

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 THIRD STREET, CHERAW, SC 29520

843-537-7002

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



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

***A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP***

***DECEMBER 18, 2022***

***4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CANTATA***

***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**

*"Two Settings of Vom Himmel hoch, P52 & 478"*

JOHANN PACHELBEL

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Eric Dusa

**CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

Eric Dusa

L: Who will come to save us? Who will the Lord send to heal our wounds?

**C: Will God send the mighty angelic host? Will God send a great warrior?**

L: God will send a child who has no voice, no power, no influence. Why would God send a child?

**C: A child cannot change the world. Why would God send a child?**

L: A child needs to be loved and cared for. We need to pay attention to a child.

**C: So much of our energy will be consumed in caring for the child.**

L: We need to reach out in love--after all, aren't we God's beloved ones?

**C: The child is the blessed gift that God sends, teaching us again about loving and caring. Amen.**

**OPENING PRAYER<sup>2</sup>**

Eric Dusa

**Lord of all life and all seasons, help us open our hearts to hear the words of promise and love that you send to us. Help us Lord to trust in your abiding love and power. Prepare us to receive your gift of grace and peace. In Jesus' name, we pray. AMEN.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES<sup>3</sup>**

Jimmie & Kim Williamson

Reader One: Isaiah said that the Lord spoke to the king and said, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven" (Isaiah 7:11 NRSV). But when the king refused, God would not be stopped. "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14 NRSV).

Reader Two: God wants us to know, even when we aren't sure ourselves. God wants us to experience God's presence, even when we think we can handle life on our own. God sends us signs of God's presence with us; all we need to do is keep our eyes open and look.

Reader One: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us.'" When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus (Matthew 1:23-25 NRSV).

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy, and today of presence that speaks of love, as a sign that no matter our circumstance, we know we are not alone.

*Light all four candles of the Advent wreath.*

**ALL SING: A candle is burning, a candle of Love; A candle to point us to heaven above. A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth; For Jesus is bringing God's Love to our earth. (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

**\*RESPONSE NO. 220 verse 1**

*"Angels from the Realm of Glory"*

**Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**\*HYMN NO. 240**

*"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

MENDELSSOHN

**MORNING PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor Debra

OFFERTORY

*"Vom Himmel hoch"*

FRIEDRICH WILHELM ZACHOW

\*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!

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor Debra

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2: 8-12

Pastor Debra

HOMILY

*"Angels Among Us: More Love"*

Pastor Debra

## CANDLES AND CAROLS

A Service of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

By Mark Hayes and Pamela Martin

Presented by The Chancel Choir

With Mark Armstrong and Zenda Rushing, Narrators

Light of Hope

Light of Peace

Light of Joy

Light of Love

Light of Christ

\*HYMN NO. 236 (verses 1,3,&6)

*"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"*

CHRISTMAS

\*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 Christmas"*

*\*If you are able, please stand*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4444>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> 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

### CHOIR MEMBERS:

Amy Eschenfelder

Jenny Keefe

Ruth Ann Jones

Becky Sides

Judy Dixon

Susan Marsh

Bonnie Cundiff

Lyle Coffey

Thomas Samuel

David Rohde

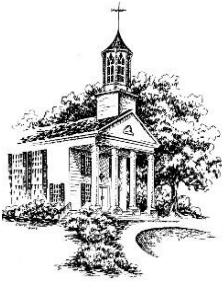
Martha Starling

Vincent Prevatte

Greg Sanderson

Mary Crouse

ORGANIST: Jim Glass



# 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 51  
December 18, 2022

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

*“For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime! Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.” Psalm 30:5 NLT*



Years ago, when I was battling cancer and the chemotherapy and radiation treatments brought sickness and many tears, Psalm 30:5 was a great source of encouragement for me. It was during this time that I came to understand the difference between happiness and joy. Happiness is fleeting and dependent on happy circumstances in our lives. Joy is a gift from God that flows to us through his presence among us. Joy rises above our circumstances and brings deep satisfaction to hearts and souls.

Mary and Joseph had absolutely no reason to be happy about the strange circumstances of Mary's pregnancy. The reality of this child sent from God was very stark. The dangers were real. The potential for them to be outcasts in their community was a certainty. Yet they both believed the angelic messengers who were sent to them. Mary said yes to being Jesus's momma and Joseph said yes to being a husband to Mary and an earthly father to Jesus. Both received the gift of joy from their unborn son.

In the English Standard Version of the Bible, the words “joy,” “rejoice,” or “joyful” appear a total of 430 times. “Happy,” or “happiness” appear only ten times.<sup>1</sup> Pastor Colin Smith in his Open the Bible blog says, “Christian joy flows from realizing our position in Christ: who you are in him, and what he has done for you.”<sup>2</sup> As we continue our journey to the manger may we all be filled with this blessed joy! To help us along here are a few more verses about joy that I love. You can also check out Pastor Colin's blog for the twenty-one verses on joy that he shares.

John 15:11 TLB

“I have told you this so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your cup of joy will overflow!”

Romans 14:7 TLB

For, after all, the important thing for us as Christians is not what we eat or drink but stirring up goodness and peace and joy from the Holy Spirit.

Philippians 4:4 TLB

Always be full of joy in the Lord; I say it again, rejoice!

