

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 THIRD STREET, CHERAW, SC 29520

843-537-7002

[www.cherawfirstumc.org](http://www.cherawfirstumc.org)



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

***A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP***

***OCTOBER 2, 2022***

***17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST/WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY***

***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.*

<b>CHIMING OF THE HOUR</b>		Martha Starling
<b>PRELUDE</b>	<i>"Prelude From Cello Suite in G Major, BWV 1007"</i>	J.S. BACH
<b>WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		Eric Dusa
<b>CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup></b>		Eric Dusa
Leader: We gather today from the busyness of life to receive strength.		
<b>People: We come as people of God to excel in your work through breaking the bread and drinking the cup.</b>		
Leader: We are a global church with a global task to bring love and joy.		
<b>People: Through this sacrament, we will receive power to be faithful in love to serve the people of the world.</b>		
<b>OPENING PRAYER<sup>2</sup></b>		Eric Dusa
Lord of love and mercy, we come before you with grateful hearts for sustaining us in critical times of our life. Terrorism, war, hatred and lack of trust surround us, but through the bread and the cup, we learn to love and trust others. Help us that we may not be defeated in our task to proclaim God's word around the globe. Most of all, give us courage and strength to live our faith, even in the most difficult circumstances. Give us the power of the Holy Spirit that we may be faithful and steadfast in loving others as you loved us through death on the cross. As we come to your table, make us one with each other in love, patience and understanding. <b>Amen.</b>		
<b>PSALTER NO. 852-53</b>	<i>"Psalm 137"</i>	Eric Dusa
<b>*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 881</b>	<i>Apostle's Creed</i>	Eric Dusa
<b>*GLORIA PATRI NO. 70</b>		MEINKE
<b>*HYMN NO. 66</b>	<i>"Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven"</i>	LAUDA AMINA
<b>MORNING PRAYER</b>		Pastor Debra
<b>ANTHEM</b>	<i>"Gather Us In" Adult Choir</i>	MARTY HAUGEN
Here in this place new light is streaming Now is the darkness vanished away See in this space our fears and our dreamings Brought here to you in the light of this day Gather us in, the lost and forsaken Gather us in, the blind and the lame Call to us now and we shall awaken We shall arise at the sound of our name We are the young, our lives are a mystery We are the old who yearn for your face We have been sung throughout all of history Called to be light to the whole human race Gather us in, the rich and the haughty Gather us in, the proud and the strong Give us a heart so meek and so lowly Give us the courage to enter the song Here we will take the wine and the water Here we will take the bread of new birth Here you shall call your sons and your daughters Call us anew to be salt for the earth Give us to drink the wine of compassion Give us to eat the bread that is you Nourish us well and teach us to fashion Lives that are holy and hearts that are true Not in the dark of buildings confining Not in some heaven light years away But here in this place the new light is shining Now is the kingdom, now is the day Gather us in and hold us forever Gather us in and make us your own Gather us in, all peoples together Fire of love in our flesh and our bones Fire of love in our flesh and our bones		
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	<i>"Allegro In F Major, BWV 927"</i>	J.S. BACH
<b>*DOXOLOGY NO. 95</b>		OLD 100 <sup>th</sup>
<b>*OFFERTORY PRAYER</b>		Pastor Debra

**\*HYMN NO. 617**

*"I Come With Joy"*

DOVE OF PEACE

**\*SCRIPTURE READING**

*Jeremiah 18: 1-11*

Pastor Debra

**SERMON**

*"The Potter's Hand: Reworked Clay"*

Pastor Debra

## **THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **INVITATION**

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sins and seek to live in peace with one another. Drawn from many places, we have come to open our hearts to God, to hear God's Word, and to respond in love. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for Holy Communion by confessing our sins before God and one another.

### **COMMUNION LITANY**

Leader: Jesus gave us the ministry of reconciliation in the midst of our brokenness.

**People: The bread and the cup empower us to bring people into God's fold.**

Leader: The broken body and the shed blood remind us that death promises eternal life to believers.

**People: Through our faith, we will excel in God's work to bring hope of everlasting life.**

Leader: The cross of our Lord is before us, reminding all believers that we can become new people.

**People: This day we commit to be people of God immovable by any earthly force.**

Leader: You are invited to this table to experience the love of God given through Christ's broken body and shed blood.

