

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

JANUARY 15, 2023

2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR		Martha Starling
PRELUDE	<i>“Prière à Notre-Dame From Suite Gothique”</i>	LÉON BOËLLMANN
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		Mark Armstrong
CALL TO WORSHIP¹		Mark Armstrong
L: Listen up, everyone! God has given us work to do.		
C: God has called each of us before we were even born.		
L: It was God who named us.		
C: It is God who claims us.		
L: The light of God’s love shines in us.		
C: Let’s shine God’s love into all the world! Amen!		
OPENING PRAYER²		Mark Armstrong
God of Isaiah and Matthew, you are our God, too. You spoke to the prophets, but your message did not end with them. There is still work to be done, and we pray to hear your call afresh. Help us joyfully claim our role as your beloved servants, knowing that you provide all that we need to do our work. You walked with us before we were even born, and you continue to hold us by the hand each and every day of our lives. We pray with the confidence of those who have been filled with your light. We pray with the assurance of those who have been called into fellowship with your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.		
PSALTER NO. 744-45	<i>Psalms 40:1-11</i>	Mark Armstrong
OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING	<i>Isaiah 49: 1-7</i>	Mark Armstrong
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 880	<i>Nicene Creed</i>	Mark Armstrong
*GLORIA PATRI NO. 70		GREATOREX
*HYMN NO. 108	<i>“God Hath Spoken By The Prophets”</i>	EBENEZER
MORNING PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER		Pastor Debra
ANTHEM	<i>“This Little Light Of Mine”</i> Chancel Choir	SPIRITUAL ADAPTED BY GLASS
This little light of mine, I'm going let it shine. On Monday, he gave me the gift of love, On Tuesday peace come from above. On Wednesday, told me to have more faith; On Thursday, gave me a bit more grace. On Friday, told me to watch and pray; On Saturday, told me what to say. On Sunday, gave me power divine, Just to let my little light shine. Where ever I may go, I'm going to let it shine.		
OFFERTORY	<i>“Ebenezer”</i>	ADAPTED

***DOXOLOGY NO. 94** *"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"* LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts Praise Jesus Christ whose power up lifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

OFFERTORY PRAYER Pastor Debra

***HYMN NO. 679** *"O Splendor Of God's Glory Bright"* WAREHAM

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING *John 1: 29-34* Pastor Debra

SERMON *"A Light To The Nations: Cleansing Light"* Pastor Debra

***HYMN NO. 157** *"Jesus Shall Reign"* DUKE STREET

***BENEDICTION** Pastor Debra

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE NO. 206 (Verse 1)** *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"* HOUSTON

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus, God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

***POSTLUDE** *"Improvisation on Duke Street"*

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

¹ <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4601>

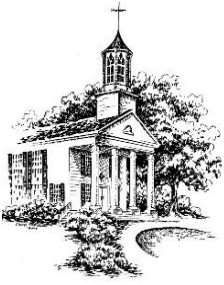
² Ibid

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 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, Zenda Rushing, Emily Marsh, Jennifer Rayfield (Lanny Rayfield's wife) Hope & Michael Byles (Ann & Mack Atkinson daughter and son-in-law), Gillian Gardner (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.



RECEPTION: Hello FUMC, family! On behalf of the SPRC committee I would like to invite you to join us for a reception honoring Angie Smith, our administrative assistant on Sunday, January 29 at 3 PM. Please make plans to come and join us as we honor and thank Angie for all of her hard work and dedication to this church for over 22 years. She is much more than just an administrative assistant she is family and a part of this church. We love her and have been truly blessed by her. We wish her the very best in her retirement. I look forward to seeing you all there! Jenny Keefe, Chairperson of SPPRC



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 19,
Issue 3
January 15, 2023

A few words from the pastor...



A Waterlogged Life

My spiritual director, Brenda Buckwell, tells a story of a woman facing a challenging time in her life on her January 8, 2023, blog. She says, "Have you ever had one of those very difficult seasons in life? Sometimes that time lasts for a short period, at other times a bit longer. Several years ago, a friend of mine had a very difficult season. It was the year both of her elder sons, who were Marines at the time, went off to war. It was the war in Afghanistan. I don't remember in the retelling of their farewells all the details, but I do remember my friend's last words to her sons as she sent them off to war. She concluded each conversation with the words 'Remember your baptism.' Both boys have long since returned home. But I still have the powerful words in my mind that a mother said to her children as they headed off to fight war. 'Remember your baptism!'"

