



# First United Methodist Church

MARCH 15, 2026 | 11:00 AM

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

*The Church with a Heart in the Heart of Cheraw*

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT – PURPLE

MARCH 15, 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.

Please follow the order of worship carefully.

(†) The choir will lead us in standing.

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## PRELUDE

I Need Thee Every Hour

Jason Payne

## CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

## INTROIT

When I Survey

ROCKINGHAM

*See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flowed mingled down. Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown.*

## WELCOME

Sue Skipper

## MUSIC MOMENT

Jackson Stone

## †HYMN 128

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought

HE LEADETH ME

## 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

Sue Skipper

### 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. 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 137 – PSALM 23 R 1

Sue Skipper

*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

Rev. Kovas

## †HYMN 474

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

PRECIOUS LORD

## OFFERTORY

Lord, Your Summons Echo

Scottish Trad. Melody

## †DOXOLOGY

OLD 100<sup>th</sup>

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

And No Bird Sang

Douglas Wagner

*Calm was the wind and dark was the sky, when our Lord came to die; Lone, on the cross for our sins He did hang, and no bird sang. Women and children with anguish and fear, then to His cross drew near, drew near; Hushed then to feel the bitter, bitter pang, and no bird sang. Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Lord have mercy, God's will be done, eleison. No bird sang in the sky, when Christ did come to die.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 16: 1-13

Rev. Kovas

## SERMON

### GOD LOOKS ON THE HEART

Rev. Kovas

## †HYMN TFWS 2130

The Summons

KELVINGROVE

## †DISMISSAL & PRAYER

Rev. Kovas

## †CHORAL BENEDICTION

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 Ed-dins MMO Child*), Nadia Harris, Gailya Wilson, John Trussell, James Thurman (*Angie Smith's dad*), Gayle Davis, Sandra Laney (*Sara Lee's Sister-in-law*), Wendy Sullivan Thomas (*Mickey & Gwen Sullivan's Daughter*), Edna Mills (*Joey Mills' mother*), the family of Curtis Jones, and the family of Vernice Steele (*David McLean's sister*).

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 doubters, the worriers, the depressed, and those riddled with anxiety. Remember those who are grieving the loss of a friend or loved one. Remember the young and aged who struggle with chronic mental illnesses. Remember the other nations of the world. Remember those who serve in our military and defend our great nation. Remember our president, congress, governors, mayors, state & local employees, healthcare 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 those who support them. During 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, those who are scorned, and those who are simply misunderstood or different from the rest. 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 His great redeeming love once more. Remember those who are no longer involved in or with a church. Remember each ministry of our church and all churches that they may seek to glorify and honor God. 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**

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE SEASON OF LENT** is a solemn time in the Christian liturgical calendar, reflecting the 40 days Jesus fasted in the wilderness before beginning His public ministry (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). It is a season of spiritual preparation, inviting believers to draw closer to God through repentance, prayer, fasting, and acts of charity as they prepare for Easter. Purple paraments adorn the church, and a purple sash is placed on the cross outside. Purple symbolizes royalty, penitence, repentance, and solemnity.

**NEW MEMBERS INTEREST CLASS:** If you are interested in joining the FUMC church family, you are invited to join this class. This class meets during the Sunday School hour this Sunday (3/15) in the Parlor at 10:00am. We are looking forward to receiving new members!

**SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES CLASS:** Pastor Joseph will lead a spiritual disciplines class this Lenten 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.

**LENTEN LUNCHESES:** Come join us this Lent for community Lenten Lunches! **First Baptist Church** will host **March 18**. **First UMC** will host **March 25 and April 1; all at 12:00pm**.

**THE MCARN FOOD BANK** is 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 #5:** *Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.* (This rule and the rest can be found in your United Methodist Hymnal p. vii)

**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 fo-

cusing 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.

