

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 THIRD STREET, CHERAW, SC 29520

843-537-7002

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



Image © [www.worshipdesignstudio.com](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com) used by permission<sup>1</sup>

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

***A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP***

***OCTOBER 23, 2022***

***20<sup>TH</sup> 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.*

<b>CHIMING OF THE HOUR</b>		Martha Starling
<b>PRELUDE</b>	<i>"Meditation On 'His Eye Is On The Sparrow'"</i>	ELIZABETH KROUSE
<b>WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		Lib Norton
<b>CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>i</sup></b>		Lib Norton
L: Power and might and majesty belong to God who created and is creating.		
<b>P: Thanks be to God for God's mighty wonders.</b>		
L: Like the image of the powerful wind, and heavens as a garment, God's majesty is revealed in all creation.		
<b>P: We look around us at the wonders and marvel and the infinite variety and beauty which God has created.</b>		
L: Who are we, that God should pay attention to us?		
<b>P: We are God's beloved children, the stewards whom God has selected to care for the world. AMEN.</b>		
<b>OPENING PRAYER<sup>ii</sup></b>		Lib Norton
Lord, everywhere we look we see the imprint of your creative love. The wondrous works of nature show your majesty. As we gather today to celebrate your love and creation, keep us mindful that we are part of that created order, meant to be stewards and not destroyers. Prepare us to work for you in ministries of peace and justice. AMEN.		
<b>PSALTER NO. 772</b>	<i>"Psalm 37: 1-11"</i>	Lib Norton
<b>*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 881</b>	<i>Apostle's Creed</i>	Lib Norton
<b>*GLORIA PATRI NO. 70</b>		MEINKE
<b>*HYMN NO. 159</b>	<i>"Lift High The Cross"</i>	CRUCIFER
<b>MORNING PRAYER &amp; LORD'S PRAYER</b>		Pastor Debra
<b>ANTHEM (No. 2146 The Faith We Sing)</b>	<i>"His Eye Is On The Sparrow"</i> Adult Choir	ADAPTED
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	<i>"Swedish Litany"</i>	JAMES G. KANTOR
<b>*DOXOLOGY NO. 95</b>		OLD 100 <sup>th</sup>
<b>*OFFERTORY PRAYER</b>		Pastor Debra
<b>*HYMN NO. 2129 (The Faith We Sing)</b>	<i>"I Have Decided To Follow Jesus"</i>	ASSAM
<b>*SCRIPTURE READING</b>	<i>Jeremiah 51: 15-19</i>	Pastor Debra
<b>SERMON</b>	<i>"The Potter's Hand: Committed to Serve the Potter"</i>	Pastor Debra
<b>*HYMN NO. 354</b>	<i>"I Surrender All"</i>	SURRENDER
<b>*BENEDICTION</b>		Pastor Debra

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE<sup>iii</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 Crucifer”*

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

<sup>i</sup><https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/4292>

<sup>ii</sup>Ibid.

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

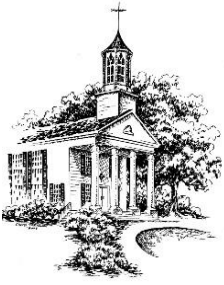
**OUR PRAYER LIST** – Our President, our Congress, all Governors, Mayors, State, County, and Local employees, all health care workers, EMT’s, all who defend our nation, all who make decisions for our nation, Jim Bennett, Scott Tomberlin, Margaret Stanton, Mary Snookie Lomas, Shep Straughn, Betty Thraikill, Tony Thraikill, Gwen Sullivan, Bill Eutsler, Jr., Mary Burr, Dan Ellenburg (Patty Fisher’s Brother-In-Law), Martha Starling, Shelton Rumph, Jody Reid, Craig Norton, Erika Kollitz, Patricia Turner, Martha Griggs, Zach Keefe, CC Quick, Katie Chapman, Neva Pittman (Holly Miles’ Mom), Sandy Colston (Kelly Dusa’s friend). **NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notified.**



**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 your help. Trina Mills





# 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 43  
October 23, 2022

## *A few words from the pastor...*

*"Weren't our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?" (Luke 24:32)*

The author of the Committed to Christ Bible Study, Bob Crossman, gives some food for thought to us as we consider what it means to be a totally committed disciple of Jesus. He says, "Oftentimes, we are like the disappointed admirers on the road to Emmaus. We have long known about Jesus. We have heard his teachings; observed his life. But we have not completely given ourselves over to him, for we perceive him as less than he truly is. We have prayed prayers, read our Bibles, attended worship and church activities but have we encountered God?"<sup>1</sup>

After walking and talking with Jesus, the two companions on the road to Emmaus perceived that Jesus was not a failed Messiah, but the fulfillment of the very hope of Israel. Then they moved beyond a posture of observation and spectatorship and stepped squarely into the stream of history as deeply devoted disciples of the very one who set the world into motion. Once they saw Jesus as the one to whom the Old Testament was pointing, they understood that their allegiance could be to no one else.

