

# 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 4, 2022***

***2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT***

***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** *"Partiten Uber Es Ist Ein Rose"* MAX DRISCHNER

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Sammy Quick

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER** Sammy Quick

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES<sup>1</sup>** Ruffner Family

Reader One: "They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious" (Isaiah 11:9-10 NRSV).

Reader Two: We are the followers of that root of Jesse Isaiah spoke of. We are the ones who are now called to stand as a signal to the world, to all of creation, that peace is the will of the one who created us. Peace is the knowledge of the Lord that we proclaim from sea to shining sea.

Reader One: "In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea proclaiming. "Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near." And "bear fruit worthy of repentance" (Matthew 3:1,2, 8 NRSV).

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of joyful hope and the candle of proclaimed peace, in part to remind ourselves that we are a people rising toward God's promise. But we also light them as a sign to the world, an announcement there are some who hold on to hope and there are some who work the ways of peace. We stand as a sign that Emmanuel is still our fervent prayer.

*Light two purple candles of the Advent wreath.*

**ALL SING: A candle is burning, a candle of Peace; A candle to signal that conflict must cease. For Jesus is coming to show us the way; A message of Peace humbly laid in the hay.** (*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* Sammy Quick

**\*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.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**\*HYMN NO. 213** *"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"* TRURO

**MORNING PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER** Pastor Debra

**BLESSING OF OUR STEP-UP COMMITMENTS**

Pastor: The Lord is the giver of all that is good, true, beautiful and life giving. The generosity of the Lord has blessed each one of us immensely. Now, we come to offer step-up commitments to the Lord through Bible reading, financial giving, hands-on service, prayer, witness, and worship so that others may come to know Jesus through our works of piety and works of mercy here at First United Methodist Church in Cheraw. Let us pray for God to receive and bless our commitments for 2023.

**People:** Lord, we thank you and praise you for all you have done, are doing now, and promise yet to do in our individual lives and our life as a community of faith. Hear us now, Lord, as we renew our commitment to faithfully participate in the ministries of First United Methodist Church Cheraw with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. Empower us see them as our offering to you sacred and holy, yet earthy and filled with possibilities to make disciples for Jesus. Amen.

**CHORAL ANTHEM** *"Love Came Down At Christmas"* Choir MARK HAYES  
Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love Divine, Love was born at Christmas, Star and Angels gave the sign.  
Love was born at Christmas, In a simple cattle stall Love was born at Christmas in the hearts of one and all. Love be our example, love be yours and love be mine Love for on another with the love of God divine.

**OFFERTORY** *"Meditation on Lo, How A Rose"* JOHN BARR

**\*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

**\*HYMN NO. 216** *"Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"* ES IST EIN ROSE

**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 1:26-56 Pastor Debra

**SERMON** *"Angels Among Us: More Peace"* Pastor Debra

**\*HYMN NO. 431 (Sing 2 times)** *"Let There Be Peace on Earth"* WORLD PEACE

**\*BENEDICTION** Pastor Debra

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE NO. 238 verses 1 & 3** *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*  
Angels we have heard on high. Sweetly singing o'er the plains and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo. 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 Morning Song"*

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

<sup>1</sup> Readings from: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturg-2022>  
Song Lyrics from: "A Candle is Burning" Sandra Dean (1986) CCLI #11429516 and #20825543

**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), Shelton Rumph, Jody Reid, Craig Norton, Patricia Turner, Martha Griggs, Zach Keefe, CC Quick, 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.**

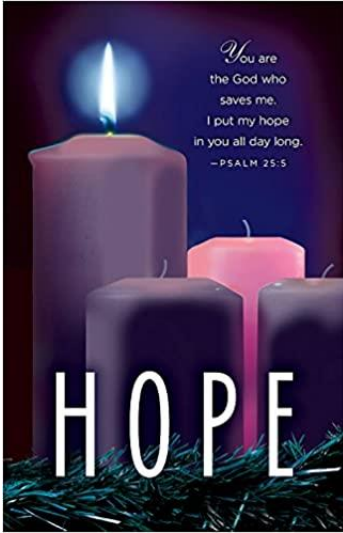


# THE CONNECTION

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

Volume 18,  
Issue 49  
December 4, 2022



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

*Hope is an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God. Hebrews 6:19 The Message*

The theme for the first week of Advent is hope. The Bible is filled with messages of hope. Proverbs 23:18 tells us that hope is for us and that our hope will not be taken away from us. Psalm 62:5 proclaims that hope is a gift from God. Psalm 147:11 reminds us that God is delighted when we put our hope in him. Jeremiah reminds us in 29:11 that God has plans to care for us, not to abandon us, and plans for a future with hope for us. There are many more scriptures on hope but these are ones that I use to remind me of the wonderful gift of hope that the Lord gives to us.

As we looked at the story of John the Baptist's parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, in Luke's gospel this past Sunday we were reminded that our hope in God is solid. God moved beyond all circumstances and appearances and sent the angel Gabriel with the good news of the son they would have who would make a big difference in the world.

