

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

JANUARY 9, 2022

***1ST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY/BAPTISM OF THE LORD/REAFFIRMATION OF
BAPTISM***

LITURGICAL COLOR: WHITE

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Michael Williams

PRELUDE

“Here I Am, Lord”

arr. John Carter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joey Mills

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Joey Mills

Leader : All creation proclaims the greatness and love of God.

People: God's love permeates even the deepest darkness.

Leader: The light of God shines on us with new hope.

People: We are called to be people of compassion and justice.

Leader: Open our hearts, O Lord, to see your light and live in your hope.

People: Prepare us for service to all your people and to this world. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER²

Joey Mills

O God of all creation, you came into the world that we might know love and new life. Pour your Spirit on your church, that it may fulfill Christ's command to live the gospel everywhere; that the proclamation of the good news might be heard throughout the earth. Reassure us, that we are your beloved people. Defend us against all evil and temptation. Give us grace to bear faithful witness to you. Fill us with love, keep us constant in prayer, empower us for the service of love. **Amen.**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 880**

“Nicene Creed”

Joey Mills

***GLORIA PATRI**

GREATOREX

***OPENING HYMN NO. 529 (vss 1,2,5)**

“How Firm a Foundation”

FOUNDATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER³

Pastor Debra

In the waters of baptism we were made God's children and called to serve one another as we have been served by Christ. Therefore let us pray for one another and for all people who will not or cannot pray for themselves.

Dear heavenly Father, we give you thanks and praise that in your mercy you brought us to baptism, and there gave us Jesus' holiness in exchange for our sin and impurity. Thank you for our parents who brought us up in the faith and to baptism, thank you for those other people whom you used to bring us the gospel, and thank you for our pastors and teachers in the faith.

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the baptized people of God, that we may hang on to your promises in true faith, especially when we experience the wilderness of sin and evil within, and temptations and trials from outside. Strengthen us with your Holy Spirit so that Jesus' victory may be our victory.

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all people, that the good news of Christ will be proclaimed and heard by all people, and that many will believe and be baptized. To this end, send and support pastors, missionaries, teachers, and lay people able to give truthful and loving witness to Christ.

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

Have mercy on those in need, those who are struggling because of domestic violence and break-down, those who are suffering from harmful behavior and hurting relationships. Heal, restore, and renew dear Lord.

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick, those who are disabled, those in the hospital, those facing death. Show them the light of the gospel, provide helpers and medical resources, and heal both body and soul. Be with those among us who are sick or recovering from surgery, our shut-ins, those on our prayer list and others whom we name in our hearts. (*silence*)

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, you have shown us your love and salvation in the baptism of your Son. Accept these prayers of your children as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us, **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	“Baptized in Water”	BUNESSAN
SCRIPTURE READING	Isaiah 43:1-7	
*HYMN NO. 512 (vss 1,2&3)	“Stand By Me”	STAND BY ME
SERMON	“Living Light: Fearless”	Pastor Debra

REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT⁴

Introduction

Sisters and brothers in Christ: through the sacrament of baptism God's Spirit has been poured out upon water, water poured over and immersing us, water that flows freely for all who will receive it, water from the streams of God's saving power and justice, water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness, water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth. Today we come to the waters, to renew our commitments in each other's presence to Christ who has raised us, the Spirit who has birthed us, and the Creator who is making all things new.

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Pastor: And so, I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

People: We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin!

Pastor: Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

People: We accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves!

Pastor: Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ, his body on earth?

People: We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as our Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races!

Pastor: Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

People: We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.

Pastor: Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

People: We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church as we put our trust in God, the Father Almighty. in Jesus Christ, his only Son and in the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

Pastor: The Spirit of the Lord is with us.

People: Even so, come Lord Jesus!

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, the life you birthed in us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die. Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting.

People: Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will. We cannot stop you, God!

Pastor: But sometimes we try. We try to block the flow, we redirect the winds of the Spirit, or we walk so far away from the life-giving stream that we do not hear its sound, and we forget its power. We parch ourselves.

People: We are dry and thirsty, O God. Come, refresh us!

