

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 12, 2021

3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

LITURGICAL COLOR: PURPLE

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Michael Williams

PRELUDE

“My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

MORNING SONG

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eric Dusa

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Doug and Susan Marsh

All (sung): “O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight.”

Reader 1: “The LORD has done great things for us, and we are overjoyed. ... Let those who plant with tears reap the harvest with joyful shouts.” (Psalm 126:3, 5 CEB)

Reader 2: God of Joy, you enter the wilderness of our world and proclaim that there is a way to reach home again.

Reader 3: God of Joy, you break through clouds of despair and sorrow to bring good news to your people.

Reader 4: God of Joy, you send hope into the world in the form of a tiny baby.

All: We, God’s people, sing songs of joy with the prophet, “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God” (Isaiah 61:10, NRSV).

Reader: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle, knowing that joy is our true home.

Light the pink candle

All (sung): “Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.”

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Eric Dusa

L: A path to our God,

C: Winding through the ordinary,

L: Weaving through the busyness,

C: Overcoming roadblocks and detours.

L: A way to go home,

C: Leaving the past in the past,

L: Moving from darkness and exile,

C: Coming into the light.

L: Advent is a path to our God,

C: A way to come home,

L: A discovery of God's voice:

C: Rejoice, rejoice. God is with us!

OPENING PRAYER²

Eric Dusa

Lord, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules. We have sought hope and peace and have found them here. Now we seek the inner joy that only your presence can bring to our lives. Open our hearts and our spirits to your love. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. **AMEN.**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 881**

“Apostles Creed”

***GLORIA PATRI**

GREATOREX

***OPENING HYMN NO. 203 (vss 1&2)**

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

ELLACOMBE

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 12:2-6

Pastor Debra

MORNING PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER³

Pastor Debra

People: Make of my heart a stable, a house for the holy, a warm and sturdy place for joy to live and grow.

Pastor: In this moment we open the doors of our hearts to honesty before God about what we've done and left undone that created less hope in a hurting world. Let us breathe out this regret and breathe in the life-giving, forgiving Spirit of God and out again with the Peace of Christ.

People: Make of my life a stable, a house for the holy, a warm and sturdy place for joy to live and grow.

Pastor: In this moment we open the doors of our lives to the call of the Spirit, inviting us to become more than we can ask or imagine. Let us breathe out our fear and breathe in the courage of the Spirit of God and out again, with the Peace of Christ.

People: Make of our church a stable, a house for the holy, a warm and sturdy place for joy to live and grow.

Pastor: In this moment we open the doors of this church, filling it with the compassion of Christ for all those who are struggling. We remember and pray for...

those who are suffering economic hardship, and insecurity in basic needs; may abundance be shared.

... for those who are suffering mentally, finding it difficult to cope; may paths open and hope return.

... for those who are suffering illness or injury; may healing abound.

.... for those who are suffering loneliness and isolation; may companionship and solace arrive.

... for those who are suffering discrimination, fear and violence; may they know respect, respite, and safety.

All: May the Advent of Compassion be born in us, reside within us, move outward from us, to meet the needs of the world, making a house for the Holy that is each and every child of God. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth"

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

OFFERTORY PRAYER

***ADVENT 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.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:10-14

Pastor Debra

SERMON

"The Inn: How Much is Enough"

Pastor Debra

CLOSING HYMN NO: 218 (vss 1,2&4)

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

CAROL

***BENEDICTION⁴**

Pastor Debra

May God's Door of Welcome swing open in your heart and in your life. May Christ's humble first dwelling remind you of the plenty you already know. And may the Spirit lead you into more possibility and hospitality than you can imagine, making room in The Inn for all. May it be so for you. May it be so for us. May it be so for this church. Amen.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

"Emmanuel"

Congregation

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

**If you are able, please stand.*

¹ <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/come-home-for-christmas/third-sunday-of-advent-year-c>

² <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/3292>

³ ©www.worshipdesignstudio.com/theinn

⁴ Ibid



4th Sunday of Advent
December 19th
11:00 a.m.
Christmas Pageant
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Communion Service
6:00 p.m.

SHEPHERD’S CHILD NAMES: If you want a child for the Shepherd’s Child party, please contact Trina at 843-910-0518, as soon as possible. If you would rather donate to this wonderful cause, please do; and the shopping can be done for you.

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 Thraikill, Theodore Burns, Margaret Stanton, Dennis Presley (Jenny Keefe’s friend), Frances (Mary) Smith (Kim Williamson’s friend), Carrie Lee White Family (Mabel Foster’s sister), Prentiss Odom Family (Gloria Williams’ brother). **NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notified.**

SYMPATHY: *The pastor, staff, and congregation offer our deepest sympathy to Mabel Foster at the death of her sister, Carrie Lee White, and Gloria Williams at the death of her brother, Prentiss Odom.*



STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT DEADLINE NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19: 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.) This is a good way to express our appreciation to the staff for the work that they do! *Staff-Parish Relations Committee*



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 47
December 12, 2021

A Few Words from the Pastor...

