

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 THIRD STREET, CHERAW, SC 29520

843-537-7002

www.cherawfirstumc.org



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

A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

DECEMBER 11, 2022

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT/CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

LITURGICAL COLOR: PURPLE

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

"Once In Royal David's City"

ROBERT BUCKLEY FARLEE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ray Crouse

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ray Crouse

L: We are ready, O Lord, to behold the presence of your spirit among us.

C: Bless our spirits with openness and joy!

L: We have come on this journey seeking hope, peace and joy.

C: You, O Lord, have poured your spirit on us!

L: Justice and peace shall be brought to all God's people.

C: No more shall fear and doubt claim us.

L: God is fulfilling the ancient promise of a Savior.

C: Our hearts rejoice at this good news of God's love. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

Ray Crouse

O Lord, you know the deserts and the parched places in our lives. We seek your healing power. Lead us on this Advent journey to the place of new birth, to the place of our redemption, to the place of joy; for we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES¹

Jackson & Zenda Rushing

Reader One: "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing . . . A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray . . . And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (Isaiah 35:1-2, 8, 10 NRSV).

Reader Two: The prophet Isaiah tells us about the joy of ascending to God's house. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy.

Reader One: The Psalmist says "Happy are these whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord . . . who made heaven and earth . . . who keeps faith . . . who executes justice . . . gives food . . . sets prisoners free . . . opens eyes . . . lifts up . . . watches over . . . upholds . . . The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 146 NRSV)

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, and of deep and everlasting joy, as a sign that we are those who walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. We are ascending to God's promise.

Light two purple candles and the pink on the Advent wreath.

ALL SING: A candle is burning, a candle of Joy; A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy. Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow As Joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow. (sung to the tune of Away in a Manger)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 888** *Affirmation From 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 and Colossians 1:15-20*

Ray Crouse

***HYMN NO. 250**

"Once In Royal David's City"

IRBY

MORNING PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Debra

OFFERTORY

"Bring A Torch, Jeanette Isabella"
The Carillon Choir

ADAPTED FROM A.C. ISCH BY GLASS

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor Debra

*OFFERING RESPONSE NO. 219 verse 3

"What Child Is This?"

So, bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh. Come, peasant, king to own Him. The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him. This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing: Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1: 18-25

Pastor Debra

HOMILY

"Angels Among Us: More Joy"

Pastor Debra

The Best Old-Fashioned Christmas Pageant Ever

St. James Music Press, © 2009 – permission to photocopy granted

Hymn: *Angels We Have Heard on High* UMH 238 (All verses)

GLORIA

Narrator (Bryson): Each Christmastide the world around, our churches joyfully resound with children singing, robed in white, and dressed as angels in the night proclaiming Christ our Savior's birth to sheep and shepherds here on earth: for unto you this day is born a Savior, which is Christ the Lord!" So we may go, as shepherds then, to meet our Lord in Bethlehem.

Anthem: *While By My Sheep* (Choir)

JUNGST

Narrator (Sawyer): Those shepherds, struck with fear and awe, at what they heard and what they saw, inspired by angels in the sky, and barely understanding why, prepared to travel to that place where they might see this child of grace. So, acting on that holy news, they marched, with lambs and rams and ewes. Already wakened from their sleep, those shepherds and their wooly sheep.

Hymn: *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night* UMH 236

CHRISTMAS

Narrator (Bryson): Beside the manger filled with hay, where Jesus Christ our Savior lay, the shepherds bowed to worship there, the animals that all did share their worship gifts with God's own Son - each gift unique, yes - everyone - the donkey, sheep and dove, whose gifts were given out of love, stood vigil 'round the manger bed where baby Jesus laid his head.

Anthem: *The Friendly Beasts* (Jacquelyn Tomberlin & Choir)

ORIENTIS PARTIBUS

Narrator (Sawyer): The humble shepherds brought gifts, too, of wooly sheep – ram, lamb and ewe: The wooly ram whose curly fleece would softly warm the Prince of Peace; the gentle ewe with soft brown eye to offer milk in great supply; and, last, the little bleating lamb, whose wool beneath the Savior's hand would bring a smile to Jesus' face - a gift of joy, a gift of grace.

