



 **Main Street**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



WORSHIPPING



SERVING



BUILDING



WELCOMING

211 North Main Street
Greenwood, South Carolina 29646
(864) 229-7551
www.msumc1.org

December 31, 2017

Our Mission: "Following Christ from City Center"

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

11:00 am

First Sunday after Christmas

White

Welcome Visitors, Register Attendance, Church Concerns, Announcements

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

Joyful and Triumphant
Emily Wallace, organist

Martin

*Call to Worship

Glenn Williams, Lay Reader

Leader: God of all times and yet beyond time, you call us into a new year still to be discovered.

All: Help us travel light, in faith and expectation. Guide us in this new venture of imagination.

Leader: Make us bold witnesses to the in-breaking of your future.

All: Let us rest our time in yours, confident that we do not enter this new year alone.

*Hymn No. 240

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Crucifer: Marler Askew, Acolyte: Gibson Askew

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open and all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Proclaiming the Good News

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Glenn Williams

The Anthem

Great is Thy Faithfulness
Myra Greene, soloist

arr. Krogstad

Children's Message Reflection

Covenant

Rev. James McCoy-Bruce
Rev. James McCoy-Bruce

Responding to God's Word

The Invitation

Dearly beloved: the Christian life, to which we are called, is a life in Christ, redeemed from sin by Christ, and consecrated to God through Christ. We have entered upon this life, having been admitted into that new covenant of which our Lord Jesus Christ is mediator, and which Jesus sealed with his own blood, that it might stand forever.

On one side of the covenant is God's promise to fulfill, in and through us, all that God declared in Jesus Christ, who is the author and perfecter of our faith. We are sure that this promise still stands, for we have known God's goodness and proved God's grace in our own lives day by day. On the other side, we promise to live no more for ourselves, but for Christ, who loved us even to death. He called us to serve God so that the purposes of Christ's coming would be fulfilled.

From time to time we renew our vows of consecration—especially when we gather at the Lord's Table. But today we meet expressly, as generations of our ancestors have met, to joyfully and solemnly renew the covenant which bound them and binds us to God. Remembering the mercies of God and the hope of God's calling, let us then examine ourselves by the light of the Spirit, that we may see where we have fallen short in faith and practice. Considering all that this covenant means, may we give ourselves again to God.

The Act of Adoration

Leader: Let us adore God, the Creator of Love who made us; who every moment preserves and sustains us; who has loved us with an everlasting love, and has given us the light of the knowledge of the Almighty's glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

All: We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.

Leader: Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, though rich, yet for our sakes became poor; who went about doing good, preaching the Gospel of the kingdom; who was tempted in all ways as we are, yet without sin; who became obedient to death, even the death of the cross; who was dead, and lives forever; who opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers; who sits at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father.

All: You are the King of glory, O Christ.

Leader: Let us rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, by whom we are born into the family of God and made members of the Body of Christ; whose witness confirms us, whose wisdom teaches us, whose power enables us; who waits to do for us abundantly more than we ask or think.

All: All praise to You, O Holy Spirit. Amen.

Silent Prayer

***The Act of Thanksgiving**

Let us rise and give thanks to God for the Lord's many mercies. (Please rise as you are able.)

Leader: O God our Creator, the fountain of all goodness, who has been gracious to us through all the years of our life: We give You thanks for Your loving kindness which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place.

All: We praise Your holy name, O Lord.

Leader: You have given us life and reason, and set us in a world which is full of Your glory. You have comforted us with family and friends, and ministered to us through the hands and minds of others.

All: We praise Your holy name, O Lord.

Leader: You have set in our hearts a hunger for you, and given us Your peace. You have redeemed us and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus. You have given us a place in the fellowship of Your Spirit and the witness of Your Church.

All: We praise Your holy name, O Lord.

Leader: In darkness You have been our Light, in adversity and temptation our Rock of Strength, in our joys the very Spirit of Joy, in our work the all-sufficient Reward.

All: We praise Your holy name, O Lord.

Leader: You have remembered us when we have forgotten You, followed us even when we fled from You, met us with forgiveness when we turned back to You. For all your patience and the abundance of Your grace,

All: We praise Your holy name, O Lord. Amen.

