

First Church at Worship

In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING VOLUNTARY J. S. Bach
Give Praise to Our God

INTROIT

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 2004 (TFWS) Hyfrydol
Praise the Source of Faith and Learning

* THE GREETING

Why have you come here?

We have come for the hope and wholeness we find in God.

But why have you come here?.

We have come because we are pilgrims, and Christ is found on the journey.

But why have you come here?

We have come because this place and these people offer the Spirit's sanctuary.

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH A Modern Affirmation

We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.

* THE GLORIA PATRI No. 70 Meineke

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Forgive us, O God, when your words and ways seem difficult. Soften us when we harden our views about you and about others into rigid opinions inflexible to the Spirit's movement. Refresh us when we parch ourselves and others dry with formulas instead of relationships, with offense taken instead of understanding granted. Remind us

through your Spirit that even when we stumble, you are there to renew our spirits, to enlighten our minds, to cast away that which deadens us and others, and to take on that which leads to life in Jesus Christ. We choose to follow Christ, not because we must but because we may. Amen.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

**All may exchange signs of peace.*

The passing of the peace is an invitation for the worshiping assembly to share the gift of Christ's peace with one another. Exchanging the peace after confession and pardon is a gesture of love and blessing. We invite you to turn to your neighbor and offer blessing by saying, "Peace be with you."

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

All students with their backpacks along with all teachers and other school personal are invited to come forward and kneel along the Chancel Rail for the Blessing.

Today, we have before us backpacks to be carried to and from school by the children and youth gathered here. These backpacks will contain work to be done, work that's been returned, books to be studied, tools to complete homework. Notebooks, pencils, pens, crayons, rules, scissors, glue sticks and other items used for school work will find their way in and out of these backpacks.

Some days, so much stuff will fill these backpacks that the student may find it difficult to walk. Other days, they will be light and nearly empty. But on each and every day, these backpacks represent work required of the students gathered here. And, as in every aspect of our life, we bring these before God for blessing at this time.

Let us pray: Gracious God, we lift to you today, these students. They stand here ready to receive your blessings and they commit themselves to study and learning in the school year ahead. We ask your blessing on each of them.

Further, we ask your blessing on these backpacks. They will hold the school work of each student and will be carried from home to school and back again. As these students carry these backpacks, may they be reminded of the love and care of this congregation that surrounds them each school day.

We pray as well for the teachers and administrators in our schools. May they also be sustained by your blessing. May they be reminded that this congregation embraces their call to teaching and learning and surrounds them with love and care as well. We pray in the name of Jesus whom we seek to follow day by day. Amen.

~ WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD ~

THE FIRST LESSON Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 OT Pgs. 215-216

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

PSALTER

Psalm 84: 1-2, 4-5

Amazing Grace

*How dear your dwelling place to me,
 O Lord of hosts, my king;
 My soul desires the courts of God
 Whose praise my heart will sing.*

*Happy are those who dwell with you
 And always sing your praise;
 Happy the ones you strengthen, Lord,
 With hearts set on your ways.*

THE SECOND LESSON Ephesians 6:10-20 NT. Pg. 195

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me

K. Lee Scott

* THE GOSPEL LESSON John 6:56-69 NT Pgs. 98-99

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS *Where Shall We Go?* Rev. Kyle

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 *Discerning Our Choices* Rev. Kyle D. Randle

~ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ~

* THE HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 352 Penitent
It's Me, It's Me, O Lord

OFFERTORY John Stanley

Voluntary V

* PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS Doxology No. 95

~ WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD ~

* THE HYMN OF SENDING No. 369 Assurance
Blessed Assurance

* BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY Paul Manz

Improvisations on CWM Rhondda

* CONGREGATION STANDING

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor and celebration of the Christian Marriage of Cole and Karishma Thompson.

The rose bud on the altar is in celebration of the birth of Andersen Michael Altman
 With proud parents Kent and Lindsey Altman and grandparents, Andy and Judy Hendrick.



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.

THINGS TO KNOW WHILE WORSHIPING AT FIRST UMC

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.

