

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



THE SEVENTH DAY *of* DECEMBER 2025

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT– PURPLE

DECEMBER 7, 2025 – 11:00 AM

†CONGREGATION STANDS

PRELUDE *Divinum Mysterium*

CHIMING/INTROIT *Lo, How a Rose*

ES IST EIN ROS

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

Thomas Samuel

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.

†**HYMN 211** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (v. 1-4)

VENI EMMANUEL

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Thomas Samuel & Vincent Prevatte

Reader: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.” (Isaiah 11:6). All: *Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God’s creation.*

Reader: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

PASTORAL PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Joseph Kovas

†**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 881**

Thomas Samuel

†**ADVENT GLORIA PATRI**

GLORIA

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

PSALTER 795 – PSALM 72: 1-17 R 1

Thomas Samuel

†**HYMN 218** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

CAROL

OFFERTORY ANTHEM The First Noel/Pachelbel's Cannon Michael Clawson
The first Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay. In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel! Born is the King of Israel. Noel! For all to see there was a star shining in the east beyond them far. And to the earth it gave great light, and it continued both day and night. The first Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay. In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

†ADVENT DOXOLOGY

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.

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 11: 1-10

Rev. Joseph Kovas

SERMON The Peaceable Kingdom Among Us

Rev. Joseph Kovas

HOLY COMMUNION

(UMH P. 12-14 – spoken response)

†HYMN 220 Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

DISMISSAL & PRAYER

Rev. Joseph Kovas

†CHORAL BENEDICTION Lift Up Your Heads

TRURO

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!

†POSTLUDE Deck the Hall

Jean Pasquet

PRAAYER 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 Thraillkill, 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, Patricia Turner, and Gregory Sanderson.

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." The books are now in the office for pickup.

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT: As in years past, the church collects a Christmas Love Offering for our church staff. Members may submit an offering to Shelby or place in the offering plate with "Staff Love Offering" on the "For" line. Thank you so much!

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: Meets immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall (Dec. 7).

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

QUARTERLY STATEMENTS: If you are interested in receiving quarterly statements next year, please contact the church office with the correct email. Annual giving statements will continue to be emailed.

UMWF: Women in Faith will meet Tuesday, December 9, 3:00pm, in the fellowship hall. All Methodist women are invited to join us for prayer and fellowship. Women, remember to bring signed Christmas cards.

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. We will need people to pick up frozen lasagnas on Sunday, December 14 and bring the cooked lasagna back by 3:30pm on Monday, December 15.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: We need all church members to also plan to contribute a food item of your choice to the Christmas Program Reception. It takes ALL of us to pull this wonderful Christmas mission together. Please let Gini Eddins or Jackson Stone know if you have any questions. Thank you.

DONATIONS CHANGE LIVES: Since all of us have been so blessed, please continue to be a blessing to others by placing items on our Blessing Fence (bags and tags and miniature Jesus' are in the fellowship hall), by placing self-opening cans in our blessing box, and continuing to donate to McArn Food Bank.

TITHE NEEDED WEEKLY.....	\$5,928.83.
CONTRIBUTIONS NOV 30.....	\$2,765.00.
SUNDAY SCHOOL NOV 30.....	30
WORSHIP NOV 30.....	.65
LITURGIST TODAY.....	Thomas Samuel
LITURGIST DEC 14.....	Greg Sanderson
GREETER TODAY.....	Gini Eddins
GREETER DEC 14.....	Kim & Jap Roddy
HEAD USHER DEC.....	Chase Watson
ACOLYTE DEC.....	Penny Quick

NURSERY TODAY.....	Lesley Jean Watson
NURSERY DEC 14.....	Michelle Rohde
MCARN FOOD ITEM.....	Spaghetti Sauce
CHURCH PHONE.....	(843) 537-7002
PASTOR.....	Rev. Joseph Kovas (803.374.1677; Jdkovas@umcsc.org)
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.....	Shelby Nolan (843.537.7002; fumcadassistant1@gmail.com)
MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST.....	Jackson Stone (843.506.4312; jacjstone14@gmail.com)