

We Gather to Worship God

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom. Jesus points to signs of God's reign: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at this presence among us this day: in word, in church, in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING VOLUNTARY Johann Pachelbel
Now Let Us Come Before His Presence

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 202 Besançon
People, Look East

* CALL TO WORSHIP

*Our souls magnify the Lord,
 and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.
**God has looked with favor
 on the lowliness of God's servant.**
 God's mercy is for those who fear him
 from generation to generation.
**God has shown strength with God's arm.
 God has scattered the proud
 in the thoughts of their hearts.**
 God has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
 and lifted up the lowly;
**God has filled the hungry with good things,
 and sent the rich away empty.**
 Come, for God is doing a new thing!
Come, let us worship God!*

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 881
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 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 No. 70 Meineke

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
*God of all time, we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful
 reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the
 labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us
 wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure
 until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.*

*Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In the name of Jesus
 Christ, your are forgiven and all things are made new.*

***In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
 Let us rejoice in this good news!***

* 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."

~ WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD ~

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 35:1-10 OT Pg. 663

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

ACT OF PRAISE Lighting of the Advent Wreath
 Nancy, Jonas and Sara Randle
 Advent Carol No. 211 Veni Emmanuel
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
 stanza 1

Voice 1: *At the beginning there is a yearning
 for the one who is coming.
 O Emmanuel,
 Open us up to your coming.*

Voice 2: *We gather together to allow our deeply held hopes
 to be reshaped by God's promises.
 O Emmanuel,
 Open us up to your coming.*

Voice 1: *We wait for the day
 when God will make for us a future
 that is no longer predicated on our fear.
 O Emmanuel,
 Open us up to your coming.*

Voice 2: *We find new receptivity within us
 that desires God's will over our own will
 and relies on God's justice and mercy to accomplish it.
 O Emmanuel,
 Open us up to your coming.*

Voice 1: *Jesus, we welcome your presence now
 with the lighting of this candle,
 whose flame brings warmth to winter
 and fills this place with the glow of hope.
 Amen.*

Advent Carol No. 211 Veni Emmanuel
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
 stanza 4

THE SECOND LESSON James 5:7-10 NT Pg. 231

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

ANTHEM David Haas
Blest Are They

* THE GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 11:2-11 NT Pg.11

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS Rev. Kyle
Expecting
 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 Joy in the Desert Rev. Kyle Randle

~ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ~

* HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 218 Carol
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS No. 38

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY Andreas Vetter
All Glory Be to God on High

* PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS Doxology No. 95
 ~ WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD ~

* THE HYMN OF SENDING No. 246 Antioch
Joy to the World

* BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY Henry Purcell
Rondo

* CONGREGATION STANDING

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Benjamin J. Creel, Citadel Class of 1986 by Edgar C. (Clay) Godfrey IV, Citadel Class of 2016, Edgar C. Godfrey III and the Luke Barefoot 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, December 11

Altar Guild: Amy Lovell Jenkins, Sylvia Richardson, Paula Mytko, Libby McCutcheon, Lillian Sherry

Acolytes and Crucifer: Emily Thompkins, Nathan Nelson, Alston Tew

Counting Committee: (Sunday) Blake Hewitt and Jack McCutcheon
(Monday) Sallie Goldfinch, Sarah Staub

Trustee Duty: Dawne Clonts, Johnny Vaught

Children's Church: Anna Saville

Sound Technicians: Lee Hickman, Charles Hucks

Ushers: Jimmy Hammond (Chairman), Randy Bell, Kelly Cooper, Zach Dusenbury, Garvin Huggins, Hunter Jenkins, Morgan Martin, Charles Myers, Bert Owen, Tyler Thomas

This Week at FUMC

Sunday, December 11

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. The Hut Bible Class / Broadcast WRNN 99.5 FM
10:30 a.m. Worship Service / Sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Candlelight Advent Concert / The Hut Chapel
5:00 p.m. Children's Musical / FLC

Monday, December 12

12:00 p.m. Advent Luncheon / First UMC Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts / FLC

Tuesday, December 13

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Rooms 117 & 120
11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting / Room 213
6:00 p.m. CA Meeting / FLC
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts / FLC
7:30 p.m. UMW Executive Meeting / Parlor

Wednesday, December 14

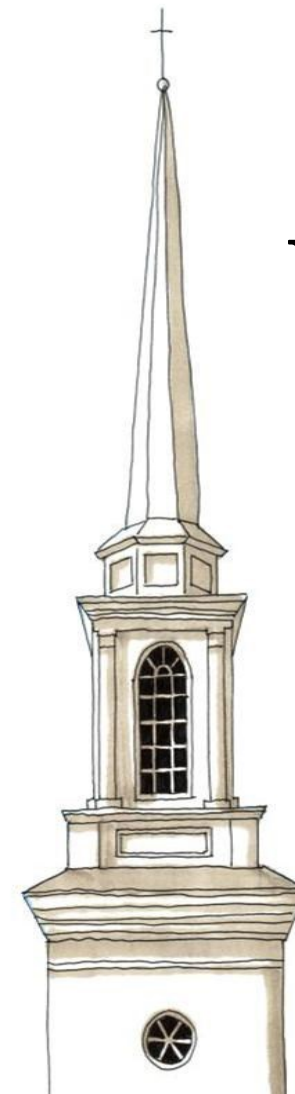
8:30 a.m. Preschool / Rooms 117 & 120
3:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday Programs / FLC
3:45 p.m. Children's Activities / FLC
5:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening Meal / Fellowship Hall
5:30 p.m. Fruit Basket Pick Up / Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study / Room. 216
6:15 p.m. Carillon Choir Rehearsal / Handbell Room 205
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Sonshine "Sunday" School Class / Commons

Thursday, December 15

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Rooms 117 & 120
12:00 p.m. McCutcheon SS Class Luncheon / The Bistro

Friday, December 16

7:00 p.m. CA Meeting / FLC



First United Methodist Church

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

Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2016
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.