



First United Methodist Church

MARCH 1, 2026 | 11:00 AM

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

The Church with a Heart in the Heart of Cheraw

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – PURPLE

MARCH 1, 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 as our worship service proceeds unannounced.

A cross (†) denotes the congregation to stand when the choir stands.

PRELUDE

Let Us Break Bread Together
Gifts of Finest Wheat

African American Spiritual
Robert Kreutz

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

INTROIT

Have You Been to Calvary?

MCKINNEY

Have you been to the cross where the Lord Jesus suffered? Have you been to Calvary? Have you been to the place of redemption for sinners? Have you been to Calvary? It was there on Calvary, God's dear Son lay down His life for you; While there's time, don't delay: Place you faith in Christ Jesus. Turn you eyes now to Calvary.

WELCOME

Barbara Dickson

†HYMN 359 *congregation & choir stand together*

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed

HUDSON

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

Barbara Dickson

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 844 – PSALM 121 R 2

Barbara Dickson

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

†HYMN INSERT *congregation & choir stand together*

Have You Been to Calvary?

MCKINNEY

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

What Wondrous Love is This

Lloyd Larson

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul; what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul! When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down; When I was sinking down, sinking down; when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside His crown for my soul! To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing! To God and to the Lamb, who is the great "I AM," while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing! When from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I'll sing on!

†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.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 12: 1-5 *congregation is seated*

Rev. Kovas

SERMON

BE A BLESSING

Rev. Kovas

HOLY COMMUNION

(UMH 12–13; 17–18)

†HYMN 454 *congregation & choir stand together*

Open My Eyes, That I May See

OPEN MY EYES

†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, Sandra Laney (*Sara Lee's Sister-in-law*), the family of Jack Van Deman, the family of Shep Straughn, Wendy Sullivan Thomas (*Mickie & Gwen Sullivan's Daughter*), Edna Mills (*Joey Mills' mother*), Tom Smith (*Cameron Hurst's grandfather*), and Woody Blue (*Shelby Nolan's nephew*).

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

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.

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.

LENTEN LUNCHESES: Come join us this Lent for community Lenten Lunches between Wednesday, March 11, 2026 to Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 12:00pm. **First Baptist Church** will host the first two services: **March 11 and March 18**. **First UMC** will host **March 25 and April 1**.

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 #4: *Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung the songs of Satan.* (This rule and the rest can be found in your United Methodist Hymnal pg. vii)

KNOW A STUDENT GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE? Please contact the church office with this information by March 1.

ABBA'S HOUSE: If you signed up to pick up frozen lasagna, they are in the fellowship hall. Please have the baked lasagnas returned to by 3:30pm tomorrow at either ABBA'S House or here at the church. Thank you!

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.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING: March 3, 2026 at 6:00pm in the Parlor.

GRIEFSHARE: 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

STEWARDSHIP: Stewardship is a personal responsibility and prayerful commitment that each and every Christian makes in order to serve the church.

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 COMMUNION TODAY: After the liturgy in preparation for Communion, the congregation will be invited forward at the direction of Rev. Kovas. Ushers will guide you down either side aisle to the chancel rail, where you may kneel as the communion stewards offer you the bread and a cup. This is a sacred time for prayer and repentance: “*Cast your burdens upon the Lord, and He will sustain you.*” After a brief departing blessing from Rev. Kovas, you may return to your pew.

SPRING FORWARD: Turn your clocks up one hour March 8th.

THE CHURCH HERALD

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news.” Mark 1:15

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent in the church calendar. The season and tradition of Lent dates back to the first generation of Christians who desired to set aside a season to remember Jesus’ 40 day temptation journey in wilderness and to also prepare for the celebration of Easter. Lent is the season where the Christian is called to practice self-examination and self-denial. With self-denial comes a period of fasting.

Fasting is one of the practices Christians have used in Lent to help them examine their lives in relationship to Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection. When one thinks of fasting, they may think about fasting from food. Fasting from foods may be the way one Christian is called to live in Lent. However, fasting may also mean refraining from certain things in our lives that keep us from loving God fully. This may mean fasting from the countless hours we spend on the internet, social media, or watching tv. I used to think fasting was all about giving up something in the Lenten season. This perspective changed when I heard a sermon from United Methodist pastor, Rev. Ray Smith, who taught me and his congregation that Lent is also a time to pick up practices to help you grow closer to God. This may mean adding a time in your day to read scripture, taking an hour per day to go outside, if possible, to observe God’s creation, or spending time in silence and meditation. Both fasting and adding a new practice can also work together. By fasting, we release our hands from unproductive and unhealthy practices to also receiving the blessings of growing in our discipleship with Jesus.

How is God calling you to fast in this season? What are the daily practices you are being called to surrender and the very things you may be called to pick up?

If you would like learn practices to use this Lent, you are invited to come to our Spiritual Disciplines class on Monday’s at 10:00am and Wednesday at 6:00pm in the parlor.

May you all have a Holy Lent,

Rev. Joseph D. Kovas



FUMC

Birthday

CELEBRATION!

Celebrating ALL Birthdays!

