

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



THE TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY *of* DECEMBER 2025

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS – WHITE

DECEMBER 28, 2025 – 11:00 AM

†CONGREGATION STANDS

PRELUDE

CHIMING/INTROIT He Is Born

Il EST NE

He is born, the holy Child. Play the oboe and bagpipes merrily! He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild. Thru long ages of the past, prophets have foretold of his coming; thru long ages of the past, now the time has come at last!

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

Jimmie Williamson

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 219** What Child is This?

GREENSLEEVES

PASTORAL PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Joseph Kovas

†**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 881**

Jimmie Williamson

†**ADVENT GLORIA PATRI**

GLORIA

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

PSALTER 801-802 – PSALM 80 R 2

Jimmie Williamson

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Joseph Kovas

†**HYMN 236** While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

CHRISTMAS

OFFERTORY

†DOXOLOGY

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 Gesu Bambino

Peitro Yon

When blossoms flower amid the snows upon a winter night, was born a Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of love and light. The angels sang. The shepherds sang. The grateful earth rejoiced! And at his blessed birth, the stars their exultation voiced. *O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.* Again, the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night that gave the world its Christmas Rose, the King of love and light. Let every voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell, the grateful chorus swell! From paradise to earth he came that we with Him might dwell. *O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.* Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of love and light. King of love and light.

†SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2: 8-20

Rev. Joseph Kovas

SERMON *The Gift of the Shepherds*

Rev. Joseph Kovas

†HYMN 251 Go, Tell It On the Mountain

MOUNTAIN

DISMISSAL & PRAYER

Rev. Joseph Kovas

†CHORAL BENEDICTION Amen

898

†POSTLUDE

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, Mason Tomberlin, Pam Walter (Angie Smith's cousin), Wyatt Smith (Gini Eddins Mother's Morning Out Child), Avery Dickson, the family of Travis Rivers, the family of Phillip Caulder, and Nadia Harris.

OFFICE CLOSED: The office will be closed Christmas Eve/Day and New Years Eve/Day for the holidays.

MCARN REQUEST: We need individual cups of Beef Ravioli, Cereal, and Mac & Cheese for the duration of the months of December and January. Thank you for your help!

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

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 mailed.

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.

FROM GINI EDDINS: Words cannot express how much I appreciate everyone who helped, both in person and in prayer, to make our church music program a beautiful and glorious mission to our community. But most of all it was our church praising God during this beautiful season of our Lord Jesus' birth. I love my church family and appreciate each and every one of you. Love, Gini Eddins.

TITHE NEEDED WEEKLY.....	\$5,928.83.	NURSERY TODAY.....	Dawn Leach
CONTRIBUTIONS DEC 21.....	\$5,393.00.	NURSERY JAN 4.....	Michelle Rohde
SUNDAY SCHOOL DEC 21.....	31	MCARN FOOD ITEM.....	Grits
WORSHIP DEC 21.....	69	CHURCH PHONE.....	(843) 537-7002
LITURGIST TODAY.....	Jimmie Williamson	PASTOR.....	Rev. Joseph Kovas
LITURGIST JAN 4.....	Rhett Butler		(803.374.1677; Jdkovas@umcsc.org)
GREETER TODAY...Christy & Heath Ruffner		ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.....	Shelby Nolan
GREETER JAN 4.....	Jean & Junior Assef		(843.537.7002; fumcadassistant1@gmail.com)
HEAD USHER DEC.....	Chase Watson	MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST.....	Jackson Stone
ACOLYTE DEC.....	Penny Quick		(843.506.4312; jacjstone14@gmail.com)