

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 THIRD STREET, CHERAW, SC 29520

843-537-7002

www.cherawfirstumc.org



*Good Enough:
Embracing Faith and Life*

Third Sunday of Lent

"Nurture Is The Cure"

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

A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

MARCH 20, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

LITURGICAL COLOR: BURLAP

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Beth Maier

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Shannon Johnson

L: Wrap yourselves in the healing love of God!

C: We seek God's presence in our lives.

L: Know that God continually surrounds us with patience and persistence.

C: Even though we have not produced the "fruits" of hope that God seeks, yet God forgives and heals our weakness.

L: Rejoice! Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!

C: We will turn our lives again to the Lord, to serve and seek God's presence. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

Shannon Johnson

Open our eyes, our ears, our hearts and spirits this morning, Lord, that we may be healed of our faithlessness, freed from our fears and anxieties, and placed on the pathways that lead to peace and service to you. In Jesus' Name, we pray. **AMEN.**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 882

"Apostle's Creed Ecumenical Version"

Shannon Johnson

*PSALTER & RESPONSE NO. 788

Psalm 63

*HYMN NO. 127

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

CWM RHONDDA

CONFESSION & PARDON

Pastor: In our Gospel scripture today, we will hear about the unproductive fig tree. Oh, the shame of being unproductive! Cut it down! Make room for a more dedicated and hard-working fig tree! Who among us is living up to our fullest potential? The productivity experts these days can diagnose what's wrong and sell us the antidote in 3 amazing sessions for a low-low price that is guaranteed to turn our lives around. But the gardener offers an alternative medicine—nurture it slowly, letting it soak in the manure all around until it can get the good stuff out of it. Lying fallow and getting fertilized with laughter and tears at the nasty stuff of life can help heal what ails us. Is this not sometimes productive enough? What productivity expectations are holding you captive? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

Silent Reflection

Pastor: Hear this compassionate word from Isaiah: "Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy, and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

Know that already, God is offering us love enough no matter how much we attain or achieve. We are invited to release oppressive expectations of ourselves and others so that we might recognize true worth afforded to all. And know, that despite our sometimes faltering steps, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now.

Congregation: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God! Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"

SPARROW

Choir

MORNING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Debra

*HYMN NO. 536

"Precious Name"

PRECIOUS NAME

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor Debra

***DOXOLOGY NO. 95**

OLD 100th

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Jesus Christ, our burdens know, praise Spirit through whom our hearts grow, Praise Three-in-One, from here below.

***SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 13:1-9

SERMON

"Nurture Is the Cure"

Pastor Debra

A BLESSING FOR SLOWING DOWN

*"...blessed are we who stop—okay, maybe not stop entirely,
who are we kidding—but who slow down.*

*We who discover rest and new life and renewal
when we step off the treadmill (or at least turn it down).*

*We who remember that the world keeps spinning without us. And thank God for that. We who remember we are loved, loved,
loved. Just being us."*

***HYMN NO. 2158**

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

DRAW ME CLOSE

***BENEDICTION⁴**

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, and you—without price, and Jesus, our companion along this crooked path called life, and the Holy Spirit, who loves to improvise in surprising ways, go with you, dwell among you, and give you joy. **Amen.**

***POSTLUDE**

Beth Maier

**If you are able, please stand.*

¹ <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3570>

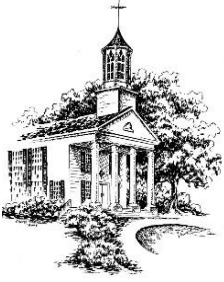
² Ibid

³ All liturgy and leader parts not otherwise referenced Marcia McFee © www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough Used and adapted with permission.

⁴ "A Blessing for Slowing Down," from *Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Used with permission. Purchase the book at www.katebowler.com/goodenough.

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, Dan Ellenburg (Patty Fisher's brother-in-law), Rachel Smith (Brenda Rayfield's friend), Angie Smith, Betty Board, Betty Thraikill. **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: The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and as a tribute to the solidarity of the brave men and women of Ukraine by Marianne and Jim Crawford.



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 12
March 20, 2022

A few words from the pastor...

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:12-17 NRSV

How is your Lenten Season going so far chosen, holy, and beloved people of God? We sure have had some speed bumps in the office this past week and springing forward brought some unwanted fatigue this week. I found myself taking deep breaths several times and remembering who we are!

This week as God's chosen, holy, and beloved ones we will focus on the second part of the first sentence. Paul encourages us to put on our Jesus clothes as I like to refer to them. Now, I confess I am more familiar with putting on the armor of God described in Ephesians 6 than the clothes that Paul urges the people of Colossae to put on themselves in this scripture. I have prayed about and visualized putting on the armor of God for protection in times of difficulty. But how do we put on compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience?

After prayer and reflection on this sentence I decided to try putting on one item of my Jesus clothes each day. Pondering that compassion means showing concern for others especially those in situations of misfortune or suffering I decided to put on a shirt of compassion and look for opportunities to show I do care. God provided many opportunities that day. The one that stands out the most to me is a woman with two children in line in the post office. I could tell her children were tired of waiting so I told her to go in front of me and I talked with her children. As she left, she thanked me for caring and her children both echoed her offering their thanks too.

Next up is kindness. I choose kindness shoes to put on because to me you need to step up and step out to demonstrate kindness to others most of the time. A resource that helped me with my kindness shoes on this day is <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org>. This site has lots of suggestions for ways to show kindness and there March 2022 calendar has daily suggestions for being kind to yourself.