This past Sunday in worship we reaffirmed our baptismal covenant and remembered our baptisms. Matthew, in his gospel account of John the Baptist and Jesus' baptism emphasized baptism by water and Holy Spirit fire that descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove. When we are baptized in the United Methodist Church, we join other citizens of God's kingdom proclaiming the inward workings of God in our lives with the outwards signs of water and oil. We are baptized into a covenantal relationship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. When we remember our baptisms, we remind ourselves that we are the beloved, called, spirit-filled servants of the Lord Jesus. We remember that we are empowered by the Light to bring hope, peace, love, and joy. And we are refueled to embrace God's plan for our life with power from on high. We are assured of our salvation and our mission in this world.¹

UMC resources has a liturgy you can use at home to remember your baptism. You will need a bowl of water, and if possible, a water-resistant artifact like a little glass pebble or plastic cross to place in the water. As you place the pebble in the bowl and pour water into your bowl remember "This is glass that has been sand-blasted smooth and very beautiful," . . . "It was once broken but has been made smooth and clean. Likewise, we have been broken in various ways, but the waters of baptism bring us back into the beauty that God meant for us." Drip your fingers into the water and bring the pebble up out of the water remembering your baptism and rejoice!²

It is my sincere prayer that we will all be walking waterlogged through this life and remember and rejoice in our baptisms through all the good and difficult times in our lives.

Pastor Debra

¹ <https://livingstreamsflowingwater.com/a-waterlogged-life>

² <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/remember-your-baptism-reaffirm-your-vows-recommit-your-life>

Greetings LAITY and CLERGY of the **HEART**-Warming **HARTSVILLE** District (HWHD)...Happy BLESSED New Year!

In the last 24 hours, God blessed us to cross the bridge from the old year to the new year, giving the benediction to 2022, invoking the genesis of 2023. Now, here we are, on the first day of the year, on the 1st Sunday after Christmas, and the prelude to Epiphany. Accenting all the messages of "Happy New Year," I pray for seconds in silence, minutes marinated in mercy, hours sprinkled with hope, days designated for dancing, weeks flowing with wisdom, and months moving in magnificence. Further, I pray that we will grow to be the change we want to see, so that transformation is manifested in you and in me.

One of the things I want to see change in our world is the perceptions and stigmas concerning mental health. The Bible teaches us, *"To whom much is given, much is required."* I know that God has given much to me. God has enlarged my territory with people and platform. To the glory of God and in thanksgiving for all I have experienced, un-learned, learned, and gleaned in my own journey through a mental health crisis, I am clear that I must pay-it-forward, with even greater intentionality, to advocate for awareness and treatment for brain-care. If human beings could fully understand that the brain is an organ, we could better respond to the ignorance and stigmas around mental health. When someone breaks an arm, we expect the limb to be set in a cast, time for healing, possibly physical therapy, and maybe even some prolonged discomfort. A diagnosis of arrhythmia calls for consultation with a cardiologist. COPD requires treatment from a pulmonologist. Any form of cancer points to appointments with an oncologist. When a person needs to lose weight, but doesn't know how to eat for wellness, they are referred to a registered dietitian or certified nutritionist.

...But when a person experiences an emotional break-down or life-burn-out, people often don't know how to respond to such. Sometimes, there is more concern about what people might say or think about the condition, than priority for professional care and support about the condition. Mental health crisis is not a pretty topic, and definitely not included in the top-10 of readily accepted or expected dinner table talk-topics. It doesn't come wrapped in a box with a cute bow on top that says, *"Have you seen your therapist lately?"* It is more like being over-committed, overextended, overwhelmed, and overdue for self-care! Being an eye-witness is one thing, but when you are a first-hand witness, that's another story. I know the story of a mental health crisis, because I am a survivor of a mental health crisis...and I want to help others survivor the crisis and thrive in their aftercare!

I want to help alleviate the ignorance, which means "unawareness" and lack of exposure. I want to write new narratives. I want to explore the possibilities. I want to inspire hope. I want to engage in transparency. I want conversations about mental health to be as commonplace as chat-and-chews, sister-friend lunches, and men's game days. I want my nieces to know that abnormal is normal, and dysfunction is to be expected. I want people to stop suffering in silence, hiding behind positions, promotions, titles, and temptations! I don't know what all God is pointing you to do in 2023, but I know that my priority-assignment is to help liberate people from mental health blame, shame, and denial-maintain! I know God delivered me, so that I can help others be free...and I am #Reporting4Duty!

"If I can help somebody as I travel along the way, then my living shall not be in vain" are the words of a spiritual of the black church experience...and this lyrical mantra has been my life's guidepost. Taking on the mantle of mental health awareness is in line with my witness in faith, hope, and love. As a Servant Leader in the role of District Superintendent, may God's anointing continue to be upon me to advocate for health, help, healing, and hope. Let it be so, let God's will be done...AMEN and HALLELUJAH!