Several of you have asked for information about the use of the Advent Wreath. Here's some information from United Methodist Communications.

The Advent wreath began as a German and Scandinavian home devotional practice used to mark the four weeks of Advent. Families would light a candle for each past week and the current week at their dinner or evening time of prayer. The configuration of candles, whether in a line or a circle, did not matter. Neither did the color of the candles (all colors are used in homes in Europe). What mattered was the marking of time and the increase of light each week in the face of increasing darkness as the winter solstice approached.

As Advent wreaths began to be used by congregations on Sundays in some places in Europe and America beginning in the late 19th century, several adaptations were made to make them work better in public worship spaces. Candles needed to be larger and more uniform than the "daily candles" handmade or purchased for home use. They also needed to be more uniform in color to fit with other décor in the sanctuary. That is why candles used in the Advent wreath are usually purple or blue, to coordinate with color of the paraments used during this season.

This shift in context from home to public use also made it important in the eyes of some for the candles to be given a meaning more than simply marking time and increasing light. This led to special ceremonies being developed for lighting these special candles each week.

As this practice began to catch on by the mid-twentieth century, several church supply houses who sold Advent wreaths and candles for public worship also developed resources, banners, and bulletin covers assigning a theme to each week, and thus each candle, based on scriptures from the one-year lectionaries used at that time. Those themes were Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace and the order may vary because of changes in themes throughout the years.

The one exception is the Third Sunday of Advent, where the current lectionaries have continued to support the centuries old observance of "Gaudete" or "Joy Sunday." That is why church supply houses often offer rose or pink colored candles for the wreath for use on this day.



So how may we talk about the meaning of the Advent wreath today?

We can reclaim the original home use of marking time with the hope of increasing light as we await the return of Christ, that day when "The city no longer has need of the sun or the moon to shine upon it, because the glory of God illumines it, and its lamp is the lamb."

And we can develop meanings or themes for each week based on the focus of the scriptures themselves. After all, the candles and the wreath are an accessory, not an end in themselves. Their meaningfulness comes from how we use them to point toward Christ, the world's true light, who was, and is, and is to come.

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

Pastor Debra



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.

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.



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



SAFETY PROTOCOLS


- ❖ The Choir will resume practice and provide choral music in worship following safety protocols.
- ❖ Groups of 50 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.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS:

In Memory of John Moore
M&M Scott Laney

In Memory of M&M James H. Wannamaker
M&M Scott Laney

In Honor of Jimmy Duffy
M&M Scott Laney



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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 12, 2021

10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship
2:00pm Joyce Quick Memorial Service
(Masks and social distancing
required as a request of the family)
4:30-5:30pm Christmas Play Rehearsal

Monday, December 13, 2021

6:30pm Boy Scouts (NETC)

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
9:00am-noon Shepherd's Child Ministry
(Fellowship Hall)
3:00pm UMW (Parlor)
6:00pm Choir Practice

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
12:00pm Newsletter Deadline
6:00pm GriefShare Surviving the Holidays
(Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, December 16, 2021

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

Friday, December 17, 2021

10:00am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Sunday, December 19, 2021

10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship (Christmas Play)

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS: In order for contributions to be posted to your 2021 giving record, they must meet one of three requirements:

- 1) The gift is received and posted to your account before December 31, 2021.
- 2) The contribution is dropped into the offering plate or delivered to the church office on or before December 31, 2021 (if you bring it after office hours, you can drop it in the mail slot in Debra's office door.)
- 3) The check is dated December 31, 2021 or before.

The church office will be open this week, Tuesday – Thursday, December 14 – 16; and next week Monday – Wednesday, December 20 - 22 from 8:30am—4:30pm, and next week, Tuesday – Thursday, December 28-30 from 8:30am—4:30pm; to assist you with year-end giving matters. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the church office at 843-537-7002.

Weekly amount needed for budget: \$5,797.85
Amount received for week of December 8: \$3,332.98
Sunday School Attendance, December 5: 50
FUMC Food Pantry Item: Canned vegetables
Greeters: Manuel & Jean Assef
Acolyte: Sawyer or Ashton Becker
Nursery Workers: Nancy Wagnon & Payton Taylor

Amount needed year to date: \$284,094.65
Received year to date: \$287,067.14
Worship Attendance, December 5: 68
McArn Items: Pop Tarts
Head Usher: Jerry Tucker
Liturgist for next Sunday: Greg Sanderson
Flowers next Sunday: Poinsettias

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