

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 19, 2021

4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

LITURGICAL COLOR: PURPLE

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Michael Williams

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greg Sanderson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Greg Sanderson

Leader: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder, and His name will be called:

People: Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

OPENING PRAYER

Greg Sanderson

Ever-attentive God, open our eyes and heart to the signs of your presence in the lives of little ones. Amen

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 881**

“Apostles Creed”

***GLORIA PATRI**

GREATOREX

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Kollitz Family

All (sung): “O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife.”

Reader 1: “Our souls magnify the Lord and our spirits rejoice in God for God has looked with favor on us, God’s servants.”

Reader 2: “God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly. God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.”

Reader 3: God of Justice, God of Peace, we open our hearts to you. Give us grace to be instruments of your righteousness.

Reader 4: Give us courage to turn away from distractions and distortions and turn toward the home you have made, are making, and will complete through Christ.

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 fourth Sunday of Advent we light this candle, turning with courage toward the One who makes a home among us because God loves us.

Light the last purple candle

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

MORNING PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER¹

Pastor Debra

People: Make of my heart a stable, a house for the holy, a warm and sturdy place for love 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 love 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 love 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 very 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.

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.

INTRODUCTION OF PAGEANT

The Best Old-Fashioned Christmas Pageant Ever

St. James Music Press, © 2009 – permission to photocopy granted

Hymn: *Angels We Have Heard on High* UMH 238 (All verses)

GLORIA

Narrator: Each Christmastide the world around, our churches joyfully resound with children singing, robed in white, and dressed as angels in the night proclaiming Christ our Savior's birth to sheep and shepherds here on earth: for unto you this day is born a Savior, which is Christ the Lord!" So we may go, as shepherds then, to meet our Lord in Bethlehem.

Anthem: *How Great Our Joy* (Choir)

JUNGST

Narrator: Those shepherds, struck with fear and awe, at what they heard and what they saw, inspired by angels in the sky, and barely understanding why, prepared to travel to that place where they might see this child of grace. So, acting on that holy news, they marched, with lambs and rams and ewes. Already wakened from their sleep, those shepherds and their woolly sheep.

Hymn: *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night* UMH 236 (Verses 1-4)

CHRISTMAS

Narrator: Beside the manger filled with hay, where Jesus Christ our Savior lay, the shepherds bowed to

worship there, the animals that all did share their worship gifts with God's own Son - each gift unique, yes - everyone - the donkey, sheep and dove, whose gifts were given out of love, stood vigil 'round the manger bed where baby Jesus laid his head.

Anthem: *The Friendly Beasts* (Choir)

ORIENTIS PARTIBUS

Narrator: The humble shepherds brought gifts, too, of wooly sheep - ram, lamb and ewe: The wooly ram whose curly fleece would softly warm the Prince of Peace; the gentle ewe with soft brown eye to offer milk in great supply; and, last, the little bleating lamb, whose wool beneath the Savior's hand would bring a smile to Jesus' face - a gift of joy, a gift of grace.

Anthem: *What Child Is This* (Choir)

GREENSLEEVES

Solo: Silent Night

Jacquelyn Tomberlin

STILLE NACHT

Narrator: Though later, wise men traveling far to find this King beneath the star brought gold and myrrh and frankincense worth sums of money quite immense, to honor Jesus; these were not of greater value than gifts brought by humble shepherds and their sheep, whom angels roused from midnight sleep to tell the news that Christmas morn, "It is for YOU that Christ is born!"

Hymn: *O Come All Ye Faithful* UMH 234 (Verses 1, 2, & 3)

ADESTE FIDELES

***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 © www.worshipdesignstudio.com/theinn

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT CAST AND STAFF

Mary: Jacquelyn Tomberlin

Thomas Samuel

Joseph: Bryson Hunter

Martha Starling

Angel: Alexis Graham

Greg Sanderson

Shepherd: Julius Graham

David Rhode

Choir

Piano: Michael Williams

Mary Crouse

Narrator: Pastor Debra

Bonnie Cundiff

Costumes: Susan Marsh

Susan Eschenfelder

Co-Directors: Angela Holliday and Nancy Wagnon

Jenny Keefe

Susan Marsh



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 48
December 19, 2021

A Few Words from the Pastor...

Mark and I pray that your Christmas be filled to overflowing with all the wonder, hope, peace, joy, and love that Jesus brings into our lives. May the Christmas Tree message below inspire us all as we continue make room in The Inn for everyone.

This
Christmas
end a quarrel.
Seek out a forgotten
friend. Dismiss suspicion,
and replace it with trust.
Write a love letter. Share some
treasure. Give a soft answer. Keep
a promise. Find the time. Forgo a grudge.
Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you
were wrong. Try to understand. Examine your
demands on others. Think first of someone else.
Be kind; be gentle. Appreciate. Laugh a little. Laugh a
little more. Express your gratitude. Gladden the heart of a
child. Welcome a stranger. Take pleasure in the beauty and the
wonder of Earth.
Speak your love.
Speak it again.
Speak it yet
Once again.

lessonslearnedinlife.com

Pastor Debra



STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT DEADLINE IS TODAY: 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*

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 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.

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, Scott Tomberlin, Tony Thrailkill, 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), Bob Dickens (Kim Williamson’s Father), Nancy Chestnut (Michelle Rhode’s mother). **NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notified.**

OFFICE HOURS FOR WEEK OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR: The office will be open the week of Christmas, Monday through Wednesday, December 20 – 22, the week of New Year’s the office will be open it regularly scheduled days and times.

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.

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.

FLOWER CALENDAR: A flower calendar for 2022 has been placed in the lobby by the fellowship hall. Please take a moment to go by and sign up for a Sunday or two to put flowers in the church.

MEMORIALS:

In Memory of John Moore

M&M Thomas McKinnon

In Memory of Joyce Quick

M&M Thomas McKinnon

In Memory of Judy Quick

M&M Keith Smith

In Memory of Carrie Lee Coggins White

M&M Keith Smith



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.

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.



Worship With Us
Christmas Eve

Candlelight Communion Service
6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary



- ❖ 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 19, 2021

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

Monday, December 20, 2021

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
12:00pm Newsletter Deadline
6:30pm Boy Scouts (NETC)

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

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

Wednesday, December 22, 2021

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

Thursday, December 23, 2021

OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, December 24, 2021

OFFICE CLOSED
6:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 25, 2021

MERRY CHRISTMAS/HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

Sunday, December 26, 2021

10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship

Weekly amount needed for budget: \$5,797.85
Amount received for week of December 15: \$8,947.92
Sunday School Attendance, December 12: 49
FUMC Food Pantry Item: Dry cereal
Greeters: Jim & Marianne Crawford
Acolyte: Sawyer or Ashton Becker
Nursery Workers: Kelly & Hollis Dusa

Amount needed year to date: \$289,892.50
Received year to date: \$296,015.06
Worship Attendance, December 12: 61
McArn Items: Rice Crispy Treats
Head Usher: Jerry Tucker
Liturgist for next Sunday: Bonnie Cundiff
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