant

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Communion Service

6:00 p.m.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND:

Two choirs from Coker University will perform a Christmas Concert at First Presbyterian Church, Cheraw, on Sunday, November 28 at 4:00pm. The audience will have the opportunity to sing Christmas carols with the choirs. Of course, the choirs will sing anthems, too. Masks are required by request of Coker University.



THE CONNECTION

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

Volume 16,
Issue 45
November 28, 2021

A Few Words from the Pastor...

There are so many ways we can communicate with one another today – phone, letter, e-mail text and tweet to name but a few. The Advent Season (the four weeks prior to Christmas) is a time when we pause from all our busyness and reflect on the amazing ways that God communicated God's love to us through the Prophets, the Bible, but most importantly through Jesus Christ. In awesome wonder, God came to be present with us in human flesh arriving on earth as a human infant.

A nativity play I witnessed many years ago communicated in an unexpected way the presence of Emmanuel, God with us. The Pre-school children were acting out the Christmas story as admiring parents and grandparents watched. Two of the wise men entered and said, "I've brought the baby Jesus a present." The third child was overcome by the occasion, and even though the teacher encouraged him, he declined to say his one line. Then suddenly he investigated the manger and shouted, "Oh...don't he look like his daddy!" Of course, it was a humorous comment but that four-year-old taught us what is at the heart of Christmas! Advent prepares us for and Christmas celebrates that Jesus the Word became flesh who made His dwelling among us bringing God's light into the world. [John 1:14]

As you make your plans for Christmas events and activities this season, be sure to include some time to prepare and celebrate the truth of Christmas in our Advent and Christmas services. We will be celebrating this year with a worship series from the Worship Design Studio entitled The Inn: Housing the Holy. Be sure to make time to come and worship and prepare for the newborn king who looks like us and who looks like his daddy this Advent season!



Pastor Debra

SYMPATHY: The pastor, staff, and congregation offer our deepest sympathy to the family of Joyce Quick, the Meares and Rumph family with the death of Brian's grandmother, Barbara Meares.



What will
you give
Jesus for
Christmas?

We have made excellent progress towards funding our 2021 budget. Pledged funds received are close to the budgeted amount and expected to come in this December. At this time, we are behind collecting the unpledged funds in our budget. Please consider giving Jesus a Christmas present by making a financial gift to the general fund. This is one way to offer the holy work of love this Advent season. Giving is simple with multiple options for you. You may place your gift in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. You may mail or bring your gift to the office. You may go to our website at www.cherawfirstumc.org and give online, or you can download the Vanco App and use your phone to give.

WORSHIP ONLINE: Not able to be here for in-person worship? Then join us online! To worship online, go to our website www.cherawfirstumc.org. Click on the tab at the top of the page that says video sermon archive. The most recent worship service will be the first service listed. Worship services are available on our website by 2:00 p.m. on Sundays.



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

Looking For a Few Good Techs

First Methodist is seeking to train a small staff of two or three individuals to assist with the weekly video recording of Sunday worship services and other church activities. No prior experience with video equipment is required although basic computer skills would be useful. The time required would be about one Sunday per month from 10:45 am to 1:30 pm following three Sundays of training (total of six hours) and close supervision until you are comfortable with the equipment and tasks. If you are at least 14 years of age and would like to serve your church while learning interesting and technical life-skills, contact Angie at 537-7002 to get your name on the list.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Thanks to everyone who prayed for this mission, filled a shoebox, or donated money. This year we have changed the lives of 80 children. Thank you for your love, support, and generosity of this wonderful ministry. You have been the hands and feet of Jesus and shared his love. God Bless each and every one of you! Jenny and Zenda



- ❖ The Choir will resume practice and provide choral music in worship following safety protocols.
- ❖ Groups of 25 or less may have refreshments or meals together in the fellowship hall.
- ❖ We will continue to practice social distance. The pews are marked with yarn to help us know where to sit. Please sit in a pew that has not been marked.
- ❖ The Nursery is open.
- ❖ Wearing a mask is optional but strongly encouraged. If you do not have a mask or forget yours, masks are available at the entrances into the church.

PAINT PARTY WITH BETH MAIER: There will be a paint party with Beth Maier on Thursday, December 2 at 6:30pm. We will be painting a red truck with a Christmas tree. Beth supplies all the supplies and she donates the cost of the class to Shepherd's Child. We can have fun while raising money for Shepherd's Child. Please contact Trina Mills for additional information.