Pastor: Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

People: Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

Pastor: Come upon these waters.

People: Come upon these waters.

Pastor: Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.

People: Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.

Pastor: Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.

People: Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.

Pastor: Most Holy God, Abba, Father!

People: Glory to you!

Pastor: Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!

People: Glory to you!

Pastor: Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!

People: Glory to you!

Pastor: Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!

People: All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!

Baptismal Water as a Sign of Refreshing

Pastor: Remember that you are baptized and rejoice! Remember that you are baptized and rejoice! Remember that you are baptized and rejoice!

Act of Thanksgiving

Pastor: Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant God.

People: We give thanks for all that God has already given us. As members of the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we will faithfully participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Pastor: The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace. **AMEN**

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 608**

"This Is the Spirit's Entry Now"

AZMON

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

I want to walk as a child of the light
I want to follow Jesus
God sent the stars to give light to the world
The star of my life is Jesus

In Him, there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike
The Lamb is the light of the city of God
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

***POSTLUDE**

“Postlude on Azmon”

compiled/imporv-Williams

**If you are able, please stand.*

¹ <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3490>

² <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/love-never-ends-being-the-body-of-christ/epiphany-baptism-of-the-lord-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes>

³ Ibid

⁴ <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/new-service-of-reaffirmation-of-the-baptismal-covenant>



The flowers are placed in the sanctuary today to the glory of God and in loving memory of Pete Baker by Pam and Rebecca.

FLOWER CALENDAR: A flower calendar for 2022 is 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.

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, Mabel Foster, Jim Bennett, Phillip Caulder, Scott Tomberlin, Tony Thraikill, Theodore Burns, Margaret Stanton, Mary Snookie Lomas, Richard & Alice Todd (Family lost their home to a fire), Jay Hinson (Mary Burr’s Friend), Brenda Rayfield. **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 17,
Issue 2
January 9, 2022

A Few Words from the Hartsville District Superintendent:

Wow...just WOW, the year 2022 has arrived and 2021 will never return! I pray that you and all those near and dear to you are well and have reflections of a very merry holiday season; filled with all the wonder that the joy of Jesus brings to the world.

Year after year, I have these visions of grandeur that December 24th - January 1st will somehow last much longer than 9 spans of 24-hour-cycles. Talk about having sugar-plum idealism, thinking that I will have limitless time to catch-up on rest and relaxation, take in some "Law and Order" shows and/or Lifetime TV, maybe some stream of consciousness journaling, and definitely connect with family and friends for fellowship and fun. As usual, I come away from New Year's Day with the rhetorical query, "*Where did all that time go so fast?*"

Life teaches us about the truth of time. It really flies when you are having fun. According to The Rolling Stones, "*Time waits for no one, and it won't wait for me.*" Benjamin Franklin advised, "*You may delay, but time will not.*" The Bible teaches us that there is "*...a time for every purpose under heaven,*" and admonishes us to "*number our days to gain a heart of wisdom.*" Each of these musings join the chorus of the clarion call to honor time, recognize its brevity, and never forget the value of its worth.

God uses the time of faith-formation to fashion us, make us, mold us, and shape us according to God's divine will. Time changes from seconds to hours, from dawn to dusk, from season to season, from daylight to moonlight, and all the minutes in-between. In very recent time, I moved from serving as the Senior Pastor of local church to becoming the District Superintendent of the warmest district in the South Carolina Annual Conference! New Year's Day was my 6th month benchmark...and guess what? We are all still alive, surviving and thriving, Amen!

God also uses time to heal and restore. My family is experiencing such right now. 7 months ago, my older brother decided to pursue the work of recovery for his drug addiction that has spanned for 37 years of his life. As a matter of fact, on this Epiphany Sunday, we witnessed the power of the Newborn King to bring our nuclear family together for worship at our home-church, Wesley United Methodist Church (Hollywood, South Carolina), at the request of my parents who just happen to be divorced now for almost 20 years, after being married for 30 years! See, time has a first-cousin called patience, which when put into practice, will have a perfect turn!

