

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 THIRD STREET, CHERAW, SC 29520

843-537-7002

www.cherawfirstumc.org



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

A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

OCTOBER 16, 2022

19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

LITURGICAL COLOR: GREEN

Please sign the attendance pad and pass it to everyone on the pew. Once the last person has signed, please fold it in half and put in the offering plate.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR		Martha Starling
PRELUDE	<i>"Toccata In Seven"</i>	JOHN RUTTER
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		Mark Armstrong
CALL TO WORSHIPⁱ		Mark Armstrong
L: All creation proclaims the greatness and love of God.		
C: God's love permeates even the deepest darkness.		
L: The light of God shines on us with new hope.		
C: We are called to be people of compassion and justice.		
L: Open our hearts, O Lord, to see your light and live in your hope.		
C: Prepare us for service to all your people and to this world. AMEN.		
OPENING PRAYERⁱⁱ		Mark Armstrong
God of hope and salvation, you are the source of all that we need. We are so grateful that your love, grace, and mercy are not limited to one time or to one people. Continue to heal us and save us faithful potter so that we may always be vessels of hope pouring out your merciful love to those around us. Amen.		
PSALTER NO. 789-790	<i>"Psalm 65"</i>	Mark Armstrong
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 881	<i>Apostle's Creed</i>	Mark Armstrong
*GLORIA PATRI NO. 70		MEINKE
*HYMN NO. 580	<i>"Lead On, O King Eternal"</i>	LANCASHIRE
MORNING PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER		Pastor Debra
ANTHEM	<i>"God Is Working His Purpose Out"</i> Adult Choir	AUSTIN C. LOVELACE
God is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year: God is working his purpose out, and the time is drawing near; nearer and nearer draws the time the time that shall surely be, when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea. What can we do to work God's work, to prosper and increase the brotherhood of all mankind, the reign of the Prince of Peace? What can we do to hasten the time, the time that shall surely be, when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea? March we forth in the strength of God, with the banner of Christ unfurled, that the light of the glorious gospel of truth may shine throughout the world: let us all fight with sorrow and sin, to set their captives free, that earth may be filled with the glory of God, as the waters cover the sea. All that we do can have no worth, unless God bless the deed; vainly we hope for the harvest-tide, till God gives life to the seed; yet nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be, when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea		
OFFERTORY	<i>"The Solid Rock"</i>	ADAPTED
*DOXOLOGY NO. 95		OLD 100 th
*OFFERTORY PRAYER		Pastor Debra
*HYMN NO. 368	<i>"My Hope Is Built"</i>	THE SOLID ROCK

*SCRIPTURE READING	<i>Jeremiah 29:11-14b</i>	Pastor Debra
SERMON	<i>"The Potter's Hand: Jars of Hope"</i>	Pastor Debra
*HYMN NO. 374	<i>"Standing On The Promises"</i>	PROMISES
*BENEDICTION		Pastor Debra
*BENEDICTION RESPONSE ⁱⁱⁱ	<i>"The Potter's Hand"</i>	
Take me, mold me, use me, fill me, I give my life to the Potter's hand. Call me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me, I give my life to the Potter's hand, the potter's hand. Take me, mold me, use me, fill me, I give my life to the Potter's hand. Call me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me, I give my life to the Potter's hand, the potter's hand. (Choir alone: The Potter's hand.)		
*POSTLUDE	<i>"Improvisation on Lancashire"</i>	
<i>*If you are able, please stand.</i>		

ⁱ<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4125>

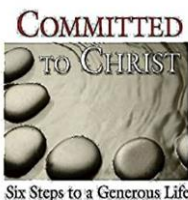
ⁱⁱWritten by Reverend Debra A. Armstrong

ⁱⁱⁱZschech, Darlene, composer, and Larson, Lloyd, arranger, *The Potter's Hand*, Hope Publishing, Carol Stream, IL, 2007, CCLI License #s 11429516 and 20826643

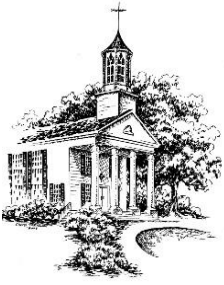
The flowers today are to the glory of God and in honor of our own Pastor Debra Armstrong for pastor appreciation month.

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, Jim Bennett, Scott Tomberlin, Margaret Stanton, Mary Snookie Lomas, Shep Straughn, Betty Thraikill, Tony Thraikill, Gwen Sullivan, Bill Eutsler, Jr., Mary Burr, Dan Ellenburg (Patty Fisher's Brother-In-Law), Martha Starling, Shelton Rumph, Jody Reid, Gene Thompson (Becky Thompson's Brother-In-Law), Craig Norton, Erika Kollitz, Patricia Turner, Susan Eschenfelder Family, Martha Griggs, Zach Keefe, CC Quick, Katie Chapman. **NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notified.**

Committed to Christ Bible Study Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m in the Parlor.



