

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 THIRD STREET, CHERAW, SC 29520

843-537-7002

www.cherawfirstumc.org



*Good Enough:
Embracing Faith and Life*

Fourth Sunday of Lent

*"Humbleness and
Redemption"*

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

A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

MARCH 27, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

LITURGICAL COLOR: BURLAP

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Martha Starling

PRELUDE

Beth Maier

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Greg Sanderson

L: How blessed we are that God forgives us and loves us!

C: For all those times when we have fallen short of what God would have us be, we have been forgiven.

L: God makes us new in God's Spirit!

C: Now is the time to joyfully accept the newness of life which God offers to us.

L: Come, let us worship and be thankful.

C: Let us open our hearts to the peace and joy of God. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

Greg Sanderson

How incredible is your love, O God! We have been made new in your love and reconciled to you and to each other in peace and joy. Be with us this day as we hear your words of comfort and hope. Guide our lives that we may serve you more fully all our days. **AMEN.**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 882**

"Apostle's Creed Ecumenical Version"

Greg Sanderson

***PSALTER & RESPONSE NO. 788**

Psalm 63

Greg Sanderson

***HYMN NO. 121**

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

WELLESLEY

CONFESSION & PARDON

Pastor: Today we will hear how the Prodigal Son lives high on the hog and then famine strikes in the land of his dream vacation. And so, he heads home, tail between his legs, expecting that he has lost it all. To his surprise, his extravagant failure is met with extravagant love and grace. We can be pretty hard on ourselves when things don't go as planned. Guilt, shame, and fear of being seen as a failure can leave us wallowing in the pig pen. Our delusions of a perfectible life keep us disappointed in ourselves. Truth is, life is a big ole risk every single day and facing whatever each day holds is not only good enough, but worthy of love and grace. Do you find yourself being unrealistically hard on yourself? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

Silent Reflection

Pastor: Hear this compassionate word from the Second Letter to the Corinthians: "From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from the guilt and shame of our past failings and our present unrealistic expectations. We are invited to rejoice that each day is a new beginning, so that we might enjoy, and not dread, the life before us. 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

"This Is My Song"

FINLANDIA

Choir

MORNING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Debra

***HYMN NO. 355**

"Depth of Mercy"

CANTERBURY

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 15:1-3 & 11b-24

SERMON

"Humbleness and Redemption"

Pastor Debra

A Blessing for Becoming Real

*"Blessed are you who do not despise your realness.
It may hurt. You may not recognize yourself in the mirror.
But this is what we hoped for, right?
To live and love. To be loved.
To have our experiences show on our faces and in our cells.
It is the real life of Jesus in us, being made visible, as all our seams show."*

***HYMN NO. 480**

"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

ST. MARGARET

***BENEDICTION⁴**

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, and you—without price, and Jesus, our companion long 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/3623>

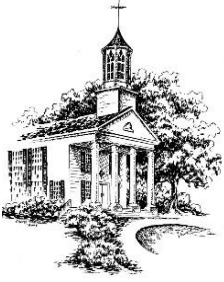
² Ibid

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, Shep Straughn, Dennis Pressley (friend of Jenny Keefe). **NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notified.**

Flowers today are given to the glory of God, in honor of the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR and in celebration of UMCOR Sunday.



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 18,
Issue 12
March 27, 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

Chosen, holy and beloved ones in Christ, I have seen many of you modeling your Jesus clothes with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience this past week. Your clothes look absolutely stunning on you! This week we move onto the next sentence and another way that we clothe ourselves in Christ. Get that bearing with, complaint resolving, forgiving garment out! It is time to model those clothes!

It seems that in the Colossae faith community there were challenges disrupting their harmony. They had unresolved complaints against one another, were not bearing with each other or forgiving others. Sounds just like any community, family, church does it not? It does not tell us if the sopranos were singing too high or the bass-baritones were singing too low for the congregation to sing along. Perhaps they were wearing their worldly clothes and not their Jesus clothes. Or maybe they forgot that all of them were the chosen, holy, beloved ones of God. The scripture does not tell us the source of their problems. It just lets us know they were not getting along with each other.

The Apostle Paul's solution is not for the Colossians to keep arguing till someone wins. It is not to take a vote and try to force people to change their opinions. The solution Paul offers is for the chosen, holy, and beloved people of God to bear with one another and forgive each other. My third-grade teacher, Mrs. Coleman taught it to us this way one day to end our numerous playground disputes. She said, "You may not like each other. You may think someone's clothes are strange. Someone may not like me, or the principal, or this school, or your parents. But what you will do is learn to bear with one another, learn to agree to disagree, and learn to forgive." Geoffrey, our class antagonist, raised his hand immediately with a question. He wanted to know what happened if we could not do it. Mrs. Coleman calmly said that anyone who disrupted the peace would enjoy recess with her instead. There were challenges but we did learn to get along. Often you would hear on the playground or even after school students telling each other to "bear with it."

One important thing to point out here is that the Apostle Paul is not condoning the mistreatment of ourselves or of others. We are not expected to tolerate abuse of any kind as a form of bearing with someone. We are created in the image of God. We are God's chosen, holy, and beloved children. We are to be treated with dignity and respect always. We do not ever need to tolerate abuse.