Our Lord Jesus is not looking for admirers or fans. What Jesus calls us to be are deeply devoted disciples who are living 3D lives as a testimony to the power of Jesus to save. As 3D Christians we participate in building God's Kingdom here on earth as we fulfill the Matthew 28 commission Jesus gave us to make disciples.

The Bible, our prayers, and worship help us to become deeply devoted disciples of Jesus. In the Bible, we find the story of God's redemption revealed fully in the person of Jesus, and as we read and hear this story again and again, we become characters in that very story. Characters who are on fire for Jesus as deeply devoted disciples. That is what Jesus is calling us to be and that is what our world desperately needs!

Consider what small step you can take in the days ahead to deepen your discipleship for the Lord. It may be spending more time in prayer or Bible reading. Perhaps it is coming to worship to simply offer the Lord praise and thanksgiving without any preconceived notions or expectations. Or it may be that you will grow deeper with God by sharing your gifts, service, and or witness for the Lord in our church. Looking forward to hearing what steps you take and how that impacts your discipleship for Jesus.

*Pastor Debra*

<sup>1</sup>Crossman, Bob, *Committed to Christ: Six Steps to a Generous Life*, Abingdon, Nashville, 2012.



Thank you all so much for the wonderful Pastor Appreciation Sunday Celebration. It was great fun, the cooks in this church are stellar, and the fellowship was awesome. I appreciate the cards, texts, and emails and the flowers were beautiful. I am especially grateful for the donations to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund because that means I can help people in our community who need assistance with their rent or utility bills. It is my honor to serve the Lord with you at the church with a heart in the heart of Cheraw. Pastor Debra



### ***Is The UMC really...? Part Three***

**Able to allow congregations to sidestep the requirements of Paragraph 2553 in the Book of Discipline by using Paragraph 2548.2 as an alternative path to disaffiliation?**

No. Judicial Council Decision 1449 is clear: “[T]he process in ¶ 2548.2 may not be used as a pathway for local churches to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.”

What is at stake in this question? The Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA), an independent advocacy group, in collaboration with the National Center for Life and Liberty (NCLL, an unrelated “nonprofit legal ministry”) has encouraged churches in several conferences (Florida, Western North Carolina, Eastern Pennsylvania, with “similar group actions” expected to proceed in the Western Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Peninsula-Delaware conferences) to file or threaten to join NCLL-led lawsuits against their conferences unless the conferences immediately cease to require the “onerous” conditions of Paragraph 2553 and instead allow congregations to disaffiliate under Paragraph 2548.2.

That paragraph in the Discipline has been put forward for some time now by the Wesley Covenant Association and others to suggest that: a) there could be a lower threshold of voting (based on a simple majority of a charge conference instead of the two-thirds majority of a called church conference); b) no payments would be required; and c) the whole matter could be addressed through a transfer of the congregation, its property, and its assets to another evangelical denomination through a comity agreement that each conference could, if it so chose, simply create.

The Judicial Council decision makes clear what has always been the case about this paragraph. It has nothing to do with local congregations disaffiliating from the denomination. It has to do solely with the transfer of property. The only paragraph in the Discipline that provides a means for a local church to become disaffiliated from The United Methodist Church while retaining its property and assets is Paragraph 2553.

The decision also notes that annual conferences have no authority to create a comity agreement. The Council of Bishops develops the agreement, which must then be ratified by a General Conference to become effective. In the case of the Global Methodist Church, neither of those actions has occurred. There is no basis even for a transfer of property under any comity agreement with the Global Methodist Church because no such agreement exists or can exist at this time.

Paragraph 2553 was adopted by the special called General Conference of 2019. It was introduced through a substitute motion from an advocate for the Traditional Plan. The motion to substitute passed by a margin of two votes (402-400). The reason for the substitution was that the disaffiliation proposal before the body at the time as part of the Traditional Plan legislation had already been declared unconstitutional and on several points illegal by the Judicial Council. So, to provide for any process for disaffiliation while retaining local church property, Traditionalist leaders moved the substitution of this provision. After debate, the substituted motion was approved 420-390. The Judicial Council subsequently affirmed its constitutionality when applied with the requirement in 2529.1.b.3 that the annual conference must provide final consent to enact a disaffiliation. Paragraph 2553 remains the only paragraph in the Discipline authorizing a process for a local church to disaffiliate while retaining its property and assets.

Meanwhile, a few annual conferences had also specified Paragraph 2548.2 as an option for disaffiliation in some way. Two in particular who had done so (Texas and Rio Texas) have now modified their policy documents to remove references to Paragraph 2548.2 as a disaffiliation pathway.

#### **About to change its statement on abortion from life-centered to pro-choice?**

No. It is true that revised Social Principles have been submitted for consideration by the next General Conference. However, the revisions made to the section addressing abortion do not alter the life-centered approach of The United Methodist Church on abortion.