Anthem: *What Child Is This* (Choir)

GREENSLEEVES

Narrator: Though later, wise men traveling far to find this King beneath the star brought gold and myrrh and frankincense worth sums of money quite immense, to honor Jesus; these were not of greater value than gifts brought by humble shepherds and their sheep, whom angels roused from midnight sleep to tell the news that Christmas morn, "It is for YOU that Christ is born!"

Hymn: *O Come All Ye Faithful* UMH 234 (Verses 1 thru 4)

ADESTES FIDELES

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Debra

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE NO. 238 verse 3** "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

***POSTLUDE**

"Improvisation on Irby"

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

¹ Readings from: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2022>

Song Lyrics from: "A Candle is Burning" Sandra Dean (1986) CCLI #11429516 and #20825543

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT CAST AND STAFF

Mary: Viva Lang

Shepherd: Julius Graham

Joseph: Ashton Becker

Cow: Annsleigh Becker

Angel: Jacquelyn Tomberlin

Donkey: Alexie Sloan

Angel: Molly Eubanks

Dove: Carlie Watson

Angel: Julia Watson

Camel: Angela Morgan

Sheep: Alice Lang

Wise Men: Todd Becker, Doug Marsh, Ben Holliday

Narrators: Sawyer Becker and Bryson Hunter

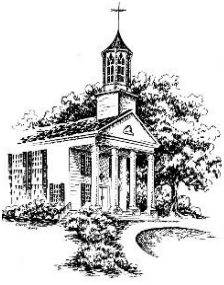
Piano: Jim Glass

Costumes: Susan Marsh

Co-Directors: Angela Holliday, Allison Becker, Leslie Jean Watson, and Nancy Wagon

Set-Up: Jackson Rushing

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 Thrailkill, Tony Thrailkill, Gwen Sullivan, Bill Eutsler, Jr., Mary Burr, Dan Ellenburg (Patty Fisher's Brother-In-Law), Jody Reid, Craig Norton, Patricia Turner, Martha Griggs, Katie Chapman, Thomas McKinnon. **NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notified.**



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 50
December 11, 2022

A few words from the pastor...

"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn't fragile like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid.

John 14:27 TLB

The world we live in today is overwhelmed with anxiety, conflict, discord, fear, hate, violence, and war. There is no question that if we rely on the circumstances and events in this world, we do not have and will most likely never have peace. That is because our worldly definition of peace is the absence of all those things. Jesus makes it clear that the gift of peace that he gives to his disciples is not the fragile peace that the world gives. The peace that Jesus gives allows his deeply devoted disciples to have peace even in the midst of all the things on earth that destroy peace.

Our faith and trust in God are the source of our peace. Psalm 4:8 says, "I will both lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety." Isaiah said in 26:12 "Lord, you establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished, you have done for us." 1Peter 5:7 tells us to "cast all your anxiety on Jesus because he cares for you." Jesus told us in John 16:33, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." The Apostle Paul prays for "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, to guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" in Philippians 4:7.¹

We are all called to be instruments of God's peace in the world. In order to be a messenger of peace, we first must have peace in our hearts, minds and souls. The way that we do that is through Bible reading, prayer, and the support on our family of faith. To share God's peace we must have the peace of God of which the Bible speaks ourselves first. It is possible to have a peaceful heart, mind, and spirit even in the midst of severe trials and tribulations on this earth. It is possible to be instruments of peace and offer God's peace to others despite everything around us that seeks to destroy God's blessed peace. The reason we can have peace are best said in the words that the Angel Gabriel spoke to the virgin Mary in Luke 1:37 "nothing is impossible for God." The teenage Mary, despite all the reasons to be filled with anxiety and fear demonstrated peace of the God as she accepted her calling to be the mother of Jesus with the words, "here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your Word." May we all be peacemakers who say, "here I am a servant of the Lord, make me an instrument of your peace."



Pastor Debra

¹ Scriptures in this paragraph are from The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.



STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT LAST SUNDAY TO DONATE: As in past years, donations will be accepted for a monetary Christmas gift for members of the church staff. Contributions may be dropped off at the church office, mailed, or placed in the offering plate. (Please clearly designate “**STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT**” on your check or on the envelope if making a cash donation.) The deadline for contributions is **Sunday, December 11**. This is a good way to express our appreciation to the staff for the work that they do! *Staff-Parish Relations Committee*

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.

