

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 8, 2023

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

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	<i>"Voluntary"</i>	MAURICE GREENE
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		Greg Sanderson
CALL TO WORSHIP¹		Greg Sanderson

L: In the very beginning, God separated the darkness and the light. God called the Light "Day" and the Darkness, God called "Night".

C: We were once people who dwelled in darkness, but God has given us the true Light, Jesus Christ.

L: God has blessed us and adopted us as God's own beloved children, through the sacrament of Baptism.

C: The water of baptism brings to us healing and reconciliation; it is a symbol of nourishment and

OPENING PRAYER²		Greg Sanderson
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Lord of Hope and Light, in the midst of darkness you offered light to people who lived in fear. Today that light comes to us as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Open our hearts this day and remind us that you have marked us as people of hope and light. Prepare us to serve you by serving your world. **AMEN.**

PSALTER NO. 761	<i>Psalm 29</i>	Greg Sanderson
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 880	<i>Nicene Creed</i>	Greg Sanderson
*GLORIA PATRI NO. 70		GREATOREX
*HYMN NO. 724 verses 1 and 4	<i>"On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand"</i>	PROMISED LAND
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER³		Pastor Debra

In the waters of baptism we were made God's children and called to serve one another as we have been served by Christ. Therefore let us pray for one another and for all people who will not or cannot pray for themselves.

Dear heavenly Father, we give you thanks and praise that in your mercy you brought us to baptism, and there gave us Jesus' holiness in exchange for our sin and impurity. Thank you for our parents who brought us up in the faith and to baptism, thank you for those other people whom you used to bring us the gospel, and thank you for our pastors and teachers in the faith.

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the baptized people of God, that we may hang on to your promises in true faith, especially when we experience the wilderness of sin and evil within, and temptations and trials from outside. Strengthen us with your Holy Spirit so that Jesus' victory may be our victory.

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all people, that the good news of Christ will be proclaimed and heard by all people, and that many will believe and be baptized. To this end, send and support pastors, missionaries, teachers, and lay people able to give truthful and loving witness to Christ.

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

Have mercy on those in need, those who are struggling because of domestic violence and break-down, those who are suffering from harmful behavior and hurting relationships. Heal, restore, and renew dear Lord.

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick, those who are disabled, those in hospital, those facing death. Show them the light of the gospel, provide helpers and medical resources, and heal both body and soul. Be with those among us who are sick or recovering from surgery, our shut-ins, those on our prayer list and others whom we name in our hearts. *(silence)*

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, you have shown us your love and salvation in the baptism of your Son. Accept these prayers of your children as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us, **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Like The Murmur Of The Dove's Song" Chancel Choir

PETER CUTTS

Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight, like the vigor of the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might: come, Holy Spirit, come. To the members of Christ's Body, to the branches of the Vine, to the Church in faith assembled, to her midst as gift and sign: come, Holy Spirit, come. With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer, with the power of love and witness, with the peace beyond compare: come, Holy Spirit, come.

OFFERTORY

"Like The Murmur Of The Dove's Song"

ADAPTED FROM CUTTS

OFFERING RESPONSE 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. 601**

"Thy Word Is A Lamp"

THY WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 42: 1-9 & Matthew 3: 3-17

Pastor Debra

SERMON

"A Light To The Nations"

Pastor Debra

REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT⁴

Introduction

Sisters and brothers in Christ: through the sacrament of baptism God's Spirit has been poured out upon water, water poured over and immersing us, water that flows freely for all who will receive it, water from the streams of God's saving power and justice, water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness, water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth. Today we come to the waters, to renew our commitments in each other's presence to Christ who has raised us, the Spirit who has birthed us, and the Creator who is making all things new.

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Pastor: And so, I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

People: We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin!

Pastor: Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

People: We accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves!

Pastor: Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ, his body on earth?

People: We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as our Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races!

Pastor: Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

People: We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.

Pastor: Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

People: We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church as we put our trust in God, the Father Almighty. in Jesus Christ, his only Son and in the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

Pastor: The Spirit of the Lord is with us.

People: Even so, come Lord Jesus!

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, the life you birthed in us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die. Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting.

People: Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will. We cannot stop you, God!

Pastor: But sometimes we try. We try to block the flow, we redirect the winds of the Spirit, or we walk so far away from the life-giving stream that we do not hear its sound, and we forget its power. We parch ourselves.

People: We are dry and thirsty, O God. Come, refresh us!

Pastor: Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

People: Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

Pastor: Come upon these waters.

People: Come upon these waters.

Pastor: Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.

People: Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.

Pastor: Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.

People: Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.

Pastor: Most Holy God, Abba, Father!

People: Glory to you!

Pastor: Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!

People: Glory to you!

Pastor: Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!

People: Glory to you!

Pastor: Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!

People: All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!

Pastor: Remember that you are baptized and rejoice! Remember that you are baptized and rejoice! Remember that you are baptized and rejoice!

Act of Thanksgiving

Pastor: Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant God.

