

# FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

WHITE

December 27, 2015

11:00AM

"There was a prophet Anna, she was of great age, a widow the age of 84. She never left the Temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day." --Luke 2:37

## We Gather To Worship God

Prelude Bill Lee, Organist

Opening Prayer

\*Call to Worship "What Child is This"  
What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

## We Praise God

\*Opening Hymn "Once in Royal David's Court" UMH #250

\*Responsive Reading "Psalm 148:1-8" UMH #861

\*Moments of Fellowship and Passing of the Peace

Gospel Reading "Luke 2:21-33" Pew Bible, p. 55, (N.T.)

Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" UMH #230

Hymn "There's a Song in the Air" UMH #249

Hymn "The First Noel" UMH #245

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.

Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer Rev. Bryson Williams

## We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading "Luke 2:36-40" Pew Bible, p. 55, (N.T.)

Homily "Fasting and Prayer" Rev. Bryson Williams

## We Go Forth To Serve God In The World

\*Hymn of Dedication & Service "Angels from the Realms of Glory" UMH #220

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response "Go, Tell it on the Mountain" Congregation & Choir  
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

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**

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

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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  
Holly Wood, Eddie Waldrep's coworker's wife  
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 was given to Jesus Is The Gift in honor and memory of family, friends, loved ones and co-workers by Ginger Floyd.

**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 Nigeria. Nigeria is the most populous and largest oil-producing country of Africa. A former British colony, Nigeria gained its independence in 1960, as a federation. Economically, Nigeria has remained a poor country. The oil revenues only benefit the ruling minority. The north of Nigeria is predominantly Muslim, the south Christian. Violence between Muslims and Christians has occurred frequently, especially in the northern states which have established Sharia'h law, but also in the south. Besides the large mission-founded churches such as the Anglicans, Catholics, Baptists, Methodists, etc., Nigeria has a large number of African Instituted, independent, and Pentecostal churches.

**YOUTH NEWS:** The Youth will have their Christmas gathering immediately following the worship service on January 3 in the gym. Kaitlyn Pless

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

**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 Monday, December 28, 2015.

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** The church office will be closed on Wednesday, December 30 and Thursday, December 31, 2015.

**WEBSITE:** Our church website, sharonumchurch.com has been re-launched. 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, January 3, 2016 Lectionary Texts**

**Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12**

**THE WEEK AT A GLANCE**

|                               |                    |  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| <b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27</b>    | <b>9:30AM</b>      | <b>Prayer Group</b>                          |
|                               | <b>10:00AM</b>     | <b>Sunday School</b>                         |
|                               | <b>11:00AM</b>     | <b>Worship</b>                               |
| <b>MONDAY, DECEMBER 28</b>    | <b>9:00AM</b>      | <b>Pack boxes at God's Pantry, Corporate</b> |
|                               | <b>4:00-6:00PM</b> | <b>God's Pantry</b>                          |
| <b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30</b> |                    | <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>                  |
|                               |                    | <b>NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES</b>         |
| <b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31</b>  |                    | <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>                  |
| <b>FRIDAY, JANUARY 1</b>      |                    | <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>                       |
| <b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 3</b>      | <b>NOON</b>        | <b>Youth lunch gathering, Gym</b>            |

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY:** Dot DeYoung & Gayle Fowler  
**NURSERY WORKERS Jan. 3:** Pat Burgess & Carolyn Genobles

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH TODAY:** Scott Davis & Lauren Davis  
**CHILDREN'S CHURCH Jan. 3:** Communion

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

**Sunday, December 20, 2015**

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>Sunday School:</b>                   | <b>66</b>           |
| <b>Worship:</b>                         | <b>155</b>          |
| <b>Offering :</b>                       | <b>\$8,087.00</b>   |
| <b>Received YTD:</b>                    | <b>\$309,699.31</b> |
| <b>Needed YTD:</b>                      | <b>\$303998.25</b>  |
| <b>Difference:</b>                      | <b>+\$5,701.06</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>\$420.00</b>     |
| <b>Capital Imp. Bldg. Fund Balance</b>  | <b>\$70,048.47</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