

THE INFORMER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CHERAW FIRST BAPTIST

VOL. 6 ISSUE 3 • NOV 2026

FALL for CHERAW

NOVEMBER 10TH & 17TH
4:00 PM



LOIS McARN Backpacks

We will pack backpacks for local students.

NOVEMBER 11TH
12:00 PM



VIP Luncheon

Plates will be delivered to homebound members.

NOVEMBER 16TH
8:00 AM

FUEL the HEROES

We will take breakfast and coffee to the Police & Fire Dept.



NOVEMBER 18TH

FEED the NEED
FOOD GIVEAWAY



NOVEMBER 21ST
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Market on MARKET

Passing out Popcorn!



NOVEMBER 22ND
6:00 PM

Friendsgiving

INVITE A FRIEND!

NOVEMBER 29TH
4:00 PM

PRAYER Walk



From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Rod



“But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.” Hebrews 5:14

Jonie Eareckson Tada has lived her entire adult life as a quadriplegic, the result of a teenage diving accident. She once was asked in an interview, how does she maintain such a joyful spirit with all the challenges she deals with daily. After the slightest pause, she said, “You know, I think I’ve just disciplined myself for so many years to give thanks in all things, it’s now simply my reflex reaction.”

I wonder, when hard times or difficult situations arise, is our reflex reaction more to whine or to give thanks to God from the outset. Fretting, giving in to discouragement, expressing negative thoughts about pressures and problems – these had too often become my default setting. Perhaps you’d have to admit the same thing. Perhaps that’s why a joyful spirit continues to elude many.

The grateful heart that springs forth in joy is not acquired in a moment; it is the fruit of a thousand choices. It is a godly habit that over time becomes a strong muscle in our spiritual makeup. And though it can do nothing to make us more loved and accepted by God, our gratitude does become a reliable measure for where our hearts truly stand with Him. It shows how well we’re growing in grace.

Look for opportunities this month to give thanks when your default may be to murmur or complain. Ask the Lord for grace to keep giving thanks until gratitude becomes your reflex reaction to life.

This month is our annual Fall for Cheraw emphasis. You’ll see in the newsletter several opportunities to be on mission this month. We will also be having our traditional Thanksgiving Lord’s Supper service on November 22. This will be followed by a somewhat newer tradition, Friendsgiving.

With the holidays approaching, you’ll have several ways you can be a blessing to others. Some of the ways you can bless others this holiday season is through Operation Christmas Child, gifts for residents of Palmetto Ridge Nursing Center. For Palmetto Ridge, visit our Missions Table to pick up a “wish list” from a resident. The gifts need to be returned by Nov. 15th. Shoeboxes are located at the Missions Table as well if you would like to participate in Operation Christmas Child. Shoeboxes need to be returned by Nov. 22nd.

Happy Fall!





CHERAW KIDS

WE HAVE SOME EXCITING NEWS!

We are excited to announce that we are planning a Children's Ministry Conference!

This conference is designed to encourage, equip, and pour into those who pour into our children. From building relationships with kids and supporting families to balancing ministry responsibilities and avoiding burnout, our prayer is that everyone leaves refreshed, encouraged, and reminded that their labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Whether you serve in the nursery, teach a class, or volunteer with children in any capacity, this conference is for YOU!

More details and registration information are coming soon!



Why do you serve in Cheraw Kids?

I love serving in Cheraw Kids, because I want to see the gospel of Jesus Christ take root in young hearts. My prayer is that these children will come to know Him early and learn to follow Him without having to walk through the struggles I faced before finding Him. - Aaron Wright





Goal Getters Soccer Camp - Week of February 8th

Kindergarten to 5th Grade
Monday-Thursday, 6:30-8:30
4K Friday, 6:30-8:30
Saturday - GAME DAY

We'll rotate teams through stations each night. Children will have Bible and snack stations (led by soccer leadership team) along with pitch, team building, and skills stations (led by coaches).

