

OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, & SERVE

CONGRATULATIONS - Congratulations to the Fireflies and Youth for a wonderful Christmas program presented on December 15th. Many thanks to all who helped and led!

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS - CLOSED: December 24-29; OPENED: December 30-31; CLOSED: January 1-5; Office REOPENS January 6th.

PLEDGE CARDS - If you haven't already, this is a friendly reminder to please turn in your pledge cards as soon as possible.

MAT-MAKERS - The mat-making group will be taking a break for the holidays. Our next meeting will be January 7th, 2025.

ABBA'S HOUSE - The next occasion to feed the community will be "Christmas at ABBA'S feeding" which involves all churches. FUMC provides the mashed potatoes. Again, thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus. Your Mission/Evangelism team. Zenda Rushing.

DECEMBER 29TH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS - If you have any announcements for the 29th bulletin, please notify the liturgist on or before that Sunday. The liturgist is Joey Mills. The bulletin for Dec. 29th is being printed early due to the Christmas holiday. Thanks!

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - Please join us at 5:00pm on December 24th for our meaningful Christmas Eve service around candlelight.

THANK YOU!!! - Thank you to everyone who made "A First Church Christmas" into a huge success. Many hands were involved in its production. The congregation was packed and the reception was overflowing with delicious food. Thank you for your support, dedication, and love. A close church family is such a beautiful blessing, especially during Christmas. May the spirit of Christmas burn bright in our community and in our hearts. I love you all! Jackson Stone.

CHRISTMAS WISHES - The staff of FUMC wishes you and your family a very Merry Christmas. Have a wonderful time with family and friends! We love you all.

REPORTS & INFO.

Weekly tithe needed: **\$5,928.83.**

Tithes received Dec. 15th: **\$6,454.93.**

Sunday School Attendance Dec. 15th: **44**

Worship Attendance Dec. 15th: **101**

Christmas Program Attendance Dec. 19th: **~431**

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Liturgist: **Gregory Sanderson**

Greeter: **Marianne & Jim Crawford**

Head Usher: **Chase Watson**

Nursery: **Michelle Rohde**

First United Methodist Church Staff

Keith Stewart | *Pastor & Friend* (803.439.2543; Bkstewart@umcsc.org)

Shelby Nolan | *Administrative Assistant* (843.537.7002; fumcadassistant1@gmail.com)

Jackson Stone | *Music Director & Organist* (843.506.4312; jacjstone14@gmail.com)



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE TWENTIETH DAY *of* DECEMBER

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE ADVENT OF OUR LORD

THE CHURCH WITH A HEART *in* THE HEART OF CHERAW

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - PURPLE

DECEMBER 22TH, 2024 | 11:00AM

† THE PEOPLE STAND

OPENING VOLUNTARY | The Snow Lay on the Ground

Leo Sowerby

CHIMING & WELCOME

Greg Sanderson

We welcome each of you to this service! We pray that this time together will be a blessing in your life. Please take note of our important announcements found on the back of this bulletin.

OPENING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Keith

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Mary & Ray Crouse

†**HYMN 240** | Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

†**THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 880** | The Nicene Creed

Greg Sanderson

†**GLORIA PATRI 238** | Angels We Have Heard on High
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

GLORIA

†**HYMN 217** | Away in a Manger

AWAY IN A MANGER

OFFERTORY | Hark! Medley

Melody Bober

An offering is collected to support the work of First United Methodist Church. If you are visiting, please sign a visitor's card and place it in the offering plate so we may connect with you. Scan the QR code to the right for digital offerings.



†**DOXOLOGY & OFFERTORY PRAYER**

VENI EMMANUEL

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost;
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

ANTHEM | The Son of Mary

Andrew Parr

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!
(From John 1, 14; para. Luke 2, 2024)

†**SCRIPTURE READING** | Luke 1: 39-45

Pastor Keith

†**SERMON** | *A Miraculous Joy*

Pastor Keith

†**HYMN 238** | Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

†**DISMISSAL WITH PRAYER**

Pastor Keith

†**CHORAL BENEDICTION** | Tell Out My Soul

WOODLANDS

†**CLOSING VOLUNTARY** | Of the Father's Love Begotten

Aurelius Prudentius

We thank you for your presence with us today. We hope that you have a great week.
Merry Christmas!

OUR PRAYER LIST | PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR ALL ON THE PRAYER LIST!

Our Church, Our President, Congress, Governors, Mayors, State and local employees, all health care workers, EMT's, all who defend our Nation, Shep Straughn, Betty Thraikill, Mary Burr, Martha Griggs, Thomas McKinnon, Ellison Outen, Curtis Jones, Tony Thraikill, Bobby Spears, Kathy Treadaway (friend of Henrietta Kollitz), Shannon Johnson, Pam Walter (Angie Smith's cousin), Sarah Potapova (sister of Betty Hurst), Lynda Stann (friend of Jenny Outen), the family of Jane Kiser (Kip Kiser's mother), and the family of Betty Canipe. *Note: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks.*