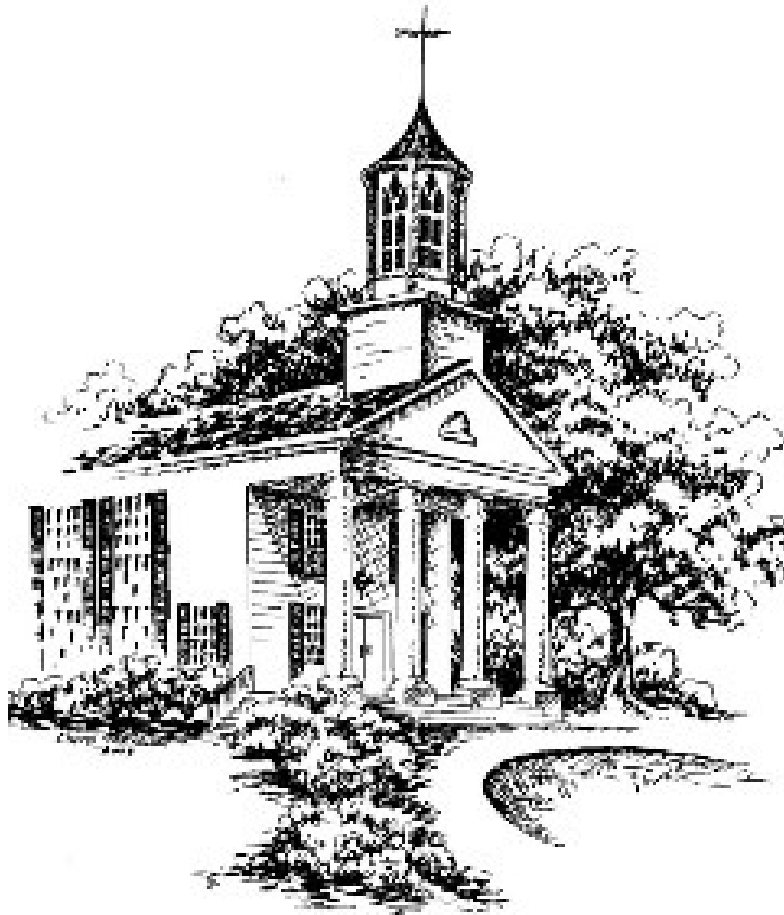


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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 23, 2023

3RD 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	<i>“Lift High The Cross”</i>	DONALD BUSAROW
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		Sammy Quick
CALL TO WORSHIP¹		Sammy Quick
L: O God, we come into your courts with praise and thanksgiving!		
C: We come in celebration and song.		
L: We come in gratitude of your inheritance.		
C: We come as those who have received blessing upon blessing.		
L: We hear the cry of the poor in the land, and ache to offer them relief.		
C: We come to bring them blessing upon blessing, in Jesus’ name.		
L: O God, we come into your courts with praise and thanksgiving!		
C: We come in celebration and song. Amen.		
OPENING PRAYER²		Sammy Quick
Gracious God, you have given yourself to us in the person of Jesus. We have his example of loving ministry as a guide for our lives. We stand as people forgiven and reconciled to you. Be with us on this day. Remind us that you are always nearby. Guide our lives. For we ask this in Jesus’ name. AMEN.		
PSALTER NO. 837-38	<i>response #1</i>	Sammy Quick
SCRIPTURE READING	Peter 1:17-23	Sammy Quick
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 880		Sammy Quick
GLORIA PATRI NO. 70		MEINKE
*HYMN NO. 133	<i>“Leaning On The Everlasting Arms”</i>	SHOWALTER
PRAYER OF CONFESSION³		Pastor Debra
Sometimes our hearts ache within us, O Lord. Like those travelers on the Emmaus Road, we feel the deep sadness about losing Jesus. Our sadness finds its roots in many things, and we feel as though we cannot escape it. Then, it becomes part and parcel of our conversations. Deep within, our spirits long for release and we silently cry. Forgive us when we close our eyes to your presence. Heal our brokenness. Bind up our wounds. Place us on the path of healing and help us to be people who will bring compassionate caring to others, for we ask these things in Jesus’ name. AMEN.		
ASSURANCE OF PARDON⁴		Pastor Debra
P: Jesus walks the roads of life with us. He lifts us up when we stumble and fall. The love and grace of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit guides us in the way of salvation forever. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.		

