

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

FEBRUARY 20, 2022

7TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY/BOY SCOUT SUNDAY

LITURGICAL COLOR: WHITE

CHIMING OF THE HOUR		Michael Williams
PRELUDE	“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring/St. Anne”	arr. Suzanne Brantley
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		Sawyer Becker
PRESENTATION OF THE FLAGS		Scouts
PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE		Scouts
BOY SCOUT OATH AND BOY SCOUT LAW		Scouts
CALL TO WORSHIP¹		Sawyer Becker
	L: Come and learn the ways of life.	
	C: We have come to follow Jesus.	
	L: Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you.	
	C: We have come to follow Jesus.	
	L: Bless those who curse you and pray for those who persecute you.	
	C: We have come to follow Jesus.	
	L: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.	
	C: We have come to learn the way of life and to follow Jesus. Amen.	
OPENING PRAYER²		Sawyer Becker
	Inexhaustible source of love and life, be with us in our time of worship as we seek the love it takes to walk in the ways of your Son. Help us love our enemies and bless those who wrong us, for we cannot do so alone. Teach us the joy of treating others with all the same respect and goodness with which we hope to be treated. May our every word and deed make known that we are your beloved children and vessels of your love. Amen.	
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 880	“Nicene Creed”	Sawyer Becker
INSTRUMENTAL HYMN NO. 164	“Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life”	THE CALL
MORNING PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER		Pastor Debra
OFFERTORY PRAYER		Pastor Debra
GOSPEL ANTHEM	“The Love of God” Frederick M. Lehman	Choir
*SCRIPTURE READING	Luke 6: 27-35	
INSTRUMENTAL HYMN NO. 572	“Pass It On”	PASS IT ON
SERMON	“Living Light: Love & Mercy”	Pastor Debra
*BENEDICTION	Boy Scout Benediction	Jimmy Duffy
*POSTLUDE	“Rigaudon”	Andre Campra

**If you are able, please stand.*

¹ <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/9488>

² Ibid

BOY SCOUTS AND CUB SCOUTS

Scoutmaster: Dr. Kyle Wagner

Assnt. Scout Master: Randall Emery

Assnt. Scout Master: Jim Kennedy

Committee Members:

Kyla Wagner Blair-Committee Chairperson

Kyle Blair

Phillip Shepard

Johnny Brock

Melissa Brock

Cindy Wagner-Advancement Chair

Jimmy Duffy-Committee Member

Boy Scouts:

Trey Brock

Eli Brumbles

Billy Campbell

Sawyer Cassidy

David Hitesman

Charlie Holter

Gareth Robertson

Lawson Shepard

Rivers Watson

Baylen Thomas

Orey Emery

Michael Kennedy

Zander Wagner

Sawyer Becker

DJ Castleberry

Thomas Holter

John Campbell

Cubmaster: Phillip Shepard

Assnt. Scoutmaster: Robyn Brown

Committee Members:

Aleisha Ainsworth

Richard Ainsworth

Kelli Johnson

Kayla Relyea

Melissa Chapman

Cub Scouts:

Benjamin Brown

Bentley Aldridge

Brewer Knight

Brooks Knight

Carter Shepard

Colt Chapman

Connor Ruffner

Dallas Barber

Daniel Goldy

Ethan Ainsworth

Grady Johnson

Gray Knight

Jasper Johnson

Liam Aldridge

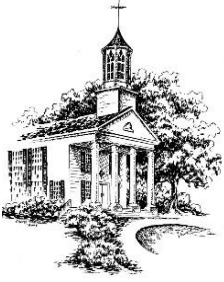
Mason Weber

Nathan Gilmore

Nehemiah Roscoe

Sawyer Lambert

Tripp Adams



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 8

February 20, 2022

A few words from the pastor...