LITURGIST READING: If you would like to be added to the Liturgist reading list, please contact Angie (843-537-7002) by Thursday, December 15 to be added to next year’s rotation.



4th Sunday of Advent
December 18th
11:00 a.m.
Christmas Cantata

Christmas Eve
Pre-Service Organ Music
5:30 p.m.
Candlelight Communion Service
6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day
December 25th
No Sunday School
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Nursery Closed

First Sunday after Christmas
January 1st
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.



**Haven't turned in
your Commitment
Card yet?
There is still time!**

You may bring it or mail it to the office, or you can email or call Angie with the information and she will fill out a card for you.



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.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HOST RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 from 1:00pm-5:30pm. **Give a gift, get a gift!** All who come to give Nov. 28-Dec. 15 will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email, thanks to our partners at Amazon. Terms apply, see rcblood.org/together. Angie Smith 843-537-7002 or fumcangiesmith@gmail.com or www.redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code FUMCcheraw.

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.

Ellison Outen (December 16)
Veteran's Village
1200 National Cemetery Road
Room 4112 (Farrow 4A)
Florence, SC 28506-3239



SHEPHERD'S CHILD DIRECTIONS

Thanks so much for selecting a child to provide Christmas for during these challenging times.

A few reminders:

Prepare 3 boxes for each child. You may put as much in each box as you choose. Remember, this is probably all they are getting for Christmas; so, be generous and make it nice. Siblings often get a box from different church members, and we don't want them to feel like they are not getting the same amount of things.

• I usually do an outfit or two, and gloves/hat in one box, shoes and socks in one box, and several toys in another box. (around \$100 total)

- Boxes are due in the church office by Monday, December 12.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Thanks, Trina Mills 843-910-0518

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 11, 2022

- 10:00am Sunday School
- 10:00am Program Practice (Youth & Fireflies)
- 11:00am Worship (Children's Christmas Program)

Monday, December 12, 2022

- 9:30am Shepherd's Child Wrapping Party (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:30pm SPPRC Meeting (Harris SS Classroom)
- 6:30pm Boy Scouts (NETC)

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

- 8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
- 1:00pm-5:30pm Blood Drive (Fellowship Hall)
- 3:00pm United Women in Faith (Parlor)
- 5:00pm Girl Scouts (Youth Hut)

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

- 8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
- 9:30am Shepherd's Child Wrapping Party (Fellowship Hall)
- 10:30am Grief Share
- 12:00pm Bulletin/Newsletter Deadline
- 6:00pm Advent Bible Study (Parlor)
- 6:00pm Handbell Practice (Choir Room)
- 7:00pm Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Thursday, December 15, 2022

- 8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
- 10:00am Advent Bible Study (Parlor)

Friday, December 16, 2022

- 1:00pm Shepherd's Child Party

Sunday, December 18, 2022

- 10:00am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship (Cantata)
- 5:30pm-7:00pm Youth Meeting (Christmas Party)
- 5:30pm-7:00pm Fireflies Meeting (Christmas Party)

Weekly amount needed for budget: \$5,769.24
Amount needed year to date: \$282,692.76
Sunday School Attendance December 4: 45
FUMC Food Pantry Item: Canned meats/stews
Greeter: Betty Hurst
Acolyte: Penny Quick
Nursery Workers: Choles Reid & Kim Roddy
Soundsystem Operator: Holly Miles

Amount received for week of December 7: \$10,842.80
Received year to date: \$288,947.72
Worship Attendance December 4: 71
McArn Items: Breakfast bars
Head Usher: Jerry Tucker
Liturgist for next Sunday: Eric Dusa
Flowers next Sunday: Poinsettias
Video Technicians: Bryson Hunter

FUMC STAFF

Rev. Debra Armstrong, Pastor (fumcpastor1@gmail.com) 843-537-7002 O 843-253-3132 C
Angie Smith, Administrative Assistant (fumcangiesmith@gmail.com)
Child Development Ministry Director (fccdm@yahoo.com)
Jim Glass – Music Director and Organist (fumcmusic01@gmail.com) 803-285-3191