

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 25, 2022

CHRISTMAS DAY

LITURGICAL COLOR: WHITE

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	"Gesù Bambino"	PIETRO A. YON
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		Rhett Butler
CALL TO WORSHIP¹		Rhett Butler
L: Animals came to prepare your bed.		
C: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!		
L: Shepherds stood guard, marveled and said:		
C: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!		
L: Angels sang to calm your cries.		
C: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!		
L: And all the world gave one great sigh:		
C: Ah, Lord Jesus, you have come! Thanks be to God! Amen!		
OPENING PRAYER²		Rhett Butler
The celebration of Christmas has just begun. Even though many of us have gone through the gift giving and receiving, have feasted with family and friends, there is yet another gift which has been given. You, O Loving God, have wrapped the gift of your Son Jesus Christ around our lives. The light of your love through him is shining brightly. It is not a harsh light, but a multitude of bright colors that remind us of the wondrous ways you love us. Open our hearts and spirits as we hear the words of your holy scriptures, and the beautiful music. Bring us to you with such joy that it will seem as though our feet aren't even touching ground. AMEN.		
PSALTER NO. 818 Response #2	<i>Psalm 98</i>	Rhett Butler
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 888	<i>Affirmation From 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 and Colossians 1:15-20</i>	Rhett Butler
GLORIA PATRI NO. 71		GREATOREX
*HYMN NO. 224	<i>"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"</i>	IN DULCI JUBILO
MORNING PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER		Pastor Debra
ANTHEM	<i>"Silent Night"</i>	MARK HAYES
OFFERTORY	<i>"In dulci júbilo BWV 751"</i>	JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
*OFFERING RESPONSE NO. 219 verse 3	<i>"What Child Is This?"</i>	
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. 230	<i>"O Little Town Of Bethlehem"</i>	ST. LOUIS
SCRIPTURE READING	Hebrews 13: 1-2	Pastor Debra
SERMON	<i>"Angels Among Us: More Hospitality"</i>	Pastor Debra

*HYMN NO. 242

"Love Came Down At Christmas"

GARTAN

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Debra

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE NO. 246 verses 1 & 4 *"Joy to the World"*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her king. Let every heart prepare Him room and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove^[SEP] The glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

*POSTLUDE

"Improvisation on Antioch"

**If you are able, please stand*

¹<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/21st-century-worship-resource-a-call-to-worship-for-christmas-eveday1>

²<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2121>

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), Jody Reid, Craig Norton, Martha Griggs, Katie Chapman, Thomas McKinnon, Joel Keefe, Betty Hurst, Emily Marsh, Zenda Rushing. **NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notified.**

HOSTESS 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

OFFICE HOURS FOR CHRISTMAS: 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.



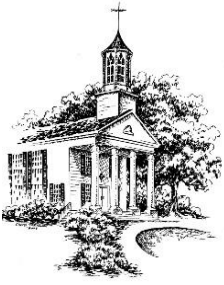
NURSERY HELPERS NEEDED

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.

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. We have a few tomato slicers left. We also have some items at reduced prices.



Thanks to all who helped with the annual Shepherd's Child Party. Without all of your many donations of money and without all the people who chose a name for the party, this could never have been successful. We provided Christmas for 52 children this year on December 16. This is the most children we have ever done! To see their eyes light up with joy and their smiles light up the room, makes my Christmas so very special. I wish all of you could have been there to see the delight on their faces. Special thanks go out to Renie Seel, Zenda Rushing, Jean Assef, Susan Marsh, Jenny Keefe, and Debra Armstrong. Special thanks go out to my husband for helping me shop for toys and clothes for 29 children and then to sort them!



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 52
December 25, 2022

A few words from the pastor...

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine; love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.¹

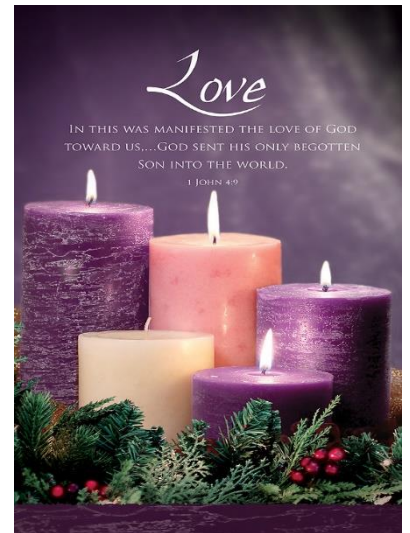
On the fourth Sunday of Advent, we lit the candle of love. This reminds us that God's love came from heaven above for all people. Love came down, the second chapter of Luke's gospel tells us, in the most extraordinary way. Shepherds who were minding their own business and keeping a look out for predators were suddenly and frighteningly visited by an angel of the Lord who told them there was good news of great joy for them and for everyone in the world. The sign for them and for all of us was a newborn babe asleep in a manger. The Messiah, the rescuer, the savior of the world born for us all would be found in a stable in a little town named Bethlehem.

