



First United Methodist Church

MARCH 8, 2026 | 11:00 AM

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

The Church with a Heart in the Heart of Cheraw

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT – PURPLE

MARCH 8, 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.
A cross (†) signifies all to stand.

PRELUDE

I Need Thee Every Hour
Great is Thy Faithfulness

Jason Payne
Dan Miller

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

INTROIT

When Morning Guilds the Skies LAUDES DOMINI
When morning guilds the skies my heart awaking cries: May Jesus Christ be praised! Alike at work and prayer, to Jesus I repair: May Jesus Christ be praised!

WELCOME

Gregory Sanderson

†HYMN 298

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross HAMBURG

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

The Apostles' Creed

Gregory Sanderson

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 814 – PSALM 95 R 1

Gregory Sanderson

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 472

Near to the Heart of God

MCAFEE

OFFERTORY

Ten Thousand Angels

Fred Bock

†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

What Shall I Render

Allen Pote

What shall I render to my God for all the good things the Lord has done for me? I will lift up the voice of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God's people. What shall I render to my God for all the good things the Lord has done for me? I will offer my song of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones. O Lord, I am your servant, I am your servant, the child of your handmaid. You have loosed my bonds and set me free, I am your servant, I am your servant. What shall I render to my God for all the good things the Lord has done for me? I will offer my song of thanksgiving, and I will call on the name, call on the name, call on the name of the Lord, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, praise the Lord!

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 17: 1-7

Rev. Kovas

SERMON

THE LIVING WATER

Rev. Kovas

†HYMN 297

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ST. CHRISTOPHER

†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*), the family of Shep Straughn, Wendy Sullivan Thomas (*Mickey & Gwen Sullivan's Daughter*), Edna Mills (*Joey Mills' mother*), Tom Smith (*Cameron Hurst's grandfather*), Woody Blue (*Shelby Nolan's nephew*), and the family of Curtis Jones.

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 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 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**.

THE UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH will meet at 3:00pm Tuesday afternoon, March 10, in our fellowship hall. All Methodist women are invited to join us for this special time.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who baked lasagna, helped serve, and helped those in need this past Monday at ABBA'S House.

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 pg. 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 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.

JOY CLUB (JUST OLDER YOUTH) will be Thursday, March 19. Please call or text Gini Eddins (843-910-4745) to let her know you are going to attend and if you are coming at 9:30am to play Hand & Foot.

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 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 and the service will be wonderful.

IN MEMORY OF JACK VAN DEMAN

MEMORIALS
by Doug & Susan Marsh
by John & Nancy Wagnon

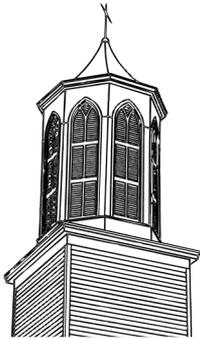
BEREAVEMENT
by Lynn Tweed

IN MEMORY OF SARAH POTAPOVA

BEREAVEMENT
by Lynn Tweed

IN MEMORY OF SHEP STRAUGHN

MEMORIALS
by Jim & Marianne Crawford
by Doug & Susan Marsh



SUNDAY March 8

8:30am.....Men’s Breakfast
9:15am.....Choir
10:00am.....Sunday School
11:00am.....Worship
11:00am.....Easter Lily Order Due
5:30pm–7:00pm.....Fireflies & Youth

MONDAY March 9

9:00am–1:30pm.....Church open
10:00am.....Spiritual Discipline

TUESDAY March 10

9:00am–1:30pm.....Church open
10:30am–12:00pm.....Planning
12:00pm.....Bulletin Deadline
3:00pm.....United Women in Faith

WEDNESDAY March 11

9:00am–1:30pm.....Church open
10:30am.....GriefShare
12:00am.....Lenten Lunch at FBC
5:30pm–6:15pm.....Handbells
6:00pm.....Spiritual Discipline
6:30pm–8:00pm.....Choir

SUNDAY March 15

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

TITHE NEEDED WEEKLY.....	\$5,928.83
CONTRIBUTIONS MAR 1.....	\$5,790.00
SUNDAY SCHOOL MAR 1.....	31
WORSHIP MAR 1.....	60
LITURGIST.....	Gregory Sanderson
LITURGIST MAR 15.....	Sue Skipper
GREETER.....	Rhett & Marcia Butler
GREETER MAR 15.....	Norma Cobb
HEAD USHER MAR.....	David McLean
ALTAR GUILD MAR.....	Pat Barham & Erika Kollitz
ACOLYTE MAR.....	Norma Cobb
NURSERY.....	Lesley Jean Watson
NURSERY MAR 15.....	Dawn Leach
MCARN FOOD BANK.....	Vienna Sausage
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)