Sign Up to Coach Here

Register Camper Here

We're packing soccer, fun, relationships, and Jesus into one great week! Would you pray for Soccer 2027, how God might use you, and how He will use this time to strengthen our families?



Christmas Mission Opportunities

Palmetto Ridge Christmas Gifts

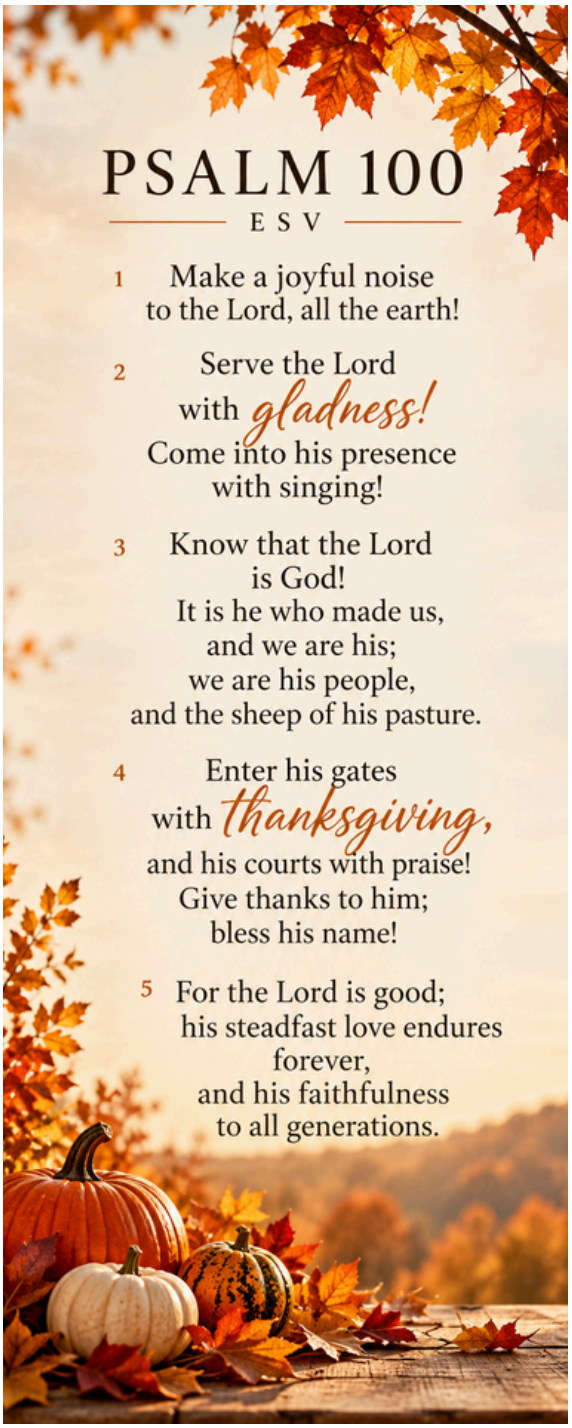
If you took a Palmetto Ridge card to sponsor an individual for Christmas, those gifts are needed in the foyer by November 15th.

Operation Christmas Child

As you know, we are involved with Operation Christmas Child that packs shoeboxes for children overseas. We will have prayer over these boxes on November 22nd.

