

# We Gather to Worship God

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah; God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in an everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Like Sarah and Abraham who receive new names as a sign of the covenant, we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING VOLUNTARY John J. Hilfiger  
*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*  
 First UMC Chamber Orchestra

## \* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

\* THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 100 Lauda Anima  
*God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us*

## \* OPENING DIALOGUE

*Hear and believe the good news: God has called us "my people"!*

**God has set up a covenant, over and over again,  
 choosing us even before we can choose,  
 faithful even when we are faltering.**

*In the flood, in the wilderness, in exile;  
 in certainty and doubt, abundance and scarcity;  
 God's promise is true to the thousandth generation.*

**We see the rainbow, we hear our names, we learn the commandments,  
 we look up for our help, we know in our hearts:  
 we love because God first loved us,  
 we follow because God first came to us,  
 we can be faithful because God is faithful.**

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON  
*Let us confess our sin before God.*

*Out of the depths I cry to you: O Lord God, hear me calling. Incline your ear to my distress in spite of my rebelling. Do not regard my sinful deeds. Send me the grace my spirit needs. Without it I am nothing. Amen.*

*In God alone, in God we hope, and not in our merit. We hope as Israel in the Lord, who sends redemption through the Word. Amen.*

\* RESPONSE No. 482 Kriewald Kyrie  
*Lord, Have Mercy*  
 Repeated phrases are sung first by leader and then by all  
*Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
 Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
 Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

\* THE PEACE  
*The peace of the Lord be with you all.  
 And also with you.*  
 \*All may exchange signs of peace.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM See insert  
 ANTHEM John Stallings  
*Love Grew*  
 Jack McCutcheon, soloist

## ~ WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD ~

THE FIRST LESSON Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 OT Pg.13

*When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.' This is the word of God for the people of God.*  
**Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND LESSON Romans 4:13-25 NT Pg. 155

*For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification. his is the word of God for the people of God.*  
**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM Be Thou My Vision Alice Parker

\* THE GOSPEL LESSON Mark 8:31-38 NT Pg. 44

*Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit*

*them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.' This is the word of God for the people of God.*

**Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS Rev. Kyle

*Called by Name*  
 Children ages three through first-grade may go to Children's Church in room 123.  
 Nurseries provided for infants through 3 years in rooms 118 & 120.

SERMON Rev. Kyle D. Randle

*Turning Points*

## ~ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ~

\* HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 2180 Morning Song  
*Why Stand So Far Away, My God?*

THE PASTORAL PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY Oh, How I Love Jesus Susan E. Geschke  
*Amazing Grace*  
 Voices in Bronze Charles Maggs

\* PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS Doxology No. 95

## ~ WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD ~

\* THE HYMN OF SENDING No. 415 Germany  
*Take Up Thy Cross*

\* BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

\* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

\* CLOSING VOLUNTARY Leon Boellmann  
*Toccata (from Suite Gothique)*

\* CONGREGATION STANDING

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God  
 and in memory of George H. Martin, Sr. for his birthday February 22;  
 and in memory of Benjamin Smith Land, Jr. for his birthday March 5  
 by Julia Land and Family.



**NOTES FOR WORSHIP**

Numbers by the hymns, Affirmation of Faith, and Doxology are from the United Methodist Hymnal and The Faith We Sing Hymnal (TFWS) found in the pew racks. Old Testament and New Testament scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version, located in the pew. Page numbers for the readings are listed in the order of worship.

**WELCOME TO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Newcomers and Guests**

Welcome! We are grateful that you have chosen to worship with us today. We hope that you will receive a blessing from the service. If you don't already have a church home, it is our hope that you will consider letting First Church fill that need.

All worshipers are asked to sign the Attendance Pad at the end of each pew and pass it along to your neighbors. Rev. Randle will contact you later in the week.

**We welcome children into our worship!**

Children are part of the family of God. They learn how to worship God by seeing other people worship. Children are welcome in the church to worship with their parents or caregivers. We understand that sometimes it is hard to be present in worship with young children. If you choose, we have a nursery for infants and toddlers.

The Nursery is located on the first floor of the Education Wing in Rm. 118. Our nursery is staffed with paid professionals and loving volunteers. Parents are asked to sign in their children and check out a pager, so that we may contact you should the need arise during worship. An usher will direct you to the nursery.

**Have a hard time hearing?**

If you can't hear the service, please let an usher know. We have hearing assist devices which will help even the most hard of hearing to participate in the service!