“Tragic conflicts of life with life” remain the only circumstances in which abortion is considered justifiable in the revised statement. No legislative proposals submitted to the next General Conference call for any other or any lesser standard.



There is no basis to conclude the 2024 General Conference will make any change to the denomination's life-centered commitments regarding abortion.

**Allowing local churches that refuse to pay apportionments (as the Wesleyan Covenant Association is now directing) to "get away with it"?**

No. The Book of Discipline states: "Payment in full of these apportionments by local churches is the first benevolent responsibility of the church" (Paragraph 247.14).

If the local church is incapable of fulfilling its first benevolent duty, this begins to call into question whether it remains viable as a local church or whether it is in a position to afford the appointment or appointments it may currently have.

The decision about how to respond to such situations lies with each district superintendent. District superintendents know and, as pastors themselves, can relate to the financial pressures some congregations may face that limit their ability to pay their apportionments in full, or sometimes, at all.

District superintendents also understand the difference between hardship and refusal. The Discipline gives them the tools to respond accordingly.

In cases where congregations are refusing to pay all or part of their apportionments, the district superintendent may take any of the following actions.

1. *Require review of the local church's potential (Paragraph 213) as a United Methodist congregation.* Is the congregation serving the purpose or able to serve the purpose for which it was organized if it refuses to pay apportionments? If the conclusion of the review is that it is not, the DS, with the district board of location and building, the bishop, and a majority of the cabinet, can recommend the closure of that local church at the next session of the annual conference (Paragraph 2549.1.a, 2.b).
2. *Re-align the pastoral charge (Paragraph 419.9) in consultation with the bishop.* For churches with multiple appointed clergy, this could involve making fewer appointments. For churches with one clergy, it could lead to a less than fulltime appointment.
3. *Recommend, with the approval of the district committee on location and building, the bishop, and the majority of the cabinet, the immediate transfer of all property and assets of the congregation to the conference board of trustees (Paragraph 2549.3.b).* In this situation, the conference board of trustees would have discretion about whether, and on what terms, to offer the property and assets to the congregation for its possible future use, or to offer the property to another buyer and direct the assets for the use of the annual conference.

Any of these actions could be taken in response to any congregation, *regardless* of its interest in disaffiliation, which *refuses* to pay its apportionments in full. None of these actions would be taken as a means to discourage or punish congregations simply seeking to disaffiliate. Every bishop in the United Methodist Church in the United States is committed to supporting congregations wishing to disaffiliate to do so in accordance with the policies set by that conference's board of trustees. United Methodist congregations are free to pursue disaffiliation. They are not free to sabotage the ongoing ministry of The United Methodist Church as they do so.

***This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.***

## **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.



## 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

117 Third Street

Cheraw, SC 29520



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*

## MEMORIALS AND HONORIARIUMS:

### **IN MEMORY OF SUSAN ESCHENFELDER**

Janet D. Clark, Eric & Kelly Dusa

### **IN MEMORY OF TOM ROLLINGS**

Eric & Kelly Dusa

### **IN MEMORY OF MARTHA GREENE**

Eric & Kelly Dusa

### **IN MEMORY OF DONNA MCLEOD**

Eric & Kelly Dusa

### **IN HONOR OF PASTOR DEBRA ARMSTRONG**

Lynn Tweed, Mark Armstrong, Dallas & Jenny Keefe, Greg & Cindy Sanderson, Ray & Mary Crouse, Gloria Williams



### THE JAZZY TREE

The Ezer Sunday school class decorated a tree for the Jazz Festival this past weekend. They appreciated the help of Keith Smith as well.



### 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 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)

#### Monday, October 24, 2022

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

#### Tuesday, October 25, 2022

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

#### Wednesday, October 26, 2022

- 8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
- 10:30am Grief Share
- 12:00pm Bulletin/Newsletter Deadline
- 5:00pm Worship Committee Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00pm Bible Study (Parlor)
- 6:00pm Handbell Practice (Choir Room)
- 7:00pm Choir Practice (Choir Room)

#### Thursday, October 27, 2022

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

#### Saturday, October 29, 2022

- Parlor in Use

#### Sunday, October 30, 2022

- 10:00am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship (Celebration of Missions and Music)
- 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:** \$242,308.08  
**Sunday School Attendance October 16:** 32  
**FUMC Food Pantry Item:** Ramen Noodles  
**Greeters:** Ray & Mary Crouse  
**Acolyte:** The Ruffners  
**Nursery Worker:** Leslie Jean & Chase Watson  
**Soundsystem Operator:** Holly Miles

**Amount received for week of October 19:** \$6,470.50  
**Received year to date:** \$229,929.62  
**Worship Attendance October 16:** 53  
**McArn Items:** Animal cookies  
**Head Usher:** Jed Reid  
**Liturgist for next Sunday:** Shannon Johnson  
**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