

First Church at Worship

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING ANTIPHON Divinum Mysterium
Of the Father's Love Begotten
Will Fallaw, *cantor*

OPENING CAROL *Irby*
Once in Royal David's City
Chancel Choir; Ross Fallaw, *soloist*

*CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL No. 234 *Adeste Fideles*
O Come All Ye Faithful

*THE BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas,
let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning.
Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture,
how the prophets of Israel foretold
that God would visit and redeem the waiting people.
Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns,
that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled.

Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
will bring all peoples and all things
into the glory of God's eternal kingdom.
The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk,
the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear,
the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.
But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves,
for those who have not heard the good news of God,
or who do not believe it;
for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death;
and for the Church in this place and everywhere,
that it may be freed from all evil and fear,
and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.
These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God,
in the words that Christ himself taught us.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

*BLESSING
The almighty God bless us with divine grace,
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life,
and unto the fellowship of the citizens above
may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us as we light this candle this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

CAROL OF LIGHTING No. 202 *Besançon*
People Look East (stanza 4)

At the end of the lesson, the reader may pause and say, The Word of the Lord, and all may respond, **Thanks be to God**

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8 –15, 17–19
God announces in the Garden of Eden
Adam and Eve's punishment for their rebellion
and that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

CAROL No. 196 *Hyfrydol*
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15 –18
God promises to Abraham that by his descendants
all the nations of the earth shall obtain blessing.

CAROL No. 211 *Veni Emmanuel*
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (stanzas 1, 2, 4, 7)

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6–7
The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.

CANTICLE OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS No. 205 Carlton Young
Response No. 1

FOURTH LESSON Micah 5:2 –5a
The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all of God's creation.

CAROL No. 216 *Es Ist Ein Ros*
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:26 –35, 38
The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary
that she will give birth to God's promised Son
whose kingdom shall never end.

CAROL No. 197 *Julion*
Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus

SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:1 –7
Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes,
Jesus is born.

CAROL No. 241 *Blantyre*
That Boy–Child of Mary

SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8 –16
The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.

CAROL No. 245 *The First Noel*
The First Noel (stanzas 1, 2)

EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2:1 –11
The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.

CAROL No. 254 *Kings of Orient*
We Three Kings

*NINTH LESSON John 1:1 –14
John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

*CAROL No. 240 *Mendelssohn*
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*COLLECT

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With you abundant grace and might, free us from sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY Carol of the Bells Peter Wilhousky

OFFERTORY ANTHEM David Willcocks
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

*PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS 95 Doxology

*CAROL OF SENDING No. 242 *Gartan*
Love Came Down at Christmas

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

May the Christ who by his Incarnation
gathered into One things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go forth in peace and joy.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

*BENEDICTION

*CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY Marcel Pupre
Gloria (From Magnificat V)

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and
in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Goldfinch;
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Singleton;
and Mr. and Mrs. Grant Singleton
by their family.

THINGS TO KNOW WHILE WORSHIPPING 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.

Serving This Sunday, December 23

Altar Guild Amy Lovell Jenkins, Libby McCutcheon, Sylvia Richardson, Lillian Sherry, Betty Smith

Crucifer and Acolytes Ann Morgan Fallaw, Graham Carter, Collin Hucks

Counting Committee (Sunday) William Goldfinch / Jack McCutcheon
(Monday) Maxine Dunn / Nancy Stiltner

Trustee Duty Kelly Cooper

Sound Technician Lee Hickman / Charles Hucks / Thomas Hickman

Ushers Jimmy Hammond (Chairman), Hunter Jenkins (Co-Chairman)

Randy Bell, Kelly Cooper, Garvin Huggins, Morgan Martin, Charles Myers, Bert Owen, Lavon Singleton, Ernie Turnes

Nursery Volunteers Robin Hardwick, William Hardwick, Caroline Todd

Stewardship & Attendance

Operating	6,682.75	Sunday School	157
Direct Deposit	300.00	Morning Worship	221
Music Discretionary	600.00	Evening Service	14
Poinsettia	360.00	Birthday Party for Jesus	27
Poinsettia Child	17.00		
Outreach	935.00		
Chancel Choir Fund	200.00		
Good Samaritan	15.00	Food Items for CAP	11
Building Fund	51,257.00	Vienna's for Help4Kids	76
Total	60,366.75		

This Week at FUMC

Sunday, December 23

- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class / Rm. 205
- 10:00 a.m. The Hut Bible Class / Broadcast 100.9 FM
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship / Sanctuary

Christmas Eve

- Church Office is Closed
- 2:15 p.m. **Cooking** at The Shepherd's Table
- 4:30 p.m. **Serving** at The Shepherd's Table
- 5:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

Christmas Day

Church Office is Closed

Wednesday, December 26

Church Office is Closed

Thursday, December 27

12:30 p.m. Church Office Closes

Friday, December 28

12:30 p.m. Church Office Closes



First United Methodist Church

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2012

11:00 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.

In 1880 E. W. Benson, then Anglican Bishop of Truro, England, composed a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, based on ancient sources, for Christmas Eve. In 1918 it was adapted for the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, by its Dean, Eric Milner-White. In this Advent season of hope and expectation, the whole world awaits the coming of the Savior. We hear the prophets. We sing God's promises. We place our hope in God.