**People: Thanks be to God for love shown for all people of the world.**

Leader: Now let us prepare for this holy meal as we confess our sins before God and each other.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious Lord, on this day of celebration we come to you knowing that we have not always done your will. We have often gone our own way, thinking that we know all that is best. We have neglected the needs of others, while focusing on our own enjoyment. We have not heard the cries of the needy and those in distress. We have not acted in ways that show love and compassion. Forgive us Lord all our sins. You ask us to let go of the things which have been a burden to us and to lay them at your feet. Help us to do that and then transform our lives to your will. Heal our wounded spirits, and cause us to serve you more faithfully. In the name of Jesus we pray, AMEN.**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

P: God hears our prayers and responds to us in forgiving love. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

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

**All: Thanks be to God. AMEN.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You created for yourself a world filled with all things blessed by your breath of life. In the fullness of time you sent to us Jesus who taught us to live for the sake of others and to put aside all thoughts of personal gain and earthly prestige. We give

you thanks for your presence among us this day, through your Holy Spirit, that flickers like fire in the changing color of leaves, gleams like fish gliding below the surface of the stream, and flutters like doves in the beating of our hearts. And so, with all your people, all over the world, and all the company of heaven we praise your holy name and join their unending hymn:

**Sing: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ who emptied himself of divinity and walked among us teaching and healing and giving himself for the healing of the world. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Christ Jesus we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Sing: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we, may be the body of Christ present with Christ's people around the globe until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

**Sing: Amen, amen, amen.**

Now with the confidence of the people of God, let us pray as Jesus taught us to pray,

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

#### **THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP**

L: The body of Christ broken for you

**C: Amen**

L: The blood of Christ shed for you.

**C: Amen**

*After all have been served we pray together:*

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. We submit ourselves to you, O God. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*HYMN NO. 832**

*"Have Thine Own Way, Lord"*

FOREST GREENE

**\*BENEDICTION**

Pastor Debra

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE<sup>3</sup>**

*“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. 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**

*“Improvisation on Lauda Amina”*

***\*If you are able, please stand.***

<sup>1</sup>Call to Worship and Opening Prayer by The Rev. Berty Hakee, [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org)

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Zschech, Darlene, composer, and Larson, Lloyd, arranger, *The Potter’s Hand*, Hope Publishing, Carol Stream, Il., 2007, CCLI License #s 11429516 and 20826643

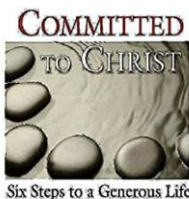
*Used by permission, Greeting, Opening Prayer and Communion Litany, by The Rev. Berty Hakee, [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org) and the Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance and Great The Thanksgiving, The Abington Worship Annual, Abingdon Press 2017, adapted by D. Armstrong*

***The flowers today are to the glory of God and in memory of Margie M. Bennett by Jim Bennett.***

**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, Tom Rollings Family.

**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 Begins Wednesday, October 12, 2022, 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](mailto:fumcangiesmith@gmail.com), 843-537-7002.



**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

**Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one.**

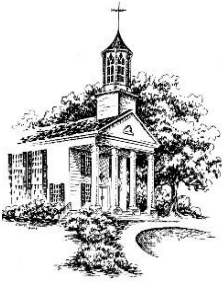
**GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life.**

**Wednesdays 10:30 am**

**First United Methodist Church**

**843-537-7002**

**117 Third Street, Cheraw**



# 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](http://www.cherawfirstumc.org)

Volume 18,  
Issue 40  
October 2, 2022

## *Reflections from the District Congregational Specialist...*

Greetings in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is once more and again that I have the privilege of addressing this august collection of God's people. This week's lectionary gospel reading is taken from Luke 16:19-31. It is a familiar parable about Lazarus and a rich man. Using the occasion of offering a greeting to this group as a hermeneutic frame, I have entitled this greeting, "Comfort on Command."

To set the context of the parable Jesus tells, it is worth noting that Jesus continues a string of teachings in Luke 16 that carries a common theme of turning conventional wisdom on its ear. This particular parable flies in the face of the common belief of the time that rich people were rich because of their righteousness before God. If you lived a life of comfort and ease, then it was expected that this comfort and ease would follow you into the afterlife. Likewise, Lazarus should expect the same evil and agony he experienced on earth to follow him into the afterlife. Not surprisingly, Jesus challenges this belief and causes his original audience to question what it means to be in right relationship with God and their fellow human beings. Jesus exposes the rich man's expectation for comfort on command. In Jesus' parable Lazarus is the righteous one and this is evident as Lazarus receives the reward of Abraham's embrace in the afterlife. Meanwhile, the rich man finds himself in the torment and agony of unquenchable flames. Even in the face of the evidence, the rich man still believes that he is calling the shots. He believes that he can have Lazarus commanded to come and provide him with comfort during his time of agony. The rich man seems to have forgotten that he built a gate to keep Lazarus away from him on earth and now that gate is a great chasm and the command on earth is honored in heaven. The rich man didn't want Lazarus around him on earth and so it is that Lazarus can't come to the rich man in the afterlife.