CANDLE RINGS: The Care and Nurture Team will be making candle rings for our shut ins on Monday, December 6 at 2:00pm. Please bring your own greenery and clippers. If anyone else would like to join us, please come.

SHEPHERD'S CHILD PARTY: The Shepherd's Child Party will be Friday, December 17 at 1:00pm in the sanctuary. I will have names after Thanksgiving. For those of you who want to donate money instead of choosing a child's name, donations can be made by check to FUMC denoting Shepherd's Child on the memo line. Thanks in advance for your help. Trina Mills

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY AT FUMC: Our Nurture and Care team at First United Methodist Church will provide rides to individuals to doctor's or other medical appointments. If you need a ride, please contact the church office at 843-537-7002.

TURNING 90 OR ABOVE: We have a church member who will turn 90 or above this month. If you would like to send a card to these their addresses are listed below.

Ellison Outen (December 16)
302 State Road
Cheraw, SC 29520

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
December 18 James Tweed
December 19 Jane Rumph, Kaleb Keefe

December 21 Renie Seel
December 22 William Keith Smith, III
(Tripp)
December 23 Allan Chapman
December 25 Alayna Carabo, David
Rohde
December 29 Marcia Butler
December 30 Jacquelyn Bette Tomberlin

No Anniversaries

GREETERS FOR DECEMBER

December 5 Pat Barham
December 12 Manuel & Jean Assef
December 19 Jim & Marianne Crawford
December 26 Zenda Rushing

FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER

All month Pointsettias

NURSERY FOR DECEMBER

December 5 Lesley Jean & Chase Watson
December 12 Nancy Wagnon & Payton Taylor
December 19 Kelly & Hollis Dusa
December 26 OPEN

LITURGIST FOR DECEMBER

December 5 Eric Dusa
December 12 Rhett Butler
December 19 Greg Sanderson
December 26 Bonnie Cundiff

HEAD USER FOR DECEMBER

Jerry Tucker

ACOLYTE FOR DECEMBER

Sawyer and Ashton Becker

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 28, 2021

10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship in Sanctuary

Monday, November 29, 2021

6:30pm Boy Scouts (NETC)

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
6:00pm Choir Practice

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

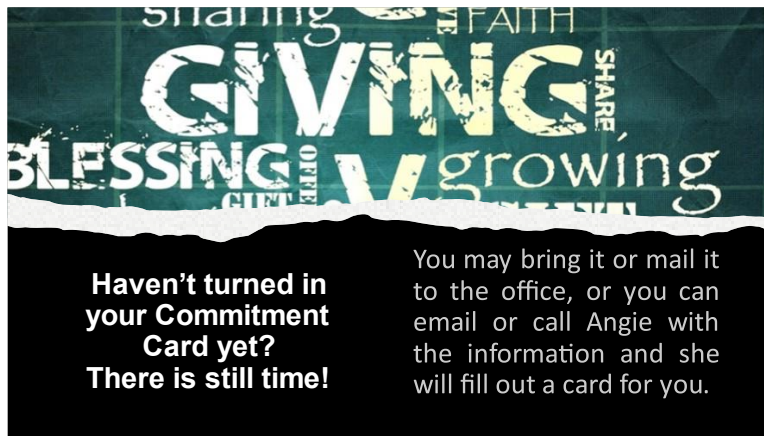
8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
12:00pm Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, December 2, 2021

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open

Sunday, December 5, 2021

10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship in Sanctuary
3:00pm Trustees Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
4:30-5:30pm Christmas Play Rehearsal



**Haven't turned in
your Commitment
Card yet?
There is still time!**

You may bring it or mail it
to the office, or you can
email or call Angie with
the information and she
will fill out a card for you.

Weekly amount needed for budget: \$5,797.85
Amount received for week of November 22: \$1,466.00
Sunday School Attendance, November 21: 54
FUMC Food Pantry Item: Peanut butter
Greeter: Patty Fisher
Acolyte: Nancy Wagnon
Flowers next Sunday: Poinsettias

Amount needed year to date: \$272,498.95
Received year to date: \$272,419.79
Worship Attendance, November 21: 69
McArn Items: Animal cookies
Head Usher: Eric Dusa
Liturgist for next Sunday: Eric Dusa

FUMC STAFF

Rev. Debra Armstrong, Pastor (fumcpastor1@gmail.com) 843-537-7002 O 843-253-3132 C

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

Tara McPherson, Child Development Ministry Director (fccdm@yahoo.com)

Michael Williams - Music Director (fumcmusic01@gmail.com) 704-294-4510 C