

# **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

117 THIRD STREET, CHERAW, SC 29520

843-537-7002

[www.cherawfirstumc.org](http://www.cherawfirstumc.org)



***THE CHURCH WITH A HEART, IN THE HEART OF CHERAW.***

***A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP***

***DECEMBER 26, 2021***

***1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS***

***LITURGICAL COLOR: WHITE***

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Michael Williams

PRELUDE

“That Beautiful Name”

BEAUTIFUL NAME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eric Dusa

SILENCE BEFORE THE LORD

\*CALL TO WORSHIP NO. 2100 (The Faith We Sing) “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”

MARGARET

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,  
When Thou camest to earth for me;  
But in Bethlehem’s home was there found no room  
For Thy holy nativity.

Refrain: O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, There is room in my heart for Thee.

Heaven’s arches rang when the angels sang,  
Proclaiming Thy royal degree;  
But of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth,  
And in great humility.

\*GREETING

Trinitarian Greeting, Isaiah 63:7-9

Blessed be God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.  
**And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

“I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD,  
**according to all that the LORD has granted us,**  
and the great goodness to the house of Israel which he has granted them according to his mercy,  
**according to the abundance of his steadfast love.**  
For he said, Surely they are my people, sons who will not deal falsely;  
**and he became their Savior.**  
In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them;  
**in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.”**

\*HYMN NO. 218

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

CAROL

\*COMMON PRAYER

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray:

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,**  
**you invaded the world in the person of Jesus,**  
**and you weave together the events of our lives with exquisite wisdom.**  
**By the power of your Holy Spirit,**  
**open our eyes to the messengers you send our way,**  
**especially the ones who are odd and interrupt our plans.**  
**Speak to us today out of Holy Scripture,**  
**that we may see your ways,**





# 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](http://www.cherawfirstumc.org)

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December 26, 2021

## *A Few Words from Pastor Phil...*

During the 2008 presidential race, John McCain was asked by Time magazine to share his personal journey of faith. In response, McCain shared this remembrance:

“When I was a prisoner of war in Vietnam...my captors would tie my arms behind my back and then loop the rope around my neck and ankles so that my head was pulled down between my knees. I was often left like that throughout the night. One night a guard came into my cell. He put his finger to his lips signaling for me to be quiet and then loosened my ropes to relieve my pain. The next morning, when his shift ended, the guard returned and retightened the ropes, never saying a word to me.

A month or so later on Christmas Day, I was standing in the dirt courtyard when I saw that same guard approach me. He walked up and stood silently next to me, not looking or smiling at me. Then he used his sandaled foot to draw a cross in the dirt. We stood wordlessly looking at the cross, remembering the true light of Christmas, even in the darkness of a Vietnamese prison camp” (“A Light Amid the Darkness,” *Time*, 8-18-08, 40).

So here we are two years into the pandemic with the new wave of Omicron rising before us. We are frustrated, fatigued, and eager for a normal Christmas and New Year. But we are not yet safe from this awful virus. I have buried several friends who died of Covid this year, and at each open grave it was my duty and privilege to announce, “Almighty God, into your hands we commit your servant, in sure and certain hope of resurrection to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

A shadow is over all the land, and it has disrupted everything at every level of our lives. I had no idea I was so dependent on something called “supply chains” and now have a fresh appreciation for other big ideas like *logistics*. A certain uncertainty has come upon us, and with it a hesitancy to re-engage. But I have a fresh awareness of how dependent we all are on one another, and how especially critical are the first responders, the police and medical personnel, several of whom are our neighbors. I find myself thinking of “We the people” more than “Me the individual.”

Christmas as we have come to know it is a blend of the sacred and the secular. The house just next door to us in Greer has a wonderful lighted display on the side of their house in which Santa Claus is kneeling at Jesus’ manger. At first it made me laugh, then I thought, “Maybe Santa needs as Savior as much as I do.” My daughter Ellen is a dentist in Pickens, and her partner has a four-year-old boy who came up to his dad recently and announced, “I’ve figured Christmas out. The purpose of Santa is to get people excited about the birth of Jesus.” A bright kid, and he wasn’t far off!

One thing that has sustained Lori and me throughout the year is frequent personal engagement with five needy children who live near our church. Mom is in prison, and they live with grandparents, one of whom was in the hospital for three months with Covid. Another is a homeless young woman who grew up in an abusive family. And while we have found that gifts of clothing and food are surely helpful, what matters just as much is time together and the friendships that emerge. When we went caroling with them a few nights ago, I had the distinct feeling that the same angels who attended Jesus’ birth were there with us. They didn’t want to quit and kept announcing, “There’s one more family we need to sing to!” and they were right.

It’s a good thing to write generous checks to ministries that serve the poor in our community. But nothing will keep your faith and joy alive like spending time with those for whom the life most of us live only a distant dream. It’s where love is found, so stay open in your heart to God’s surprising interruptions.

