



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 22, 2026 | 11:00 AM

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

The Church with a Heart in the Heart of Cheraw

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – PURPLE

FEBRUARY 22, 2026 | 11:00 AM

Welcome to worship at First United Methodist Church of Cheraw.
Whether you're visiting with us, long-time member, or looking for a church home, we are honored that you've chosen to join us for worship.
A cross (†) denotes all to stand in unison who are able.

PRELUDE

Beneath the Cross of Jesus
A Lenten Prelude

Frederick Maker
Joseph Mackey

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

INTROIT

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

NEAR THE CROSS

Jesus, keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain, free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calvary's mountain. In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever, till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

WELCOME

Zenda Rushing

†HYMN 269

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

LAND OF REST

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Kovas

Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Zenda Rushing

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

†GLORIA PATRI

GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.
World without end! Amen. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Joseph Kovas

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

PSALTER 785 – PSALM 51 R 2

Zenda Rushing

The Liturgist reads the light typeface. The congregation reads the bold typeface in response. The Psalm response is sung at each R by all.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

All children are invited to join Rev. Kovas on the chancel steps. Children are dismissed to the nursery or back to families following the lesson.

†HYMN 410

I Want a Principle Within

GERALD

OFFERTORY

A Lenten Beginning

Joy Albright

†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

Lenten Meditation

Jay Althouse

Jesus Christ, my Savior lived for me and died, source of my salvation, yet was crucified. Peace that knows no measure: This by faith I see. Love that knows no ending; Jesus died for me. Lord, O Lord, we renew our commitment these forty nights and days. And Lord, by your grace help us change our sinful ways. Hear me now, Lord Jesus: I will never stray. I will never wander. Hear me, as I pray. Free me now from darkness. Cleanse me now from sin. Pardon my transgressions. Make me pure within. Amen.

†SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 4: 1–11 *congregation stands*

Rev. Kovas

SERMON

A Time of Trial

Rev. Kovas

†HYMN 395

Take Time to Be Holy

HOLINESS

†DISMISSAL & PRAYER

Rev. Kovas

†CHORAL BENEDICTION please remain standing

Christ, We Do All Adore Thee

Theodore Dubois

Christ, we do all adore Thee, and we do praise thee forever, For on the Holy Cross Thou hast the world from sin redeemed. Christ, we do all adore thee, and we do praise thee forever. Christ, we do all adore thee.

(‘Adoramus Te’ from ‘The Seven Last Words of Christ, 1867’)

PRAYER CONCERNS

Let us faithfully pray for Emily Marsh, Martha Griggs, Thomas & Sharon McKinnon, Frank Shutt, Pal Moore, Kaitlyn Freeman, Lesley Jean Watson, Pam Walter (Angie Smith's cousin), Wyatt Smith (Gini Eddins MMO Child), Nadia Harris, Gailya Wilson, John Trussell, James Thurman (Angie Smith's dad), Gayle Davis, Martha Starling, Kim Carnell, Judy Dixon, Lucy Parsons, Sandra Laney (Sara Lee's Sister-in-law), the family of Jack Van Deman, the family of Shep Straughn, and Wendy Sullivan Thomas (Mickie & Gwen Sullivan's Daughter).

As members of God's family, remember those who are trapped in the cycle of addiction and those who walk with them. Remember the over-thinkers, the worriers, the depressed, and those riddled with anxiety. Remember the young and aged who struggle with chronic mental illnesses. Remember those who serve and defend our great nation, including our president, congress, governors, mayors, state & local employees, health care workers and doctors, EMTs, firefighters, law enforcement officers, and those who labor tirelessly with no relief. We also remember those who live with progressive neurological or immunological diseases and loved ones who support them. At this time in the cold winter months, let us particularly remember those without a home who must endure the bitter cold days and even colder nights, including animals that have been neglected. Remember the oppressed and marginalized, those without food and water, and those who are scorned. Finally, remember those who do not know the love of Jesus. Remember those who have been hurt by religion and have turned away from God that they might experience Jesus' great redeeming love once more. Remember those who pray but find their prayers unanswered. Remember those who feel like giving up. Remember those who are persecuted in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and those who have died defending it.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY: HEAR OUR PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SEASON OF LENT is a solemn season in the Christian liturgical calendar that mirrors the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, facing temptation before beginning His public ministry (Matthew, Mark, Luke). It is a time for spiritual preparation, reflection, and self-discipline, helping believers grow closer to God and ready their hearts for the celebration of Easter. The season emphasizes repentance, simplicity, and interior renewal, often through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. The paraments and adornments of the church are purple. A purple sash adorns the outside cross in the front yard. Purple is the symbol of royalty, penitence, repentance, and solemnity.

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES CLASS: Pastor Joseph will lead a spiritual disciplines class this lent season. There will be two class times offered on Mondays at 10:00am and Wednesday Nights at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall. The class will run from the week of February 22 and conclude the week of March 29. Please bring a Bible to the class. No additional material is needed.

