

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**December 23, 2018**

**11:00AM**

**"And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him".**

**—Matthew 3:16**

**We Gather To Worship God**

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

**Announcements** **Rev. Bryson Williams**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

**\*Call To Worship** **"O Little Town of Bethlehem"** **(v.1,4) UMH #230**

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy darkness shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**(v.4) 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 Emmanuel!**

**\*Opening Hymn** **"Away in a Manger"** **(v. 1,3) UMH #217**

**We Praise God**

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

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Offering**

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

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

**\*Prayer after offering** **Rev. Bryson Williams**

**Children's Message** **Kelle Waters**  
**(Sing "Jesus Loves Me" as the children ages 4,5 and 1st grade to go children's church.)**  
**Jesus Loves Me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

**The Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer** **Rev. Bryson Williams**

**Anthem** **"Ave Maria"** **Katie Reckart**

**We Hear Gods Word**

**Gospel Reading** **"Matthew 3:13-17"** **Pew Bible, p.3(N.T.)**

**Sermon** **"Preparation"** **Rev. Bryson Williams**

**Sacrament of Baptism** **UMH #33**

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

**\*Closing Hymn** **"Victory in Jesus"** **UMH #370**

**\*Benediction** **Rev. Bryson Williams**

**\*Benediction Response** **"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing "** **(v.1)UMH #240**  
**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**\*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 in the church 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.**

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE		
<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23</b>	<b>9:30AM</b>	<b>Prayer Time</b>
	<b>10:00AM</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>11:00AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>
	<b>6:30PM</b>	<b>CrossFire</b>
<b>MONDAY, DECEMBER 24</b>		<b>OFFICE CLOSED Dec. 24—Jan. 1</b>
	<b>5:00PM</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Service</b>
<b>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25</b>		<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>
<b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27</b>	<b>10:00AM</b>	<b>Stretch &amp; Walking in Gym</b>
	<b>6:30PM</b>	<b>Interval Training</b>
<b>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29</b>	<b>9:00AM</b>	<b>Interval Training</b>

Sunday, DEC. 16, 2018	
Sunday School	65
Worship	151
Offering	\$59,440.00
Received YTD	\$383,759.74
Needed YTD	\$337,463.50
Needed Weekly	\$6,749.27
Difference	+\$46,296.24
Cemetery Fund (11/30/2018)	\$2,819.94
Capital Imp. Received	\$210.00
Capital Imp. Fund Balance	\$102,374.89

LECTIONARY TEXTS
Sunday, December 30
1 Samuel 2:18-20 - Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17 - Luke 2:41-52

SERVANT MINISTRIES	
Nursery Workers Today	Pat Burgess & Angie Davis
Nursery Workers December 30	Dot DeYoung & Jannett Eason
Children's Church Today	Amy Blackwell & Katy Lee
Children's Church December 30	Kelle Waters & Linette Garrett
Head Usher Today	Eddie Bright
Head Usher December 30	Jeff Boland

SCA Staff	
Kay Bright	Bailey Cox
Melissa Farmer	Katie Reckart
Lisa Welch	Stephanie Wykel



## Sharon United Methodist Church

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Greer, SC 29651

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Church Website: [sharonumchurch.com](http://sharonumchurch.com)

E-Mail: [sharonumcgreer@gmail.com](mailto:sharonumcgreer@gmail.com)

### ***CHURCH STAFF:***

*Rev. Bryson Williams, Jr., Pastor*

*Mary Jo Bradley, Secretary*

*Katie Reckart, Music Director*

*Victoria Fowler, Pianist*

*Bill Lee, Organist*

*Amy Blackwell, Children's Co-Director*

*Kelle Waters, Children's Co-Director*

*Debra Fowler, Custodian*

*Grey Pennell, Director of Student Ministries*

*Laura Williams, Preschool Director*

**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.**

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

Ben Brockman  
Frank & Ruby Vaughn  
Roie Johnson  
Margaret DeYoung  
Dorothy McHugh  
Gregg Gowan  
Gerald & Ruth Snow  
Phyllis Brockman  
Joyce Lee  
Beverly Cureton  
Johnny Wade

**SHUT IN**

Dora Edwards  
June Gossett  
J. B. Waddell

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

Jackie Keith, friend of Leslie Roper  
Sandy Colter, friend of Janett Eason  
Earl Neely, friend of Ron King  
Mitch Mabee, friend of Clara Godfrey  
Kelli Cardoso, friend of Jackie & Ginger Floyd  
Doris Lewis, Linette Garrett's co-worker's mom  
Kay Hammett, Larry Bradley's sister  
Sharon Community Cupboard  
Sharon Christian Academy

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

Mike West	Joyce Lee's son
Shelby Hendrix	Jackie Floyd and Allen Sheriff's sister
Steve Farmer	Katy Lee's father
Mary & Bill Ruppe	Suzie Horn's mother & step-father
Sharon Lee	Dot Pearson's sister
Wick DeYoung	Ken DeYoung's brother
David Rowland	Debi Hembree's brother

**MISSIONARIES IN ACTION**

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

**MEMORIALS**

**Memorials for Al Boland:**

Johnny & Doris Wade, Jackie & Ginger Floyd, Daniel & Donna Roddy

**Memorials for Eric Wade**

Pat & Phyllis Brockman

**OUR MILITARY**

Erin Pennell  
Jonathan Houck  
Jamie Matekaitis

**FOOD COLLECTIONS:**

*Sharon's Community Cupboard*

Ramen noodles (packs)  
Spaghetti noodles  
Individual packs of Oatmeal and Grits  
1 lb. bag of dried beans (any kind)

**MISSION PRAYER FOCUS:** This week we pray for Taiwan. Taiwan is formed by one large and several small islands off the coast of China. From the 16th through the 19th century, it was part of China, and from 1895 through 1945 it was a colony of Japan called Formosa. It reverted to China after World War II. Christianity came to the island in the 17th century but only developed significantly in the 19th and 20th centuries. Taiwan has an indigenous population which is heavily Christian. The majority of Christians are Catholic and Presbyterian along with an Evangelical and Pentecostal presence.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism. Aiden McKinsey Baker comes to the water and professes her faith in Jesus Christ today. Aiden is the daughter of Denise & David DePratter and the granddaughter of Ronnie and Sheila King. Aiden is a 7th grader at Dawkins Middle School. This is a great day for our Church and for Aiden. Please pray for her on this day and as she continues her Christian journey.

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP:** Our Christmas Eve Worship Service will be on December 24 at 5:00PM. This will be a casual, come as you are service. Members, family, friends and everyone in the community is invited.

**UPPER ROOMS:** The Upper Rooms for Jan.-Feb. are in the rack in the Gathering Space and on the table in the Narthex. Please pick up your copy today. The church provides these for each family so get yours today!

**JESUS IS THE GIFT:** We are still collecting for Jesus Is The Gift. This is a great opportunity to put Jesus on your Christmas list. Everything collected will go to Epworth Children's Home. For more information about Epworth, go to [epworthchildrenshome.org](http://epworthchildrenshome.org).

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**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!

**NEW FLOWER LIST:** The new flower sign-up list is on the wall right outside the church office door.

**2018 CONTRIBUTIONS:** Church contributions need to be received into the church office by December 31 in order to be counted for 2018. Thank you for your generosity.

**OFFICE HOURS:** December 24: 9:00-10:00AM; December 27: 9:00-Noon; December 31: 9:00-10:00AM

