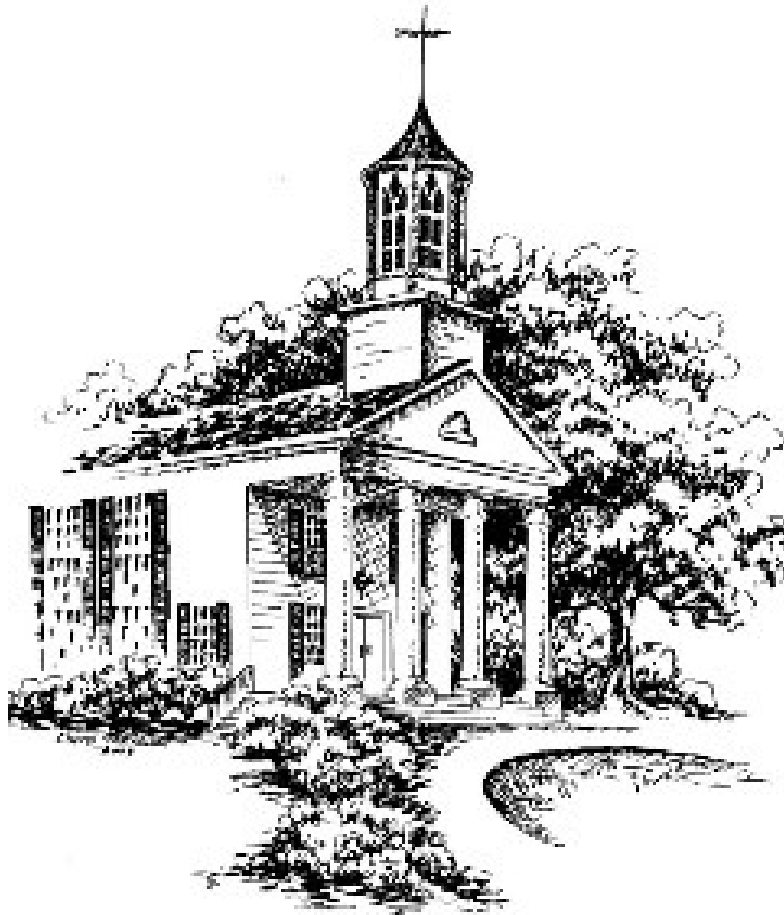


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

APRIL 30, 2023

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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 it in the offering plate.**

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Martha Starling

PRELUDE

“Brother James’ Air”

RICHARD ELLSASSER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ray Crouse

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Ray Crouse

L: Jesus the Good Shepherd calls our names to come and follow him.

C: His voice, speaking our names, draws us to him.

L: We follow without fear, for the shepherd cares for us.

C: Our hearts rejoice and we can place our trust in the Good Shepherd.

L: Come, let us enter the gate with thanksgiving!

C: Let us go forth confidently with songs of praise! AMEN

OPENING PRAYER²

Ray Crouse

We are standing at the gate, o loving Shepherd, not sure about the journey. But you have called our names, and in your voice we hear such love and surety. Bring us safely on the journey and strengthen us that we may serve you in all that we do. **AMEN.**

PSALTER NO. 754

Response #2

Psalm 23

Ray Crouse

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 34:11-15

Ray Crouse

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 880**

Ray Crouse

GLORIA PATRI NO. 70

MEINKE

***HYMN NO. 98**

“To God Be The Glory”

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

PRAYER OF CONFESSION³

Pastor Debra

Patient and loving God, we stand at the gate and peer through. We keep creating our own ways, believing that we know what is in our own best interest, and we ignore the voice of the one Shepherd who will guide us to peace and hope. We wander aimlessly and then wonder why we get so lost. Help us stop and listen to the Shepherd’s voice. Let us place our trust in the Shepherd who has never failed us, who loves and guides our lives. Forgive us our stubbornness and stupidity. For we ask this in Christ’s Name. AMEN.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON⁴

P: Even though we have wandered and have become lost, the shepherd calls to us. We can place our trust in his loving care. For we are the sheep of his pasture, blessed and given hope. In the name of Jesus, our great shepherd you are forgiven.

C: In the name of Jesus, our great shepherd you are forgiven.

¹ <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1029>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

ALL: Glory to God! Amen!

ANTHEM

“Brother James’ Air”
The text for today's Anthem is Psalm 23.