As always, I am grateful for your attention and time in this space of sharing. I am honored to journey with you in our sacred partnership, and I count it all joy to share God's love with you! Happy BLESSED New Year...take good care, continue to be safe, and have a glorious week!

Steadfast in Faith...

Much LOVE and GRACE (MLAG),

Reverend Telley Lynnette Gadson, M.Div.

"PASTOR T"

District Superintendent/Chief Missional Strategist

J.O.Y. CLUB: The J.O.Y Club will meet on Thursday, January 19 at 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall, please sign up by Monday, January 16 with Renie or your caller.



A new 13 week session of Grief Share will begin on Wednesday, January 18 at 1:30pm in the Parlor. For information or questions please call Bonnie Cundiff at 843-910-7526.



DONATIONS BEING COLLECTED BY FUMC UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH: Caroline Quick, sister of Betty Hurst and a former teacher in our Child Development Center and worker in the church nursery for many years, recently lost everything in a house fire. The United Women of Faith are collecting donations for her benefit. Checks may be made payable to the UMW, designated for Caroline Quick.

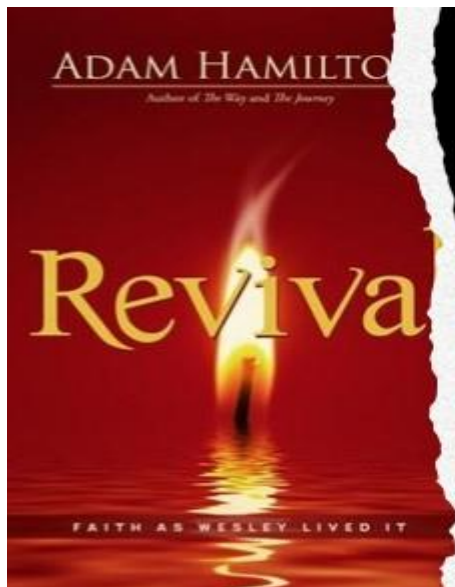
REMINDER OF MEETINGS COMING UP ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

Trustees Committee at 4:30pm

Finance Committee at 5:00pm

Church Council at 5:30pm

All meetings will be in the Harris Sunday School Classroom



New Bible Study to Begin January 11 & 12, 2023

During the Season After the Epiphany, we will explore the light of John Wesley faith and hope for revival in the church.

The study will be at 6:00 pm. on Wednesday evenings and again at 10:00 am. on Thursday mornings.

Books are available in the office and cost \$13.00.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS:

IN MEMORY OF HARVEY LEAVITT

Craig, Derek, and Lib Norton

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD SELLERS

Craig, Derek, and Lib Norton

IN MEMORY OF EMMA JEAN WINBURN

Lib Norton

IN HONOR OF BETTY THRAILKILL

Phil & Lori Thrailkill

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 15, 2023

10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship
5:30-7:00pm Fireflies Meeting (Kid's Nook & Fellowship Hall)
5:30-7:00pm Youth Meeting (Youth Hut & Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, January 19, 2023

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
12:00pm J.O.Y Club (Fellowship Hall)
5:00pm Worship Committee (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, January 16, 2023

3:00pm 2024 GC Committee Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
6:30pm Boy Scouts (NETC)

Sunday, January 22, 2023

10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship
4:30pm Trustees Meeting (Harris SS Classroom)
5:00pm Finance Committee Meeting (Harris SS Classroom)
5:30pm Church Council Meeting (Harris SS Classroom)
5:30-7:00pm Fireflies Meeting (Kid's Nook & Fellowship Hall)
5:30-7:00pm Youth Meeting (Youth Hut & Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

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

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
12:00pm Bulletin/Newsletter Deadline
1:30pm Grief-Share (Parlor)
6:00pm Bible Study (Parlor)
6:00pm Carillon Choir Practice (Choir Room)
7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Weekly amount needed budget: \$5,877.10
Amount Needed to Date: \$11,754.20
Sunday School Attendance, January 8: 50
FUMC Food Pantry Item: Canned vegetables
Greeter: Angela Holliday
Acolyte: Nancy Wagnon
Nursery Workers: Kelly Dusa & Choles Reid
Soundsystem Operator: Holly Miles

Amount received week of January 11: \$5,146.96
Amount Received Year to Date: \$29,087.05
Worship Attendance, January 8: 78
McArn Items: Pop Tarts
Head Usher: Rhett Butler
Liturgist for next Sunday: Joey Mills
Flowers next Sunday: Becky Thompson
Video Technician: 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)
Jim Glass, Director of Music/Organist (fumcmusic01@gmail.com)
Child Development Ministry Director (fccdm@yahoo.com)