Two of my trips to teach in African seminaries were Covid-cancelled in April and again in July. My next invitation is for April in Nairobi, Kenya, and I would appreciate your prayers.

**Pastor Phil (A Cheraw guy forever!)**

*Welcome and thank you to Reverend Phil Thrailkill for serving today. Mark and Pastor Debra and on vacation and will return next Sunday.*

**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.**

**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.

**OFFICE HOURS FOR THE WEEK OF NEW YEAR'S:** The office will be open the week of New Year's on the 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](http://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.

### **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.



### **MEMORIALS:**

*In Memory of Joyce Quick  
M&M Eric Dusa*



- ❖ 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.

**SHEPHERD'S CHILD UPDATE:** The Shepherd's Child program was held this past Friday and it was a success. This year we provided Christmas for 37 local children who otherwise would not have had Christmas and a family of 9 which was in a dire situation, who we heard of through a church member. So, a total of 46 people will have a Merry Christmas due to our church and all of your donations and help sponsoring a child. Thanks so much for all of the money donated and all of the congregation who sponsored a child. Trina Mills would like to thank all of the people who helped with the wrapping and preparation for the program.

**GREETERS FOR JANUARY**

**January 2** Rhett & Marcia Butler  
**January 9** Joey & Trina Mills  
**January 16** To be announced later  
**January 23** To be announced later  
**January 30** To be announced later

**FLOWERS FOR JANUARY**

**January 2** Kathern Rogers  
**January 9, 16** OPEN  
**January 23** Becky Thompson  
**January 30** OPEN

**NURSERY FOR JANUARY**

To be announced later

**LITURGIST FOR JANUARY**

**January 2** Shannon Johnson  
**January 9** Joey Mills  
**January 16** Greg Sanderson  
**January 23** Susan Marsh  
**January 30** Jenny Keefe

**HEAD USER FOR JANUARY**

Jack VanDeman

**ACOLYTE FOR JANUARY**

Zenda Rushing

## ***BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES***

### **BIRTHDAYS**

January 2 Hollis Dusa  
January 4 Reagan Freeman  
January 5 Jeffery Johnson  
January 9 Carley Watson  
January 14 Greer Eddins, Zachary Carabo  
January 17 JoAnne Morgan  
January 20 Shellie Stanton, Kay VanDeman, Carolyn Wallace

January 21 Kaitlyn Nicole Freeman  
January 22 Mary Kathryn Wagnon, Rhett Butler  
January 24 Aidan Freeman  
January 25 Kate Wilson Kollitz  
January 29 Sally Smith  
January 31 Becky Moore

**NO ANNIVERSARIES**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Sunday, December 26, 2021**

10:00am Sunday School  
11:00am Worship

#### **Monday, December 27, 2021**

6:30pm Boy Scouts (NETC)

#### **Tuesday, December 28, 2021**

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

#### **Wednesday, December 29, 2021**

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

#### **Thursday, December 30, 2021**

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

#### **Saturday, January 1, 2022**

HAPPY NEW YEAR

#### **Sunday, January 2, 2022**

10:00am Sunday School  
11:00am Worship

**Weekly amount needed for budget:** \$5,797.85  
**Amount received for week of December 22:** \$5,264.58  
**Sunday School Attendance, December 19:** 40  
**FUMC Food Pantry Item:** Peanut butter  
**Greeter:** Zenda Rushing  
**Acolyte:** Norma Cobb  
**Nursery Workers:** OPEN  
**Soundsystem Operator:** Scott Eddins

**Amount needed year to date:** \$295,690.35  
**Received year to date:** \$301,279.64  
**Worship Attendance, December 19:** 104  
**McArn Items:** Individual size cereal boxes  
**Head Usher:** Jerry Tucker  
**Liturgist for next Sunday:** Shannon Johnson  
**Flowers next Sunday:** Katherine Rogers  
**Video Operator:** John Wagnon

### **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**



IA4'b. LUKE 2:22-39 "DIVINE APPOINTMENTS"\*

(L), Time Signature, Obey Augustus & Obey Moses: Lawful, Pious, Jewish Home, Trinitarian

→→→

1) v.22-24 TRIP TO JERUSALEM: 2 CEREMONIES, 1) PURIFICATION, 2) PRESENTATION.

22 a And when the time came for their purification ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF MOSES, a) Purification(mother)
b THEY BROUGHT HIM UP TO JERUSALEM to present him to the Lord, b) Firstborn
23 b' as it is written in the law of the Lord, 40 Days, Redeem Firstborn: Belongs To God, Lord(4x), Law(3x):Cited 2x
"Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord" b') Ex. 13:2, 11-16; Num. 18:15-

16 and to offer a sacrifice, according to what is said in the law of the Lord, Law Moves To Jerusalem, //m. Berakoth 8
24 a' "a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons." (Offering for the modest, 1:52, Lev. 5:11) a') Lev. 5:11, 12:1-8(LXX)
Obedience To Law = Assumption Of Life, 2:21 Circumcised

2) v.25-32 SIMEON THE PROPHET (Male). The Best Of Judaism Respond To Jesus' Birth Temple = Center Of Jewish Life, Here He Is Recognized!