This scripture reminded us of three reasons we have hope. First, we have hope because God is present with us. The Angel Gabriel stood in the presence of God and brought a message of hope to Zechariah. When we are baptized, we recognize that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and that the Holy Spirit is always present with us. God has promised to never leave us or forsake us. God walks with us and at times carries us through all the circumstances and situations in our life.

Second, Gabriel told Zechariah that God heard his and Elizabeth's prayers and would answer them by giving them a son. This is a wonderful assurance for us as well. We have hope because God hears our prayers and God answers our prayers too. The answers to prayers may be yes, no, or not yet. The answers may come in minutes or years, but God does always hear and answer our prayers and that gives us hope.

The third reason we have hope is because God keeps God's promises. He did to the people of Israel. He did to Zechariah and Elizabeth. God has, is, and will always keep his promises to us. That is sometimes the greatest source of hope for all of us who follow Jesus.

May this season of Advent restore, renew, and fill you with the hope described in the blessing from Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

*Pastor Debra*

**ANNUAL PAINT PARTY TO BENEFIT SHEPHERD'S CHILD:** Beth Maier has graciously offered to host a paint party to help us with this mission. She donates her time and supplies; and we pay \$25 to paint a Christmas picture and we get to keep the money! What an easy, fun way to raise money. This will be in the fellowship hall on Monday, Dec. 5 at 6:30pm, a \$10 deposit is due by Sunday, Dec. 4. Call Trina Mills (843-910-0518) to reserve your spot.

**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 also have some items on hand available for sale.



**STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT:** 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*



#### **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**



#### **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:**

***IN MEMORY OF SUSAN ESCHENFELDER***

*Judy Dixon*

## **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.



## Advent and Christmas 2022

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**December 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
**Christmas Pageant**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**December 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**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 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.**

**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

**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.



### 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

The need is constant.  
The gratification is instant.  
Give blood.



# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 Third Street, Cheraw -- Fellowship Hall

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022**

**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](http://rcblood.org/together).

Angie Smith 843-537-7002 or [fumcangiesmith@gmail.com](mailto:fumcangiesmith@gmail.com) or [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code FUMCcheraw.

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## A NOTE TO FUMC:

To Our Church Family:

Scott and I and our family are so beyond blessed. We have prayed for God's healing hands to cover Scott, to cover each of us and we have prayed for more time together as a family.

God has been with us through each trial and has definitely shined his glory and his light on our family. Scott is feeling better than he has in a long time. We know we will have more trials ahead but for now we are rejoicing in His blessings. I want to thank each and every one of you for your prayers, your monies, your cards, your dinners, you love, etc. Each of you has made such a "hard time" so much easier to bear and we truly want you to know how thankful we are... May God bless you all and shine his light upon you each day!!! We love you all and Wish you each a Very Merry Christmas! Hug your families extra tight always...Love the Tomberlin's

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD THANK YOU AND UPDATE:

I would like to thank everyone who gave so generously to this mission project. If you filled a box or perhaps 2 boxes or if you donated money, I thank you so very much! Zenda and I enjoyed shopping and filling boxes. We could not have done it without your help! This year we made a difference in the lives of 69 children and placed huge smiles on their faces. But more importantly it is my prayer that these children will all accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior! Again, thank you! Jenny Keefe

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday, December 4, 2022

10:00am Sunday School  
11:00am Worship  
12:00pm Stewardship Luncheon  
5:30pm-7:00pm Youth Meeting  
5:30pm-7:00pm Fireflies Meeting

### Monday, December 5, 2022

2:00pm GC 2024 Committee Meeting (Harris Classroom)  
6:30pm Paint Party  
6:30pm Boy Scouts (NETC)

### Tuesday, December 6, 2022

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

### Wednesday, December 7, 2022

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

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

### Sunday, December 11, 2022

10:00am Sunday School  
11:00am Worship  
3:00pm SPRC Meeting (Fellowship Hall)  
5:30pm-7:00pm Youth Meeting  
5:30pm-7:00pm Fireflies Meeting

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

**Amount needed year to date:** \$276,923.52

**Sunday School Attendance November 27:** 37

**FUMC Food Pantry Item:** Peanut butter

**Greeters:** Joe Stanton & Terry Ferrell

**Acolyte:** Penny Quick

**Liturgist for next Sunday:** Sammy Quick

**Flowers next Sunday:** Poinsettias

**Video Technicians:** Bryson Hunter

**Amount received for week of November 30:** \$11,354.47

**Received year to date:** \$278,104.32

**Worship Attendance November 27:** 61

**McArn Items:** Fruit cups

**Head Usher:** Jerry Tucker

**Crucifer:** Charlie Ruffner

**Nursery Workers:** Kelly Dusa & Leslie Jean McLean

**Soundsystem Operator:** Holly Miles

## 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