

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



THE THIRTIETH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025

**THE BEGINNING OF ADVENT**

THE CHURCH WITH A HEART IN THE HEART OF CHERAW

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE BEGINNING OF ADVENT – PURPLE

NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2025 – 11:00 AM

†CONGREGATION STANDS

**PRELUDE** Partita on “*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*” Barbara Dickson

**CHIMING/INTROIT** People, Look East BESANCON

**WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!** Kathryn Hurst

Welcome to this service! We pray that this time together will be a blessing in your life. Please read and take note of our important announcements.

†**PROCESSIONAL HYMN 196** Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus HYFRYDOL

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE** Kathryn & Cameron Hurst, Jeff Johnson  
Congregation responds: *Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God's reign has come and is coming among us.*

**PASTORAL PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER** Rev. Joseph Kovas

†**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 881** Kathryn Hurst

†**ADVENT GLORIA PATRI 238** GLORIA  
*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

**PSALTER 845 – PSALM 122: R 1** Kathryn Hurst

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT** Rev. Joseph Kovas

†**HYMN 202** People, Look East BESANCON

**OFFERTORY** Lo, He Comes HELMSLEY

†ADVENT DOXOLOGY

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

*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

Amid the Cold of Winter

Bret Rhoades

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan. Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone. Snow had fallen, snow on snow. In the bleak midwinter, long time ago. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung. It came a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night. What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; Yes, what can I give Him? I would give my heart; I would give my heart.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 2: 1-5

Rev. Joseph Kovas

SERMON

Dawn on the Mountain

Rev. Joseph Kovas

†HYMN 718

Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY

DISMISSAL & PRAYER

Rev. Joseph Kovas

†CHORAL BENEDICTION

Emmanuel

GOD WITH US

Emmanuel, His name is called, Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, His name is called: Emmanuel.

†POSTLUDE

All Earth is Waiting

Carol



**PRAYER LIST** - Our Church, President, Congress, Governors, Mayors, State & local employees, health care workers, EMTs, firefighters, law enforcement officers, people of all ages with mental illnesses, all who defend our Nation, Shep Straughn, Emily Marsh, Martha Griggs, Thomas & Sharon McKinnon, Tony Thrailkill, the family of Sarah Potapova (Betty Hurst's sister), Nadia Harris, Frank Shutt, Sandra Laney (Sarah Lee's sister-in-law), Pal Moore, Regina Reames (Brantley Butler Reams' mother-in-law), Kaitlyn Freeman, Lesley Jean Watson, Betty Hurst, and Patricia Turner.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BOOK STUDY FOR ADVENT:** Beginning Monday December 8, 2025, Pastor Kovas will be leading a Monday morning book study at 10:00am for Advent on *All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas*. The books are \$9.49. To purchase a copy, please write a check to First UMC and write on Memo line “Advent book.” 12 books have been ordered. If more books are needed, we will order more copies.

**SHEPHERD’S CHILD:** Shepherd’s Child party is at 1:00 on Dec 17<sup>th</sup>. Wrapped presents are due in the office on Dec 12<sup>th</sup>. Donations are still being accepted. We plan to provide Christmas for 60 boys and girls. What a blessing to those children!

**WARM FEET MINISTRY:** Help us make warm feet a reality for the folks at Palmetto Ridge Nursing Home this Christmas by donating to our sock ministry. You can place your socks (men’s and women’s) in a box outside the church office. Many thanks! United Women of Faith

**ABBA’S HOUSE:** Thank you to everyone who donated cans of yams and to those that helped cook the yams, deliver the yams, and serve the yams. We served over 300 community members a warm Thanksgiving meal. The next opportunity to serve at ABBA’S House is December 15<sup>th</sup>. We will need people to pick up frozen lasagnas on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> and bring the cooked lasagna back by 3:30pm on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:** Please sign-up to help with this year’s Christmas celebration held on December 18<sup>th</sup>. We need everyone to come together to help our church “shine” with the light of Jesus Christ for this event. If you did not sign up during Sunday School this past Sunday, please see Gini Eddins. We need all church members to also plan to contribute a food item of your choice to the Christmas Program Reception.

**DONATIONS CHANGE LIVES:** Please continue to donate self-opening cans to our Blessing Box located at the exit of our parking lot AND to the McArn Food Bank. Now, you can add blankets, gloves, socks, etc. to our Blessing Fence.