A restroom is located in the Narthex, the Parlor, and the first floor of the Education Wing. Baby Changing Stations are located in the Nursery, Rm. 118.

In the hustle and bustle of getting ourselves ready for church, it is easy to forget to turn off our cell phones. We offer this gentle reminder to please turn cell phones off so that the worship service is not disrupted by them.

**Serving This Sunday, February 25**

**Altar Guild:** Churchill Jenkins, Betty Smith, Bobby Stilley, Nancy Purvis  
**Acolytes and Crucifer:** Samuel Hickman, Anna Kate Nelson, Chad Steinfield  
**Counting Committee:** Sallie Goldfinch, Lynn Hammond  
**Trustee Duty:** John Sawyer, Cathy Senn  
**Bus Duty:** Jan Gawith  
**Children's Church:** William and Robin Hardwick  
**Sound Technicians:** Lee Hickman, Charles Hucks, Dave Carey  
**Ushers:** Phillip Thompson (Chairman), Jack Driggers, James Hammond, Jimmy Jones, Blake Martin, George Martin, Dick Sayre, Ernie Turnes, Duc Watts

**This Week at FUMC**

**Sunday, February 25**

9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
9:30 a.m. *Come to the Water* Baptism Study / Family Life Center (FLC)  
9:30 a.m. The Hut Bible Class / Broadcast WRNN 99.5 FM  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service / Sanctuary  
5:00 p.m. The Bridge Ministry / FLC  
5:00 p.m. UMYF / FLC

**Monday, February 26**

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing  
6:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting / FLC  
6:00 p.m. UMM Meeting / Fellowship Hall  
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts / FLC

**Tuesday, February 27**

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing  
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting / Room 213  
6:00 p.m. CA Meeting / FLC  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts / FLC  
8:00 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting / FLC Senior Room

**Wednesday, February 28**

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing  
12:00 p.m. Lenten Organ Meditation / Sanctuary  
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sandwich Fellowship / FLC  
3:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday Programs / FLC  
3:45 p.m. Children's Activities / FLC  
4:30 p.m. Chime Choir Rehearsal / Room 211  
4:30 p.m. Wesley Treble Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room 105  
5:10 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room 105  
5:10 p.m. Voices in Bronze Rehearsal / Room 211  
5:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening Meal / Fellowship Hall  
6:15 p.m. Carillon Choir Rehearsal / Room 205  
6:15 p.m. Ladies Study: *Voice of God* / Room 216  
6:15 p.m. *Becoming Disciples* / Room 217  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room 105  
7:00 p.m. Sonshine "Sunday" School Class / Commons

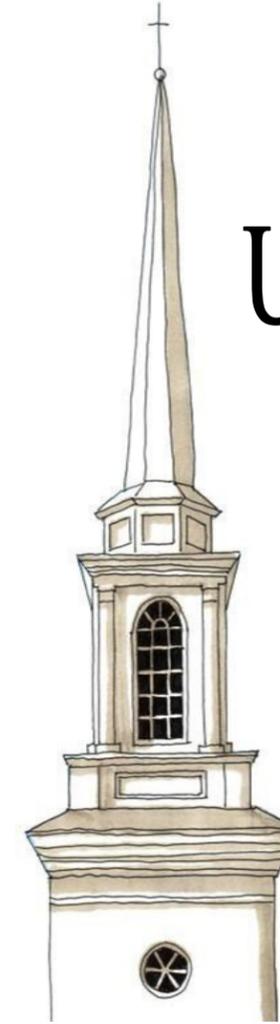
**Thursday, March 1**

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing  
12:00 p.m. Lenten Luncheon / Kingston Presbyterian  
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts / FLC

**Friday, March 2**

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing  
7:00 p.m. CA Meeting / FLC

UMYF & Bridge Spring Retreat March 2 through March 4  
at Epworth-By-The-Sea



# First United Methodist Church

1001 Fifth Avenue  
Conway, South Carolina 29526  
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[www.fumcconway.org](http://www.fumcconway.org)

Second Sunday in Lent  
February 25, 2018  
10:30 a.m.



## Welcome to First United Methodist Church

Out of a broken and sinful world, all people are welcomed into the body of Jesus Christ at First Church. As children of God, together we join in worship to experience the transforming love of our Savior.

We are here this morning to worship God. Through our songs, words of praise, prayers and scripture reading, we give honor and glory to God. Wondrous things happen as we worship. Lives are changed. The presence of God brings hope, comfort, healing, and joy. Let us worship in gladness. Jesus, the Lord of Life is with us.