

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**BLUE**

**December 20, 2015**

**11:00AM**

**"He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David."  
--Luke 1:32**

**We Gather To Worship God**

**Prelude** **Bill Lee, Organist**

**Opening Prayer**

**\*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)

**We Praise God**

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

**\*Affirmation of Faith** **"Apostles Creed"** **UMH #881**

**\*Moments of Fellowship and Passing of the Peace**

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

**"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"** **(v. 1) UMH #211**

**Offering**

**The Offertory** **Bill Lee, Organist**

**\*Doxology** **UMH #95**

**The Offertory Prayer**

**Children's Time** **Christy Snow**

(Sing "Jesus Loves the Little Children" as the children return to their seats.)  
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.

**We Hear God's Word**

**Gospel Reading** **"Luke 1:30-33"** **Pew Bible, p.53 (N.T.)**

**The Good News** **"Hope Of The World"** **Rev. Bryson Williams**

**The Cantata** **"A Garland of Carols"**

**A Garland of Carols.....Choir**  
**Winter Cannon.....Choir**  
**The Wexford Carol.....Choir**  
**Night of Silence.....Choir**  
**Jesus, Oh What A Wonderful Child.....Choir**

**Music Director: Katie Stewart**  
**Pianist: Clara Godfrey Organist: Bill Lee**  
**Sound Technician: Eddie Waldrep**

**We Go Forth To Serve God In The World**

**\*Hymn of Dedication & Service** **"Joy to the World"** **UMH #246**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response** **"His Name Is Wonderful"** **Congregation & Choir**  
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

**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 and in honor and in memory of our loved ones.**

**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 20, 2015

Ben Brockman David & Gertrude Smith  
Betty Jean Brockman June Gossett  
Neely Thompson Howard Jackson  
Doris Fowler Brian Harrison  
Ruby Coggins Dora Edwards  
Margaret DeYoung Dorothy McHugh

Betty Glover  
Frank & Ruby Vaughn  
J. B. Waddell  
Gregg Gowan  
Chuck Hembree(home)  
Olivia Davis

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

Foye Fowler, White Oak Estates, 400 Webber Rd., Spartanburg, 20307  
Pat Lee  
Sharon Lee  
Mike West  
Lewis Sutton  
Lorraine Sroko, 223 Abners Trail Rd., Greer, SC 29651  
Glenn Gardner  
Sharon Ellis  
Preston Johnson  
Lisa Davis, 15 Crescent St., Lyman, SC 29365  
James Hendrix, 102 Bearden Drive, Duncan, SC 29334

Joe Fowler's mother  
Dot Pearson's sister-in-law  
Dot Pearson's sister  
Joyce Lee's son  
Laura Williams' father  
Kathy Jordan's mother  
Donna Staton's brother  
Kaitlyn Pless' aunt  
Dan Edwards' cousin  
Deb Fowler's sister  
Jackie Floyd's brother-in-law

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

Bob Wade, relative of Johnny Wade  
Kim Turner, Bible Baptist Church Pastor's Wife  
Gene Crane, Atlanta, GA., friend of Pat Burgess  
Steve, Jean, Jordan & Davis Dunlap, our missionaries to Asia Minor  
Todd, Pam, Sidney, Ashley, Noah & Hannah Grace Attaway, our missionaries to Thailand

**GIFTS AND MEMORIALS:** A gift to the backpack ministry has been given in honor of Dot Pearson by Tim, Edy & Tori Pearson and Travis, Heather & Peyton Sanders.  
A memorial has been given in memory of James Ray Williams by David & Madeleine Snow.  
A gift has been given to the Jesus Is The Gift in memory of Harold Eason by Jannett Eason.

**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!

**CANNED GOODS AND NON-PERISHABLES:** We thank you for your generosity in November. For the month of December, we are collecting cranberry sauce, stuffing and 4lb. bags of sugar for God's Pantry and individual grits, individual cereal boxes and individual packets of oatmeal for the Weekend Backpack Ministry. Please place items in the gray boxes located in the narthex and gathering space.

**MISSION PRAYER FOCUS:** This week we pray for Ghana. Ghana, in West Africa, was formerly known as the Gold Coast because of the gold mining that began some 500 years ago. The Gold Coast became a British colony in 1873. The economy is based on cocoa, mining, timber and some industry. The majority of the population live from subsistence farming. The strong and large Anglican, Protestant and Catholic churches of Ghana grew out of 19th century mission work. Ghana's churches are experiencing some growth.