The love of God is seen all over Matthew's and Luke's telling of the Christmas story. Angels were sent as messengers to God's people with love. Gabriel came to Zechariah and let him know that God loved Elizabeth and Zechariah and heard their prayers. Their son, John the Baptist, was the forerunner of Jesus and the promised return of a prophet like Elijah. He prepared the way for Jesus and brought many people back into the Jewish faith. Mary received a challenging and awe-inspiring message from Angel Gabriel. This highly favored and beloved teenage girl was chosen to carry and give birth to the love that came down at Christmas. Joseph received the good news from an angel in a dream that he was to be the earthly father of the one who would manifest God's love in the world. The shepherds rejoiced with the angel and the heavenly host that God sent the Savior, the ultimate gift of God's love.

The tiny, vulnerable, and sweet baby Jesus that we celebrate this Christmas Day fulfilled every prophecy of the Messiah. He grew up to be a faithful Jewish carpenter like Joseph. He healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, cast out demons, turned water into wine, and taught us how to live out the love of God on this earth. Jesus gave his life in love for us, died for us, and rose again for us to set us all free from the bondage of sin and death.

This is the love that came down at Christmas my brothers and sisters in Christ. This is the love that we celebrate on Christmas Day. This is the love we are to carry in our hearts and pour out into the world as love for God and love for our neighbors. This love says, Merry Christmas with Love from God.

Pastor Debra



¹ Rosetti, Christina Georgina, *Love Came Down at Christmas* verse 1, https://hymnary.org/text/love_came_down_at_christmas



Advent and Christmas 2022

First Sunday after Christmas
January 1st
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:

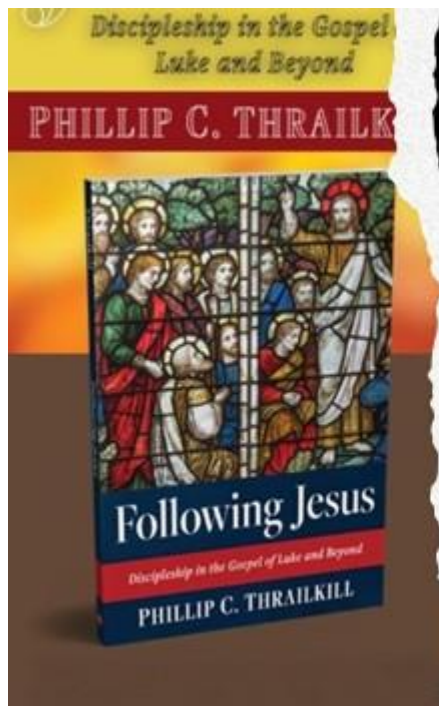
- 1) The gift is received and posted to your account on or before December 30, 2022.
- 2) The contribution is dropped into the offering plate or delivered to the church office on or before December 30, 2022, (if you bring it after office hours, you can drop it in the mail slot in Debra's office door.)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



**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.



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.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN IN FAITH CHRISTMAS PARTY WAS BLESSED BY THE ROLLINS SISTERS



THANK YOU: To those that gave blood at the blood drive on December 13 we thank you. The Red Cross collected 23 units which has a potential to save 69 lives. Our next blood drive will be on Thursday, March 2 from 1:00-5:00pm. To reserve a time to donate please call or email Angie at the church office, or go online to www.redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code FUMCcheraw.

THANK YOU FROM CHERAW PRIMARY SCHOOL: Thank you for the beautiful celebration that your church provided for the students from Cheraw Primary School and their parents. I love how the program was centered around the real meaning of Christmas and singing happy birthday to Jesus. May God continue to bless this ministry. Forever grateful to everyone who made this event possible. Miss Debra A. Johnson, School Counselor



The Kinsey Mulloy Sunday School class with a few invited guests had a great time celebrating Christmas.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 25, 2022

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

Monday, December 26, 2022

OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, December 27, 2022

OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, December 28, 2022

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
 3:00pm Bulletin/Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, December 29, 2022

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

Friday, December 30, 2022

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
 2:00pm Deadline for 2022 Contributions to be
 dropped off and counted for 2022

Sunday, January 1, 2023

10:00am Sunday School
 11:00am Worship
 No Youth
 No Fireflies

Weekly amount needed for budget: \$5,769.24

Amount needed year to date: \$294,231.24

Sunday School Attendance December 18: 56

FUMC Food Pantry Item: Dried milk

Greeters: Doug & Susan Marsh

Acolyte: Penny Quick

Nursery Workers: No Nursery

Soundsystem Operator: Scott Eddins

Crucifer: Norma Cobb

Amount received for week of December 21: \$4,042.64

Received year to date: \$299,838.46

Worship Attendance December 18: 95

McArn Items: Lance or peanut butter crackers

Head Usher: Jerry Tucker

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, Administrative Assistant (fumcangiesmith@gmail.com)

Child Development Ministry Director (fccdm@yahoo.com)

Jim Glass – Music Director and Organist (fumcmusic01@gmail.com) 803-285-3191