

FIRST CHURCH AT WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Praise God the Lord* Johann Buttstedt

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* THE ADVENT PROCESSIONAL No. 211 *Veni Emmanuel*
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Sts. 1-4

* THE CALL TO WORSHIP

In a world of shadows,
we seek illumination.
As we wait in night,
we look for sunrise.
Surrounded by fear,
we hold fast to God's promise.
We wait with hope for Christ's return,
for the dawn of peace and justice.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

~ PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE ~

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.
³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God

THE ACT OF PRAISE

The Magnificat
Luke 1:46-55

St. Thomas

**My soul proclaims with joy
The greatness of the Lord;
My spirit will rejoice in him
My Savior and my God.**

**The Lord has favored me;
All ages will proclaim
That God has done great things for me,
And holy is his Name.**

**Of those who fear the Lord
His mercy will abide;
He showed the strength of his right arm;
The proud are scattered wide.**

**The mighty are cast down,
And lowly ones are raised;
He fills the hungry with good things
And sends the rich away.**

**He comes to us to keep
The promise made before
To Abraham and to his heirs
Of mercy evermore.**

THE SECOND LESSON

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.
The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Blest Are They

David Haas

* THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 11:2-11

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the

wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."
¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.
The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Reversals
*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.*

Rev. Kyle

SERMON

Here Is Your God!

Rev. Kyle Randle

* HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 202

People, Look East

Beaşon

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

No. 881

**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

Let us come before the living God in confession.
Silence is kept for reflection

As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,
**we open our hearts to you, O God.
Search us and know us.
Reveal all that we keep inside.
To you, O God, we confess our sins,
known and unknown.
Forgive us, renew us,
and lead us in your ways of justice and peace.
Make us reflections of the radiant love
of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Beloved children of the Most High,
you are gathered before the righteous judge who has mercy on all.
Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism,
where sin is washed away in the river of life.
Go forth boldly in the assurance that our sins are forgiven
in the name of the one who is coming and is already here,
Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

** All may exchange signs of peace.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

OFFERTORY *If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee* G. Bohm

The ushers will pass offering plates.

You may also give by texting "firstconway" to 73256

* PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS Doxology No. 95

~ WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD ~

* HYMN OF SENDING NO. 213 *Truro*

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Toccata in E minor* Johann Pachelbel

*** CONGREGATION STANDING**

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of
Keith Gawith,
always close in our hearts, Jan and Family.

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 worshippers 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!

Restrooms are 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.

This Week at FUMC

Sunday, December 15

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
3:00 p.m. Parsonage Open House / 709 Elm Street
4:00p.m. Advent Concert / The Hut Chapel
4:30 p.m. Voices in Bronze / Room 211
5:30 p.m. UMYF and Bridge / FLC
6:00 p.m. Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service / Kingston Presbyterian Church

Monday, December 16

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing
12:00 p.m. Advent Luncheon / Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts / FLC Room 102

Tuesday, December 17

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing
6:00 p.m. CA Meeting / FLC Room 102
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts / FLC Room 103
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting / FLC Room 102
8:00 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting / FLC Room 101

Wednesday, December 18

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing
3:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday Children's Activities / Education Wing
3:30 p.m. Children's Weekly Lesson/Games/Crafts / Education Wing
3:45 p.m. 7th & 8th Grade Hang-out / FLC Room 103
4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class / FLC Room 104
4:00 p.m. Dress Rehearsal for *Angels Say What* / Sanctuary
5:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening Meal / Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m. Children's Christmas Musical / Sanctuary
7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Room 105

Thursday, December 19

7:00 a.m. Youth Breakfast / Chick-Fil-A
8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing
10:30 a.m. *Searching for Sunday* Book Study / Parlor
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts / FLC Room 104

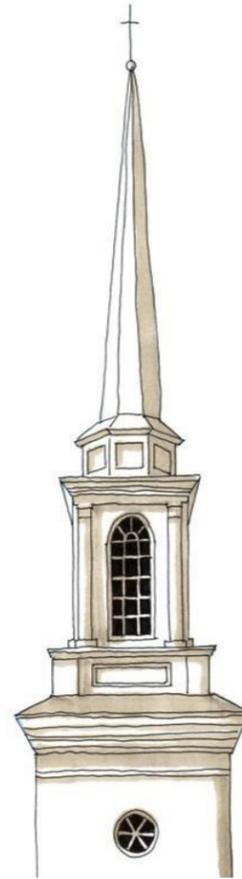
Friday, December 20

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing
10:00 a.m. UMW Executive Meeting / FLC 101
7:00 p.m. CA Meeting / FLC 102

FUMC Staff

Reverend Kyle Randle, Pastor
Billy Fallaw, MM, Dir. of Music & Organist
Josh Tietje, BS, Dir. of Christian Ed. & Mission
Danny Clonts, Accountant
Cathy Estridge, Ministry Assistant
Gayle Fanshaw, Nursery Attendant
James Graham, Sexton
Chrissy Merolle, Nursery Attendant
Sherrie Gasque, Nursery Attendant

kyle.randle@fumconway.org
billy.fallaw@fumconway.org
josh.tietje@fumconway.org
danny.clonts@fumconway.org
office@fumconway.org
polywog_2815@yahoo.com
jgraham1506@gmail.com



First United Methodist Church

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

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2019
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 readings, 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.