

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 THIRD STREET, CHERAW, SC 29520

843-537-7002

www.cherawfirstumc.org



*Good Enough:
Embracing Faith and Life*

Fifth Sunday of Lent

"Fragile and Fragrant"

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

A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

APRIL 3, 2022

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

LITURGICAL COLOR: BURLAP

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Martha Starling

PRELUDE

Beth Maier

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Joey Mills

L: Break open our hearts this morning to hear your word, O God.

C: Let our fears be vanquished, our spirits restored!

L: Come and let us worship with great joy!

C: Let us drop the things of the past which weighed us down!

L: God is about to do something new in our lives!

C: Let God's will become strong in our lives. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER²

Joey Mills

We come into your presence, O Lord, with so many burdens and concerns on our hearts. Help us to be open to your words of healing and restoration. Bring us closer to you. Enable us to discern your will for us that we may serve you more faithfully by serving others in need. In Christ's name, we pray. **AMEN.**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 882**

"Apostle's Creed Ecumenical Version"

Joey Mills

***PSALTER & RESPONSE NO. 760**

Psalm 28

Joey Mills

***HYMN NO. 384**

"Love Devine All Loves Excelling"

BEECHER

CONFESSION & PARDON³

Pastor: Jesus speaks the words no one wanted to admit: he was not always going to be around. "Oh, don't say that," so many of us have said to a loved one who speaks the truth about the fragility of life. Perhaps we get uncomfortable because it reveals the precious nature of the present moment, laying bare the beauty and horror of it all. The indescribable pain we know we will one day face invades our senses like a pervasive perfume, inescapable. What if we stopped denying the limited nature of our lives and breathed in deeply the fragrance of vulnerability? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

Silent Reflection

Pastor: Hear this compassionate word from Paul's Letter to the Philippians: "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead."

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from the need to avoid suffering at the cost of denying the fullness of life. We are invited into the knowledge that Christ's vulnerability in life, death, and resurrection shows us the sacred nature of the heights and depths of sorrow and joy in our own saga. 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

"Let There Be Peace on Earth" WORLD PEACE

Choir

MORNING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Debra

FIREFLY HANDBELLS

"Jesus Loves Me, Kumbaya, Happy Birthday"

Martha Starling, Director

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.

***HYMN NO. 354**

"I Surrender all"

SURRENDER

***SCRIPTURE READING**

John 12: 1-8

SERMON

"Fragile and Fragrant"

Pastor Debra

A BLESSING FOR WHEN YOU'RE IN GRIEF⁴

*"Blessed are you, dear, dear one,
doing this holy work of suffering what must be suffered.
Of grieving what has been lost.
Of knowing the unthinkable truth that must be known.
This grief can make you feel on the other side of glass from the world around you,
a force field of different realities separating you.
Yet blessed are you in yours, for yours is the one most seen
by God who breathes compassion upon you, even now.
Who has walked this path, and who leans toward you,
gathering you up into the arms of love. Rest now, dear one. You are not alone."*

BAPTISMAL COVENANT NO. 39-43

Amelia-Kate Lewis
Collins Elizabeth Lewis

***HYMN NO. 2149 (The Faith We Sing)**

"Living for Jesus"

LIVING FOR JESUS

***BENEDICTION**

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, especially the grief-stricken parts, 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 this day and all of your days. **Amen.**

***POSTLUDE**

Beth Maier

**If you are able, please stand.*

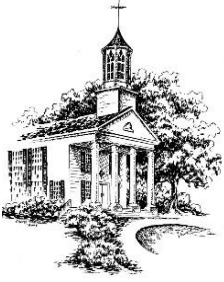
¹ <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3641>

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 a Joyfully Mediocre Journey" 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.

The flowers are placed in sanctuary to the glory of God.



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 14
April 3, 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 people of God those Jesus clothes continue to look mighty fine on you! Our compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience have been put to the test in a variety of ways these past few weeks in our life together as a church. There has been a change in the music director position, The administrative assistant was out sick for two weeks. The Covid-19 protocols were changed and even more changes are in the works. The meals for the Fireflies and UMYF are back on Sunday evenings and we all are adapting to new youth leaders. Through it all we have been bearing with each other and forgiving the minor glitches.