So, on this first Sunday of this new year, the precursor to the January 6th Day of Epiphany; I encourage us all to seek so that we can see; pray to find love's excellent way, and stand in the purpose of God's plan. When we do these things, God equips us with time to share the real gifts of grace's gold, faith's frankincense, and mercy myrrh as we serve this present age, building God's kingdom one day at a time...thanks be to God!

Steadfast in Faith...

Much LOVE and GRACE (MLAG),

Reverend Telley Lynnette Gadson

"PASTOR T"

District Superintendent/Chief Missional Strategist

The HEART-warming HARTSVILLE District

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.

UMW MEETING: The UMW will meet on Tuesday, January 11 at 3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will have an Epworth Representative as our special guest.

TRUSTEES COMMITTEE MEETING: The Trustees Committee will meet on Sunday, January 16 at 3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING: The Worship Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 18 at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: The Finance Committee will meet on Sunday, January 23 at 5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: The Church Council will meet on Sunday, January 23 at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

MEMORIALS:

IN MEMORY OF JEFF FOSTER

Pam Baker, Martha Starling, Gailya Wilson, Lib Norton, Billy & Connie Spencer, B.J. Moore, Keith & Sally Smith, Thomas and Sharon Pearson McKinnon

IN MEMORY OF CARRIE LEE WHITE

Martha Starling, Pam Baker, Lib Norton

IN MEMORY OF JERRY LEACH

Pam Baker, Martha Starling, Gailya Wilson

IN MEMORY OF M&M JERRY THERRELL

Gailya Wilson

IN MEMORY OF SARAH MARGARET THERRELL

Pam Baker, Martha Starling

IN MEMORY OF JOYCE QUICK

Gailya Wilson, Pam Baker, Martha Starling

IN MEMORY OF JOE REID

Gailya Wilson, Pam Baker, Martha Starling, Lib Norton

IN MEMORY OF HAROLD LOMAS

Gailya Wilson, Pam Baker

IN MEMORY OF M&M TAVENER THREATTE

Gailya Wilson, Pam Baker, Martha Starling

IN MEMORY OF MANFRED KOLLITZ

Gailya Wilson, Pam Baker, Martha Starling

IN MEMORY OF JOAN MAYHEW EASTERLING

Martha Starling, Pam Baker

IN MEMORY OF JOHN MOORE

Gailya Wilson, Pam Baker, Martha Starling, Lib Norton

IN MEMORY OF JANE MAYHEW

Gailya Wilson, Pam Baker, Martha Starling, Lib Norton

IN MEMORY OF JUDY QUICK

Martha Starling, Lib Norton

IN MEMORY OF RONNIE STARLING

Martha Starling, Mike Starling, Kim Starling Carnell

IN MEMORY OF BRIAN BURCH

Pam Baker

IN MEMORY OF BEVERLY ABLES

Martha Starling

IN MEMORY OF PRENTISS ODOM

Martha Starling

IN MEMORY OF HERBERT FOSTER

Martha Starling

IN MEMORY OF SAM EUBANKS

Martha Starling, Pam Baker, Lib Norton

IN MEMORY OF PETE BAKER

Martha Starling

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 9, 2022

10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship

Monday, January 10, 2022

6:30pm Boy Scouts (NETC)

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
3:00pm UMW Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
12:00pm Bulletin/Newsletter Deadline
6:00pm Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
7:00pm Choir Practice

Thursday, January 13, 2022

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

Sunday, January 16, 2022

10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship
3:00pm Trustee Committee Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Weekly amount needed for budget: \$5,769.24
Amount received for week of January 5: \$2,131.98
Sunday School Attendance, January 2: 40
FUMC Food Pantry Item: Canned vegetables
Greeters: Joey & Trina Mills
Acolyte: Zenda Rushing
Nursery Workers: Trina Mills & Cindy Sanderson
Soundsystem Operator: Holly & Paul Miles

Amount needed year to date: \$5,769.24
Received year to date: \$2,131.98
Worship Attendance, January 2: 51
McArn Items: Fruit Cups
Head Usher: Jack VanDeman
Liturgist for next Sunday: Greg Sanderson
Flowers next Sunday: OPEN
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