

Opportunities to Worship, Fellowship, & Serve

MARCH GET INVOLVED CHALLENGE: Continuing last month's mission goals, we will offer a goal each month for you to reach. The goal for March: *Attend a new or old Sunday School class and remain in attendance for the entire month of March.*

COMMUNITY LUNCHESES: First Baptist Church and First United Methodist Church will join together for lunch on April 2nd, 9th, 16th leading up to Easter. Please make plans to join us!

FUTURE BIBLE STUDY: Please be on the lookout in future bulletins for a Bible Study hosted by Rev. Keith Stewart beginning in April.

FIREFLIES & YOUTH: March 23rd and 30th are still open for dinner. Please contact Lesley Jean Watson if you are interested in providing a meal.

MEN'S BBQ: The Men's BBQ is April 5th, 2025. Drive through pick up only from 11:00am-2:00pm. Tickets are \$12.00. If you need tickets, please see Joey Mills or drop by the church office.

GRADUATES: Please contact the church office if you have a high school college graduate this year.

ABBA'S HOUSE: Our next feeding at ABBA'S House will be Monday, March 24th. Please sign-up to take frozen lasagna home on Sunday, March 23rd and return on Monday 24th by 3:30pm. They are also asking for gently used spring & summer, adult and children's clothing to be given away on April 21st. Please bring your donations to Maranatha between 8:30-2:00 Mon-Fri until April 11th. The give-away will happen on April 21st. Resurrection Partnership on Monday April 21st. Also, our annual ABBA'S House Volunteer banquet: Saturday April 5th from 5:00-7:00...this event is free but Ricky Parker needs to know a number of how many people are coming (843-537-2033). Please invite pastors, come and hear testimonies of the many lives that have been touched because of our partnership.

LENTEN PENNIES (PENNIES IN HEAVEN): Purpose: help support your Lenten journey with focus and to measure your progress. Directions: put a penny in the jar every time you remember Jesus through serving others, donating, devotion, acts of kindness and love, etc. Conclusion: turn in jars on Easter Sunday. Contributions will go to missions. Thanks, Scott Eddins.

UPDATE MEMBER INFORMATION: Please update your phone number and email address information with the church office when you can. We are updating these records.

Tithes needed weekly: **\$5,928.83**; Received Mar. 16th: **NONE**
Sunday School Att. Mar. 16th: **NONE**; Worship Att. Mar. 16th: **NONE**
Liturgist: **Sue Skipper**; Greeter: **Henriette Kollitz**
Head Usher: **David McLean**; Nursery: **Christy Ruffner**
Acolyte: **Nancy Wagnon**; Website: **www.cherawfirstumc.org**

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 TWENTY-THIRD DAY *of* MARCH 2025

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

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

The Worship of God

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT - PURPLE

MARCH 23RD, 2025 | 11:00AM

† THE PEOPLE STAND

CHORAL VOLUNTARY | Nearer, Still Nearer

MORRIS

CHIMING & WELCOME

Sue Skipper

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

Rev. Keith Stewart

†**HYMN 295** | In The Cross of Christ I Glory

RATHBUN

†**THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 881** | The Apostles' Creed

Sue Skipper

†**GLORIA PATRI 70**

MEINEKE

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

PSALM 63 | Psalter 788

Sue Skipper

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Zenda Rushing

†**HYMN INSERT** | Nearer, Still Nearer

MORRIS

OFFERTORY | Create in Me a Clean Heart

Carl Mueller

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of salvation, and uphold me with thy free spirit.
Then I will teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.
Create in me a clean heart, O God!

†**DOXOLOGY & OFFERTORY PRAYER**

OLD 100TH

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. Amen.

ANTHEM | He Loved Them to the End

Joseph Martin

When Jesus knew His hour was to come, the hour had come for Him to die, He prayed the Father's will be done; in deepest grief His Spirit cried. O what boundless love the Father showed when God His only Son He sent, and those He loved who took His life, He loved them to the end. When Jesus hung upon the cross, what perfect love He freely gave. And taking sin upon Himself, He chose to die, to face the grave. O Jesus came to share His life, He came our broken hearts to mend. And those He healed, they took His life, yet He loved them to the end. O Jesus, gentle savior, you endured a world of scorn. O Lamb of God, Image of Love, in you new hope is born. When Jesus rose to conquer death, the pow'r of God was then displayed. He proved that love would always live in hearts of those who know the Way. This His covenant of peace; His promised comfort He would send. "I will never leave you, you are not alone, I will love you to the end...I will love you to the end."

†**SCRIPTURE READING** | Luke 13: 1-9

Rev. Keith Stewart

SERMON | *Is God the center of your life?*

Rev. Keith Stewart

†**HYMN 301** | Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

NEAR THE CROSS

*During the singing of this hymn, our altar rail is open for a time of prayer and reflection.

†**DISMISSAL WITH PRAYER**

Rev. Keith Stewart

†**CHORAL BENEDICTION** | Christ, We Do All Adore Thee

Dubois

IN KEEPING WITH THE PENITENTIAL NATURE OF THE SEASON, THERE WILL BE NO POSTLUDES DURING LENT. THE CHORAL BENEDICTION WILL END OUR SERVICE EACH WEEK, PROVIDING TIME FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND PRAYER.

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

Our Church, Our President, Congress, Governors, Mayors, State and local employees, health care workers, EMT's, firefighters, law enforcement officers, all young and aged people with mental illnesses, all who defend our Nation, Shep Straughn, Betty Thrailkill, Mary Burr, Emily Marsh, Martha Griggs, Thomas McKinnon, Curtis Jones, Tony Thrailkill, Bobby Spears, Kathy Treadaway (friend of Henrietta Kollitz), Shannon Johnson, Pam Walter (Angie Smith's cousin), James Thurman (Angie Smith's Father), the family of Ellison Outen, Jenny Outen, the family of Mitchell Quick (Sammy Quick's brother), and Michelle Rohde.