

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*Signs of Christmas*  
*Written by Pam Andrews*

December 11, 2016

11:00AM

"This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."  
--Luke 2:12

Children 1-8: RyLeigh Brunson, Eloy Duncan, Bailey Waters, Dixie Johnson,  
Kaleb Edwards, Presley Waldrep, Lia Tobin, Karsten Sprinker

Children's Choir: Sophie Blackwell, Jack Boland, Josiah Tobin, Stone Hill,  
Farrah Krass, Karson Hendrix, Olivia Edwards, Anna Sosbee,  
Raegen Garrett, Abbigayle Garrett

We Gather To Worship God

Music

Prelude Clara Godfrey, Pianist

*Deck the Halls*  
*Worship the King*-solo: Kaiden McAbee  
*Praise to the Infant King*

Announcements Rev. Bryson Williams

\*Call To Worship "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" (v. 1) UMH #218  
It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near  
the earth, to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from  
heaven's all gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

*Christmas is a Time to Love*-solo: RyLeigh Brunson  
*Great is Thy Faithfulness*-solo: Dixie Johnson  
*Away in a Manager*: Sophie, Jack, Farrah, Stone, Josiah  
*Silent Night*

\*Opening Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful " (v.1-3) UMH #234

*What Can We Give to the King?*-solo: Presley Waldrep  
*Christmas Isn't Christmas*-solo: Lia Tobin  
*Hosanna*

Offering

Thank you for joining us as celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

The Offertory Clara Godfrey, Pianist

\*Benediction

\*Doxology UMH#95

\*Benediction Response "His Name Is Wonderful" UMH #174  
His name is wonderful, his name is wonderful, his name is wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.  
He is the mighty King, Master of everything; his name is wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.  
He's the great Shepherd, the Rock of all ages, almighty God is he; bow down before  
Him, love and adore him, his name is wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.

The Offertory Prayer

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Pastoral Prayer, Lord's Prayer Rev. Bryson Williams

Postlude

Children's Musical

\*The Congregation standing. If it is uncomfortable for you to stand, please remain seated and continue your participation.

*Mary, Did You Know?* -interpretive dance

Savannah Waters, Bailey Waters, Presley Waldrep, Lia Tobin

ALTAR FLOWERS: The poinsettias are placed at the altar for the glory of God.

WELCOME: Good morning and welcome to all guests, members, youth and children worshipping with us today. We are glad that you decided to join us for worship! We hope you will experience the hope and love of Jesus Christ as we worship together. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to become a part of the Sharon family.

**ON-GOING PRAYER-SHARON UMC FAMILY**

Ben Brockman Family of David Smith  
Betty Jean Brockman June Gossett  
Roie Johnson Vivian Eubanks  
Sharon Cole Earl Johnson  
Ruby Coggins Dora Edwards  
Margaret DeYoung Dorothy McHugh

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Betty Glover  
Frank & Ruby Vaughn  
J. B. Waddell  
Mark Cox  
David Snow  
Gertrude Smith

**ON-GOING PRAYER FOR SHARON FAMILY RELATIVES**

Mike West  
Glenn Gardner  
Sharon Ellis  
Gettis Solesbee  
Christi Edwards  
Doug Smith  
Bill Ruppe

Joyce Lee's son  
Donna Staton's brother  
Kaitlyn Pless' aunt  
Vera Brockman's brother  
Dan & Ann Edwards' daughter-in-law  
Myra Boland's cousin  
Suzie Horn's step-father

**ON-GOING PRAYER – SHARON UMC FRIENDS**

Cheryl Brown, friend of Jerry & Angie Dalenta  
Robbie Strange, friend of Christy Kurtz  
Cornelia Hawkins, friend of Leslie Roper  
Harold Moore, friend of Leslie Roper  
Richard Allen, friend of Leslie Roper  
Bill Burgess, friend of Dot Pearson  
Doris Khoe, friend of Ruth Snow  
Cooper Cheshire, son of Brad & Christy Cheshire, friend of Amy Blackwell  
Sharon's Community Cupboard, our food pantry

**MISSIONARIES IN ACTION**

Steve, Jean, Jordan & Davis Dunlap, our missionaries to Asia Minor  
Todd, Pam, Sidney, Ashley, Noah & Hannah Grace Attaway, our missionaries to Thailand

**MEMORIALS:** A memorial was given in memory of Neil Harlan by Steve & Shannon Hill.

A memorial was given in memory of Robert Solesbee, Vera Brockman's brother by Pete & Nancy O'Shields, Bud & Dot DeYoung, Martha Ann Bennett, Al & Myra Boland and Pat & Phyllis Brockman.

A memorial was given in memory of Lewis Sutton, Laura Williams' father, by Bud & Dot DeYoung, Pat & Phyllis Brockman, and Joan Ashmore.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**NURSERY FOR OUR CHILDREN:** Parents, we are so glad that you are our guest today. We have a nursery for our children. The nursery is for newborn to three years old, and is located on the main floor in the gathering space. If you need help with locating the nursery, please see one of our greeters in the narthex. We are so glad that your family came to worship with us today!

**FOOD COLLECTIONS:**

Sharon's Community Cupboard – Can fruit, 1Lb. bags of Rice, 1 Lb. bags of dried beans, Mustard, Mayonnaise, Ketchup.  
Backpack Ministry – Can Tuna or chicken, applesauce, fruit cups and Drinks (Hugs).

