

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2016

11:00AM

"She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."
--Matthew 1:21

We Gather To Worship God

Prelude Clara Godfrey, Pianist

Announcements Rev. Bryson Williams

Reception Of New Members UMH #38

*Call To Worship "Until Jesus Comes"
Until Jesus comes, until Jesus comes, we'll be watching and waiting until Jesus comes.
Until Jesus comes, until Jesus comes; we'll be watching and waiting until Jesus comes.
(sing twice)

*Opening Hymn "What Child Is This" UMH #219

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Offering

The Offertory Lindsey Woodie

*Doxology UMH#95

The Offertory Prayer

Children's Time Amy Blackwell
(Sing "Jesus Loves the Little Children" as the children ages 4, 5, & 1st grade go to children's church).
Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world.

The Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Rev. Bryson Williams

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading "Matthew 1:18-25" Pew Bible, p.1 (N.T.)

Sermon "God Is With Us" Rev. Bryson Williams

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC - CANTATA

Come and Sing of Christmas
A Christmas Canon
Wait! Watch!
O Wondrous Night – Soloist: Kaitlyn Alexander

We Go Forth To Serve God In The World

"Closing Hymn "Joy to the World" UMH #246

*Benediction

*Benediction Response "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (v. 4) UMH #230
O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmenuel!

Postlude

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

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

December 18, 2016

Ben Brockman
Betty Jean Brockman
Roie Johnson
Sharon Cole
Ruby Coggins
Margaret DeYoung

Gertrude Smith
June Gossett
Vivian Eubanks
Earl Johnson
Dora Edwards
Dorothy McHugh

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

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 Robert Solesbee, Vera Brockman's brother by Allan, Gayle & Karl Fowler, Rufus & Carolyn Genobles, and Ken & Darlene DeYoung.

A memorial was given in memory of Lewis Sutton, Laura Williams' father, by Allan, Gayle & Karl Fowler, Rufus & Carolyn Genobles, Scott & Angie Davis and Ken & Darlene DeYoung.

A memorial was given in memory of David Smith by Pete & Nancy O'Shields, Vera Brockman, Allan, Gayle & Karl Fowler, BBJ Sunday School Class, Rufus & Carolyn Genobles, Pat & Phyllis Brockman, Dot McHugh, Larry & Pam Parham, Scott & Angie Davis, Gerald & Ruth Snow and Ken & Darlene DeYoung.

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!

MISSION PRAYER FOCUS: This week we pray for Togo. The region of today's Togo was settled by various groups, among them the Ewé who came from the east, and the Mina from the west. Togoland became a German colony in 1884. Catholic missions began in Togo at the end of the 16th century, and today more than half of the Togolese Christians belong to the Catholic Church. Several church leaders, Catholic and Protestant, have witnessed to democracy and justice in the tense internal political situation, with the support of international ecumenical partners.

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.

YOUTH NEWS: Crossfire is heating up just in time for Christmas! We WILL meet at 630 in the gym on Sunday, December 18th. We will have NO youth on Christmas day or New Years day so enjoy the time with your families. If you haven't already joined the Sharon UMC Youth Group on Facebook, please join to stay up to date. See everyone again on January 8th!

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS: All contributions for 2016 must be postmarked by December 30, 2016 or hand delivered to the church office by noon on Thursday, December 29, 2016.

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

CHRISTMAS DAY: December 25th 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 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.

Sharon Christian Academy: The staff at SCA would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, support and gifts this year. We have had a wonderful time and are very grateful. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you in 2017!!!

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).

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 25, 2016 Lectionary Texts
Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98, Hebrews 1:1-4, John 1:1-14

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18	9:30AM	Prayer Group
	10:00AM	Sunday School
	11:00AM	Worship
	6:30PM	Crossfire
MONDAY, DECEMBER 19	4:00-6:00PM	Sharon's Community Cupboard
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21	NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES	
THURSDAY & FRIDAY, DEC. 22,23	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24	5:00PM	Christmas Eve Service
	9:00PM	Christmas Eve Service
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25	11:00AM	Worship

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: Myra Boland & Karen Waldrep
NURSERY WORKERS December 25: Dot DeYoung & Gayle Fowler

CHILDREN'S CHURCH TODAY: Kelle Waters & Amy Tobin
CHILDREN'S CHURCH December 25: NO Children's Church

HEAD USHER: Trudy Cox
HEAD USHER December 25: Rick Christopher

Sunday, December 11, 2016:

Sunday School	90	<i>Rev. Bryson Williams, Jr., Pastor</i>
Worship	167	<i>Mary Jo Bradley, Secretary</i>
Offering	\$7,436.00	<i>Katie Stewart, Music Director</i>
Received YTD	\$322,092.90	<i>Clara Godfrey, Pianist</i>
Needed YTD	\$313,445.00	<i>Bill Lee, Organist</i>
Difference	+\$8,647.90	<i>Amy Blackwell, Children's Co-Director</i>
Needed Weekly	\$6,268.90	<i>Kelle Waters, Children's Co-Director</i>
Cemetery Fund (11/30/2016)	\$3,184.96	<i>Debra Fowler, Custodian</i>
Capital Imp. Fund Received	\$120.00	<i>Laura Williams, Preschool Director</i>
Capital Imp. Fund Balance	\$92,693.26	

SHARON CHRISTIAN ACADEMY (SCA) STAFF:

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