

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

March 26, 2023

FIFTH 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.**

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Martha Starling

PRELUDE

“Herzliebster Jesu”

HELMUT WALCHA

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greg Sanderson

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

L: Lazarus, though dead, was called to life by Jesus.

C: May we be called to the light of righteousness.

L: As others witnessed this resurrection, they believed in Jesus.

C: May we, who have heard, believe in the power of Jesus to conquer our fears and doubts.

L: Praise be to God who has given us Jesus.

C: Praise be to Jesus who has given us life. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER²

Healing and Empowering God, we are sometimes so sure that things will not work out, we doubt even your ability to put things right in our lives. We lack such faith. But Jesus came to show us that our most dreaded enemy--death--can be overcome by faith. Heal our doubts and our longings for assurance and give us spirits of trust and hope. In Jesus' Name, we pray. **AMEN.**

PSALTER NO. 848

Psalm 130

Greg Sanderson

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Greg Sanderson

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 882**

Apostle's Creed Ecumenical Version

Greg Sanderson

***GLORIA PATRI NO. 70**

GREATOREX

***HYMN NO. 314**

“In the Garden”

GARDEN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION³

God of living waters, we confess that we often turned from you and wandered in our own wildernesses of fear and doubt. Our thirst mounts daily, seeking to be quenched by your redeeming love. Yet, when that love is offered to us, we again turn away, unable to truly believe that you would actually heal and love us. We have behaved in very unloving ways. We have chosen to ignore those in need or to deal only passively with them. Our hearts are not placed in service to others, but rather in self-serving motives. Heal us, merciful God. Wash us again in the living water. Help us be faithful servants. AMEN

WORDS OF ASSURANCE⁴

Pastor: The waters of mercy and healing are poured over you. God is loving and faithful to those who come to God. Come, seek the loving presence and be healed. In the name of Jesus, the Christ, you are forgiven.

Congregation: In the name of Jesus the Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God! Amen.

MORNING PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor Debra

ANTHEM

“O Christ, The Healer”

FRED PRATT GREEN

The text for the Anthem can be found on page 265 of the UMC Hymnal

OFFERTORY

“Herr, nun selbst den Wagen halt”

HELMUT WALCHA

***DOXOLOGY NO. 95**

OLD 100th

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor Debra

***HYMN NO. 467**

“Trust and Obey”

TRUST AND OBEY

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

John 11:1-45

Pastor Debra

SERMON

Living Inside Out: From the Grave

Pastor Debra

***HYMN NO. 2158 TFWS**

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

CLOSER WALK

***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 St. Kevin”

1 <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4558>

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 Thrailkill, Tony Thrailkill, 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, Ray Mathews, Stanton family, Jane Board . **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.

www.cherawfirstumc.org

VOLUME
TWENTY
ISSUE 14
MARCH 26,
2023

A few words from the pastor...

The LORD has shown you what is good. He has told you what he requires of you. You must act with justice. You must love to show mercy. And you must be humble as you live in the sight of your God. Micah 6:8 NIRV

Studying scripture is a great spiritual discipline and one that benefits us in Lent and at all times. One of my favorite scriptures, Micah 6:8, came up in a devotion this week. Reflecting on this scripture brought to mind a quote of Thomas Merton, “pride makes us artificial. Humility makes us real.”¹ It is not healthy confidence and satisfaction in things well done that Merton speaks of but pride that blinds us to the needs of the world around us. In our relationship with God and with each other pride can be a stumbling block to help see others and needs in the world as God sees them. When we humbly walk with God and follow Micah 6:8 eyes can be opened and we can serve God more fully.

Micah was an 8th Century B.C. prophet with a fiery message for the people of Judah. The Hebrew people were called to task for breaking their covenant with God; for turning away from God. Amid this accountability intervention, Micah reminded the people of how God called them to live and prosper in life. Act justly. Love Mercy. Walk humbly with God.

Micah 6:8 has three action words. Act. Show. Walk. is a call to listen to God, to do justice from hearts of mercy and compassion, marked by the humility of Christ. They are actions we are to take for the benefit of others.

