

THE INFORMER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CHERAW FIRST BAPTIST

VOL. 5 ISSUE 4 • DECEMBER 2025



Family Night with Andy Cook

Experience Israel Now

DEC. 14
[AT] 5PM

IT'S NOT A "CHRISTMAS VACATION" AND IT'S NOT YOUR AVERAGE "CHRISTMAS STORY."
IT'S THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering



Together, we find the lost, give help to the hurting, share the hope of Christ, and witness God grow His Church around the world. Your generosity today changes lives.

Our Goal:
\$16,000

From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Rod



Throughout the centuries, Christians have confessed Jesus as “God in the flesh.” Unlike anyone else who has walked the earth, Jesus is both fully God and fully man. Although we may struggle to get our minds around this concept, it is clearly taught in the scriptures. Jesus was not an angel, a bodiless manifestation of God, or the Spirit of God coming on a human being for a period of time. Jesus is God who became fully human.

Recognizing His humanity and understanding the reasons He needed to become human will help us see how essential this teaching is to living as Jesus’ followers.

We encounter Jesus’ humanity early in the gospels, beginning with the accounts of His physical human birth. Then, we see Him as a child and learn that His body grew like other children’s and that He developed cognitively (Luke 2:52). In fact, Jesus appeared so normal that people from His hometown had great difficulty believing He could be anyone special. We read in Matthew 13:54-55, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers? Isn’t this the carpenter’s son?”

Scripture also reveals that Jesus experienced physically what we experience physically: thirst, hunger, weariness, pain. He sweated; He bled. And He experienced human emotions: He laughed; He cried; He got angry; He grew anxious (consider Gethsemane). Finally, like every human being, Jesus died.

Perhaps most significant for you and me, Jesus experienced the same human pressures we do. In particular, He was tempted. He knew what it was to struggle against desire, to have to weigh and choose between human longing and following His Father’s will. The writer of Hebrews places great stress on this aspect of Jesus’ humanity (2:17-18; 4:15-16, 5:2, 7-9). But the question we may struggle with more than if Jesus was human was why did Jesus need to become human? We will explore that question this month.

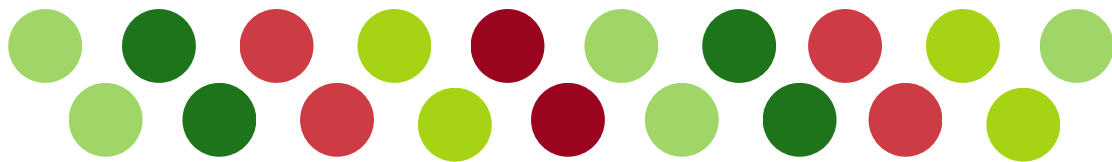
I always love preaching around the holidays. As we kick off the Christmas season, I’m excited to share the sermon series we start on the first Sunday of Advent. I’m calling the series Christmas Miracles. We will look at the Miracle of Fulfilled Prophecy, the Miracle of the Virgin Birth, and the Miracle of Salvation. It’s always a great time to invite someone to church with you.

A tradition we started a few years back was our annual Family Night in December. We’ve hosted Jason Crabb in concert, had a ventriloquist, and an illusionist to name a few. This year, I’ve invited my friend Andy Cook back to Cheraw to take us virtually to Bethlehem. He’ll preach on December 14 in the morning service and for our Family Night event that evening. You’ll never think of the Christmas story the same after Andy’s presentation. Put it on your calendar!

At our Christmas Eve service, you’ll have an opportunity to be a blessing to the Gideon ministry by purchasing Bibles to give “back to Jesus.” This offering helps the Gideon’s with Bible distribution. Come and be prepared to participate in this ministry.

Merry Christmas!

CHERAW KIDS



As we reflect back on our year in Cheraw Kids, take a look at some of our top 10 moments.

PS - There were definitely more than ten, but Kelli only gives me a page. Heehee. Love you guys, Aleisha

Moments of...



Prayer



Sunday AM Bible Learning



Vacation Bible School



Missions



Kidsalt



Nursery Fun



Silly Games



Yummy Food



Soccer



Sunday PM Service Time

NEXT GEN NEWS

An update from Cheraw Students
and Young Adults



Snapshot of This Semester

This past month, we continued our four-part series, *Following The Way*, by moving into the book of James. We've just finished chapter two together, and we will pick back up in January as we enter chapter three. It has been a rich study so far, and I'm excited to see how the Lord continues to shape us through His Word in the new year.

We're also looking forward to our end-of-semester Christmas Party on December 7th! This is always one of the highlights of our year. It will be a night full of fun, games, dinner, and—most importantly—hearing testimonies from several of our students. These moments where our teens share what God is doing in their lives are always such an encouragement to our whole ministry.