For six weeks we will seek to deepen our discipleship in Bible study with Bob Crossman's, *Committed to Christ: Six Steps To A Generous Life*. We will examine how we are living out our commitment to Jesus and explore ways to keep our commitment vibrant and alive. Cost is \$5.00. Please register for the study by emailing or calling Angie Smith in the church office, fumcangiesmith@gmail.com, 843-537-7002.



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

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Issue 42
October 16, 2022



Is The UMC really... ?¹

Immediately dropping all prohibitions related to human sexuality, now that the Global Methodist Church has been officially started?

No. The creation of the Global Methodist Church has no bearing on the existing policies of The United Methodist Church. The policies of The United Methodist Church are set by its General Conference. The General Conference is the only body that can change them. The

General Conference is scheduled to meet next in 2024 at a time and venue to be announced.

Going to drop all prohibitions related to human sexuality at its next General Conference in 2024?

Probably not. The 2024 General Conference will certainly *consider* legislative proposals that would drop several existing prohibitions. There are items that could authorize clergy who choose to do so to preside at same-sex weddings or union ceremonies. There are several proposals to drop the statement "the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching." Some proposals would remove the current policy that forbids committees and boards of ordained ministry and clergy sessions to approve and bishops to license, commission, ordain, or appoint self-avowed, practicing homosexuals as clergy. Another would drop the prohibition on annual conferences and general agencies to provide any funding for any activity or publication that promotes "the acceptance of homosexuality."

The key words are *consider* and *proposal*. The General Conference must *consider* all legislative items it receives. All legislative items before a General Conference are *proposals* only. They have no force unless a General Conference approves them.

All of these kinds of proposals have come before General Conferences in the past. And all have been defeated, every time.

At present, there do not appear to be enough shifts in the makeup of the delegations to the General Conference in 2024 to conclude that any of these proposals will pass.

Going to require its clergy and clergy candidates to agree to offer same-sex weddings as a condition of candidacy, status, or appointment?

No. There are no proposals before the next General Conference to do so, nor have there ever been such proposals. As noted above, proposals to permit clergy who choose to do so to preside at such ceremonies have come before previous General Conferences and will come before the 2024 General Conference. All such proposals have been defeated in the past. And there is no basis, considering the makeup of the delegations, to conclude this will change in 2024.

Ordaining drag queens and supporting worship of a "Queer God?"

No and no.

Both of these allegations are based on things that actually happened. But both of those things have been seriously misrepresented.

No United Methodist bishop has ever ordained, commissioned, or licensed a drag queen.

So what is that allegation based on?

The Vermillion River District of The Illinois Great Rivers Conference voted unanimously to approve the certification of Mr. Isaac Simmons as a candidate for ordained ministry in 2021. The Book of Discipline prohibits “self-avowed, practicing homosexuals” from being certified as candidates for ordination. Mr Simmons identifies as a gay man, but not as a practicing homosexual. He also performs under the drag name, Penny Cost, for the purposes of evangelism in audiences made up of people of many sexual and gender identities. Nothing in the Book of Discipline disqualifies persons who are gay but not practicing or who perform in drag from consideration or certification as a candidate.

The vote by a district committee to certify a candidate is one of the earliest steps in a process toward ordination. The process typically takes 5-8 years to complete.

Being approved by a district committee for candidacy is not being named clergy in The United Methodist Church. That can occur only after substantial work toward the completion of seminary educational requirements, ongoing supervision over a period of years, and ultimately approval for commissioning by a 3/4 vote of the clergy session of the annual conference. Until that time, if assigned by a district superintendent to serve a local church, candidates cannot preside at sacraments or at weddings.

The reference to supporting the worship of “Queer God” comes from a chapel service at Duke Divinity School sponsored by an LGBTQ+ student group. Duke Divinity School serves students of many denominations, not just United Methodists. And students of many denominations make up the LGBTQ group that sponsored the service in question, as that service has been described in some publications. Exactly one of the students named is identified as United Methodist, and that student is, at this point, a candidate, not yet clergy in The UMC. Further, such “group sponsored” services represent the views of their sponsoring organization, not the Divinity School, nor its faculty. Such services are not a basis for making any statements about the beliefs or views of The United Methodist Church. General Conference establishes the official statements of The United Methodist Church and its ritual. Chapel services in a seminary do not.

¹<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-is-the-umc-really-part-2>



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.