There is a great temptation to turn this parable into a time of gloating and rejoicing over the rich man getting what he deserved. However, to do so is to stand in direct opposition to the grace, mercy, and love of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I do not believe Jesus tells this parable so that rich people become villains and wealth becomes the source of all suffering. On the contrary, the scripture points out that Lazarus would have been happy with the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. In other words, the rich man could have provided comfort on command for Lazarus. Even if he did not want to do so personally, he could have had his servants take something to Lazarus on a daily basis to alleviate some of his suffering. Moreover, this parable invites us to consider how God provides comfort and care in the midst of suffering and pain. Jesus tells his hearers that dogs came and licked Lazarus' wounds. There was no compassion to be found in the rich man who could see Lazarus at his gate everyday as he feasted, but God sent dogs to promote healing and provide some comfort to Lazarus. The rich man missed the opportunity to share God's blessings with Lazarus to further promote his healing and provide comfort. We are reminded that we are blessed to be a blessing and invited to heed the warning that the rich man fails to heed. We not only have Moses and the Prophets but we also have Jesus Christ, the One who has been sent to us from the dead. Jesus reminds us that Moses and the Prophets ought to be enough, so the addition of a resurrected savior leaves no room for any excuse. We are to live lives that reflect the generosity of the God we serve. We are to seek the welfare of all people. God calls us to live according to his love so that everyone has comfort on command.

Prayer: Gracious and loving God, we humbly ask your forgiveness for the times when we have been selfish and self-serving. Forgive us for the times we have set gates and fences to keep us from those we consider undesirable. Forgive us and renew our willingness to live in right relationship with you and all of your creation. Lead and guide us so that we follow your command to provide for those in need and to protect those without any other defense. This we pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Grace and Peace,

**Walter Strawther**, Congregational Specialist Columbia/Hartsville Districts

African American Church Concerns

4908 Colonial Dr. Columbia, SC 29203 Office: (803) 786-9486 Cell: (803) 203-1648



## Fireflies bring in Fall decorating cookies



### 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.



**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 him the address is listed here.

Edith Quick (October 13)  
11 Hamden Circle  
Cheraw, SC 29520



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



There are still appointments available for the next blood drive here at FUMC on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, from 1:00pm-5:30pm in the fellowship hall. To schedule an appointment, call or email Angie at 843-537-7002 or [fumcangiesmith@gmail.com](mailto:fumcangiesmith@gmail.com), or go online to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code FUMCcheraw.

Trick or treat yourself with a \$5 e-gift card to a merchant of choice when you come to give blood, platelets or plasma in October. Enjoy some buttery popcorn or a refreshing drink with your next jump scare on us.\*

\* <https://www.redcrossblood.org/local-homepage/events/october.html>

**MEMORIALS:**

**IN MEMORY OF THEODORE BURNS**

Cheravian Club

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, October 2, 2022**

10:00am Sunday School  
11:00am Worship  
5:30-7:00pm Fireflies Meeting  
5:30-7:00pm Youth Meeting

**Monday, October 3, 2022**

6:30pm Boy Scouts (NETC)

**Tuesday, October 4, 2022**

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open  
Life Line Screening (Fellowship Hall)

**Wednesday, October 5, 2022**

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open  
10:30am Grief Share  
12:00pm Bulletin/Newsletter Deadline  
6:00pm Nominations Committee Meeting (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00pm Handbell Practice (Choir Room)  
7:00pm Choir Practice (Choir Room)

**Thursday, October 6, 2022**

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

**Saturday, October 8, 2022**

Parlor in Use

**Sunday, October 9, 2022**

10:00am Sunday School  
11:00am Worship  
5:30-7:00pm Fireflies Meeting  
5:30-7:00pm Youth Meeting

**Weekly amount needed for budget:** \$5,769.24  
**Amount needed year to date:** \$225,000.36  
**Sunday School Attendance September 25:** 50  
**FUMC Food Pantry Item:** Ramen Noodles  
**Greeters:** Jimmie & Kim Williamson  
**Acolyte:** The Ruffners  
**Nursery Worker:** Christy & Charlie Ruffner  
**Soundsystem Operator:** Holly Miles

**Amount received for week of September 28:** \$2,283.64  
**Received year to date:** \$205,908.81  
**Worship Attendance September 25:** 70  
**McArn Items:** Instant grits  
**Head Usher:** Jed Reid  
**Liturgist for next Sunday:** Rhett Butler  
**Flowers next Sunday:** Gloria Williams  
**Video Technicians:** Bryson Hunter

**FUMC STAFF**

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Angie Smith, Ministry Assistant ([fumcangiesmith@gmail.com](mailto:fumcangiesmith@gmail.com))  
Tara McPherson, Child Development Ministry Director ([fccdm@yahoo.com](mailto:fccdm@yahoo.com))  
Jim Glass – Music Director and Organist ([fumcmusic01@gmail.com](mailto:fumcmusic01@gmail.com)) 803-285-3191