Image © www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough

Bearing with others and resolving complaints have always been easier for me than forgiveness. The biggest difficulty with forgiveness for me comes when someone betrays or hurts me or someone I love. I know all the reasons in my head why I should forgive, and I may even want to forgive but I'm just not ready to forgive yet. It does take me working through my emotions of anger and hurt before I can even consider forgiveness and that is totally a normal human response. That is good enough and requires some compassion and kindness directed my way as I struggle.

Looking forward to our Lenten journey this week as we model some more clothing resolving our complaints, bearing with one another, and forgiving each other just as we have been forgiven! Praying that we will be singing in wonderful harmony all week long.

Pastor Debra

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.

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

Music Camp Weathers the Storm Brings Joy, Hope, and Peace!



Things were nice and warm in the sanctuary at FUMC on March 12, 2022, despite the cold, drenching, windy weather outside. The South Carolina Christian Action Council's Music Camp sent waves of joy, hope and peace to the rafters with Christal Heyward. Her unique blend of music and storytelling brought laughter and tears to the campers. Christal's powerful testimony encouraged us to process our grief and move toward healing.

Mrs. Heyward is grief coach in the Charleston area and with the South Carolina Christian Action Council. She is the musician at St. John's Parish on

John's Island. Christal is married to retired Marine Colonel Samuel Heyward. The Cheraw Parish and First United Methodist Church were blessed to be able work together to bring Christal Heyward to Cheraw. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this event a wonderful day of healing and hope.



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.

TODAY IS UMCOR SUNDAY!

UMCOR Sunday is one of The United Methodist Church's Special Sundays. Special Sundays are designated Sundays each year that deepen the connection between the local church and ministries on a global scale. Individuals and congregations are encouraged to give to support the church's collective work with an offering.

Gifts given on UMCOR Sunday strengthen the church's global humanitarian response by underwriting UMCOR's administrative costs. This allows UMCOR to use 100% of additional funds for specific programs like **U.S. disaster response, international disaster response, and global migration.**

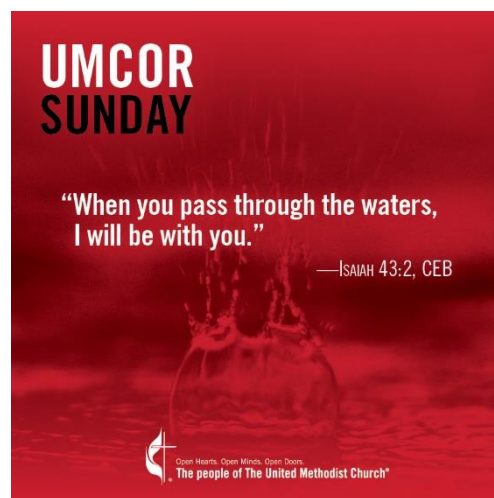
Because of your generosity in 2021, \$1,921,619 was given in support of UMCOR's work to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing. Thank you!

UMCOR's work in Ukraine is being funded with gifts to Advance #982450, International Disaster Response and Recovery. Grants for immediate relief have been given to United Methodist partners in Ukraine as well as neighboring nations—Poland, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia—to support those who remain in Ukraine as well as those who have fled the violence. In addition, grants are being awarded to partners like ACT Alliance, a global faith-based coalition working in 120 countries around the world. These grants are providing humanitarian assistance in the form of food, water, clothing, shelter, and other necessary supplies.

We are in continuous dialogue with UMC entities and other partners throughout Europe to identify additional ways UMCOR might assist. The situation in Eastern Europe is evolving and Global Ministries and UMCOR will continue to respond in the months and years ahead.

At this time, all gifts to UMCOR's International Disaster Response and Recovery Advance will be used to assist those who remain in Ukraine and those who have fled the violence to neighboring nations. Gifts can be made in the following ways:

- By cash, check, or online contribution, to First United Methodist Church Cheraw. Be sure to put in the memo UMCOR. To designate for Ukraine add: "Advance #982450-Ukraine"
- Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450>
- By toll-free telephone call: 1-888-252-6174
- By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with "Advance #982450-Ukraine" written on the memo line and mailed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 27, 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 28, 2022

6:30pm Boy Scouts (NETC)

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
 6:30pm S/PPRC Meeting

Thursday, March 31, 2022

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
 10:30am Grief Share (Parlor)
 6:30 pm Wednesday Meal Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, April 3, 2022

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

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
 12:00pm Bulletin/Newsletter Deadline
 6:00pm Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
 No Choir Practice

Join Us for Lent 2022



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 23: \$2,122.00
Sunday School Attendance March 20: 40
FUMC Food Pantry Item: Peanut Butter
Greeters: Harrison & Amy Goodwin
Acolyte: Penny Quick
Nursery Workers: Michelle Rohde
UMYF Leader for next week: Scott Eddins & Chase Watson
Video Technicians: Bryson Hunter & Peyton Taylor

Amount needed year to date: \$69,230.88
Received year to date: \$64,513.39
Worship Attendance March 20: 65
McArn Items: Rice Krispy Treats
Head Usher: David McLean
Liturgist for next Sunday: Joey Mills
Flowers next Sunday: OPEN
UMYF Meal for next week: Jackson & Zenda Rushing
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