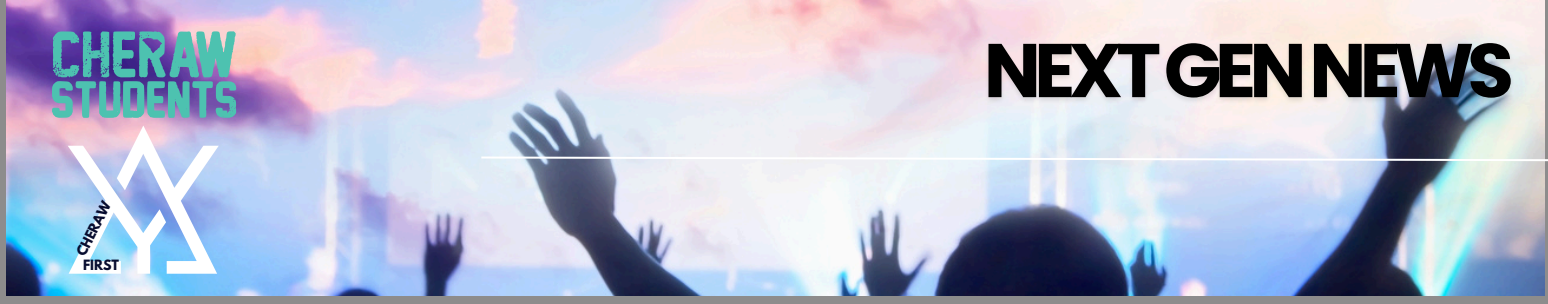
Church Member Benevolence

Throughout the year, we have members of our church family that could use financial assistance. To support this ministry, indicate on your offering envelope "Church Member Benevolence."









The Idols We Make

Recently, our youth have been studying the story of Gideon in Judges 6. Before Gideon could lead Israel, God commanded him to tear down his father's altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it. Before the people could move forward in obedience to the Lord, the false worship taking place among them had to be confronted.

As we discussed this passage, we talked about the idols in our own lives. We defined an idol as when we take a good thing, or a bad thing, and make it a God thing.

When we hear the word idol, we might picture a golden statue or an ancient altar. But idolatry is not limited to the worship of carved images. An idol is anything we elevate to a place in our hearts that belongs to God alone. It is something we look to for the satisfaction, security, identity, or approval that we should ultimately find in Him.

I was encouraged by the honesty of our students as they considered this question. Some identified their devices and the constant escape they offer. Others mentioned sports, people's approval, and even themselves. Some recognized their struggles with particular vices or their need to prove themselves to others. Perhaps most thought-provoking were those who identified the lies they tell themselves and others.

Their answers remind us that idols come in many forms, and they are not always obvious.

Sometimes, an idol is a good thing that has become too important. Sports, hobbies, friendships, and even our work can be good gifts from God. But when these things begin to govern our priorities, determine our worth, or take precedence over obedience to Him, we have allowed a good gift to take the place of the Giver.

Sometimes, an idol is something we use to escape. We turn to our devices, entertainment, or other distractions to avoid uncomfortable feelings, difficult circumstances, or the things we know we need to confront. Rest and recreation are good gifts, but they cannot bear the weight of being our ultimate refuge. Only God can provide the lasting peace our hearts need.

Sometimes, an idol is our own image. We desperately seek the approval of others, build our identity around our accomplishments, or feel the need to prove that we are good enough. We may even become so concerned with how others see us that we neglect what God says about us. When our worth depends on the opinions of people, we have given them a place in our hearts that belongs to the Lord.

And sometimes, our idols are hidden in the stories we tell ourselves. We justify our sin, conceal our failures, or convince ourselves that we are in control. We may believe that if we can maintain a certain image or keep the truth hidden, we will be safe. Yet the Lord calls us to walk in the light, confess our sins, and trust in His grace rather than the false security of our own deception.

The question for each of us is not simply, What do I enjoy? or What occupies my time? Instead, we must ask: What has my heart come to depend on more than God?

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6:21 that where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. Our priorities, habits, sacrifices, and deepest fears can reveal what we treasure most.

Thankfully, the Christian life is not merely about identifying and tearing down idols. It is about turning toward the One who alone is worthy of our worship. We do not overcome idolatry simply by removing things from our lives; we must learn to love Christ above all things. The good gifts of this world can be received with gratitude when they are kept in their proper place, and our sins can be brought into the light because God's grace is greater than our failures.

Gideon's story reminds us that following God sometimes requires confronting what we have allowed to take His place. That work is not always easy, and it may require honest confession, difficult changes, and renewed priorities. But we can face those things with confidence because the Lord is faithful to His people.

So, as we go about our lives this month, may we take time to examine our hearts. What are we trusting? What are we pursuing? What are we unwilling to surrender? And are we allowing any good thing—or any sinful thing—to become a god thing?