People: We give thanks for all that God has already given us. As members of the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we will faithfully participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Pastor: The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace. **AMEN**

***HYMN NO. 557**

"Blest Be The Tie That Binds"

DENNIS

***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 Promised Land"

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

¹ <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4498>

² <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3490>

³ Ibid

⁴ <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/new-service-of-reaffirmation-of-the-baptismal-covenant>

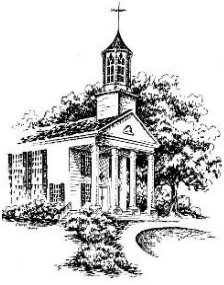
OUR PRAYER LIST – Our President, our Congress, all Governors, Mayors, State, County, and Local employees, all health care workers, EMT's, all who defend our nation, all who make decisions for our nation, Jim Bennett, Scott Tomberlin, Margaret Stanton, Mary Snookie Lomas, Shep Straughn, Betty Thrailkill, Tony Thrailkill, Gwen Sullivan, Bill Eutsler, Jr., Mary Burr, Dan Ellenburg (Patty Fisher's Brother-In-Law), Jody Reid, Craig Norton, Martha Griggs, Katie Chapman, Thomas McKinnon, Joel Keefe, Betty Hurst, Emily Marsh, Zenda Rushing, Jennifer Rayfield (Lanny Rayfield's wife). **NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notified.**



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH: The United Women in Faith will meet on Tuesday, January 10 at 3:00pm in the Parlor.

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.





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 2
January 8, 2023

A few words from the pastor...

"In Jesus was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."
John 1:4-5 ESV



One of the favorite sayings of my maternal grandmother was "some people understand when they see the light and others only when they feel the heat." Social media and often the people around us focus more on the heat than seeing the light. Constant attention is given to the darkness of hatred, sin, and violence that often permeates our world.

When we focus on the darkness, we lose our way and often are robbed of the joy of our salvation. This type of focus may cause the painful fires to our hearts, minds, bodies, and souls. Focusing on the darkness causes unnecessary spiritual disorientation and emotional pain.

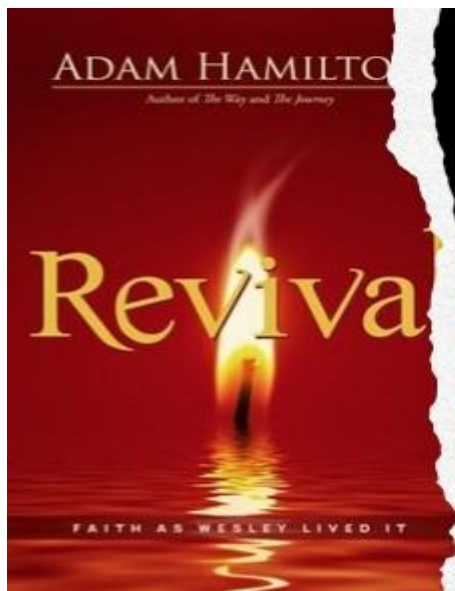
We all need an encouragement boost sometimes to help dispel darkness. Some of you have asked about the Peptoc Hotline I used as an example of a way to bring in some light in the sermon last Sunday. Peptoc is an encouragement hotline

created by teachers Jessica Martin and Rachel Weis with the students of West Side Elementary in Healdsburg, California. Its purpose is to bring light into the world with an encouraging message. For more information you can check out their website at <https://www.peptoc.net/>. The number for the free hotline is 707-873-7862.

My prayer for us all as we begin 2023, and travel this season after the Epiphany together, is that we will seek and focus on the light of our Lord Jesus. Instead of allowing our focus to shift to the various forms of darkness we hear, experience, and see, we will remember it is only temporary and look for the light.

Jesus is the light of the world, and he came to dispel the darkness. John 1:5 reminds us that the darkness did not, cannot, and never will overcome The Light! As Christ continues to be revealed to us this season after the Epiphany, let us focus on The Light! There we will find hope, joy, and peace in 2023 and even beyond that! Happy New Year!

Pastor Debra



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.



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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 8, 2023

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

Monday, January 9, 2023

6:30pm Boy Scouts (NETC)

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open
3:00pm United Women of Faith (Parlor)
5:00pm Girl Scouts (Youth Hut)

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

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

Thursday, January 12, 2023

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

Sunday, January 15, 2023

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

Weekly amount needed for 2022 budget: \$5,769.24

Amount needed for 2022: \$300,000.48

Weekly amount needed for 2023 budget: \$5,838.64

Sunday School Attendance, January 1: 27

FUMC Food Pantry Item: Canned meats, stews

Greeters: Joey & Trina Mills

Acolyte: Nancy Wagnon

Nursery Workers: Allison Becker & Choles Reid

Soundsystem Operator: Holly Miles

Amount received for week of December 29-31: \$2,575.00

Received year of 2022: \$305,908.50

Amount received January 4: \$23,940.09

Worship Attendance, January 1: 59

McArn Items: Juice boxes

Head Usher: Rhett Butler

Liturgist for next Sunday: Mark Armstrong

Flowers next Sunday: OPEN

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)

Child Development Ministry Director (fccdm@yahoo.com)