



First United Methodist Church

MARCH 22, 2026 | 11:00 AM

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

The Church with a Heart in the Heart of Cheraw

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT – PURPLE

MARCH 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.
Please follow the order of worship carefully.
(†) Denotes all to rise in body or spirit.

PRELUDE

Preludes for Lent: #5

Alice Steadman

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

INTROIT

To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord KINGSFOLD
To mock your reign, O dearest Lord, they made a crown of thorns; set you with taunts along that road from which no one returns. They could not know, as we do now, how glorious is that crown; that thorns would flower upon your brow, your sorrows heal our own.

WELCOME

Kathryn Hurst

†HYMN 159

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

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

Kathryn Hurst

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 848 – PSALM 130 R

Kathryn Hurst

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 301

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

KEEP ME NEAR

OFFERTORY

Zephyr

Andy Zhan

Andy Zhan is a contemporary composer who has recently composed a wonderful piano collection of pieces based on his encounter with God as a new believer. His writing aims to capture the “very mysterious but supremely divine” manifestations of God in his life.

†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

When I Survey

Gilbert Martin

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died. My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God! All the vain things that charm me most: I sacrifice them to His blood. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown? Were the whole realm of nature mine that were a present far too small; Love, so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen!

SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 31: 1-14

Rev. Kovas

SERMON

THE TREE OF SALVATION

Rev. Kovas

†HYMN 504

The Old Rugged Cross

OLD RUGGED CROSS

†DISMISSAL & PRAYER

Rev. Kovas

†CHORAL BENEDICTION

Jesus, Remember Me

Taize Melody

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

This will be sung a capella three times, each time adding in another section of the choir.

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*), Wendy Sullivan Thomas (*Mickey & Gwen Sullivan's Daughter*), Edna Mills (*Joey Mills' mother*), the family of Vernice Steele (*David McLean's sister*), Debbie Elmore, Patti Rollins, Shelby Nolan (*on the loss of her beloved fur-baby, Missy*), and Mae Winstead (*Amy Eschenfelder's friend*).

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 those who struggle with mobility impediments. 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 spring months, remember those who are severely affected with the changing season as pollen is released into the air. Remember our farmers who begin their work in the fields after the cold. Remember those who struggle with change. Remember the oppressed and marginalized, those without food and water, those who are scorned, and those who are misunderstood or different from the rest. Remember those who continuously receive bad news. 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:

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 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 UMC** will host *March 25 and April 1; all at 12:00pm.*

JOHN WESLEY'S DIRECTIONS FOR SINGING, RULE #6:

Sing in time. Whatever time is sung be sure to keep with it. Do not run before nor stay behind it; but attend close to the leading voices, and move therewith as exactly as you can; and take care not to sing too slow. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from us, and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first. (This rule and the rest can be found in your United Methodist Hymnal pg. vii)

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 meets each Wednesday at 10:30am in the Parlor.

All are welcome. *Bonnie Cundiff & Amy Eschenfelder, Facilitators*

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.

FROM MISSIONS & EVANGELISM:

Birthday celebration! Please support our youth in celebrating everyone's birthday on Palm Sunday at 3:30pm in our fellowship hall. You will sit at your birthday table and enjoy dessert and fellowship with other Methodists. Bring a churn of homemade ice-cream if you wish.

ABBA'S House will celebrate Resurrection Monday on Monday, April 6. This is the dinner that all participating churches help in serving to those in need. FUMC is responsible for green beans. Please donate #10 size cans of green beans for this community outreach. We need people to help prepare the beans around 1:00pm on Monday, April 6. Thank you!

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS:

- March 22 - Regular meeting; Youth Sunday rehearsal
- March 29 - Palm Sunday; children's processional with palms;
3:30pm egg hunt; church-wide birthday event;
5:30pm youth will eat out
- April 5 - EASTER (no meeting)
- April 12 - Regular meeting; rehearsal for Youth Sunday
- April 18 (Sat.) - 10:00am-12:00pm Youth Sunday rehearsal
- April 19 - Youth Sunday; youth are asked to meet at 10:00am
- April 26 - Regular meeting
- May 3 - Regular meeting
- May 10 - Mother's Day (no meeting)
- May 17 - Last regular meeting

IN MEMORY OF CURTIS JONES

GENERAL FUND

by Scott & Gini Eddins

ENDOWMENT

by Rhett & Marcia Butler

BEREAVEMENT

by Lynn Tweed

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

by David & Judy Dixon

IN MEMORY OF TOM SMITH

GENERAL FUND

by Scott & Gini Eddins

IN MEMORY OF VERNICE STEELE

GENERAL FUND

by Scott & Gini Eddins

IN MEMORY OF SHANNON JOHNSON

YOUTH

by Chase & Lesley Jean Watson



SUNDAY *March 22*

9:15am.....Choir

10:00am.....Sunday School

11:00am.....Worship

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

MONDAY *March 23*

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

10:00am.....Spiritual Discipline

TUESDAY *March 24*

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

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

12:00pm.....Bulletin Deadline

WEDNESDAY *March 25*

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

10:30am.....GriefShare (parlor)

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

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

6:00pm.....Spiritual Discipline

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

SUNDAY *March 29 Palm Sunday*

9:15am.....Choir

10:00am.....Sunday School

10:00am.....Youth call-time (sanctuary)

11:00am.....Worship

3:30pm.....Birthday Event; Egg Hunt

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

TITHE NEEDED WEEKLY.....	\$5,928.83
CONTRIBUTIONS MAR 15.....	\$1,985.00
SUNDAY SCHOOL MAR 15.....	36
WORSHIP MAR 15.....	72
LITURGIST.....	Kathryn Hurst
LITURGIST MAR 29.....	Jimmie Williamson
GREETER.....	Jim & Marianne Crawford
GREETER MAR 29.....	Ray Crouse
HEAD USHER MAR.....	David McLean
ALTAR GUILD MAR.....	Pat Barham & Erika Kollitz
ACOLYTE MAR.....	Norma Cobb
NURSERY.....	Kelly Dusa/Christy Ruffner
NURSERY MAR 29.....	Michelle Rohde
MCARN FOOD BANK.....	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; fumcadassistant1@gmail.com)

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