

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 manager 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

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.

†HYMN 237 Sing We Now of Christmas

FRENCH CAROL

THE PERFECT GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

Bob – Jacquelin Tomberlin

Snowflake – Carley Watson

Blitzen – Lilah King

Rudolph – Zoe Rivers

Comet – Sarah King

Wise Men – Scott Eddins, Ben

Dancer – Amanda King

Holliday, & Doug Marsh

Jingles – Reagan Rivers

Shepherds – Brandon King, Dexter

Joseph – Pastor Kovas

Rivers, & Chase Watson

JuJu – Julia Watson

Angels – Kate Wilson Kollitz &

Mary – Ava

Alma Scott Tomberlin

Santa – Bryson Hunter

*Please join us when we sing Away in a

Manger (UMH 217)

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THIS PROGRAM POSSIBLE!

†HYMN 246 Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

DISMISSAL & PRAYER

Rev. Joseph Kovas

†CHORAL BENEDICTION This is Christ the King

GREENSLEEVES

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

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.
CONTRIBUTIONS DEC 7.....	\$2,545.00.
SUNDAY SCHOOL DEC 7.....	36
WORSHIP DEC 7.....	84
LITURGIST TODAY.....	Greg Sanderson
LITURGIST DEC 21.....	Sue Skipper
GREETER TODAY.....	Kim & Jap Roddy
GREETER DEC 21.....	Michelle Rohde
HEAD USHER DEC.....	Chase Watson
ACOLYTE DEC.....	Penny Quick

NURSERY TODAY.....	Michelle Rohde
NURSERY DEC 21.....	Kelly Dusa
MCARN FOOD ITEM.....	Dried Beans
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)