GORDON JACOBS

MORNING PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor Debra

OFFERTORY

“To God Be The Glory”

ADAPTED

***DOXOLOGY NO. 95**

OLD 100th

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor Debra

***HYMN NO. 128**

“He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought”

HE LEADETH ME

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

John 10:1-10

Pastor Debra

SERMON

The Gate of Life

Pastor Debra

***HYMN NO. 474**

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

PRECIOUS LORD

*** BENEDICTION**

Pastor Debra

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

“He Is Lord”

HE IS LORD

Sing Twice: He is Lord, He is Lord, he has risen from the dead and is Lord! Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. He is Lord, He is Lord, he has risen from the dead and is Lord! Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

***POSTLUDE**

“Improvisation on Precious Lord”

**If you are able, please stand.*

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN HONOR OF MARK AND PASTOR DEBRA’S ANNIVERSARY ON MAY 3RD BY THEIR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

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, Mary Snookie Lomas, Shep Straughn, Betty Thrailkill, Tony Thrailkill, Bill Eutsler, Jr., Mary Burr, Jody Reid, Craig Norton, Martha Griggs, Steve Humphries, Katie Chapman, Thomas McKinnon, Zenda Rushing, Cale Yarborough, Jan Brigman, Meredith Rogers Creech, Ray Mathews, Jane Board, Jean Davis, James Thurman, Mike Elmore, Debbie Elmore, Betsy Thralkill Tetsch, the Conrad Family and Joy Blackman. **NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notified.**

*Every Wednesday
at 1:30 p.m.*



*FUMC
church parlor*

Please call Bonnie Cundiff at 843-910-7526 for more information.



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
20,
Issue 19
April 30,
2023

A few words from the pastor...

On May 14th we will have the opportunity to give to Epworth Children's home, in honor of our mothers. I was blessed to serve on the Board of Trustees for eight years. In May, I will be honored for my service and become a charter member of the fellowship of Epworth Trustees. The story of Bennett Hiott explains why Mark and I support this important ministry of our South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Ben came to Epworth at the age of eleven. He was living with his mom, a single parent. His mom voluntarily placed him at Epworth. It was a tough adjustment going from his home to the structured environment at Epworth, but Ben settled into Clinton Cottage quickly. "We were like a family, all the other kids in the cottage and me, along with our cottage staff. We had a real family vibe. We would play basketball and other games like we were brothers – and the cottage staff was like our parents. They welcomed me into the Clinton Cottage family."

Ben was at Epworth for 5 years. As he aged, he would eventually move from Clinton Cottage to Haas, then Cile Gray, and finally Doug Gray. At the age of 16, his mom welcomed him back into their family home, and Ben left Epworth. However, he quickly found himself in some trouble with the law and was then sentenced to 8 months in the DJJ system. While he was in DJJ, Ben managed to turn what could have been a very negative, life altering experience into a positive. He got his GED and vowed to turn his life around once he left DJJ.



Upon being released from the DJJ system, Ben finally had to decide what to do with his life. He went to college for a brief time but felt that it wasn't for him. Music had always been his passion, and he began to write lyrics and perform locally. His talent got him noticed, and Ben went from small stages in Columbia to touring nationally with well-known musicians. When he returned to Columbia, he sold out ten concerts and played with artists like Lil Wayne, 2Chainz and Cardi B. He had already come a long way from the boy who had arrived at Epworth to the musician he had become.

Ben loved being a musician and touring. But after four years of performing, he was getting older, and he noticed the instability of the music business. He wanted to have a more stable, business-like career. He decided he would focus more on the marketing side of entertainment and other business, and formed his own marketing agency. This was one area where his experience at Epworth had helped to shape the man he would become. Speaking about what he learned while at Epworth that helped him later in his career, Ben says "some of the staff that I worked with gave

me a sense of self respect, honor, and a way to treat people. They taught me a healthy balance of street smarts and common sense that has carried over into business.”

There was another factor that influenced Ben’s decision to “settle down” and form a marketing agency. He had met the woman that would become his wife, Kayla. He saw a future with her and wanted to make a more stable life for the two of them. Fast forward to today, and Ben’s company is representing major, national brands (like jewelry company Kendra Scott, as well as Major League Soccer and Facebook) and continues to grow and take on more employees and clients. But the biggest blessing came in the form of a pregnancy announcement! Kayla is currently 6 months pregnant with the couple’s son, due this winter.

Through all of his experiences at Epworth and beyond, Ben has never forgotten his roots and the people who helped to shape who he is today. “The biggest thing is not settling in your life. As long as you have good morals, and put one foot in front of the other, you can do anything you want to do in life.” It is very evident that Ben has come full circle in his life, watching him interact with the kids during his event on that hot summer day in August. Ben is definitely a success story here at Epworth, and we hope that his message and life story will inspire others, as it has inspired all of us.⁵

Pastor Debra

PASTOR OUT OF OFFICE MAY 6 – MAY 10, 2023:

Pastor Debra and Mark will be on vacation May 6th through May 10th celebrating their 26th anniversary and Mark’s 71st birthday. If you need pastoral care during this time, please contact Pastor Debra on her cell phone, 843-253-3132.