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.

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.

We wish to invite you to contact one of our staff members if you would like more information about FUMC:

- Kyle.Randle@fumconway.org (Pastor)
- Billy.Fallaw@fumconway.org (Dir. of Music)
- Tim.Whitten@fumconway.org (Dir. of Christian Ed.)
- Danny.Clonts@fumconway.org (Accountant)
- Office@fumconway.org (Ministry Asst.)

A full listing of the staff may be found in the Announcements inserted in the bulletin or online.

Serving This Sunday, August 23

Altar Guild: Dawne Clonts, Freda Jones, Suzanne Owen, Amelia Wood
Acolytes and Crucifer: Lila Myers, Jade Edwards, Erin Todd
Greeters: The Martin Family
Counting Committee: (Sunday) Hunter Jenkins, Kelly Cooper
(Monday) Maxine Dunn, Margaret Thompson, Nancy Stiltner
Trustee Duty : Dawne Clonts
Sound Technician: Lee Hickman, Charles Hucks
Children's Church: Libby Saville
Bus Duty: Jack McCutcheon
Ushers: Duc Watts (Chairman), Phillip Thompson (Co-Chairman) Jack Driggers, James Hammond, Jimmy Jones, Blake Martin, George Martin, Dick Sayre, Ernie Turnes.

This Week at FUMC

Sunday, August 23

8:30 a.m. Back to School Breakfast / Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Promotion Sunday / Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. The Hut Bible Class / Broadcast 100.9 FM
9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class Meeting / Parlor
10:30 a.m. Worship Service / Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Backyard Bible Study (youth) / FLC

Tuesday, August 25

6:00 p.m. Cocaine Anonymous Meeting (CA)/ FLC

Wednesday, August 26

9:00 a.m. Sandwich Wednesday / FLC

Friday, August 20

7:00 p.m. CA Meeting / FLC

Prayer Concerns

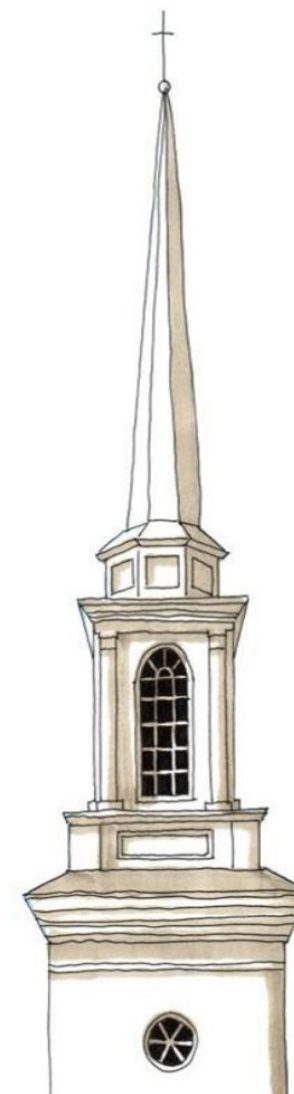
MUSC: McNealy Pate Fallaw

Assisted Living Facilities: Emeritus: Bobbie Davis; **Conway Manor:** Edith Lewis; **Comelius, NC:** Helen Wakefield; **Mt. Prospect, IL:** Faye Perrault,

At Home: Lindsey Altman, Myron and Maxine Dunn, Joann Ray, Joey Jones, Ken Senn, Richard Jordan, Sylvia Avant, Betty James, Betty Folks, Betty Jo Huggins, Mary T. Foxworth, Gwen Mishoe, Diana Rodwell, Tootsie Atkins, Tommy Jordan, Irene Calhoun, Ruth Thomas.



We encourage you to make use of our online giving option especially during the summer travel season. Please scan the QR code with any smart phone or iPhone to navigate to the secure ACS account for FUMC and make your donation. You may also visit the website at: www.fumconway.org and follow the "online giving" link to make a donation.



First United Methodist Church

1001 Fifth Avenue, Conway
South Carolina 29526
(843) 488-4251
www.fumconway.org

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2015
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.