

We Gather to Worship God

God keeps the promise made to David, to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is still able to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING VOLUNTARY Thompson/Callahan
Bring a Torch Jeanette, Isabella
Away in a Manger
Silent Night
 Voices in Bronze

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* THE ADVENT PROCESSIONAL No. 198 Morning Song
My Soul Gives Glory to My God

* OPENING DIALOGUE

*Our souls magnify the Lord,
 and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.*
God has looked with favor 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!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

Let us prepare the way of the lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

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 Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!
 Amen.*

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

~ WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD ~

THE FIRST LESSON 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 OT Pg. 281

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

ACT OF PRAISE *The Magnificat* Jeanne Stewart
Luke 1:46b-55

THE SECOND LESSON Romans 16:25-27 NT Pg.165

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

ANTHEM *David's Royal City* Lloyd Larson

* THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION No. 202 *Besançon*
People, Look East
verses 1 & 2

* THE GOSPEL LESSON Luke 1:26-38 NT Pgs. 56-57
"Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Luke 1:38

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

* THE GOSPEL RESPONSE No. 202 *Besançon*
People, Look East
verses 3 & 4

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS Mr. Josh
 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
Count Us In!

~ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ~

* HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 228 *Il Est Né*
He is Born

THE PASTORAL PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY *Ava Marie* Bach/Gounod
Janet Lawrence, *clarinet*

* PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS Doxology No. 95

~ WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD ~

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

* BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY Marcel Dupre
Gloria (from Magnificat VI)

* CONGREGATION STANDING

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

The rosebud on the altar is to celebrate the birth of
 Mason Isaac Kyzer!
 Congratulations to proud parents, Brian and Lauren,
 big brother, Jacob; grandparents, Steve and Shelia Kyzer;
 and great grandparents, George and Jan Kyzer.



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 24

Altar Guild: Libby McCutcheon, Paula Mytko, Lil Sherry,
Sylvia Richardson

Acolytes and Crucifer: Samuel Hickman, Cooper Thomas, Grady Hagen

Acolytes and Crucifer (5:00 p.m.) Jonas Randle, Caroline Daly
Anna Claire Roof,

Counting Committee: Sallie Goldfinch, Sarah Staub

Trustee Duty: Tyler Thomas, Brian Stewart

Children's Church: Amy Hickman

Sound Technicians: Lee Hickman, Charles Hucks

Ushers: Jimmy Hammond (Chairman), Kelly Cooper, Zack Dusenbury,
Garvin Huggins, Hunter Jenkins, Morgan Martin, Charles Myers, William
Nelson, Tyler Thomas.

This Week at FUMC

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion &
Candlelight Service

Monday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

Church Office is closed

Tuesday, December 26

Church Office is closed

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

8:00 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting / FLC

Wednesday, December 27

12:00 p.m. Church Office closes

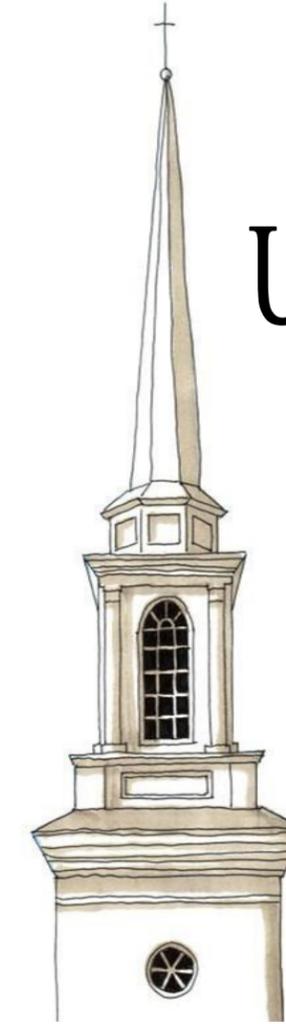
Thursday, December 28

12:00 p.m. Church Office closes

Friday, December 29

12:00 p.m. Church Office closes

7:00 p.m. CA Meeting / FLC



First United Methodist Church

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2017
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.