

We Gather to Worship God

In the psalm all the natural world praises God, including all humanity, male and female, young and old. The voices of Simeon and 84-year old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. God's salvation is seen among us as we gather and like Anna, are called to speak of Jesus to all who look for healing in the world.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING VOLUNTARY Voices in Bronze

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 224 *In Dulci Jublio*
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

* CALL TO WORSHIP

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
That light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.
To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.*

* OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

* 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

Gracious God, in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord, Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in Jesus' name. Amen.

Your sins are forgiven in Jesus' name. 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."

~ **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD** ~

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 61:10-62:3 OT. Pg. 692

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

ACT OF PRAISE Psalm 148 St. Anne

*Praise the Lord from all the earth:
Sea monsters, deep below,
Storm winds, all those who do his will,
Fire, hail, and fog, and snow;*

*Trees bearing fruit and cedar trees,
All hills and mountain steep;
Beasts of the wild and winged birds,
Cattle and things that creep;*

*All kings and peoples of the earth
Princes and rulers, too;
Young men and maidens, old and young,
To him all praise is due.*

*His splendor spans all the earth and heaven;
All those who come to dwell
With him receive both strength and praise:
His people Israel.*

THE SECOND LESSON Galatians 4:4-7 NT Pg. 189

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

ANTHEM *A Light Shall Shine* Lloyd Larson

* THE GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:22-40 NT Pg. 59

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS Josh Tietje

*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.*

THE SERMON Josh Tietje

~ **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD** ~

* HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 249 *Christmas Song*
There's a Song in the Air

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY *What Child Is This?* Paul Manz

* 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

* BLESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR

God make me uncomfortable with easy answers to difficult questions. Make me miserable with half-truths, so miserable in fact, that I do the difficult work of ferreting out truth.

Only then can you take up dwelling in my heart.

Use my righteous indignation at injustice, inequality, oppression and exploitation and show me how to harness it in love to work for your justice, your equality and your peace.

Only then can you take up dwelling in my heart.

God bless my tears shed for those who suffer and let them water the ground so that peace springs up where war chokes you out. Let empathy flow out of hearts hardened by years of belief in self-sufficiency.

Only then can you take up dwelling in my heart.

Finally, Lord help me have faith that I, all alone, can make a difference in the world, even in the face of overwhelming odds.

Only then can you take up dwelling in my heart. AMEN

CHORAL RESPONSE

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY Claude Louis D'Aquin
Noel on Carol of the Birds

* CONGREGATION STANDING

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and
in loving memory of Keith Gawith for his birthday,
by Jan and Family.

We welcome **Darleen Smith** as our guest organist this morning. Ms. Smith is a retired educator from Maryland, a member of the Grand Strand Chapter of American Guild of Organists, and serves many area churches as substitute organist.



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 31

Altar Guild: Libby McCutcheon, Paula Mytko, Lil Sherry, Sylvia Richardson
Acolytes and Crucifer: Ben Chanaca, Chad Steinfield, Emma Chanaca
Counting Committee: Sallie Goldfinch, Lynn Hammond
Trustee Duty: Tyler Thomas, Brian Stewart
Bus Duty: Kent Bitting
Children's Church: Justin and Amanda Roof
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 31

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. The Hut Bible Class / Broadcast 99.5 FM
10:30 a.m. Worship Service / Sanctuary

Monday, January 1

Happy New Year!
Church Office is closed

Tuesday, January 2

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting / Room 213
6:00 p.m. CA Meeting / FLC
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts / FLC
8:00 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting / FLC Senior Room

Wednesday, January 3

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing
3:00 p.m. **Follow That Star** / FLC
5:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening Meal / Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m. **Epiphany Celebration** / Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room 105
7:00 p.m. Sonshine "Sunday" School Class / Commons

Thursday, January 4

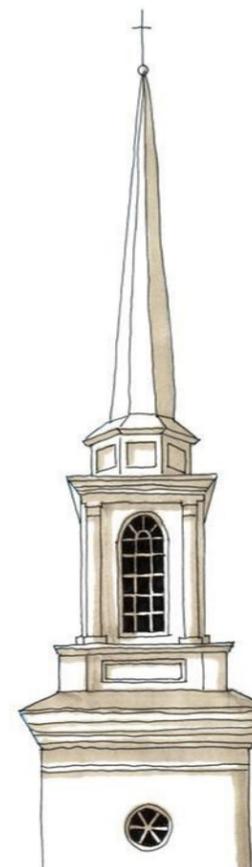
8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts / FLC

Friday, January 5

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing
7:00 p.m. CA Meeting / FLC

Saturday, January 6

11:00 a.m. Locklair Family / FLC



First United Methodist Church

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

First Sunday after Christmas Day
December 31, 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.

TEXT to GIVE

TEXT: firstconway
to 73256

and follow the prompts.