

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 THIRD STREET, CHERAW, SC 29520

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



THE CHURCH WITH A HEART, IN THE HEART OF CHERAW

A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

APRIL 9, 2023

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

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** *III-Allegro from Trumpet Concerto in E-flat major* JOSEPH HAYDN  
*Bobby S. Plair, Jr., Trumpet*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Mark Armstrong

**CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>** Mark Armstrong

L: Christ is risen!

**C: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

L: Death never gets the final word.

**C: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

L: Rejoice in this day of salvation.

**C: God's steadfast love endures forever. Alleluia!**

**OPENING PRAYER<sup>2</sup>** Mark Armstrong

Living God, rejoicing in this day of resurrection, we have come to celebrate the strength of your love—a love that triumphs even over death. As we exult in the miracle of your incarnate love, we thank you for the opportunity to encounter the Risen Christ here in our midst. **Amen.**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH<sup>3</sup>** Mark Armstrong

**We trust in God, Spirit of life, Creator of all that is and all that is to come; who surrounds us and fills us; who speaks the Word of life in us, and so we listen.**

**We listen to Jesus, Revealer of God, our brother, our teacher; who lived in prayer and love. Listening to God's voice and doing God's will, he gave his life in love; but God raise him to life eternal; and so we follow him.**

**We follow in the power of the Holy Spirit, God alive in us, for the sake of the healing of the world. We trust in the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection, the gift of the universal Church as the body of Christ and the mystery of eternal life. Amen**

**GLORIA PATRI NO. 70** MEINKE

**\*HYMN NO. 302** *"Christ The Lord Is Risen Today"* EASTER HYMN

**CONFESSION & PARDON<sup>4</sup>** Pastor Debra

**Merciful God, we don't always recognize Christ, even when we are looking directly at your Incarnate Love. We cling to our assumptions about how life on earth should unfold, forgetting that life in your realm shatters those expectations. Forgive us when we go through our daily routine, forgetting to look for the Risen One. Forgive us when coming to worship is more about seeing our friends than it is about encountering you and our Resurrected Lord. Open our eyes and our hearts, O God, to the full awareness of your presence with us, in each**

**and every moment of our lives. We pray in the name of the Christ who is alive! Alleluia and amen.**

**P:** The testimony of all the prophets is united in this message of good news: Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ receives forgiveness of sins through his name. Rejoice, for your sins are already forgiven!

**C: In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.**

**All: Glory to God! Amen.**

**\*HYMN NO. 310**

*“He Lives”*

**ACKLEY**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE<sup>5</sup> & LORD’S PRAYER**

**Pastor Debra**

**P:** Jesus suffered death and rose to glory for the life of the world. Let us lift up our hearts in thanks to God and pray for the cares of the world, saying, Save us, O Lord, for your mercy is great.

**C; Save us, O Lord, for your mercy is great.**

**P:** Holy God, your son humbled himself, even to death, to show us the power of loving service. Guide those holding positions of power, that their decisions give rise to the mutual flourishing of the world you so love.

**C; Save us, O Lord, for your mercy is great.**

**P:** Healing God, your son is betrayed and crucified in our violent world each day. Raise us to a new and rightly ordered world through the reconciling love of Christ, where all victims of violence, persecution, shame, or terror may stand together with you in peace.

**C: Save us, O Lord, for your mercy is great.**

**P:** Forsaken God, as your son suffered his cruel death on the cross, darkness covered the whole land. Enlighten us to care for your creation, awaken us from our denial and abuse, and help us to alleviate its suffering.

**C: Save us, O Lord, for your mercy is great.**

**P:** Grieving God, your son consoled others in life and in death. We pray for all who are distressed, broken, or sorrowful, that together with Christ in his suffering we may be healed and raised in you.

**C: Save us, O Lord, for your mercy is great.**

**P:** Eternal God, your son was lovingly cared for as he was laid to rest in a tomb. We remember before you those who have died and pray for those who will die today, enfold them in your love, that they may rest and rise with Christ forever in his light.

**C: Save us, O Lord, for your mercy is great.**

**P:** We ask all this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us saying,

**C: 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.**

**ANTHEM** *“Come, Ye Faithful, Raise The Strain” Chancel Choir* **ARTHUR S. SULLIVAN**  
*The music for this morning’s Anthem is No. 315 in the United Methodist Hymnal.*

**OFFERTORY**     *“The Bells Of Easter Morning”*     *Carillon Choir*     DOUGLAS WAGNER

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**     Pastor Debra

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

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Jesus Christ, our burdens know. Praise Spirit through whom our hearts grow. Praise Three-in-One, from here below.

