

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 THIRD STREET, CHERAW, SC 29520

843-537-7002

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



*Living Lent Inside Out*

<https://www.resourceumc>

THE CHURCH WITH A HEART, IN THE HEART OF CHERAW

A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

March 19, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

LITURGICAL COLOR: BURLAP

**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 it in the offering plate.**

<b>CHIMING OF THE HOUR</b>		Martha Starling
<b>PRELUDE</b>	<i>“Slane”</i>	HEALEY WILLAN
<b>WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		Shannon Johnson
<b>CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup></b>		
L: We are blind to many things.		
<b>C: Lord, cure our blindness.</b>		
L: The light of God shines for us today.		
<b>C: Lord, pour that light on us.</b>		
L: Come, worship God who forgives and heals your blindness.		
<b>C: Open our eyes, O Lord, that we might see opportunities to serve you. AMEN.</b>		
<b>OPENING PRAYER<sup>2</sup></b>		Shannon Johnson
Source of Light, God of great mercy and love, we come to you this day seeking restoration of our sight. Clear away our blindness and give us a new vision of all that we can accomplish in your name. Give us strength and confidence to truly witness to your abiding love and faithfulness. For we offer this prayer in Jesus’ Name. AMEN.		
<b>PSALTER NO. 137 Response 1</b>	<i>Psalm 23</i>	Shannon Johnson
<b>OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING</b>	<i>1 Samuel 16:1-13</i>	Shannon Johnson
<b>*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 882</b>	<i>Apostle’s Creed Ecumenical Version</i>	Shannon Johnson
<b>*GLORIA PATRI NO. 70</b>		GREATOREX
<b>*HYMN NO. UMH UMH 57</b> verses 1-4 <i>“O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing”</i>		AZMON
<b>PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>3</sup></b>		
Source of Light, God of great mercy and love, we come to you this day seeking restoration of our sight. Clear away our blindness and give us a new vision of all that we can accomplish in your name. Give us strength and confidence to truly witness to your abiding love and faithfulness. For we offer this prayer in Jesus’ Name. AMEN.		
<b>WORDS OF ASSURANCE<sup>4</sup></b>		
Pastor: Even though you have lived in darkness, God’s light is being poured out for you. Accept the light and love that is freely offered, and be transformed by its healing mercies. In the name of Christ Jesus, you are forgiven.		
<b>Congregation: In the name of Christ Jesus, you are forgiven.</b>		
<b>All: Glory to God! Amen.</b>		
<b>MORNING PRAYER &amp; LORD’S PRAYER</b>		Pastor Debra

**ANTHEM***“Work for the Night is Coming”*

ANNIE HILL COGHIL

Work, for the night is coming. Work through the morning hours. Work while the dew is sparkling: work mid springing flowers; work when the day grows brighter; work in the glowing sun; work, for the night is coming, when man's work is done. Work, for the night is coming. Work through the sunny noon. Fill brightest hours with labor: rest comes sure and soon. Give every flying minute something to keep in store; work, for the night is coming, when man works no more. Work, for the night is coming, under the sunset skies; while their bright tints are glowing, work, for daylight flies. Work till the last beam fadeth, fadeth to shine no more. Work, while the night is darkening, when man's work is o'er.

**OFFERTORY***“Be Thou My Vision”*

HAL H. HOPSON

**\*DOXOLOGY NO. 95**OLD 100<sup>th</sup>**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Pastor Debra

**\*HYMN NO. UMH 454***“Open My Eyes that I May See”*

OPEN MY EYES

**GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING***John 9:1-41*

Pastor Debra

**SERMON**

Living Inside Out: With Restored Sight

Pastor Debra

**\*HYMN NO. UMH 451***“Be Thou My Vision”*

SLANE

**\*BENEDICTION**

Pastor Debra

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE UMH 665***“Go Now In Peace”*

GO IN PEACE

Sing three times: Go now in peace, go now in peace may the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.

**\*POSTLUDE***“Improvisation On Slane”*

1 <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4749>.