This week let us all ask God to open our eyes to see places and situations that are opportunities for us to practice Micah 6:8. Places or situations where we see injustice and act to make the situation right. Places or situations where we can show mercy to others in need of kindness that they may not deserve. Places or situations where we can walk humbly with God. As we bless others with justice, mercy, and humility we will be blessed ourselves and do all that the Lord requires of us.



Pastor Debra

¹ www.brainyquote.com/thomas_merton



SERVING IN APRIL

GREETERS FOR MARCH

April 2 Betty Hurst
 April 9 Jim & Marianne Crawford
 April 16 Gailya Wilson
 April 23 Todd & Allison Becker
 April 30 Jay & Dawn Leach

LITURGIST FOR MARCH

April 2 Joey Mills
 April 9 Mark Armstrong
 April 16 Shannon Johnson
 April 23 Sammy Quick

FLOWERS FOR MARCH

April 2 Palms
 April 9 Easter Lilies

HEAD USHER FOR MARCH

Jeff Johnson

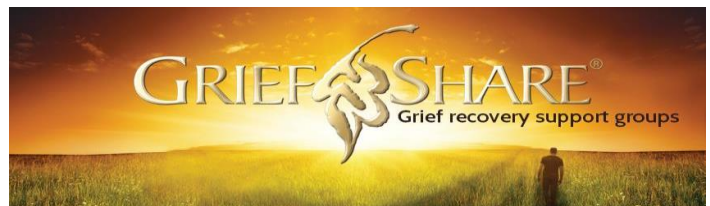
NURSERY FOR MARCH

April 2 Chase & Leslie Jean Watson
 April 9 Farah Lewis & Choles Reed
 April 16 Kelly Dusa & Choles Reed
 April 23 Farah Lewis & Christy Ruffner
 April 30 Trina Mills & Cindy Sanderson

ALCOLYTE FOR MARCH

Norma Cobb

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.



2023 Lenten Schedule

March 29 th	Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
March 30 th	Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
April 2 nd	Palm Sunday Service	11:00 a.m.
April 6 th	Maundy Thursday Service	6:00 p.m.



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

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



Behind the Music²

“The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine; but God, who called me here below, will be forever mine.”

The first two lines of this stanza referring to a dissolving earth and sun refusing to shine are from John Newton’s reading of the end times in 2 Peter 3:10, “but the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass destroyed with fire, and the earth disclosed.” But near the end of Deuteronomy 32:10 a fitting wanted to be remembered. A of God in Christ, shielded, cared



away with a loud noise, and the elements will be and everything that is done on it will be his own life, Newton found the text of summary of his time on earth and the way he man who totally wasted his life was by the grace for, and guarded as a precious child of God.

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 or questions may be submitted anonymously by addressing them to John Wagon and mailing them to the church at 117 Third Street Cheraw SC. Please submit your questions by Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

² Hoy, Michael, Amazing Grace Devotions for Lent, Creative Communications, Fenton MO., 2023, pg.33.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday March 26, 2023

10:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)
11:00 a.m. Worship
2:00 p.m. Churchwide Information Meeting (Sanctuary)
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 27, 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 28, 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 2, 2023

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

Wednesday, March 29, 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 30, 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, April 1, 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: \$71,145.96
Sunday School Attendance February 26: 55
FUMC Food Pantry Item: Dried Milk
Greeters: Joe Stanton & Terry Mueller
Acolyte: The Beckers
Nursery Workers: Christy Ruffner & Leslie Jean Watson
Sound System Operator: Holly Miles

Amount Received Week of March 22: 932.20
Amount Received to Date: \$63,877.53
Worship Attendance February 26: 77
McCarn Food Bank Item: Individual Size Cereal
Head Usher: Mark Armstrong
Liturgist Next Week: Joey Mills
Flowers Next Sunday: OPEN
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
Administrative Assistant (fumcadassistant1@gmail.com) O: 537-7002
Jim Glass, Director of Music and Organist (fumcmusic01@gmail.com) O: 843-537-7002