May Birthdays

Mickey Sullivan	05/01	Mary Crouse	05/13	Zenda Rushing	05/19	Jean Assef	05/26
Lauren Rogers	05/01	Jay Lewis	05/14	Jan Rogers	05/20	Betty Board	05/26
James Outen	05/02	Benson Stubbs	05/16	Amy Eschenfelder	05/21	Gretchen Kollitz	05/28
Ronald Buffington	05/03	Ellen Eschenfelder	05/17	Kristian Pickrel	05/22	Jean McLean	05/28
Mark Armstrong	05/06	Gail Eubanks	05/17	Brandon Jones	05/22	Cindy Sanderson	05/30
Marvelle Hancock	05/11	Liam Lewis	05/17	Mary Charlotte Dusa	05/23	Stephen Board	05/30
Kathy Hancock	05/11	Michael Wagnon	05/17	Sean Eubanks	05/23	Terrell Stubbs	05/31
Charles Barber	05/11	Tyler Godwin	05/18	Kimberly Carnell	05/24		
Betty Alford	05/12	Jamy Lewis	05/18	Rebecca Miles	05/25		
John Robert Smith, Jr.	05/13	Dee Dee Pickrel	05/18	Henrietta Kollitz	05/26		

May Anniversaries

Pastor Debra & Mark Armstrong	05/03	Kathy & Ernie Hancock	05/13
Mimi & Ronnie Knight	05/13	Marvelle & Tony Hancock	05/21

IF A MEMBER’S BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY FOR THE MONTH OF MAY IS NOT SEEN HERE, PLEASE CONTACT NICOLE AT THE CHURCH OFFICE 843-537-7002.

⁵ <https://www.epworthchildrenshome.org/news/ben-returns-to-epworth/> © Epworth Children’s Home, reprinted by permission.

YMCA UPCOMING EVENTS

National Day of Prayer Breakfast
Thursday, May 4th @ 7 am



CALLING OUR COMMUNITY TO PRAY

Join us at the Chesterfield YMCA for a gathering of many to pray and break bread in honor of National Day of Prayer. Everyone is welcome!



COMMUNITY GARDEN

Join us in manifesting a community garden for all things homegrown or homemade. Chesterfield YMCA is looking for volunteers to help us lead our homegrown initiative!

For Volunteer Info: Jamie Denham
843-623-9622 / jdenham@ymcaupd.org

Serving in May

GREETERS FOR MAY

May 7 Eric and Kelly Dusa
May 14 Michelle Rohde
May 21 Cindy Sanderson
May 28 Jed and Choles Reid

FLOWERS FOR MAY

May 7 The Dusas
May 14 Jim Bennett
May 21 OPEN
May 28 OPEN

NURSERY FOR MAY

May 7 Christy Ruffner and Leslie Jean Watson
May 14 OPEN
May 21 Kelly Dusa and Choles Reid
May 28 OPEN

LITURGIST FOR MAY

May 7 Eric Dusa
May 14 Rhett Butler
May 21 Lib Norton
May 28 Pam Baker

HEAD USER FOR MAY

Doug Carabo

ACOLYTE FOR MAY

Zenda Rushing

FUMC HAPPENINGS



Mr. & Mrs. Joe Stanton
Terry Mueller married Joe Stanton in front of the FUMC Chapel on Monday April 24th, 2023.



*Fun Times with
Fireflies & Youth*



Jimmy McDuffie pictured with the Eagle Class of 2022.
Jimmy was recognized by the Indian Waters Boy Scout Council in Columbia as an “Honoree” at their Graduation Ceremony in April 2023.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY APRIL 30, 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, MAY 1, 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, MAY 2, 2023

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. / 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Church Office Open
6:00 p.m. Girls Scouts (Youth Hut)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 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. Carillion Choir (Choir Room)
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (Choir Room)

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

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

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023

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

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 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)

Weekly Amount Needed: \$5,928.83

Amount Needed to Date: \$101,800.11

Sunday School Attendance April 23: 50

FUMC Food Pantry Item: Ramen Noodles

Greeters: Jay and Dawn Leach

Acolyte: Norma Cobb

Nursery Workers: Trena Mills and Cindy Sanderson

Sound System Operator: Holly Miles

Received week of April 26: \$5,722.48

Amount Received to Date: \$79,042.43

Worship Attendance April 23: 77

McCarn Food Bank Item: Instant Grits

Head Usher: Jeff Johnson

Liturgist Next Week: Eric Dusa

Flowers Next Sunday: The Dusas

Video Technician: Bryson Hunter

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHERAW STAFF

Reverend Debra Armstrong, Pastor (fumcpastor1@gmail.com) O: 843-537-7002 C: 843-253-3132

Nicole Francisco, Administrative Assistant (fumcadassistant1@gmail.com) O: 537-7002

Jim Glass, Director of Music and Organist (fumcmusic01@gmail.com) O: 843-537-7002