May the Lord help us tear down our idols, treasure Christ above all else, and teach the next generation to do the same.





A Heart of Thanksgiving

As November arrives, I find myself reflecting on God's faithfulness to our church and worship ministry. Each week, people give their time and talents so that others may draw closer to Jesus. Some serve where everyone can see them. Others serve quietly behind the scenes. Every gift matters, and every act of service can bring glory to God. My prayer is that our gratitude would be more than a feeling. May it shape how we worship, how we serve, and how we love one another. — Ronald

Scripture Focus

Colossians 3:23

Serve wholeheartedly for the Lord.

FAMILY — ONE OF GOD'S GREATEST BLESSINGS

Family: A gift from God, built on love, strengthened through faith, and cherished through the moments we share together.

F — Faith: Keeping Christ at the center.

A — Appreciation: Being thankful for one another.

M — Memories: Cherishing time together.

I — Intentional: Making time for one another.

L — Love: Extending grace and compassion.

Y — You Belong: Welcoming and supporting each other.

More Than a Church — A Church Family

Our church family is also a gift from God. We gather from different homes, backgrounds, and generations, yet we are united through Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:10 reminds us to love one another with brotherly affection and to honor one another.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, let's cherish the moments around our tables, the conversations in our homes, and the fellowship we share at church.

Because one day, the moments we make time for today will become the memories we treasure tomorrow.

30 Days of Gratitude

Each day this November, thank God for someone or something specific. Share a meal, make a call, pray together, encourage someone, or include a person who may feel alone. Let gratitude shape the memories we make as families and as a church family.

Scripture Focus

Psalm 107:1

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His faithful love endures forever.

OUR P3 WORSHIP FAMILY

Volunteer Spotlight

Every person serving on our worship and production team has a story of God's faithfulness. We're honored to introduce six more members of our P3 Worship family.



Richard Ainsworth

Vocalist/Musician: Tenor/Horn

Sending Nate off to college has brought a new season for our family; one filled with excitement, adjustment, and learning to trust the Lord in new ways. As a parent, it's a big step to watch your child begin a life beyond your home. But through it all, God has reminded me that the One who has cared for our family all these years is still caring for us now. He has provided for us in ways both big and small, reminding us that He is always present and will meet our needs. We have seen His goodness through the incredible people He has placed in our lives to encourage and support us. My heart is full of gratitude. He has been faithful before, He is faithful now, and He will continue to be.



Levi Baxter

Tech: Pro Presenter

My husband passed away from pancreatic cancer in November 2017. As I sat with him at the hospital, the phrase, "He will never leave you nor forsake you," kept running through my mind. Of course, I grieved his loss, but God gave me His peace. Two years later, in November 2019, my father passed away after a long battle with cancer, and exactly one week later, my mother was killed in an auto accident. It gave me tremendous peace to know that my mother would not have to go through the terrible grief of losing my father after 64 years of marriage.



Scott Carter

Tech: Pro Presenter

Despite being raised in a Christian household, I had no idea what it meant to be a Christian when I was 19. I thought God was a power I could control to bless my life if I was obedient and did good deeds. I was in a downward spiral with materialism, greed, and lust in my first year of college when the Resident Advisor in my hall shared her testimony with me. There was nothing spectacular about her testimony, but it prompted me to spend the summer reading through the Bible. I ended up reading the entire Bible in 38 days, looking for the justification and rationalization of my sins. Hebrews 4:12-13 convicted me of my deepest sins. I surrendered my life and my will to God the evening I read those verses. God has since freed me from my bondage and addiction to sin, giving me strength to resist temptation and I am eternally grateful because I know the life I have been saved from.



Amanda Caulder

Tech/Production: Pro Presenter/L.S. Audio/Video Switcher

I'm thankful for God's grace, His faithfulness, and the way He continues to work in my life. I know I haven't always gotten everything right, but God has never given up on me. He continues to teach me, strengthen me, and remind me that I don't have to face life on my own. I'm learning to trust Him more, lean on Him daily, and let Him guide my steps. All the glory belongs to Him!



