

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



THE FOURTEENTH DAY *of* DECEMBER 2025

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT– PURPLE

DECEMBER 14, 2025 – 11:00 AM

†CONGREGATION STANDS

**PIANO/ORGAN DUET** It Came Upon The Midnight Clear Willis

**CHIMING/INTROIT** Christmas Medley Various

**WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!** Greg Sanderson

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 INSERT** I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day WALTHAM

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE** Gregory & Cindy Sanderson

In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. So today, we join our voices with the proper Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation. All: ***We choose to believe that the day is coming when “the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Isaiah 34:10).*** Reader: We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together.

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

†**HYMN 230** O Little Town of Bethlehem ST. LOUIS

†**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 881** Greg Sanderson

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

†**HYMN 249** There's a Song in the Air CHRISTMAS SONG

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** Christmas Lamb Joel Raney

Tiny infant Lamb, shivering in the cold; in a barren stable, broken down and old. Have you not a mother to keep you warm and fed? Have you not a bed of straw, to rest your sleepy head? Came a man and woman to the stable bare; weary from the journey that brought them safely there. A crying in the night, a baby boy is born. She lays him in a manger to keep him safe and warm. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Lamb without a shepherd, sleep without a fold, lost without a master to shelter you from cold; come in to the stable as his welcomed guest, and in the arms of Jesus, your soul will find its rest. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Precious Christmas Lamb.

†ADVENT DOXOLOGY

*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.*

VENI EMMANUEL

†HYMN 237 Sing We Now of Christmas

THE PERFECT GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

FRENCH CAROL

<b>Bob</b> – Jacquelin Tomberlin	<b>Snowflake</b> – Carley Watson
<b>Blitzen</b> – Lilah King	<b>Rudolph</b> – Zoe Rivers
<b>Comet</b> – Sarah King	<b>Wise Men</b> – Scott Eddins, Ben Holliday, & Doug Marsh
<b>Dancer</b> – Amanda King	<b>Shepherds</b> – Brandon King, Dexter Rivers, & Chase Watson
<b>Jingles</b> – Reagan Rivers	<b>Angels</b> – Kate Wilson Kollitz & Alma Scott Tomberlin
<b>Joseph</b> – Pastor Kovas	*Please join us when we sing Away in a Manger (UMH 217)
<b>JuJu</b> – Julia Watson	
<b>Mary</b> – Ava	
<b>Santa</b> – Bryson Hunter	

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THIS PROGRAM POSSIBLE!**

†HYMN 246 Joy to the World

DISMISSAL & PRAYER

†CHORAL BENEDICTION This is Christ the King  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing. Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

†POSTLUDE Christmas Gloria

ANTIOCH  
Rev. Joseph Kovas  
GREENSLEEVES  
William Harris

**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. The deadline for the Christmas staff love-offering is Dec. 21. Thank you so much!

**SPPRC:** Staff-Parish will meet December 29 at 6:00pm in the Fred Harris Sunday School classroom.

**BREAKFAST OPPORTUNITY:** The Men’s breakfast is this Sunday, December 14 at 8:30. Please join the men!

**SHEPHERD’S CHILD:** Shepherd’s Child party is at 1:00 on Dec 17. Wrapped presents are due in the office on Dec 12. 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.

**ABBA’S HOUSE:** Please remember to pick up a frozen lasagna after church today (12/14) and return the baked lasagna either to the church or to ABBA’S House by 3:30 tomorrow, Dec. 15. We have 7 lasagnas left to be picked up and prepared and we also need 2 additional workers at ABBA’S House. Thank you. For the Christmas Community feeding on Dec. 22, FUMC is providing mashed potatoes. Please consider donating large boxes of mashed potatoes to this ministry. Place boxes inside the kitchen of the fellowship hall.

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: THIS WEEK! (THURS. DEC. 18 AT 7:00).** We need all church members 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 drop off your food items between 10:00am and 3:00pm on Dec. 18. If you have signed up to help decorate for the Christmas program, please meet us at the church Wednesday December 17 at 3:30 in the fellowship hall. 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.

**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, Frank Shutt, Pal Moore, Regina Reames (Brantley Butler Reams’ mother-in-law), Kaitlyn Freeman, Lesley Jean Watson, Gregory Sanderson, Mason Tomberlin, Pam Walter (Angie Smith’s cousin), Wyatt Smith (Gini Eddins Mother’s Morning Out Child), and the family of Travis Rivers.

TITHE NEEDED WEEKLY.....	\$5,928.83.	NURSERY TODAY.....	Michelle Rohde
CONTRIBUTIONS DEC 7.....	\$2,545.00.	NURSERY DEC 21.....	Kelly Dusa
SUNDAY SCHOOL DEC 7.....	36	MCARN FOOD ITEM.....	Dried Beans
WORSHIP DEC 7.....	84	CHURCH PHONE.....	(843) 537-7002
LITURGIST TODAY.....	Greg Sanderson	PASTOR.....	Rev. Joseph Kovas
LITURGIST DEC 21.....	Sue Skipper	(803.374.1677; <a href="mailto:ldkovas@umcsc.org">ldkovas@umcsc.org</a> )	
GREETER TODAY.....	Kim & Jap Roddy	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.....	Shelby Nolan
GREETER DEC 21.....	Michelle Rohde	(843.537.7002; <a href="mailto:fumcadassistant1@gmail.com">fumcadassistant1@gmail.com</a> )	
HEAD USHER DEC.....	Chase Watson	MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST.....	Jackson Stone
ACOLYTE DEC.....	Penny Quick	(843.506.4312; <a href="mailto:jacjstone14@gmail.com">jacjstone14@gmail.com</a> )	