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

4 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, Bill Eutsler, Jr., Mary Burr, Jody Reid, Craig Norton, Martha Griggs, Steve Humphries, Katie Chapman, Thomas McKinnon, Zenda Rushing, Cale Yarborough, Erika Kollitz, Spann Family, Jan Brigman, Meredith Rogers Creech, Jennifer Rayfield, Ray Mathews, Streater Family. **NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notice.**



# 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.

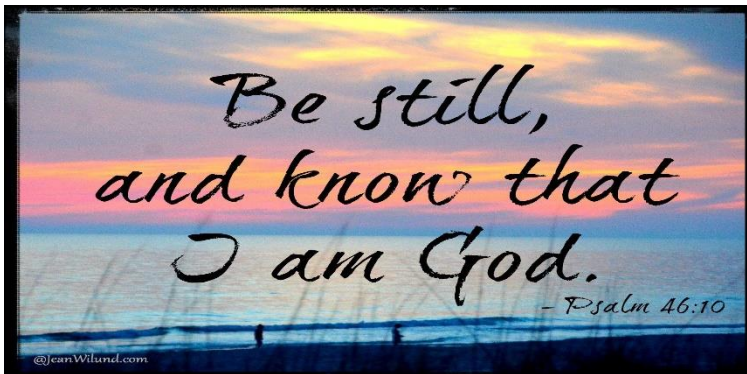
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## *A few words from the pastor...*

*“The most holy and necessary practice in our spiritual life is the presence of God. That means finding a constant pleasure in His divine company, speaking humble and lovingly with him in all season, at every moment without limiting the conversation in any way.”<sup>1</sup> Brother Lawrence*

Brother Lawrence began his ministry as a lay person cook for the Carmelite Monastery in France in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Everyone in the monastery liked him and admired his faithfulness. Many people had deep and meaningful conversations with him about God’s presence in the ordinary moments of daily life. Some of these conversations and some of his letters are recorded in the book, *The Practice of the Presence of God*.



Brother Lawrence asserted that it was necessary to practice being in the presence of God on a daily basis in order to sustain our relationship with God. Prayer was important to the Carmelites and Brother Lawrence did believe we often felt God’s presence in times of prayer. Yet, he wanted more. He desired to have a constant and deeper awareness of God’s presence in his life on a daily

basis. So, this Carmelite brother began to pause for a moment of stillness no matter what he was doing to be aware of and acknowledge the presence of God. He would drive out everything in his spirit that might take his thoughts away from God. Then Brother Lawrence would ask God to give him the grace he needed to continue to be always aware of God’s presence. He would end every practice with a word of thanks to God.<sup>2</sup>

Brother Lawrence rejoiced in God’s blessings and presence as he cooked and then later mended sandals. He was always encouraging others to practice being in God’s presence. By the end of his life, Brother Lawrence was aware of God’s presence not only in times of stillness and prayer in every task he did and every conversation he had.

Take some time to practice being in God’s presence this week. Stop what you are doing. Clear your mind and spirit of everything. Slowly breathe in God and breathe out the world. Be still for two minutes and allow yourself to feel God’s presence. If thoughts or anxiousness invade your stillness, mentally kick them out, and invite God to still your mind and spirit. Once you have mastered two minutes, increase your time in God’s presence. This spiritual practice will be a blessing for you this Lenten season.

*Pastor Debra*

<sup>1</sup> Brother Lawrence, *The Practice of the Presence of God*, Whitaker House Publishing, Springdale, PA, 1982, pg., 59.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, pg., 50





## Behind the Music<sup>3</sup>

*The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures; He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.*

Newton inscribed two verses from Scriptures over his fireplace to remind him of God's providential and freeing grace. The first of these is Isaiah 43:4. It speaks of God's election of his chosen people. Newton believed, in spite of all his many sins, that he was chosen by grace in Christ. The second text over his fireplace was Deuteronomy 15:15, which is about setting slaves free. Newton, the only his own freedom from slaves should be set free. abolitionist movement. *Thoughts Upon the African* friendship with the addressed the House of abolished the slave trade in May



former slave ship captain, could perceive not slavery to sin, but also the truth that all Later in his life, he would work for the Newton published against slavery in his *Slave Trade* (1788); and through his politician William Wilberforce, he Commons on the *Slave Trade Act*, which 1807, seven months before Newton died. The

*Slavery Abolition Act* was passed on July 22, 1833, one week before Wilberforce died. The 2006 major motion picture, *Amazing Grace*, chronicled the interlacing lives of Newton and Wilberforce and the parts these two men played in ending slavery in the British Empire.