**YOUTH NEWS:** The Youth will have their Christmas gathering immediately following the worship service today in the gym. Kaitlyn Pless

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES:** There will be no Wednesday night activities on December 23 and 30.

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP:** On December 24 we will have two Christmas Eve candlelight worship opportunities. The worship times will be 5:00PM and 9:00PM. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend one of these services. Everyone please invite your friends and neighbors. Come as you are to this beautiful service of light.

**JESUS IS THE GIFT:** This year we are asking each church family to give 25% of what they would spend on Christmas to Imagine No Malaria. We can still celebrate Christmas with ¾ of what we would normally spend. We do this to acknowledge that Jesus is the true gift at Christmas. These donations will be received until January 31, 2016.

**SIGN-UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2016:** The 2016 flower calendar is located outside the church office today. Please select your special date(s) for the coming year. The cost for the altar flowers is around \$65.00 depending on flower selection.

**FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:** All contributions for 2015 must be postmarked by December 31, 2015, or hand delivered to the church office by noon on Tuesday, December 29, 2015.

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** The church office will be closed on Wednesday, December 23, Thursday, December 24, and Thursday, December 31, 2015.

**WEBSITE:** Our church website, sharonumchurch.com has been relaunched. If you would like to put something on the site, send the information in an email to [sharonumcwebsite@gmail.com](mailto:sharonumcwebsite@gmail.com). Go check out the site!

**SHARON CHRISTIAN ACADEMY:** Sharon Christian Academy, our new preschool, will begin classes in September of 2016. If you are interested in the director position, teaching or teaching assistant, please send your resume to Pastor Bryson at [bwilliams@umcsc.org](mailto:bwilliams@umcsc.org). We would like to get the staff in place soon, so don't miss your opportunity to be a part of this exciting ministry at Sharon UMC!!! Please pray for our preschool!

**UPPER ROOMS:** The Upper Rooms for January – February 2016 are in the rack in the Gathering Space and the Narthex. Pick up your copy today!

**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 27, 2015 Lectionary Texts**

**1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52**

**THE WEEK AT A GLANCE**

<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20</b>	<b>9:30AM</b>	<b>Prayer Group</b>
	<b>10:00AM</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>11:00AM</b>	<b>Worship, Christmas Cantata</b>
	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Youth Christmas Gathering, Gym</b>
<b>MONDAY, DECEMBER 21</b>	<b>4:00-6:00PM</b>	<b>God's Pantry, Distribute Christmas Boxes</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23</b>		<b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>
		<b>NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES</b>
<b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24</b>		<b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>
	<b>5 &amp; 9PM</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Service</b>
<b>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25</b>		<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: Myra Boland & Karen Waldrep**  
**NURSERY WORKERS Dec. 27: Dot DeYoung & Gayle Fowler**

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH TODAY: April Brunson & Sarah Boland**  
**CHILDREN'S CHURCH Dec. 27: Scott Davis & Lauren Davis**

**Hospitality Team for the month of December 2015: Gerald Snow, Rufus Genobles, J.R. Schroeder, Trudy Cox and Gene Snow.**

**Sunday, December 13, 2015**

<b>Sunday School:</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Worship:</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>Offering :</b>	<b>\$6,248.00</b>
<b>Received YTD:</b>	<b>\$301,612.31</b>
<b>Needed YTD:</b>	<b>\$298,037.50</b>
<b>Difference:</b>	<b>+\$3,574.81</b>
<b>Needed Weekly:</b>	<b>\$5,960.75</b>
<b>Cemetery Fund (9/30/15)</b>	<b>\$3,606.66</b>
<b>Capital Imp. Bldg. Fund Received</b>	<b>\$514.00</b>
<b>Capital Imp. Bldg. Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$69,628.47</b>

**CHURCH STAFF:**

**Rev. Bryson Williams, Jr., Pastor**  
**Mary Jo Bradley, Secretary**  
**Katie Stewart, Music Director**  
**Clara Godfrey, Pianist**  
**Bill Lee, Organist**  
**Christy Snow, Children's Min. Director**  
**Debra Fowler, Custodian**  
**Kaitlyn Pless, Director of Student Ministries**

**Ministers: Sharon Congregation Member**