**\*SCRIPTURE READING**     *John 20:1-18*

**SERMON**     *Christ Is Alive!*     Pastor Debra

**\*HYMN UMH NO. 322**     *“Up From The Grave He Arose”*     CHRIST AROSE

**\*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**     *Toccata*     CH. M. WIDOR

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

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.



Check out and follow us on the First United Methodist Church Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089937633979>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/4851>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> ©Garnaas-Holmes, Steve, General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church, 2008.

<sup>4</sup> Marcia McFee © [www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough) Used and adapted with permission.

<sup>5</sup> Long, Kimberly Bracken, editor, *Feasting on the Word*, Year B, Volume 1, Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville 2014, pgs.



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

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

After the resurrection, the risen Jesus continued to prepare his disciples for the task of continuing the kingdom building work he started. Jesus gave a specific mission and ministry to Peter in verses fifteen to seventeen of chapter twenty-one of John's gospel. Three times Jesus asked Peter if he loved him. Three times Peter said he loved Jesus. Three times Jesus tells Peter to show his love by caring for the people that Jesus came to save.

Jesus refers to his followers as lambs and sheep in this passage. Most translations of the Bible use the verb "feed" to describe the work that the Lord commands Peter to do. However, if we look at this passage in the Greek language, we see that it uses three different verbs to provide a depth of meaning for these commands that we often miss. The first use of the verb meant to pasture the Lord's lambs. As an expression of his love for Jesus, Peter was to care for, tend and protect the immature believers (lambs) and help them grow in faith.

The second time Jesus gave his command the Greek verb was to herd, lead, and guide the sheep. Peter is not only to care for, tend and protect just immature believers. Jesus also commanded Peter to be the shepherd of all believers. Earlier Jesus told Peter he would be the rock upon which the church was built and in this scripture, Jesus makes it clear that Peter is to be the leader of the Lord's people.

The Greek verb used in the third command literally translates from the Greek as tend, graze, and feed. From the youngest lambs to the most seasoned and devoted sheep in the sheepfold of the Lord Jesus, Peter was commanded to provide spiritual nourishment and to support the growth in faith of the ones entrusted to him by Jesus. The resurrected Lord will soon ascend to heaven but the mission and ministry of the Good Shepherd (John 10:11) must carry on in Peter and in those who come after him.

We are the disciples who are to carry on this work in love. Jesus calls his people in his sheepfold here at First United Methodist Church Cheraw to love and feed Jesus's sheep. Looking forward to serving our Shepherd, Lord, and Savior with you by lovingly caring, herding, guiding, nurturing, protecting, and tending Jesus's lambs and sheep that we are called to love.

### **John 21:15-17 NLT <sup>15</sup>**

After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you." "Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him. <sup>16</sup> Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love you." "Then take care of my sheep," Jesus said. <sup>17</sup> A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep."

*Pastor Debra*



# UPCOMING MEETINGS

The United Women in Faith will meet April 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be putting together the kits for DSS. We have enough bags but still need the items for the kits.

*Joy Club will meet April 20<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m.  
in the Fellowship Hall.  
Please R.S.V.P. to Renie Seel at 843-344-1841  
by Monday April 17<sup>th</sup>.*

The Finance Committee will meet at 5:00 p.m. April 23, 2023, in the Fred Harris Sunday School Classroom.

The Church Council will meet April 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fred Harris Sunday School Classroom.

The Memorial Scholarship Committee will meet on Monday April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



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.



## **GRADUATES INFORMATION REQUESTED:**

If you are a high school or college student who will graduate this year or have a child who will graduate this year, please provide contact information to the church office. We need the full name, date of graduation, degree earned, and high school or college from which the student will be graduating. This information is needed to help us prepare for Graduate Sunday and the Graduate Breakfast.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Sunday April 9, 2023

6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)  
11:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service  
No Youth  
No Fireflies

## Monday, April 10, 2023

Church Office Closed  
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (NETC)

## Tuesday, April 11, 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. Girls Scouts (Youth Hut)

## Sunday, April 15, 2023

10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship

## Wednesday, April 12, 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)

## Thursday, April 13, 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 14, 2023

Church Office Closed

Weekly Amount Needed: \$5,928.83  
Amount Needed to Date: \$83,003.62  
Sunday School Attendance April 2: 61  
FUMC Food Pantry Item: Ramen Noodles  
Greeters: Jim and Marianne Crawford  
Acolyte: Norma Cobb  
Nursery Workers: Farah Lewis and Choles Reed  
Sound System Operator: Holly Miles

Amount Received Week of April 5: \$3,391.72  
Amount Received to Date: \$70,484.54  
Worship Attendance April 2: 94  
McCarn Food Bank Item: Peanut Butter Cups  
Head Usher: Mark Armstrong  
Liturgist Next Week: Jenny Keefe  
Flowers Next Sunday: Lillies  
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