Wednesdays 10:30 am

First United Methodist Church

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117 Third Street, Cheraw

J.O.Y CLUB: The J.O.Y Club will meet on Thursday, October 20 at 12:00pm. Please sign up with your caller. The cost of the meal will be \$10.00per person and the menu will be lasagna, salad, bread, and apple cake.



Hello Church Family! I am happy to announce that it is that time of year again for Operation Christmas child. This is a wonderful mission project that gives us all the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus and make a difference in the life of a child. I hope that you will join us this year by supporting this great cause. There are two ways that you can help. The first way is by packing your own box or boxes. The second way for you to help is to donate money by either taking it to the church office or putting it in the offering plate and we will do the shopping for you.

Materials are on their way and a table will be set up in the lobby soon for you to pick up any materials that you need. We will be collecting boxes until November 13. Thank you in advance for your help and participation in this mission project!

Thank you, Jenny Keefe

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" Matthew 28:19



Greetings church family! The month of October is pastor appreciation month! On October 16th, immediately following the service we will be having a covered dish luncheon to celebrate and honor our own pastor Debra Armstrong. Please plan to join us for this joyous occasion to fellowship with one another and honor Pastor Debra. Please bring your favorite covered dish and come and join us. The meat will be provided for everyone. If you would like to give Pastor Debra a card or a gift in celebration of pastor appreciation month please consider giving a donation to the pastor's discretionary fund instead. I look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday, October 16th as we celebrate Pastor Debra. Thank you, Jenny Keefe, SPRC Chair

MEMORIALS:

IN MEMORY OF SUSUAN ESCHENFELDER

Jackson & Zenda Rushing, Keith & Sally Smith



**American
Red Cross**

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE: FUMC hosted a blood drive on Tuesday, October 11 and 21 units were collected. That is a paticial of helping 63 patients. A special thank you to all that were able to come out and donate. The next blood drive at FUMC is Tuesday, December 13 from 1:00pm-5:30pm, to make an appointment call or email Angie in the church office or go online to www.redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code FUMCcheraw.



SHEPHERD'S CHILD PARTY

It won't be long before the time for the annual Shepherd's Child Party. This year we are going to do 50 children, which is an increase from 36. So, I am counting on all of you to help with this. Many of you like to donate to this program and/or provide the funds to let me do the shopping for the gifts. In the next few months, you are more than welcome to send in your donation in the collection plate or drop it off to Angie in the office. After Thanksgiving, I will have names for the ones of you who like to do your own shopping. Thanks for all of you help. Trina Mills



HOSTESSES NEEDED

If you are willing to be a hostess or the church for a month, please call the church office. Hostess responsibilities are: 1) Making sure the parlor is ready for a family visitation. 2) be at the church during the funeral service in case anyone was to need assistance.

NURSERY HELPERS NEEDED

FUMC needs you! Would you like to help in the nursery during the worship service? This would not be an every week responsibility, just an as needed responsibility. Please contact Michelle Rohde at 843-337-6123 if you would like to volunteer.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 16, 2022

10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship
12:00pm Pastor's Appreciation Covered Dish
(Fellowship Hall)
NO Fireflies Meeting
NO Youth Meeting

Monday, October 17, 2022

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

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
5:00pm Girl Scouts (Youth Hut)

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
10:30am Grief Share
12:00pm Bulletin/Newsletter Deadline
6:00pm Bible Study (Parlor)
6:00pm Handbell Practice (Choir Room)
7:00pm Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Thursday, October 20, 2022

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
12:00pm J.O.Y Club (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, October 23, 2022

10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship
4:00pm Trustees Committee Meeting
(Fellowship Hall)
5:00pm Finance Committee Meeting
(Fellowship Hall)
5:30-7:00pm Fireflies Meeting
5:30-7:00pm Youth Meeting
6:00pm Church Council Meeting
(Fellowship Hall)

Weekly amount needed for budget: \$5,769.24

Amount needed year to date: \$236,538.84

Sunday School Attendance October 9: 39

FUMC Food Pantry Item: Ramen Noodles

Greeter: Renie Seel

Acolyte: The Ruffners

Nursery Worker: Kelly Dusa and Michelle Rohde

Soundsystem Operator: Holly Miles

Amount received for week of October 9: \$15,084.64

Received year to date: \$223,459.12

Worship Attendance October 9: 70

McArn Items: Chef Boyardee bowls

Head Usher: Jed Reid

Liturgist for next Sunday: Mark Armstrong

Flowers next Sunday: OPEN

Video Technicians: Bryson Hunter

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)

Jim Glass – Music Director and Organist (fumcmusic01@gmail.com) 803-285-3191