Life Line Screening will be held Tuesday, March 21st in the Fellowship Hall to register for your appointment please call 1-800-640-6307 or visit April in the Church office during office hours

Grief Share sessions are held at 1:30 p.m. every Wednesday at First United Methodist Church in the church parlor. Please call Bonnie Cundiff at 843-910-7526 for more information.



The United Women in Faith are planning to resume their Mats for the Homeless Project. If you would like to participate in making mats, please call the church office at 843-537-7002, or Martha Starling at 843-910-4789 or Judy Dixon at 843-439-2579. If you are interested in cutting the bags for the mats, instructions will be available on the table outside of the Fellowship Hall or by email from Judy Dixon [medtechduo@shnext.com](mailto:medtechduo@shnext.com). Some time ago, we took our first mat to the Cheraw Police Department. A homeless man was there and accepted the mat with great appreciation. We hope to be able to make more mats for the Glory of God and help people in need.

<sup>3</sup> Hoy, Michael, *Amazing Grace Devotions for Lent*, Creative Communications, Fenton MO., 2023, pg.13.

## church council MEETING

There will be a special called meeting of the Church Council on March 20, 2023.

The council will meet at 5:15 to vote on a nomination for the  
Finance Committee Chairperson.

At 5:30 the council will meet with the Child Development Ministry Board to discuss  
reopening the Child Development Ministry Center.

## 2023 Lenten Schedule



March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Fifth Sunday of Lent Service	11:00 a.m.
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Palm Sunday Service	11:00 a.m.
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Maundy Thursday Service	6:00 p.m.

## Church-wide Information Meeting

**When: Sunday, March 26**

**Time: 2:00 p.m.**

**Where: Church Sanctuary**

All members of First United Methodist Church are invited to attend a church-wide meeting on March 26th at 2 pm in the sanctuary. At this meeting, information will be provided on the South Carolina UMC's Local Church Discernment Process and the FUMC Church Council's January 22, 2023 decision not to enter the process at this time. Following a brief presentation, time will be available for answering questions previously submitted. Please send your questions by email to [jwwagnon@gmail.com](mailto:jwwagnon@gmail.com) or questions may be submitted anonymously by addressing them to John Wagnon and mailing them to the church at 117 Third Street Cheraw SC. Please submit your questions by Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Sunday March 19, 2023

10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
5:30-6:30 p.m. Fireflies (Kid's Nook & Fellowship Hall)  
5:30-6:30 p.m. Youth (Youth Hut & Fellowship Hall)

## Monday, March 20, 2023

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Church Office Open  
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (NETC)

## Tuesday, March 21, 2023

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Church Office Open  
8:30 a.m. Lifeline screening (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00 p.m. Girls Scouts (Youth Hut)

## Sunday, March 25, 2023

10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)  
11:00 a.m. Worship

## Wednesday, March 22, 2023

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Church Office Open  
Noon Bulletin/Newsletter Deadline  
1:30 p.m. Grief Share (Parlor)  
6:00 p.m. Bible Study (Parlor)  
6:00p.m. Carillon Choir Practice (Choir Room)  
7:00p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

## Thursday, March 23, 2023

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Church Office Open  
10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Parlor)

## Friday, March 24, 2023

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Church Office Open

Weekly Amount Needed: \$5, 928.83  
Amount Needed to Date: \$65,217.13  
Sunday School Attendance February 26: 53  
FUMC Food Pantry Item: Dried Milk  
Greeters: Norma Cobb  
Acolyte: The Becker's  
Nursery Workers: Allison Becker & Sawyer  
Sound System Operator: Holly Miles

Amount Received Week of March 12: \$5,219.12  
Amount Received to Date: \$62,945.33  
Worship Attendance February 26: 72  
McCarn Food Bank Item: Rice Crispy Treats  
Head Usher: Mark Armstrong  
Liturgist Next Week: Shannon Johnson  
Flowers Next Sunday: OPEN  
Video Technician: Bryson Hunter

## **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHERAW STAFF**

Reverend Debra Armstrong, Pastor (fumcpastor1@gmail.com) 843-537-7002 O 843-253-3132 C  
April Polson, Administrative Assistant (fumcadassistant1@gmail.com)  
Jim Glass – Music Director and Organist (fumcmusic01@gmail.com)