MCARN FOOD BANK: The McArn Food Bank in need of the following items for their Backpack Ministry. These items may be placed in the basket outside the office door. **Mac and cheese cups, cereal cups, pop-tarts, instant grits/oatmeal cups, and pudding cups.** Thank you!

JOHN WESLEY'S DIRECTIONS FOR SINGING, RULE #3: *Sing all. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up, and you will find it a blessing.* (This rule and the rest can be found in your United Methodist Hymnal pg. Vii)

IF YOU HAVE A STUDENT GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE, please contact the church office with this information by March 1.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS!!! If you had heat, stayed dry, and had food to eat during this past winter storm, count your blessings! Now, share with

your brothers & sisters by hanging extra blankets, sweaters, gloves, earmuffs, and scarves on our blessing fence. Large bags, black sharpies, and clothespins are still in the fellowship hall. Place self-opening cans of food in our blessing box. Please continue to donate to the McArn Food Bank. Thank you - *Missions/Evangelism*.

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS: Memorials & Honorariums will be listed in the bulletin going forward. This was our standard at FUMC for many years. If you do not wish for your memorial or honorarium to be published in our weekly bulletin, please let the church office know or contact Jackson Stone when you submit it to the church office. If we do not hear from you concerning a memorial or honorarium, we will assume that it can be printed in the bulletin. Thank you in advance for working with us.

THE MUSIC DURING THE SEASON OF LENT reflects the penitential spirit of these forty days of preparation for Easter. Throughout Lent, the selections highlight the life and teachings of Jesus, gradually focusing on His crucifixion as Holy Week approaches. We pray this music inspires you to draw closer to Christ on His symbolic journey to the cross. In keeping with the penitential nature of the season, there will be no postludes during Lent. The Choral Benediction will end our service each week, providing time for personal reflection and prayer.

EASTER LILIES: The Worship Committee has voted unanimously to invite the congregation, choir, staff, and visitors to help adorn the altar on Easter Sunday morning by purchasing an Easter lily to be placed in the chancel. The cost is \$20 each. Inside the bulletin, you will find an order form with instructions. Please note that all orders must be placed by March 8, 2026. Thank you so much for your willingness in this endeavor and the Worship Committee is exceedingly grateful for your help in adorning our beautiful church on this “HOPE RISES” morning!

MEN’S BREAKFAST: March 8, 2026 at 8:30am.

GRIEFSHARE: GriefShare starts back March 4, 2026 at 10:30.

ABBA’S HOUSE: We will be serving at ABBA’S House March 2. We still need individuals to sign up to prepare lasagnas and help prepare plates on this date.

SUNDAY February 22

9:15am.....Choir Rehearsal
10:00am.....Sunday School
11:00am.....Worship
5:30pm-7:00pm.....Fireflies & Youth

MONDAY February 23

9:00am-1:30pm.....Church office open

TUESDAY February 24

9:00am-1:30pm.....Church office open
10:30am-12:00pm.....Planning
12:00pm.....**Bulletin Deadline**

WEDNESDAY February 25

9:00am-1:30pm.....Church office open
5:30pm-6:15pm.....Handbell Rehearsal
6:30pm-8:00pm.....Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY March 1

9:15am.....Choir Rehearsal
10:00am.....Sunday School
11:00am.....Worship
5:30pm-7:00pm.....Fireflies & Youth

IN MEMORY OF SHANNON JOHNSON

YOUTH

by Gus & Pam Holbrook

IN MEMORY OF JACK VAN DEMAN

GENERAL OPERATING

by Scott & Gini Eddins

MEMORIALS

by Chuck & Jackie Paterno

by Joyce & Jill Gurich

by David & Jean McLean

by Dennis & Jane Hurt

by Jim & Marianne Crawford

MUSIC

by Jackson Stone

IN MEMORY OF SHEP STRAUGHN

GENERAL OPERATING

by Scott & Gini Eddins

MEMORIALS

by David & Jean McLean

TITHE NEEDED WEEKLY.....	\$5,928.83
CONTRIBUTIONS FEB 15.....	\$2,597.00
SUNDAY SCHOOL FEB 15.....	34
WORSHIP FEB 15.....	64
LITURGIST	Zenda Rushing
LITURGIST MAR 1.....	Thomas Samuel
GREETER.....	Jean & Manuel Assef
GREETER MAR 1.....	Pat Barham
HEAD USHER FEB.....	Keith Smith
ALTAR GUILD FEB.....	Cindy Sanderson/Jackson Stone
ACOLYTE FEB.....	Carley Watson
NURSERY.....	Christy Ruffner
NURSERY MAR 1.....	Lesley Jean Watson
MCARN FOOD BANK.....	Spaghetti Noodles
ADDRESS.....	117 Third St, Cheraw SC, 29520
OFFICE PHONE.....	(843) 537-7002

Minister | Rev. Joseph Kovas (803.374.1677; Jdkovas@umcsc.org)

Administrative Assistant | Shelby Nolan (854.537.7002; fumcadassistant1@gmail.com)

Director of Music/Organist | Jackson Stone (845.506.4312; jacjstone14@gmail.com)