*Fun &
Fellowship*



*Birthday
Treats*

*Bring
Home made
Ice Cream*



March 29 • Palm Sunday

STARTS AT 3:30

Join Us as We Celebrate YOU!



BE LUCKY

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

MARCH 17, 2026

Have You Been to Calvary?

(SATB)

Words and Music by
RICHARD D. BAKER

SA 5

1. Have you been to the cross where the Lord Je - sus suf - fered? Have you been to
2. You can search, you can buy and try ev - 'ry thing man-made, but it can - not
3. While the Spir - it's clear voice can be heard soft - ly plead - ing, give your life to

TB

9

Cal - va - ry? — Have you been to the place of re - demp - tion for -
sat - is - fy: — It is Christ, on - ly Christ, who gives life more a -
Je - sus now: — Trust - ing faith is the way to have life ev - er -

13 CHORUS 17

sin - ners? Have you been to Cal - va - ry? —
bun - dant, And He calls from Cal - va - ry. — It was there on Cal - va - ry, —
last - ing, And He calls from Cal - va - ry. —

21 25

— God's dear Son lay down His life_ for you; While there's time, don't de - lay:

29

Place your faith in Christ Je - sus. Turn your eyes now to Cal - va - ry. —



March

birthdays & anniversaries

3/2 JAKE CROUSE

3/3 NOAH WILLIAMS

3/4 TRINA MILLS

3/11 BRANDON KING

3/12 LEE SHUTT

3/20 MABEL FOSTER

3/21 PAUL MILES

3/24 LIBBY SHUTT

3/24 LAURA ADAMS MCGRUFF

3/26 JACKSON RUSHING

3/26 JOSHUA KING

3/26 GABRIEL WATSON

3/27 KATHRYN HURST

3/30 SANDRA BARBOUR

3/17 M&M RON CUNDIFF

3/18 M&M VINCENT PREVATTE

3/21 M&M DOUG CARABO

3/27 M&M JIMMY OUTEN



**WE'RE ALL
A LITTLE
IRISH
TODAY**



FUMC Financial Report

February 22, 2026

Line Items	Budget 2025	Treasurer's Report 2025	Budget 2026
Income	\$279,775	\$322,424	\$300,804
Expenses	\$327,801	\$310,504	\$323,213
• Church Admin	\$17,700	\$11,540	\$15,050
• Trustees	\$107,106	\$112,637	\$104,106
• Council on Ministries	\$14,750	\$12,202	\$15,700

Ministries			
● Finance	\$500	\$111	\$500
● Staff Parish	\$137,300	\$143,369	\$141,177
● Conf Expenses	\$26,225	\$6,441	\$21,560
● Employee Benefits	\$24,220	\$24,204	\$25,120

*Budget is the projected income and expenses for the year

*Treasurer's Report is the actual income and expenses for 2025

*Only 25% of our apportionment was paid

*2026 Budget Income includes a \$12,000 contribution from the endowment fund.

IN MEMORY OF JACK VAN DEMAN

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

by David & Judy Dixon

MEMORIALS

by Glen & Emily Marsh

by Debbie Elmore

by Nancy Wagnon

BEREAVEMENT

by Martha Starling

ENDOWMENT

by Rhett & Marcia Butler

IN MEMORY OF SHANNON JOHNSON

YOUTH

by Barbara Dickson

IN MEMORY OF SHEP STRAUGHN

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

by David & Judy Dixon

GENERAL OPERATING

by Keith & Sally Smith

BEREAVEMENT

by Martha Starling

ENDOWMENT

by Rhett & Marcia Butler

SUNDAY *March 1*

9:15am.....Choir

10:00am.....Sunday School

11:00am.....Worship

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

MONDAY *March 2*

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

10:00am.....Spiritual Discipline

3:30pm.....ABBA'S House

TUESDAY *March 3*

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

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

12:00pm.....Bulletin Deadline

6:00pm.....Worship Committee

WEDNESDAY *March 4*

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

10:30am.....GriefShare

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

6:00pm.....Spiritual Discipline

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

SUNDAY *March 8*

8:30am.....Men's Breakfast

9:15am.....Choir

10:00am.....Sunday School

11:00am.....Worship

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

TITHE NEEDED WEEKLY.....**\$5,928.83**

CONTRIBUTIONS FEB 22.....**\$4,264.00**

SUNDAY SCHOOL FEB 22.....**33**

WORSHIP FEB 22.....**72**

LITURGIST.....**Barbara Dickson**

LITURGIST MAR 8.....**Gregory Sanderson**

GREETER.....**Pat Barham**

GREETER MAR 8.....**Rhett & Marcia Butler**

HEAD USHER MAR.....**David McLean**

ALTAR GUILD MAR.....**Pat Barham/Erika Kollitz**

ACOLYTE MAR.....**Norma Cobb**

NURSERY.....**Christy Ruffner**

NURSERY MAR 8.....**Lesley Jean Watson**

MCARN FOOD BANK.....**Dried Beans**

ADDRESS.....**117 Third St, Cheraw SC, 29520**

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

Administrative Assistant | Shelby Nolan (843.537.7002; fumeadassistant1@gmail.com)

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