As we turn the page into January, a group of our youth volunteers will be heading to Chattanooga, Tennessee for a youth ministry training conference called Conclave. Please pray for our team as we go—that the Lord would draw us closer together, equip us more fully for Gospel ministry, and ignite an even deeper passion in us to disciple the next generation. We're grateful for your support and excited to bring back what we learn to continue strengthening our ministry here at home.

Coming up:

Youth Christmas Party: December 7th

Conclave: January 29th-31st

Senior Trip: April 10th - 12th

SAVE THE DATE

January 3rd

Ladies, make plans to join us for a sacred pause - a time to rest, listen, and seek the Lord as you begin a new year.

Selah
MORNING

CHERAW
women

More details
coming soon.



2026 Soccer Season

We are gearing up for our soccer season. Games start on January 10th. Let Aleisha know if you are interested in serving in concessions, refereeing, or being an announcer.



2025-2026 Deacons

Top (left to right) : John Phillips, Joe Elvington, David Paschall, David Sides, Dorr Depew, Darrell Burch, Tom Boan

Bottom (left to right): Jack Rhonemus, Joey Polson, David Wallace, Aaron Parker, Ricardo Andreoli

Not pictured: Scott Laney, Jim Murray, & Matt Southard

Christmas at Cheraw First Baptist

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

WIDOW & WIDOWER LUNCHEON

SUNDAY 7 | DECEMBER | 2025

HOSTED BY THE CHERAW FIRST BAPTIST DEACONS

RSVP: Kelli 843-537-3863 or
kelli@cherawfbc.com by
December 1st

Christmas Caroling at Cheraw Post Acute

December 10th

6pm

(meet at the nursing home)

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion

December 24th @ 5pm

Christmas Miracles

Christmas Sermon Series

Office Closed for Christmas

DECEMBER 24TH-26TH

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Each month, we will "spotlight" one of our homebound members. Feel free to send words of encouragement or even visit this member
(with their permission, of course).

Spotlight of the Month

December

Frances Leppard

420 Church Street

Cheraw, SC 29520

Birthday: December 20

GIVING

through
November 23

You can give online at

cherawfbc.com/give, through the Realm app

Text to give! Text **CFBC** to **73256**, followed by your gift amount (ex. \$50)

BUDGET
TO DATE:

707,161.53

GIVING:

714,668.35

SAFETY TEAM

Sunday, December 7

Brad Redfearn, Frankie Joyner, Jodie Goodwin, Jack Rhonemus

Evening: Bobby Roberts & Jack Rhonemus

Sunday, December 14

David Paschall, David Caulder, Randy Caulder, Darrell Burch,

Jerry Dixon

Evening: Todd Garriss & Jim Murray

Sunday, December 21

Tom Boan, Melinda Boan, Chris Sellers, Ron Watson, Kenny Robertson

Evening: No Evening Activities

Sunday, December 28

Bobby Roberts, Jim Kennedy, Jay Hinson, Eric Jones, Keith Thomas

Evening: No Evening Activities

Welcome

NEW MEMBERS!

John Ponnarasu

Jeffshan Ponnarasu

Jeya Ponnarasu

The Church Conference will take place on December 3rd at 6pm in the sanctuary. If you have any questions about the proposed 2026 budget, please come. We will vote, without discussion, on Sunday, December 7th.



December 1

Kirby Dyson

Leann Sides

December 2

Joe Wheeler

December 5

Spencer Sellers

December 6

Eric Jones

December 7

Pam Toole

Jacqueline Que

December 9

Erin Byrd

AZ Cacas

Nellie Mae Quick

December 11

Hannah Kulo

Bobby Roberts

December 12

Larry Collins

December 13

Joe Elvington

December 15

Teresa Harpe

December 16

Victoria Harpe

David Wallace

Angela Crawford

December 18

Aleisha Ainsworth

December 19

Carmen Bean

Glenda Thomas

December 20

Frances Leppard

December 21

John Elliott

December 24

Chrissy Depew

December 25

Happy Birthday Jesus!

December 26

Mike Hutson

December 27

Sawyer Mitchell

December 28

Jackie Burch

December 29

Isobelle Brown

December 31

Benjamin Brown

December 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6pm Church Conference	4	5 5pm Lantern Parade & Christmasfest	6
7 12pm Widow/Widower Luncheon 5pm Cheraw Kids/Students Adult Small Groups	8	9	10 6pm Christmas Caroling At Cheraw Post Acute	11	12 6pm Cheraw Christmas Parade	13
14 5pm Family Night w/ Andy Cook & Finger Food Fellowship	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 No Evening Activities	22	23	24 5pm Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service	25 Happy Birthday Jesus!	26	27
28 No Evening Activities	29	30	31	Office Closed		