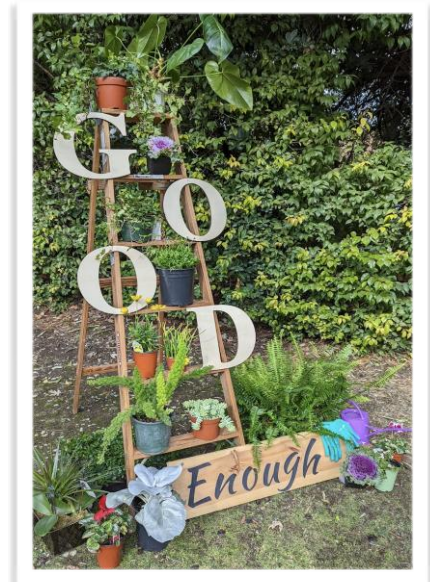


Image © www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough

This is a perfect place to be to talk about the most important item of clothing, love. Since this piece of clothing holds everything together, I chose to consider it to be a belt. The Apostle Paul says this part of our attire binds everything together in perfect harmony! Bring on the four-part harmony celestial choir with all those altos, baritones, basses, and sopranos blending together making awesome music!

It is so true that we need love for all of our other Jesus clothing to fit properly. Without love our compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience are not attractive or just annoying cloth that has no purpose. Paul speaks even more eloquently about the importance of love in 1 Corinthians 13.

Now that our Jesus outfit is complete, all wrapped up with the belt of love the Apostle moves on to something for us to do internally. We are to let peace rule our hearts. This can be challenging as anxiety, anger, depression, frustration, guilt, grief, hate, shame, and a whole host of other negative things are the norm in our society and are constantly trying to steal our peace. It is important take care of our emotional, mental, medical, and spiritual health. Sometimes we need to seek professional help to have peace rule our hearts. Even when we are healthy it can be challenging to keep the peace. Prayer is my go-to weapon to defeat the things that disrupt my peace. My go to scripture for this is "be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."¹

Pastor Debra

¹ Philippians 4:6 Berean Study Bible.

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.**

THANK YOU NOTES: Many thanks to all for your prayers, cards, and visits during my recent surgery and recovery.
Thanks Pat Barham

Thank you so much for all the cards, calls, texts, and especially the prayers during my hospital stay and recovery time at home. I am doing much better now and I'm glad to be able to be back at the church office. With much love, Angie Smith

MEMORIALS:

IN MEMORY OF JACKIE FURR

Rhett and Marcia Butler, FUMC Ezer Class, James and Lynn Tweed, Patricia Turner

IN MEMORY OF JEFF FOSTER

Gail Eubanks

COLLEGE STUDENTS ADDRESSES REQUESTED: If you are a college student or have a child that is in college please contact the church office and give us their mailing address.

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.

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.

Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 a.m.

Saturday April 9, 2022

Egg Hunt Crafts Snacks

Join us for Fun, Fun, Fun!



SERVING IN APRIL

GREETERS FOR APRIL

April 3 Betty Hurst
April 10 Mike & Debbie Elmore
April 17 Doug & Susan Marsh
April 24 Todd & Allison Becker

FLOWERS FOR APRIL

April 3 Flower Fund
April 10 Palms
April 17 Lilies (Ezer Class)
April 24 Traynham Estate

NURSERY FOR APRIL

April 3 Chase & Lesley Jean Watson
April 10 Michelle Rohde
April 17 Michelle Rohde
April 24 Kelly & Hollis Dusa

LITURGIST FOR APRIL

April 3 Joey Mills
April 10 Susan Marsh
April 17 Jenny Keefe
April 24 Sammy Quick

HEAD USER FOR APRIL

Jeff Johnson

ACOLYTE FOR APRIL

Nancy Wagnon

UMYF LEADERS FOR APRIL

April 3 Chase Watson, Scott Eddins
April 10 Allison Becker, Angela Holliday
April 17 No UMYF Meeting
April 24 Scott Eddins