The next day the article of clothing I chose were some pants or as my grandma would say "trousers" of humility. My wise grandma, who always had something to say, would remind us that everyone puts



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trousers on one leg at a time if we were being braggarts and thinking too highly of ourselves. Humility does not mean low self-esteem. I had great fun having friends give me examples of humility on this day. My favorite was “humility keeps my head getting too big for my shoulders!”

For meekness I chose socks because they are usually worn with shoes. A lot of times we associate meekness with the lack of emotions or weakness. This is far from the Bible’s concept of meekness. Meekness in scripture mean exhibiting self-control and being willing to submit to God. Jesus was meek as he accepted the will of God and submitted himself to death on a cross for us. We are meek when we accept Jesus as not only our savior but our Lord. Submitting to God’s will is still a work in progress for me. For the meekness day, I focused my socks on discerning and following God’s will.

The last article of clothing is patience. Many years ago, I prayed that God would teach me patience and God did. I had one opportunity after another to wait on the Lord. I have prayed for patience since then but never again asked God to teach me to be patient. I struggled deciding on an article of clothing to be my patience clothes because I was already dressed! I decided patience was like a vest, sweater, or scarf that completes the outfit and keeps us warm.

The remaining days of the week I visualized my self-putting on my Jesus clothes. Each day I wore a shirt of compassion, shoes of kindness, pants of humility, socks of meekness, and a vest, sweater, or scarf of patience. Things were looking good with my Jesus clothes on, and I did find myself more aware of opportunities to share compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Try it! You may just find yourself not only wearing some Jesus clothes but acting more like Jesus too! And that is Good Enough!

Pastor Debra

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.



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one.

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life. Thursdays 10:30 am.

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.

BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE: FUMC was successful in collecting 19 units of blood – helping to impact up to 57 patient lives. Thanks to all those that were able to come out and give. Our next blood drive is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7 from 1:00pm-6:00pm, call or email Angie if you would like to go ahead and schedule your appointment for this drive now.

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 her the address is listed here.

Margaret Stanton (March 22)
Rehabilitation of Cheraw
1150 State Road
Cheraw, SC 29520

IT'S A BLESSING TO BE ABLE TO HELP: It all started with a visit to Ellison at the Veteran's Village in Florence by Ed Cox several weeks ago. Ellison sent word by Ed to the Men's Bible Class – Tell them we need songbooks. We discussed it for about 5 minutes, and now the Veteran's Village has songbooks. As many as they need. But it doesn't end there. Ellison sent word again – we need a piano. Another whole ballgame! Come to find out Paul Miles had a piano needing a home. After checking with the Veteran's Village Administration and Chaplain Hayes (they were thrilled), plans were made. Jackson, Joey, and Paul loaded it up and Jackson (along with Zenda) delivered it the next day. Chaplain Hayes had staff offload the piano and take it to its new home while Jackson and Zenda were able to get in and visit with Ellison. Fortunate set of events or providential? Does it matter? What matters is that a bunch of our veterans can now worship with song and music. Paul summed it up for all of us "It's a blessing to be able to help".



(Side note) Mr. Ellison was very happy and excited that his church was able to provide the song books and the piano. He wanted to thank each of you that had a hand in getting these items for them.

YOUTH/FIREFLIES HAVING FUN



Church Council Modifies Covid Protocols - In response to recent local data indicating significantly reduced Covid risk factors in Chesterfield County, the Church Council has moved to the lowest level of Covid safety precautions. Effectively immediately:

- The choir may be seated together
- The congregation may sing hymns
- Groups of 50 or less may gather indoors and enjoy refreshments and meals
- The nursery will operate
- Social distancing will continue to be practiced indoors
- Wearing a mask is optional

The situation will continue to be monitored and the need for possible changes will be reviewed at the Council's April meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 20, 2022

10:00am Sunday School
 11:00am Worship
 5:30-7:00pm Fireflies (Kids Nook & Fellowship Hall)
 5:30-7:00pm UMYF (Youth Hut & Fellowship Hall)

Monday, March 21, 2022

6:30pm Boy Scouts (NETC)

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

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

Wednesday, March 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, March 24, 2022

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
 10:30am Grief Share (Parlor)

Sunday, March 27, 2022

10:00am Sunday School
 11:00am Worship
 5:30-7:00pm UMYF (Youth Hut & Fellowship Hall)

Join Us for Lent 2022



March 23 rd	Witness at the Cross Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
March 27 th	4 th Sunday of Lent Worship Service	11:00 a.m.
March 30 th	Witness at the Cross Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
April 3 rd	5 th Sunday of Lent Worship Service	11:00 a.m.
April 6 th	Witness at the Cross Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
April 10 th	Palm Sunday Worship Service	11:00 a.m.
April 13 th	Witness at the Cross Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
April 14 th	Maundy Thursday Worship Service	6:00 p.m.

Weekly amount needed for budget: \$5,769.24
Amount received for week of March 9: \$4,648.06
Amount received for week of March 16: \$1,292.00
Sunday School Attendance March 6: 43
Sunday School Attendance March 13: 51
FUMC Food Pantry Item: Dry cereal
Greeters: Amy Lewis
Acolyte: Penny Quick
Nursery Workers: Kelly & Hollis Dusa
UMYF Leader for next week: Chase Watson
Video Technicians: Bryson Hunter & Peyton Taylor

Amount needed year to date: \$63,461.64
Received year to date: \$62,391.39
Ash Wednesday Attendance: 28
Worship Attendance March 6: 73
Worship Attendance March 13: 71
McArn Items: Individual size cereal boxes
Head Usher: David McLean
Liturgist for next Sunday: Greg Sanderson
Flowers next Sunday: OPEN
UMYF Meal for next week: Renie Seel & Gloria Chapman
Soundsystem Operator: Holly Miles



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)
Beth Maier – Interim Music Director