

Visitors & Members

Please register your attendance on the pads located at the end of each pew. We are so glad you are worshipping with us today! Please find an usher or staff member if you have any questions.

Church Information

If you would like to receive our weekly e-blast, please e-mail us at [hello@iopmethodist.com](mailto:hello@iopmethodist.com)

Adult Sunday School Classes

**Anchor:** Uses Bible-based Cokesbury study material. Meets in the classroom across from the nursery.  
**All Comers:** Uses Bible-based Cokesbury study materials. Meets in the classroom next to the kitchen on the first floor of the Sanctuary building.  
Fore more information, call Nancy Wood. Cell: (843) 830-7365  
**Boone Bowen:** A non-traditional approach to fostering a Christian faith. Meets in the Admin Building, first door on the left.  
For more information, call Mary Chason. Cell: (843) 270-9092  
**Advent Study:** Please join Suzan Phillips to study the Christmas Story, from Isaiah to the Gospels, throughout the season of Advent. Beginning November 2nd at 9:30am on Sundays OR 11:00am on Mondays in the Fellowship Hall.

Children & Youth Sunday School Classes

**Pre-K—2nd Grade:** Meets in the classroom next to the kitchen.  
**3rd—5th Grade:** Meets in classroom across from the nursery.  
**6th—12th Grade:** Meets in the Youth Loft in the Admin Building.

Announcements:

**Advent:** Every Sunday in Advent, beginning November 30th—December 28th, there will be ONE combined service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary.  
**The Longest Night—Service of Healing:** Join us tonight, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary for a Longest Night Service. This Service is offered especially for those hurting during the holidays. It is for anyone who mourns the death of a loved one, for those who are far from home, and for anyone suffering from illness, addiction, or estrangement. Also, this service is for those who are lonely, struggling financially, or in conflict with another. We will gather in the midst of suffering to remember God is good; God is strong; God is near. We are not alone, and we have every reason to hold on to hope. Come as you are.  
**ECCO (East Cooper Community Outreach):** This month, ECCO is in need of the following items. Food Items: Lima beans, beef stew, and lasagna noodles. Other Items: Laundry detergent and assorted cleaners.  
Donations can be dropped off in one of three locations: below the Narthex (next to the flower calendar), in the Fellowship Hall, or in the Admin building. Thank you for supporting our neighbors in need!

**Crafty Ladies Christmas Boutique:** Crafty Ladies have Christmas items displayed for sale in the Fellowship Hall. We will be adding items as the weeks near Christmas so please check back often.  
**2026 Altar Flower Calendar:** The Church flower calendar is now available for 2026. Kindly complete the form attached to the calendar with your payment of \$100.00 before turning in at the office or place the form in the collection plate. Remember members are most welcome to provide their own arrangements. Any questions or special orders please contact Ann Emery, 843-886-7540 or email [bill.emery@comcast.net](mailto:bill.emery@comcast.net)

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday, December 21

9:15 AM First Friends  
9:30 AM Sunday School Classes  
10:30 AM One Combined Service (In the Sanctuary)  
6:00 PM The Longest Night Service of Healing (In the Sanctuary)

Monday, December 22

9:30 AM Devotional Beach Walk  
11:00 AM Advent Study (In the Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, December 23

10:00 AM Church Staff Meeting  
5:00 PM Disciple IV Bible Study

Wednesday, December 24

4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service (In the Sanctuary)  
6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service (In the Sanctuary)  
9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service (In the Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 25

Office Closed—Merry Christmas!

Friday, December 26

Office Closed

Originated 1950



Our mission is to discover, celebrate,  
and share God’s love!



Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Ministers: All People**  
**Pastor: Rev. Charles A. Phillips**  
**E-Mail: [caphillips@umcsc.org](mailto:caphillips@umcsc.org)**  
**12 21st Avenue, Isle of Palms, SC 29451**  
**[www.iopmethodist.com](http://www.iopmethodist.com)**

Color: Blue

December 21, 2025

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Charles Phillips, Pastor	<a href="mailto:caphillips@umcsc.org">caphillips@umcsc.org</a>
Jen Robertson, Director of Member Care and Development	<a href="mailto:jenrobertson@iopmethodist.com">jenrobertson@iopmethodist.com</a>
Courtney Kraus, Director of Youth and Student Ministries	<a href="mailto:courtneykraus@iopmethodist.com">courtneykraus@iopmethodist.com</a>
Julianne Wise, Office Manager	<a href="mailto:julianneWISE@iopmethodist.com">julianneWISE@iopmethodist.com</a>
Alex Wilson, Director of Music and Worship Arts	<a href="mailto:firstiopmusicministry@gmail.com">firstiopmusicministry@gmail.com</a>
Marcie Lesesne, Nursery Coordinator	
843-886-6610 / <a href="mailto:hello@iopmethodist.com">hello@iopmethodist.com</a>	
<a href="http://www.iopmethodist.com">www.iopmethodist.com</a>   <a href="https://facebook.com/FUMCIOP">facebook.com/FUMCIOP</a>	

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30am

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Carols Around  
Chamber Choir  
Carl Nygard

† The Processional Hymn UMH 718  
Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending  
HELMSLEY

† Lighting of the Advent Wreath

† Musical Response  
While We Are Waiting, Come  
WAITING

Musical notation for the hymn "While We Are Waiting, Come". The notation is in 3/4 time, key of D major. The lyrics are: While we are wait - ing, come; while we are wait - ing, come. With power and glo - ry, come; with power and glo - ry, come. Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come; come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come. Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el, while we are wait - ing, come.

† Passing the Peace of Christ

Children’s Message  
Courtney Kraus

Choral Anthem  
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
Traditional

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit; that as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

The First Reading  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

The Second Reading  
Romans 1:1-7

† The Gospel  
The Message  
Matthew 1:18-25  
“God Is with Us”  
Pastor Charles

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

† Hymn of Response UMH 626  
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence  
PICARDY

Offertory

† The Doxology UMH 472  
Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (with Advent text)  
LASST UNS ERFRUEUN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Lift up your hearts in Advent love!  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God who sends the promised One,  
The dawn of peace, God’s radiant Son—  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

† Hymn of Dedication UMH 220  
Angels from the Realms of Glory  
REGENT SQUARE

† Words of Blessing and Choral Benediction

Christ, Be Our Light, V3.  
Longing for love, we wait in silence.  
Longing for grace, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
Love for the world to see.

Refrain: Christ, be our light! shine in our hearts,  
shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!  
shine in your church gathered today.

† Postlude  
In Dulci Jublio  
Gordon Young

Serving Today:  
Ushers—Doug and Kathy Elliott  
Lay Reader—Megan and Griffin Burgoyne  
Advent Candle Lighters— McConnell Family

Our Commitment In Action  
Sunday, December 14

10:30 Combined Worship Service TOTAL 194

Our Gifts As Of Sunday, December 14:

Annual Budget: \$755,000.00

Required each week: \$14,519.23

Required YTD: \$740,480.77

Received YTD: \$793,070.67

To give online , please scan the QR code or go to  
www.iopmethodist.com