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vineyard keeper. ² He removes any of my branches that don't produce fruit, and he trims any branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit. ³ You are already trimmed because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch can't produce fruit by itself but must remain in the vine. Likewise, you can't produce fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can't do anything. John 15:1-5

I'm participating in the Bishop's School of Ministry this week. This morning's worship focused on abiding. As the music played and the preacher gave the message, I rejoiced at being able to sit at the feet of Jesus and just abide. As I just let my thoughts wander that I finally understood what my grandparents tried to teach me about abiding. It is a blessing beyond measure of simply basking in the presence of the Lord. Nothing to do. No thoughts to program. No words to say. No actions to be taken. Just being still in the presence of God. I emerged from worship feeling lighter, relaxed, and renewed.

I believe we are in a time in the life of the church where we desperately need to take time to stop everything and just abide in the Lord. The anxiety levels about the future are off the charts. The branches are looking a bit scraggly and in need of pruning. We need to abide with Jesus, to cling to the vine as we emerge from the wilderness of pandemic. Abiding will help us, as we pray and wait, listening for the voice of our Savior to let us know the plans that God has for our future at FUMC.

In the first five verses of John 15 Jesus reminds us that he is the true vine, and that God the Father is the keeper of the vine. We are branches of that vine and we are being tended by God to bear spiritual fruit for the kingdom of God. God tends the soil. God gives the sunlight. God provides the water and nutrients we need to be healthy, productive fruit. Our job is to cling to the vine. To hold on to Jesus and bask in his presence. To accept the removal of the dead wood and the pruning of our branches. The outcome is more than we can do on our own (nothing). The fruit of abiding in Christ will overflow with the goodness of our God.

There is a fun song written by Amy Grant that I used to sing with college students that encourages abiding. The song's title is Grape, Grape Joy. Here are the lyrics:

I am a small and lonely grape clutching to the vine waiting for the day when I'll become my Savior's wine! Oh, wouldn't French cuisine just yearn it! I've eternity to ferment but knowing me I'd end up ripple in a cellar of Chablis. Are you a small and lonely grape clutching to the vine waiting for the day when you'll become your Savior's wine? Don't give up hope ye heavy laden you don't want to be a raisin; There's a grape, grape joy in Jesus in the vineyard of the Lord!¹

I am looking forward to the grape, grape joy of Jesus in the vineyard at FUMC as we abide together and see what fruit the Lord has for us to harvest. I don't know about you, but I agree with Amy Grant. I do not want to be a raisin. So, I am going do some more abiding with the vine in the vineyard. Hope to see you there.

Pastor Debra

¹ <https://genius.com/Amy-grant-grape-grape-joy-lyrics>

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, George Adams, Rachel Smith (Brenda Rayfield's friend), Nancy Chestnut (Michelle Rohde's mother), Pat Barham. **NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notified.**

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.


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.

MEMORIALS:

IN MEMORY OF JEFFREY FOSTER
Roger & Ruth Ann Jones, Dare Marsh, Pal Moore

IN MEMORY OF MANFRED KOLLITZ
Bennie Easterling



**UPDATED
COVID -19
PROTOCOLS**

All are welcome to worship with us and have their usual meetings. Masks are optional but strongly encouraged. We are not having congregational meals or singing at this time. The choir will practice and supply congregational music wearing masks and social distancing. We hope this variant passes soon and that we can return to congregational meals and singing in weeks rather than months. We urge patience and understanding as we continue to seek the best ways to continue to make First United Methodist Church a safe place to worship and to share the love of Christ by caring for one another.

LIFE LINE SCREENING: Have you ever thought about the following? I want to see my grandchildren grow up; I want to continue living independently; I don't want to be a burden on my family. Preventive screenings can help and we have partnered with Life Line Screening to provide these valuable screenings.

The mission of Life Line Screening is to provide advance, yet affordable and convenient health screenings that supplement your traditional healthcare.

They can help make you aware of a previously silent, unrecognized problem that can now get treated at an early stage, or confirm that you are on the right path and should continue your healthy habits.

Don't let heart disease and stroke get in your way of the life you love. Call toll free 1-888-653-6441, text the word, "circle" to 797979 or online at <https://lisa.social/HSC> to schedule your health screening.