Dan Tillman

Musician: Acoustic Guitarist

I was raised in a Christian home as a Presbyterian. I attended church each Sunday and on all special occasions. I have felt the importance of Jesus in my life, although at times I have been very frustrated. To this day, I love the church and have a great belief in Jesus Christ.



Catherine Fleming

Musician: Keyboardist

Right now in my life, God has been teaching me surrender and complete trust in Him. I'm one of those people who like the path to be laid out clear in front of me, but sometimes God just gives the light for one step at a time, and in doing so, He gives the opportunity to take His hand and truly trust. It's not a one and done: "Okay, God, I've picked this worry back up. I'm sorry. I lay it down at Your feet again."

I've been going through a journey of reading through the whole Bible the last year and a half, and as I've been reading through the Psalms, I feel like He has given me this verse to cling to. Psalm 3:5–6: "...for the Lord sustained me. I will not be afraid..."

Thank You, Jesus, for sustaining me. I will trust in You. I will not be afraid. Amen.

VIP MINISTRY

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

Spotlight of the Month November

Mary Louise Long

338 Four Mile Branch Loop, Cheraw

DOB: November 27



GIVING

through October 25

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:	732,144.23
GIVING:	662,515.41

SAFETY TEAM

Sunday, November 1
Bill Mcintosh ,Frankie Joyner, Jack Rhonemus, Brandon Pelfrey, Mitch Harpe
Evening: Bobby Roberts & Jack Rhonemus

Sunday, November 8
David Paschall, David Caulder, Randy Caulder, Terrie Caulder, Darrell Burch
Evening: Todd Garris & Jim Murray

Sunday, November 15
Tom Boan, Melinda Boan, Chris Sellers, Ron Watson, Kenny Robertson
Evening: Jim Kennedy & Bob Whiteman

Sunday, November 22
Bobby Roberts, Jim Kennedy, Jay Hinson, Eric Jones, Keith Thomas
Evening: Tom Boan & Todd Garris

Sunday, November 29
Bobby Roberts, Tom Boan, David Paschall

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED NOV. 25TH – 27TH FOR THANKSGIVING.



November 1
Randy Caulder

November 2
Melissa Andrecioli

November 4
Audra Butler
Rebekah Ratliff

November 5
Jessie Polson

November 6
Barry Hurst
Jake Mitchell

November 7
Todd Garris
Archer Polson

November 8
Elisabeth Brown
Dana Burch

November 9
Laney Rogers
Izzy Velez

November 10
Lee Chestnut

November 11
Ethan Ainsworth

November 12
Collin Burch
Todd Byrd

November 13
Henry Brown

November 14
Katlyn Garris
Leah Hurst

November 16
Eric Ange
Andrew Hall

November 17
Leland Assef

November 18
Ashley Goldberg
Camden Jones
Temple Jones

November 19
Andy Poole

November 22
Jean Young

November 24
Kadin Thomas

November 27
Chris Sellers
Jimmy Toole
Mary Louise Long

November 29
Rick Phillips

November 30
Marie Jordan

November 2026

CHERAW FIRST BAPTIST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 4pm Backpacks @ Lois McArn	4 11am Legacy Worship 6pm Prayer Time	5	6	7
8	9 SCBC Annual Meeting	10 SCBC Annual Meeting	11 11am Mid-Week Legacy Worship/ VIP Lunch 6pm Handling the Holidays	12	13 Men's Retreat	14 Men's Retreat
15 Men's Retreat	16 Fueling the Hereos	17 4pm Backpacks @ Lois McArn	18 No Legacy Worship Feed the Need	19	20	21 9am Market on Market
22 5pm Thanksgiving Communion 6pm Friendsgiving	23	24	25 No Evening Activities Office Closed	26 Happy Thanksgiving Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
29 Family Sunday 4pm Family Prayer Walk Advent Begins	30					