

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

BLUE

November 29, 2015

11:00AM

"Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."
--Luke 21:36

We Gather To Worship God

Prelude Clara Godfrey, Pianist

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 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" UMH #196

*Responsive Reading "Psalm 25" UMH #757

*Affirmation of Faith "Nicene Creed" UMH #880

*Moments of Fellowship and Passing of the Peace

New Testament Reading "1 Thessalonians 3:9-13" Pew Bible, p.195 (N.T.)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (v. 4) UMH #211

Offering

The Offertory Pianist

*Doxology UMH #95

The Offertory Prayer

Children's Time Christy Snow
(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.

Call to Prayer "Spirit of the Living God" UMH #393
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

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

Anthem "Lead Me, Guide Me" Choir

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading "Luke 21:25-36" Pew Bible, p.80-81 (N.T.)

The Good News "Be Alert At All Times" Rev. Bryson Williams

We Go Forth To Serve God In The World

*Hymn of Dedication & Service "Soon and Very Soon" UMH #706

*Benediction

*Benediction Response "As We Go" Congregation & Choir
As we go may your Spirit go before me. As we go may we follow where you lead.
May we live what we have learned share the message we have heard, and be a light
unto the world as we go.

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

November 29, 2015

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

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
Bobby DeYoung
Lisa Davis, 15 Crescent St., Lyman, SC 29365
Karson Hendrix

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
Ken DeYoung's brother
Deb Fowler's sister
Kelsey Hendrix's son

ON-GOING PRAYER – SHARON UMC FRIENDS

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

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.

DISTRICT FIVE FAMILY MINISTRIES: District Five Family Ministries Christmas children need folks to "adopt" children they would like to buy clothes/toys for this year (spend approximately \$150.00 per child). You can also volunteer to pack bags with toys and they need shoppers to purchase items on the child's list (they have money that is donated) or help give out the packages. Please contact Ginger Floyd (864-630-1052) or Lyn Turner at District Five Ministries if you would like to volunteer.

MISSION PRAYER FOCUS: This week we pray for Burkina Faso. Burkina Faso is situated in the Sahel, south of the Sahara desert. The Mossi Empire governed this land until the close of the 19th century, when it became a French protectorate. The country gained its independence in 1960, and received its African name in the 1980s. Over 90 percent of the population is engaged in agriculture, mostly subsistence farming and nomadic herding. Today over half of all Christians are Catholics. The Protestant denominations belong to the Evangelical and Pentecostal traditions.

50+ MEETING: The 50+ will meet Tuesday, December 1 at 6:30PM at the South House in Greer. The bus will leave the church at 6:00PM. Hope to see you there!

UMM DECEMBER MEETING: Men make plans on bringing the family to the UMM Christmas breakfast on December 13, at 8:00AM. This will be a time to enjoy a good breakfast and enjoy each other's company. We will also have some special Christmas music.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES: 6:30 Children, Youth, and Adult Bible Study, 7:30 Choir.

BIBLE STUDY: Bible Study will continue this week with Chapter 3 of *Not A Silent Night* by Adam Hamilton. This five week study looks at the birth of Jesus through Mary's eyes. Please consider joining us for this Advent study.

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. Go check out the site!

PRESCHOOL: Church Council voted to open a Preschool at Sharon UMC. The plan is to open the school September 2016. This is an exciting opportunity for our Church and for the Community. **PLEASE BE IN PRAYER AS WE MOVE FORWARD WITH OUR PRESCHOOL.**

YOUTH NEWS: The Youth lock-in is on December 11 beginning at 6:00PM. We will spend a night filled with fun and activities at the church. Anyone willing to donate snacks or volunteer to chaperone, please contact me. We will also participate in the Reidville Christmas Parade on December 12. Thanks, Kaitlyn Pless

CONFIRMATION PARENTS: The Confirmation Parents and students will meet on December 6 at 10:00AM in the Historical Room. Confirmation is for students 7th grade and up who have not previously been through confirmation class.

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.

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.

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 6, 2015 Lectionary Texts

Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

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| SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 | 9:30AM | Prayer Group |
| | 10:00AM | Sunday School |
| | 11:00AM | Worship |
| MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30 | 9:00AM | Pack boxes at God's Pantry Corporate |
| | 4:00-6:00PM | God's Pantry |
| TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1 | 6:30PM | 50+, South House Restaurant in Greer |
| WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2 | 5:30PM | Wednesday night meal |
| | 6:30-7:30PM | Wednesday night activities for all ages |
| | 7:30PM | Choir Practice |

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: Linette Garrett & Angie Davis
NURSERY WORKERS Dec. 6: Pat Burgess & Carolyn Genobles

CHILDREN'S CHURCH TODAY: April Brunson & Christine Sareault
CHILDREN'S CHURCH Dec. 6: Communion

Hospitality Team for the month of November 2015: Gerald Snow, Jeff & Sarah Boland, Greg Gowan, Brian Harrison, Joe Fowler.
 Hospitality Team for the month of December 2015: Gerald Snow, Rufus Genobles, J.R. Schroeder, Trudy Cox and Gene Snow.

Sunday, November 22, 2015

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| Sunday School: | 69 |
| Worship: | 123 |
| Offering : | \$5,998.50 |
| Received YTD: | \$282,530.56 |
| Needed YTD: | \$280,155.25 |
| Difference: | +\$2,375.31 |
| Needed Weekly: | \$5,960.75 |
| Cemetery Fund (9/30/15) | \$3,606.66 |
| Capital Imp. Bldg. Fund Received | \$725.00 |
| Capital Imp. Bldg. Fund Balance | \$68,222.47 |

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