*Pastor Debra*

<sup>1</sup> <https://openthebible.org/article/21-bible-verses-about-joy/>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

**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, Joel Keefe. **NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notified.**

## 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.



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

**Christmas Day**  
**December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**No Sunday School**  
**Worship 10:00 a.m.**  
**Nursery Closed**

**First Sunday after Christmas**  
**January 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Sunday School 10:00 a.m.**  
**Worship 11:00 a.m.**

**YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS:** In order for contributions to be posted to your 2022 giving record, they must meet one of three requirements:

- 1) The gift is received and posted to your account on or before December 30, 2022.
- 2) The contribution is dropped into the offering plate or delivered to the church office on or before December 30, 2022, (if you bring it after office hours, you can drop it in the mail slot in Debra's office door.)
- 3) The check is dated December 30, 2022 or before.

The church office will be open this week Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, December 20 – 22 from 8:30am—4:30pm, and next week, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, December 28-30 from 8:30am—4:30pm; to assist you with year-end giving matters. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the church office at 843-537-7002. **If you bring your contribution on Friday, December 30, please drop it off by 2:00pm in order for it to be applied to the 2022 year.**

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SELLING RADA PRODUCTS:** The United Women in Faith are taking orders for RADA products. There are catalogs, order forms, and sample products on a table outside the church office. If you would like to place an order for Christmas, please complete an order form with payment by December 7. We have a few tomato slicers left. We also have some items at reduced prices.



**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.

### **MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS:**

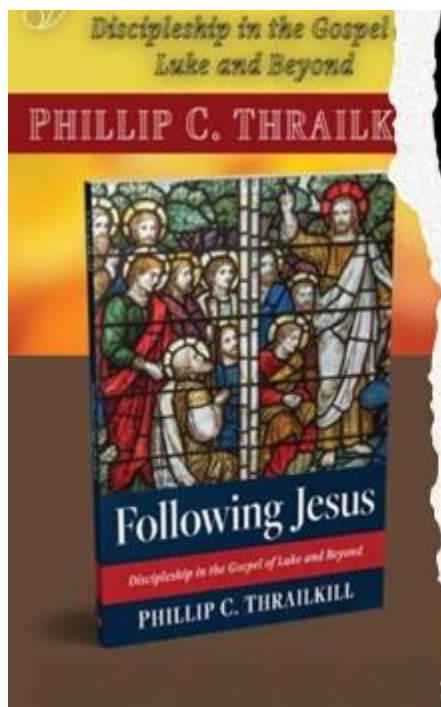
**IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM DELOS "BILL" ANDERSON**

Eric & Kelly Dusa

**IN HONOR OF JACKSON & ZENDA RUSHING, NORMA COBB, AND RENIE SEEL FOR ALL THAT THEY DO FOR FUMC**

Anonymous giver

**OFFICE HOURS FOR CHRISTMAS:** The office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, December 20-22 for normal hours; the office will be open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, December 28-30 for normal hours. Deadline for the January 1 bulletin will be on Wednesday, December 28 by 3:00pm.



#### WIPF *and* STOCK PUBLISHERS

“This is not an easy book, and it’s not meant to be. Thraikill, in his methodical but accessible style, bridges the gap between scholarship and the life of the church, and reminds us that discipleship is costly. *Following Jesus* explores fifty-one ‘thought units’ in Luke’s Gospel that are pregnant with insights for being a disciple of Jesus and developing disciple makers. *Following Jesus* is a gold mine for scholars and a practical lifesaver for those making disciples of Jesus.”

DARRELL WHITEMAN, founder, Global Development

www.wipfandstock.com (541) 344-1528 available in bookstores or at orders @ wipfandstock.com or amazon.com orders@wipfandstock.com

## YOUTH HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER MASON JARS



### Pre-Made Mixes in a Jar

All proceeds from the sale will go toward the Youth Ski Trip

Cocoa 16oz \$8.00

Brownie 32oz \$12.00

Cookie Mix 32 oz \$12.00

Please call Angie Smith 843-537-7002 or Angela Holliday 843-337-4515 to order your pre-made mix mason jar.



### CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

The Ezer Class had a great time celebrating Christmas together.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### 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)

#### Monday, December 19, 2022

6:30pm Boy Scouts (NETC)

#### Tuesday, December 20, 2022

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open  
 10:30am Candle Rings Project (Fellowship Hall)  
 5:00pm Girl Scouts (Youth Hut)

#### Wednesday, December 21, 2022

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open  
 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 22, 2022

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

#### Sunday, December 25, 2022

No Sunday School  
 10:00am Worship  
 No Youth  
 No Fireflies

**Weekly amount needed for budget:** \$5,769.24

**Amount needed year to date:** \$288,462.00

**Sunday School Attendance December 11:** 45

**FUMC Food Pantry Item:** Dried milk

**Greeters:** Mike & Debbie Elmore

**Acolyte:** Penny Quick

**Nursery Workers:** Farrah Lewis & Michelle Rohde

**Soundsystem Operator:** Holly Miles

**Amount received for week of December 14:** \$6,848.11

**Received year to date:** \$295,795.83

**Worship Attendance December 11:** 100

**McArn Items:** Instant grits

**Head Usher:** Jerry Tucker

**Liturgist for next Sunday:** Rhett Butler

**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