25a 1 a) v.25-26 Pious Characterization: The Best Of Judaism, 1:38. Reliable Spokesman
And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, Name, Not Priest But Layman
and this man was righteous and devout, 23:50-51, God-Fearing, 1:6 // Zechariah, Acts 10:2 (Cornelius)
looking for the consolation of Israel. Is. 40:1, 49:13, 51:3, 61:2, 66:13, 2 Baruch 44:7, Characterization
b 2 And the Holy Spirit was (rested) upon him. 1:35, 41, 67, Spirit (vv.25b, 26a, 27a), Charismatic/Prophetic Role
26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit Special Revelation: A Personal Promise
that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ (Messiah). Content: Messiah, Prophecy
Holy Spirit: 1) Rested, 2) Revealed, 3) Inspired Speech

b) v.27-32 Enters Temple And Blesses God: Now Ready To Die, Prophecy Fulfilled.

27 And inspired/ordered by the Holy Spirit he came into the temple; Courts (Women? Gentiles?) 4:1, Guidanceand
when the parents brought in the child Jesus, Perfect Timing = Divine Appointment
to do for him according to the custom of the law, Their Obedience Put Them In The Right Place!
28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, Called Theodochos, In Obedience, Revelation Comes
God Keeps A Personal Promise, Fulfills Mal. 3:1-2
29 1a "Now, Lord, lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, 1:8, 2:11, Nunc Dimittis (1:46-55, 1:67-79, 2:13-14) Canticles
b according to thy word:/ v.26 Promise, //Jub. 45:3-4, Form = Praise + Motive + Expansion
30 2a for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, (Is. 40:5, 51:5-8), LXX, Joyful Praise, Sees Jesus As Salvation Now
31 b which thou has prepared in the presence of ALL peoples (Is. 52:9-10),/ Zech. 14:9, Public/Universal Mission
32 3a a light for revelation to the Gentiles (Is. 49:6), All Peoples = Gentile Ignorance, Long Jewish Humiliation
b and for glory to thy people Israel.// Theocentric Prayer, 2nd Person, (God-Centered)
Highly Trinitarian, Missional Passage

3) v.33-35 THE MINISTRY OF JESUS: PROPHECY TO MARY: DIVISION.

33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him; 1:63, 2:18, Response To Prophecy
34a and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, Power Of A Spoken Blessing
1st Ominous Future Word = World Reacts: Division
b a "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, Is. 8:14-15, Destiny: Prophecy
b and for a sign that is spoken against, 4:28-30 Nazareth, Messiah Rejected, Is. 51:17-23
35 a' And you, your soul shall be pierced through by a sword, Tests All, 12:51-53 (family division)
b' so that the inmost thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Pain, Show True Colors
Mt. 10:34, Penetration, Preparation For Pain/Suffering

2') v.36-38 ANNA THE PROPHETESS: The Best Of Judaism (Female). Women/Men (13x)

Female Prophets: Ex. 15:20, Jud. 4:4, 2 Kgs. 22:14, Neh. 6:14, Is. 8:3, Rev. 2:20

a) v.36-37 Pious Characterization: Ideals Of Fidelity And Devotion. //Acts 2:17-18

36 1 And there was a prophetess, (H)Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher, Name/Lineage
she was of a great age, Patriarchal: Father/Husband, Dual Witness (Dt. 19:15)
having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, Holy Spirit Assumed (1:39-56), Characterization
37a and as a widow eighty-four years. Vague syntax, 14+7+84 = 105 (//Judith)
b 2 She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. Judith 8:1-8,11:17,16:21-25
1:53, Psalm 130:5-8, Multiple Prophecies Of Future Greatness

b) v.38 Enters Temples And Thanks God, Public Preaching By A Prophetess.

38 And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, Divine Guidance? Vertical + Horizontal
and spoke to ALL who were looking for the redemption of JERUSALEM Is. 40:2, 23:51
Simeon Addresses Mary, Anna All The Faithful

1) v.39 TRIP FROM JERUSALEM BACK TO NAZARETH.

39 ..... And when they had performed everything Law+Spirit+Prophecy+Gospel Go Together! Attention To Detail
ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF THE LORD, Law And Prophecy Are Not Opposed, Their Faithfulness (5x)
THEY RETURNED TO GALILEE, TO THEIR OWN CITY, NAZARETH. 2:4, Ends Infancy Story, 1 Sam. 2:20