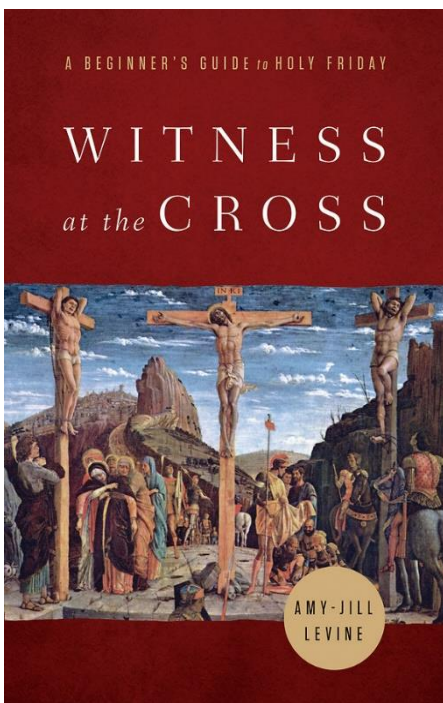
A package of 5 vital screenings is offered for only \$139.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: FUMC will host a Red Cross Blood drive on Thursday, March 3 from 1:00pm-6:00pm. **Join Team Red Cross. Give Blood.** No matter what team you root for, be a part of Team Red Cross! [Schedule your next blood.](#)

[platelet or plasma donation appointment today.](#)

Thanks to our partners at Fanatics, you can score a \$10 e-gift card when you come to give blood, platelets or plasma in March!* Treat yourself or a sports aficionado friend to official fan gear on us. PLUS, you'll also automatically be entered for a chance to **win a trip for two to the 2022 MLB® All-Star Game® in Los Angeles, California**, when you come to give March 1-31, 2022.** The package includes two tickets to 2022 MLB® All-Star Sunday, the 2022 Home Run Derby, and the 2022 MLB® All-Star Game®, round-trip airfare to Los Angeles, four-night hotel accommodations (July 16-20, 2022), plus a \$750 gift card for expenses. Team Red Cross needs more players, and we're looking to fill the roster with volunteers like you. No special training is required to be an all-star donor, and there is no better time to get in the game.



Lenten Bible Study

Witness at the Cross by Amy-Jill Levine

February 23 - April 13, 2022

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

(Bible Study will not meet on Ash Wednesday March 2, 2022)

Prepare for Holy Week and Easter this Lenten Season by looking at the witnesses who were at the cross. This seven-week Bible study by internationally renowned teacher and scholar Amy-Jill Levine will view the crucifixion of Jesus from the eyes of those who watched Jesus die. Simon of Cyrene, the bystanders and scoffers, the other crucified victims, the soldiers, the Beloved Disciple, the women, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, and God and Nature all have perspectives that will transform our views of Holy Week and Easter.

Books are available in the church office. The cost is \$13.50. Sign up by contacting the church office at 843-537-7002 or fumcangiesmith@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, February 20, 2022

10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship (Scout Sunday)
5:30-7:00pm UMYF

Monday, February 21, 2022

6:30pm Boy Scouts (NETC)

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

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

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

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

Thursday, February 24, 2022

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

Friday, February 25, 2022

10:00am Worship Committee to make Ash Wednesday
Kits (Fellowship Hall)
4:00pm UMYF Leave church for Winterjam.

Sunday, February 27, 2022

10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship
12:00pm UMYF Leaders Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Weekly amount needed for budget: \$5,769.24
Amount received for week of February 16: \$7,797.14
Sunday School Attendance February 13: 44
FUMC Food Pantry Item: Peanut butter
Greeter: Ruth Ann Jones
Acolyte: Bryson Hunter
Nursery Workers: OPEN
Video Technicians: Bryson Hunter

Amount needed year to date: \$40,384.68
Received year to date: \$29,923.36
Worship Attendance February 13: 57
McArn Items: Juice boxes
Head Usher: Keith Smith
Liturgist for next Sunday: Rhett Butler
Flowers next Sunday: OPEN
Soundsystem Operator: Scott Eddins

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