TITHE NEEDED WEEKLY.....	\$5,928.83.
CONTRIBUTIONS NOV 23.....	\$1,905.00.
SUNDAY SCHOOL NOV 23.....	34
WORSHIP NOV 23.....	64
LITURGIST TODAY.....	Kathryn Hurst
LITURGIST DEC 7.....	Thomas Samuel
GREETER TODAY.....	Penny Quick
GREETER DEC 7.....	Choles & Jed Reid
HEAD USHER DEC.....	Eric Dusa
ACOLYTE DEC.....	Penny Quick

NURSERY TODAY.....	Christy Ruffner
NURSERY DEC 7.....	Lesley Jean Watson
MCARN FOOD ITEM.....	Macaroni & Cheese
CHURCH PHONE.....	(843) 537-7002
PASTOR.....	Rev. Joseph Kovas (803.374.1677; <a href="mailto:ldkovas@umcsc.org">ldkovas@umcsc.org</a> )
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.....	Shelby Nolan (843.537.7002; <a href="mailto:fumcadassistant1@gmail.com">fumcadassistant1@gmail.com</a> )
MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST.....	Jackson Stone (843.506.4312; <a href="mailto:jacjstone14@gmail.com">jacjstone14@gmail.com</a> )

# THE CHURCH HERALD

## NEWSLETTER

*From the Pastor – Rev. Joseph Kovas*

As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes.... Then he went and washed and came back able to see.” (John 9:5-7)

If you are an educational television fan, you may be familiar with the show Dirty Jobs on the Discovery Channel. Mike Rowe, the show’s host and an Eagle Scout, spoke at the 2010 National Scout Jamboree held at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia where he described his vocation-getting dirty! In his speech he described how getting dirty is a fundamental aspect of our society. Rowe jokingly proposed “A scout is clean.... But not afraid to get dirty” to reflect this philosophy.

Our world and society are built on dirt. To construct buildings, dirt must be pushed aside to create a foundation for a home or business. Dirt is the foundation for our agriculture and food. Dirt is used to build roads and athletic fields. Dirt... It is all around us!

In the Gospel of John, Jesus gets down into the dirt, spits on the ground to make mud, and uses the mud to heal a blind man. It seems interesting that Jesus, who is the eternal word of God that became flesh (John 1:1-5), chose to heal a person using mud. Would you want Jesus to come up to you with mud made from his spit to heal your blindness? Although this seems weird, there is much beauty reflected in this story. Jesus as the incarnate Son of God echoes back to the very beginning of creation. God took the dust or dirt from the ground and made Adam and Eve (Genesis 2).

We are made from dust as human beings and one day we shall return to dust (Genesis 3:19). Jesus took the same dirt we are made of and used it to heal a blind man- a person made of dirt. God comes to use in unexpected ways, gets down and dirty, and heals us so that we may truly see with our own eyes the light of the world that has conquered darkness (John 1:1-5).

