

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 5, 2021

2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

LITURGICAL COLOR: PURPLE

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Michael Williams

PRELUDE**“Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland”**

Saint Ambrose, harmony J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rhett Butler

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Watson Family

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

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Rhett Butler

L: O come, O come, Immanuel,

C: And be light for our darkness.

L: Be comfort in our grief,

C: Be a friend for our loneliness,

L: An oasis for our searching.

C: O come, O come, Immanuel,

All: Restore our joy, heal our wounds, and bring us peace.

OPENING PRAYER²

Rhett Butler

God in this season suspended between hope and fulfillment, let us never forget what you have done. May we be overwhelmed by your mercy, which flows in wave after wave. May we be honest about the darkness within us, and perceptive of the light around us. May we make straight the path for the Lord, that together we may see God’s glory revealed. **Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 881*“Apostles Creed”*****GLORIA PATRI**

GREATORIX

OPENING HYMN NO. 213 (vss 1&3)*“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”**

TRURO

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**Baruch 5:1-5 (CEB)**

Pastor Debra

Take off your mourning clothes and oppression, Jerusalem! Dress yourself in the dignity of God’s glory forever. Wrap the justice that comes from God around yourself like a robe. Place the eternal one’s glory on your head like a crown. God will show your brilliance everywhere under heaven. God will give you this name by which to be called forever: The Peace That Comes from Justice, The Honor That Comes from Reverence for God! Get up, Jerusalem! Stand on the high place and look around to the east! See your children gathered from the west to the east by the holy one’s word, as they rejoice that God has remembered them.

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 peace 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 peace 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 peace 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

"A Star Shone Bright"

O WALY WALY

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

Philippians 1:9-11

Pastor Debra

SERMON

"The Inn: A Place at the Table"

Pastor Debra

CLOSING HYMN NO: 206

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

HOUSTON

***BENEDICTION⁴**

Pastor Debra

Beloved people of God 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/second-sunday-of-advent-year-c>

² Ibid

³ ©www.worshipdesignstudio.com/theinn

⁴ Ibid



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.

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 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.**



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 46
December 5, 2021

A Few Words from the Pastor...

This first week of Advent I am practicing the pause to consider what needs to be cleaned out so that there is room in my life for Jesus. I encourage you to do the same. To help us think about the Biblical concept of the pause I'm including a devotional story from Javier Lopez-Schulze. The daily devotions from St. John's Austin are part of my Advent time every morning.

Pastor Debra

*Sē' lah*¹

In the Hebrew Bible, mostly in Psalms, there is a term. It is often found off to the side, past the end of a verse. Sometimes, it can even be found at the end of a passage or a set of verses. *Sē' lah*.

I have been fascinated by this word for years, but I never really took the time to pay attention to it. I never took the time to research it, to attempt to discern its meaning. It was there.

Renowned theologian, Google, tells me that it is commonly believed to be an instruction to pause. But, not just to pause, but to take a moment and contemplate on the passage or verse just heard or read. Simply put, in my heart, it was an instruction to ponder.

The pandemic and the ensuing closures and restrictions became a forced period of contemplation. The forced pause that allowed for the time to simply admire the Lord's marvelous creation. It forced me to ponder God, and His presence even in the midst of such tragedy. It forced me to do as Mr. Rogers taught me, look for the helpers.

The pictures that accompany this passage were all taken during this time of meditation and in them, I see God's creation. The hummingbird and butterfly were taken outside my window. They came to feast on flowers that had been planted when I had nothing else to do on a Saturday afternoon in early Spring. The flowers eventually developed into a full display of color that attracted my two visitors.

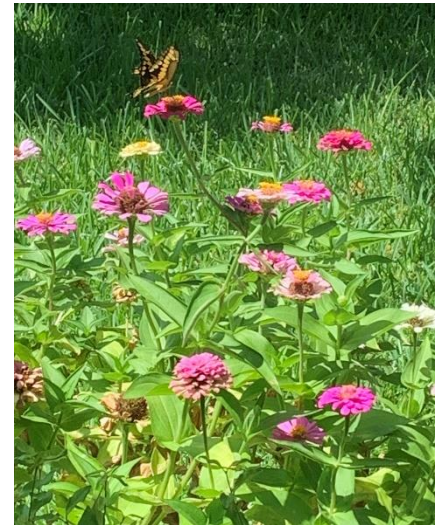


The pandemic marred our lives; it shattered the false sense of normalcy and forced a pause for many. That pause, for me, allowed for the contemplation of those things that I often missed as I was going from one appointment to the next or from home to work and back. It forced me to hear the sounds of the chirping birds, or catch the scent of the jasmine, gardenia, and honeysuckle in the early evenings, or to hear the ever changing tune of the wind chime. The pandemic forced me to live, and not just dash from one moment to the next.

COVID was and is devastating, but I found myself closer to God than I have ever been. It is as if, in the book of my life, this was my pause.

Sē' lah.

Javier Lopez-Schulze



¹sjnews@stjohnsaustin.org



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.





- ❖ 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.

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

MEMORIALS:

In Memory of Jerry Leach
M&M Ronnie Cundiff

In Memory of Joyce Quick
M&M Eric Dusa



**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 5, 2021

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

Monday, December 6, 2021

- 6:30pm Boy Scouts (NETC)

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

- 8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
- 5:00pm SPRC Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00pm Choir Practice

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

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

Thursday, December 9, 2021

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

Sunday, December 12, 2021

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

Weekly amount needed for budget: \$5,797.85
Amount received for week of December 1: \$11,314.37
Sunday School Attendance, November 28: 40
FUMC Food Pantry Item: Canned meats, stews
Greeter: Pat Barham
Acolyte: Sawyer or Ashton Becker
Flowers next Sunday: Poinsettias

Amount needed year to date: \$278,296.80
Received year to date: \$283,734.16
Worship Attendance, November 28: 62
McArn Items: Juice boxes
Head Usher: Jerry Tucker
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