**JOY CLUB (JUST OLDER YOUTH)** will meet Thursday, March 19 at 12:00pm. Lunch is \$12.00/person. **Please call or text Gini Eddins (843-910-4745) to let her know by March 13 if you are attending and if you are coming at 9:30am to play Hand & Foot cards.**

**GRIEFSHARE** is the world's most trusted grief recovery program. Our church has offered this program to our community consistently since 2017. It provides comfort, relief, and stability for those walking through grief. There is no charge for participant materials, as our church has always provided. Currently this funding comes from Memorial funds. GriefShare starts again Wednesday, March 4, at 10:30am. All are welcome. *Bonnie Cundiff, Facilitator*

**ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY!:** This year, you have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend the 250th celebration of America through music. The AC250 Community Choir of Cheraw and the surrounding counties will present a musical program celebrating America's history at FUMC on April 19, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. This special event is proudly sponsored by the Cheraw Arts Commission. Please mark your calendars and invite your friends and family as we come together to fill our church with music and celebration. The program will feature instrumental selections, choral works, congregational songs, and more! You won't want to miss this memorable event!

**HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES:** FUMC has an array of special services upcoming that you are cordially invited to attend.

+ **Maundy Thursday** is April 2, 2026, at 6:00pm in our sanctuary.

+ On **Good Friday**, FUMC has been invited by First Presbyterian Church to join them for their noon service at 12:00pm (April 3, 2026). There will not be a Good Friday service at FUMC. Please attend the FPC service.

+ **Easter Sunrise** will take place on the front steps of FUMC at 6:45am on April 5, 2026.

+ **Easter Sanctuary Service** will take place at 11:00am on Easter Sunday (April 5, 2026). Please make plans to attend this special service! The church will be beautifully adorned with lilies.

## IN MEMORY OF CURTIS JONES

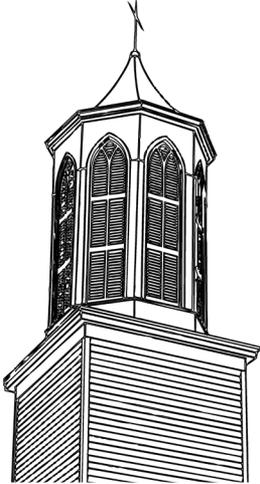
BEREAVEMENT .....

*by David & Jean McLean*

## IN MEMORY OF SHEP STRAUGHN

MEMORIALS .....

*by Kay Van Deman*



## SUNDAY March 15

9:15am.....Choir

10:00am...New Members Class (Parlor)

10:00am.....Sunday School

11:00am.....Worship

5:30pm-7:00pm.....Fireflies & Youth

## MONDAY March 16

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

10:00am.....Spiritual Discipline

## TUESDAY March 17

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

10:30am-12:00pm.....Planning

12:00pm.....Bulletin Deadline

## WEDNESDAY March 18

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

12:00pm.....Lenten Lunch at FBC

5:30pm-6:15pm.....Handbells

6:00pm.....Spiritual Discipline

6:30pm-8:00pm.....Choir

## THURSDAY March 19

12:00pm.....Joy Club

## SUNDAY March 22

9:15am.....Choir

10:00am.....Sunday School

11:00am.....Worship

5:30pm-7:00pm.....Fireflies & Youth

TITHE NEEDED WEEKLY.....	<b>\$5,928.83</b>
CONTRIBUTIONS MAR 8.....	<b>\$2,750.00</b>
SUNDAY SCHOOL MAR 8.....	<b>34</b>
WORSHIP MAR 8.....	<b>70</b>
LITURGIST.....	<b>Sue Skipper</b>
LITURGIST MAR 22.....	<b>Jimmie Williamson</b>
GREETER.....	<b>Zenda Rushing</b>
GREETER MAR 22.....	<b>Jim &amp; Marianne Crawford</b>
HEAD USHER MAR.....	<b>David McLean</b>
ALTAR GUILD MAR.....	<b>Pat Barham &amp; Erika Kollitz</b>
ACOLYTE MAR.....	<b>Norma Cobb</b>
NURSERY.....	<b>Dawn Leach</b>
NURSERY MAR 22.....	<b>Kelly Dusa/Christy Ruffner</b>
MCARN FOOD BANK.....	<b>Grits</b>
ADDRESS.....	<b>117 Third St, Cheraw SC, 29520</b>

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

**Administrative Assistant** | Shelby Nolan (843.537.7002; fumcadassistant1@gmail.com)

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