¹ <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/4170>

² <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/8108>

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Written by Reverend Debra A. Armstrong.*



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 18
April 23,
2023

A few words from the pastor...

“The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.”

Luke loves to use the literary tool of surprise in his gospel. In all his accounts of Jesus sightings after the resurrection, people are continually surprised by the appearance of the Risen Jesus. The story of the disciples walking on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus is one of my favorites.

Cleopas and an unnamed disciple were deep in despair and grief as they left Jerusalem and headed to Emmaus. Another person joins them on the road. This was not a surprise because many people traveled on this road and would often join others as they walked along the road.



The first surprise in this story was that the newcomer apparently did not know about any of the horrific events that occurred in Jerusalem. The touch of irony is that Jesus was not surprised. He was intimately aware of these events but lovingly listened as his two traveling companions poured out all the sorrows of their hearts and souls.

The second surprise came to Cleopas and his friend. When Jesus broke the bread at the supper table, they realized it was Jesus who walked with them and ate with them. Jesus then surprisingly disappeared from site and the disciples ran all the way back to Jerusalem to proclaim that Jesus really was not dead but had risen.

The resurrection of Jesus can be hard to accept in our day just as much as it was for these two disciples years ago. Resurrection of the dead in the 21st century more likely will suggest zombies than Jesus. Even so, it is as true today as it was over 2,000 years ago, that Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus is, was, and will always be our Risen Lord. And Jesus may just show up in unexpected ways and surprise us on our own Emmaus Roads. Let us invite Jesus to walk beside us, open our minds to scripture, and break bread with us at his table. Let us be ready to meet the Lord on the road and go wherever he will lead us.

Pastor Debra

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 Thrailkill Tetsch and the Conrad Family. **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.

FUMC WELCOMES NICOLE FRANCISCO TO OUR CHURCH OFFICE

On behalf of the SPPRC I would like to introduce you to Nicole Francisco who will be working in the office as administrative assistant. Nicole is originally from Clemson, South Carolina. She has resided in the Laurinburg, Bennettsville, and Cheraw area since 1992. She has two adult children and a three-year-old. She is also a grandmother to two. She currently resides in Cheraw.

The church partnered with Olsten staffing here in Cheraw to provide a temporary employee to work in the church office during holy week. Upon the recommendation of Pastor Debra, the SPPRC decided to continue to have Nicole work with us while being under contract with Olsten. FUMC will have the option to hire Nicole after her contract has been completed with Olsten.

Please drop by the office and say hello.

Thank you,
Jenny Keefe SPPRC

ABBA'S HOUSE MATERNITY HOME

3RD ANNUAL APPRECIATION & CELEBRATION OF LIFE BANQUET

SATURDAY APRIL
29TH AT 5:00 P.M.
MARANATHA
FAMILY CENTER
66 PRAISE LANE,
CHERAW



RSVP BY APRIL
15TH
CALL 843-537-2033
OR
TEXT 843-287-0363

YMCA UPCOMING EVENTS



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

VISIT YMCA:

OPEN HOUSE
FOOD
VENDORS
PROGRAM
DEMO
GIVEAWAYS



UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY APRIL 23, 2023

10:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)
11:00 a.m. Worship
4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Children, Youth and Special Events
Committee (Fellowship Hall)
5:00 p.m. Finance Committee
(Fred Harris Sunday School Classroom)
6:00 p.m. Church Council
(Fred Harris Sunday School Classroom)
5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Fireflies
(Kid's Nook & Fellowship Hall)
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Youth
(Youth Hut & Fellowship Hall)

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 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, APRIL 27, 2023

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 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: \$94,871.28

Sunday School Attendance April 16: 40

FUMC Food Pantry Item: Ramen Noodles

Greeters: Todd and Allison Becker

Acolyte: Norma Cobb

Nursery Workers: Christy Ruffner and Farah Lewis

Sound System Operator: Holly Miles

Received week of April 19: \$2,562.17

Amount Received to Date: \$75,319.95

Worship Attendance April 16: 67

McCarn Food Bank Item: Breakfast Bars

Head Usher: Jeff Johnson

Liturgist Next Week: Ray Crouse

Flowers Next Sunday: The Armstrongs

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