**MISSION PRAYER FOCUS:** This week we pray for Guinea. The people living in the territory of Guinea when it was colonized by the French in 1891 were the Mandinga, who were Muslim. Islam has remained the majority religion. The Christian churches are a small minority in Guinea. The largest Protestant group, the Protestant Evangelical Church of Guinea, together with the small Anglican community - part of the Province of West Africa - and the Catholic Church, has formed a Christian Council.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES:** Wednesday night activities for Children and Adult Bible Study at 6:30 and Choir Practice at 7:30. See you there! We will not have Wednesday activities on Dec. 21 or Dec 28 due to the holidays.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY:** Bible Study will continue this Wednesday, December 14 with our new study *Down To Earth* by Mike Slaughter. We will be in Chapter 4. The study is in the Seekers Sunday School Class.

**YOUTH NEWS:** Youth activities have a new name and a new night! Crossfire will meet SUNDAY night from 6:30–7:30PM in the Youth Room instead of Wednesday night. We hope the new change allows everyone to come and invite friends! Dinner will be provided. Get in touch with Grey with any questions.

**COVERED DISH:** Today, following the 11:00AM Worship Service featuring our Annual Children's Christmas Play, we will have a covered dish meal. Please plan to stay. We will have plenty of food, and we will also have a special visitor.

**CHRISTMAS EVE:** On December 24<sup>th</sup> we will have two candlelight worship services at 5:00 and 9:00PM.

**CHRISTMAS DAY:** December 25<sup>th</sup> is on a Sunday this year and **YES** we will have church at 11:00AM. We go to church on Sunday (RIGHT?). Come as you are: kids in p.j., apron's on, children bring one of your gifts. It will be a great day of worship.

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:** Reidville Presbyterian Church invites everyone to visit our Christmas light display. Come hear the story of the birth of our Savior and experience a beautiful light show. Open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 6pm to 10pm. After you enjoy the show, come in for Open House with Christmas goodies on Sunday, Dec 11 and 18.

**TRIP TO HOLY LAND:** We are planning a trip to the Holy Land. See Pastor Bryson if you would like a brochure. The dates are set for April 18-28, 2017. Please mark your calendars. If you have any questions, please ask Pastor Bryson who will be leading this trip.

**Sharon's Community Cupboard:** We will need help with the Christmas box distribution on Monday, December 19 from 4pm to 6pm. Please plan to arrive at 3:30pm. We **WILL NOT** pack boxes on December 17 as previously announced. Please plan to be a part of this meaningful mission of our church.

Our Mission Statement – Sharon United Methodist Church glorifies God as a friendly, caring, Christ-centered fellowship with strong family and spiritual values working to grow our church, our community, and our world one disciple at a time.

**Sunday, December 18, 2016 Lectionary Texts**  
 Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7,17-19, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25

**THE WEEK AT A GLANCE**

<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11</b>	<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>UMMen Church-wide breakfast</b>
	<b>9:30AM</b>	<b>Prayer Group</b>
	<b>10:00AM</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>11:00AM</b>	<b>Children’s Christmas Play</b>
	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
	<b>6:30PM</b>	<b>Crossfire</b>
<b>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13</b>	<b>11:30AM</b>	<b>SCA Christmas Program</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14</b>	<b>6:30PM</b>	<b>Wednesday night activities</b>
	<b>7:30PM</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>
<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18</b>	<b>9:30AM</b>	<b>Prayer Group</b>
	<b>10:00AM</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>11:00AM</b>	<b>Cantata</b>
	<b>6:30PM</b>	<b>Crossfire</b>

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY:** Kay Bright & Angie Davis  
**NURSERY WORKERS December 18:** Myra Boland & Karen Waldrep

**CHILDREN’S CHURCH TODAY:** No Children’s Church  
**CHILDREN’S CHURCH December 18:** Kelle Waters & Amy Tobin

**HEAD USHER:** Gerald Snow  
**HEAD USHER December 181:** Trudy Cox

**Sunday, December 4, 2016:**

<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>82</b>	<b><i>Rev. Bryson Williams, Jr., Pastor</i></b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>132</b>	<b><i>Mary Jo Bradley, Secretary</i></b>
<b>Offering</b>	<b>\$8,896.00</b>	<b><i>Katie Stewart, Music Director</i></b>
<b>Received YTD</b>	<b>\$314,656.90</b>	<b><i>Clara Godfrey, Pianist</i></b>
<b>Needed YTD</b>	<b>\$307,176.10</b>	<b><i>Bill Lee, Organist</i></b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>+\$7,480.80</b>	<b><i>Amy Blackwell, Children’s Co-Director</i></b>
<b>Needed Weekly</b>	<b>\$6,268.90</b>	<b><i>Kelle Waters, Children’s Co-Director</i></b>
<b>Cemetery Fund (10/31/2016)</b>	<b>\$3,013.96</b>	<b><i>Debra Fowler, Custodian</i></b>
<b>Capital Imp. Fund Received</b>	<b>\$1,227.00</b>	<b><i>Laura Williams, Preschool Director</i></b>
<b>Capital Imp. Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$92,573.26</b>	

**SHARON CHRISTIAN ACADEMY (SCA) STAFF:**

Lisa Welch, Bailey Cox and Laura Williams – 2K  
 Melissa Farmer and Stephanie Wykel – 3K and 4K  
 Kay Bright – Music