# METHODIST MEN'S BREAKFAST

**SUNDAY, DEC. 14 – 8:30am in the  
Fellowship Hall**

**BE THERE!**



*We praise you. We bless you.*  
*We adore you*

# Gloria In Excelsis Deo

*We glorify you*  
*Lord God*



Masterworks Choir  
*presents*

## A MASTERWORKS CHRISTMAS

Joined by the Chamber Singers of South Florence High School

SATURDAY | 7:00 PM  
December 6<sup>th</sup>



SUNDAY | 4:00 PM  
December 7<sup>th</sup>

All Are Welcome  
Free Admission

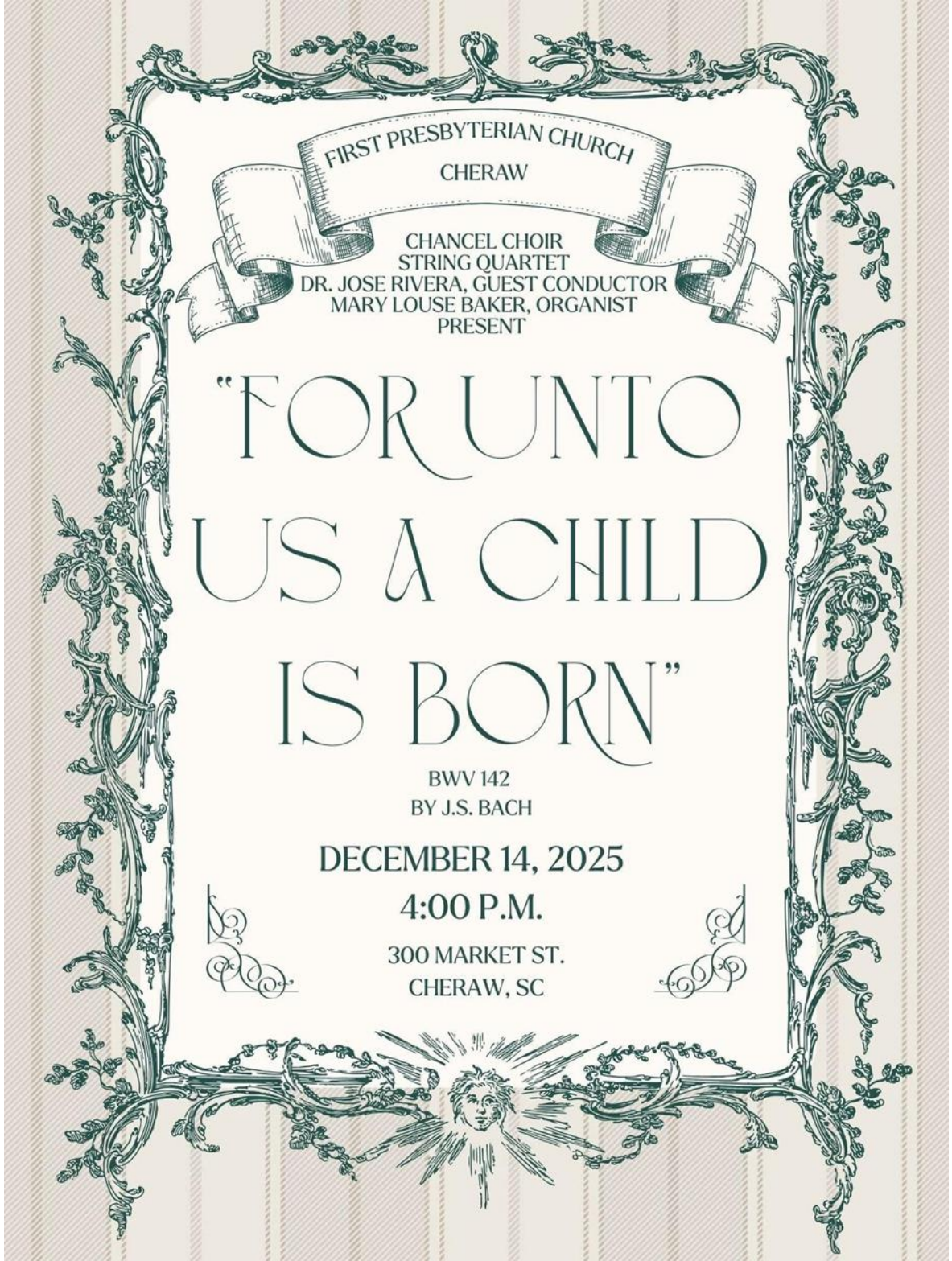
FMU PERFORMING  
ARTS CENTER

201 S. Dargan St.  
Florence, SC

THE 47<sup>TH</sup> SEASON

[WWW.MASTERWORKSCHOIR.ORG](http://WWW.MASTERWORKSCHOIR.ORG)





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CHERAW

CHANCEL CHOIR  
STRING QUARTET  
DR. JOSE RIVERA, GUEST CONDUCTOR  
MARY LOUSE BAKER, ORGANIST  
PRESENT

"FOR UNTO  
US A CHILD  
IS BORN"

BWV 142  
BY J.S. BACH

DECEMBER 14, 2025

4:00 P.M.

300 MARKET ST.  
CHERAW, SC





THE CHERAW MENNONITE YOUTH GROUP  
INVITES YOU TO LISTEN TO AN EVENING OF  
**CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

AT THE OLD ST. DAVID'S CHURCH  
CHERAW, SOUTH CAROLINA

5:30 PM

DECEMBER 7, 2025  
BRING YOUR FAMILY,  
ALL ARE WELCOME

You are invited to a



# *First Church* CHRISTMAS

Join us for a night filled with favorite secular  
& sacred Christmas music, featuring a 50  
member multi-community choir, brass  
quintet, string quartet, organ, and piano.

The choir spans 7 counties & 2 states.

The Handbell choir will perform a  
fifteen-minute prelude before the  
program. Come early to claim a seat!

18TH DECEMBER 2025

*at 7:00 in the evening*

*The* FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

*117 Third St., Cheraw, SC 29520*

A reception will follow the program



# DECEMBER:

## BIRTHDAYS

12/6 JAP RODDY

12/7 JACOB ROHDE

12/10 CHASE WATSON

12/12 MICHELLE ROHDE

12/14 LYNN TWEED

12/14 PAM HUMPHRIES

12/15 PALMER REID

12/18 JAMES TWEED

12/19 JANE RUMPH

12/22 WILLIAM SMITH, III

12/23 ALLAN CHAPMAN

12/23 FAYE ESCHENFELDER

12/25 ALAYNA CARABO

12/29 MARCIA BUTLER

12/30 JACQUELYN TOMBERLIN





