UMYF MEALS FOR APRIL

April 3 Jackson & Zenda Rushing
April 10 Sally Smith & Henrietta Kollitz
April 17 No UMYF Meeting
April 24 Paul & Holly Miles

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

April 6 W.K. (Keith) Smith, Jim Bennett
April 9 Becky Thompson
April 10 Anthony Harris
April 12 Jayne Burr Board
April 13 Jensen Tomberlin
April 18 Laura Harris
April 19 Amanda Carabo
April 22 Sarah Miles, Mary Lomas
April 29 Marianne Crawford
April 30 Jim Crawford, IV

ANNIVERSARIES

April 10 M&M Eric Dusa
April 11 M&M Lawrence Hammonds
April 13 M&M Paul Miles
April 17 M&M Todd Becker
April 18 M&M Zach Mills
April 24 M&M John Sanderson
April 26 M&M Jim Crawford, III,
M&M David Tucker

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.





*The Church with a Heart in the Heart of Cheraw
Serving Its Neighbors This Lenten Season*

First United Methodist Church is serving Jesus through our neighbors this Lenten season. We have partnered with other service organizations to bring some wonderful services of love and justice to the neighborhood.



Life Line Screening was onsite offering preventive health assessments in March. These non-invasive assessments provide individuals with awareness of potential health problems before a health crisis. The assessments are high-quality and timely. The results are sent to the patient and to the patient’s primary care physician by Lifeline Screenings.

Blood donations make a huge difference for trauma patients, and patients with cancer or chronic illnesses. To learn more about giving blood go to the Red Cross website at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> The next Red Cross Blood Drive at FUMC will be on June 7, 2022 from 1:00pm-6:00pm.

Also in March, the Red Cross was onsite making it convenient for our neighbors to stop in and donate the gift of life. Blood supply in South Carolina has been low the past two years and this drive helped to make up for the shortage. Plasma, Platelet, Power Red, and Whole Blood donations make a huge difference for trauma patients, and patients with cancer or chronic illnesses. To learn more about giving blood go to the Red Cross website at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> The next Red Cross Blood Drive at FUMC will be on June 7, 2022 from 1:00pm-6:00pm.



We are hosting The American Association of Retired Persons Foundation’s Tax-Aide program during tax season. This program provides in-person and virtual tax assistance free of charge and focuses on taxpayers who are over 50 who have low to moderate income. Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year to make sure they know about and understand the latest changes and additions to the tax code. Call Van Pate at 843-638-3045 to schedule an appointment and take advantage of this free service.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 3, 2022

10:00am Sunday School
 11:00am Worship
 12:00pm Church Council Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
 5:30-7:00pm Fireflies (Kids Nook & Fellowship Hall)
 5:30-7:00pm UMYF (Youth Hut & Fellowship Hall)

Monday, April 4, 2022

5:30pm Stewardship Committee Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
 6:30pm Boy Scouts (NETC)

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

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

Thursday, April 7, 2022

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
 10:30am Grief Share (Parlor)
 5:00pm CDM Training (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, April 9, 2022

10:00am Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 10, 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)

Join Us for Lent 2022



April 6th	Witness at the Cross Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
April 10th	Palm Sunday Worship Service	11:00 a.m.
April 11th	Witness at the Cross Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
April 14th	Maundy Thursday Worship Service	6:00 p.m.

Weekly amount needed for budget: \$5,769.24
Amount received for week of March 27: \$12,889.78
Sunday School Attendance March 27: 36
FUMC Food Pantry Item: Canned meats/stews
Greeter: Betty Hurst
Acolyte: Nancy Wagnon
Nursery Workers: Chase & Lesley Jean Watson
UMYF Leader for next week: Allison Becker, Angela Holliday
UMYF Meal for next week: Sally Smith, Henrietta Kollitz

Amount needed year to date: \$75,000.12
Received year to date: \$77,403.17
Worship Attendance March 27: 66
McArn Items: Individual size cereal
Head Usher: Jeff Johnson
Liturgist for next Sunday: Susan Marsh
Flowers next Sunday: Palms
Soundsystem Operator: Holly Miles
Video Technicians: Bryson Hunter & Peyton Taylor

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