Silent Prayer

The Act of Confession

Leader: Let us now examine ourselves before God, humbly confessing our sins and watching our hearts, lest by self-deceit, we shut ourselves out from God's presence. Let us pray:

All: O God our Creator, who has set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son: We confess with shame our slowness to learn of Jesus, our reluctance to follow Christ. You have spoken and called, and we have not given heed. Your beauty has shone forth, and we have been blind. You have stretched out your hand to us through strangers among us, and we have passed by. We have taken great gifts and given little thanks. We have been unworthy of Your changeless love. Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

Leader: Forgive us, we ask You, the poverty of our worship, the formality and selfishness of our prayers, our inconstancy and unbelief. Forgive our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our false pretenses, and our willful ignorance of Your ways.

All: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

Leader: Forgive us where we have wasted our time or misused our gifts. Forgive us where we have excused our own wrongdoing or evaded our responsibilities. Forgive us that we have been unwilling to overcome evil with good; that we have drawn back from the cross.

All: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

Leader: Forgive us that so little of Your love has reached others through us. Forgive us where we have cherished the things that divide us from others, where we have made it hard for them to live with us, and where we have been thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in condemnation, and grudging in forgiveness.

All: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

Leader: If we have made no ventures in fellowship, if we have kept in our heart a grievance against another, if we have not sought reconciliation, if we have been eager for the punishment of wrongdoers and slow to seek their redemption,

All: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

Leader: Let each of us in silence make confession to God.

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

This is the message we have heard from Jesus and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

All: Thanks be to God!

***Covenant Hymn No. 413** *A Charge to Keep I Have*

***The Covenant**

(Please remain standing if you are able.)

Leader: And now, beloved, let us bind ourselves with willing bonds to our covenant God, and take the yoke of Christ upon us. This means that we are heartily content that Christ appoint us our place and work, and that Christ alone will be our reward. Christ has many services to be done. Some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honor, others bring reproach; some are suitable to our natural inclinations and temporal interests, others are contrary to both. In some, we may please Christ and please ourselves; in others, we

Serving This Sunday, December 31

**Prayer Sentinel: Glenn Williams
Sound System Operator: Jeff Smith**

Acolyte Parent Volunteer: Hope Askew

**Nursery Volunteer: Lindsay Burns
Ext. Session Worker: Jennifer Larkins**

Stewardship Report as of 12/24/2017

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
YTD INCOME:	\$ 710,877	\$ 794,427
YTD EXPENSES:	\$ 735,377	\$ 794,427
YTD SURPLUS		
OR (DEFICIT):	\$ (24,500)	

Attendance 12/24/2017

8:30 am Service.....	95
Sunday School.....	168
11:00 am Service.....	176

Leadership Luncheon
Save the Date!

Get your committee off to a great start by attending the Leadership Luncheon on Sunday, January 14, 2018, at 12 noon. Save the dates have been sent out. You will receive your invitation soon. Thank you for serving!

CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday, January 1

Office closed for New Years

Wednesday, January 3

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Pick-up basketball – Asbury

Thursday, January 4

9:00 am – 12:00 noon Mud Pies Preschool

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm BSA Long Cane Dist. – Library

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Girl Scouts-Brownies/Jrs – Asb

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Girl Scouts 1389 – FH

Friday, January 5

9:00 am – 12:00 noon Mud Pies Preschool

5:30 pm Celebrate Recovery – Fellowship Hall

Saturday, January 6

8:30 am – 4:00 pm Kairos Team – FH

10:00 am – 12:00 noon Girl Scout Cookie Rally

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm Eagle Ceremony - Chapel

Sunday, January 7

8:30 am Early Service – Fellowship Hall

9:15 am Breakfast Served – Fellowship Hall

10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am Traditional Service – Sanctuary

12:00 noon Honduras Mission Pill Packing - FH

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm Bible Study – Library

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm Youth – Youth Room

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Pick-up basketball - Asbury

Main Street United Methodist Church Staff

Rev James McCoy-Bruce, Senior Pastor

John McFadden, Director of Music Ministries

Emily Wallace, Organist

Kathy Kelly, Adult Program Coordinator

Lee Robirds, RN, Congregational Nurse

Sharon Britz, Director of Youth and Student Ministries

Lisa Smith, Children's Program Coordinator

Jo Patterson, Office Assistant

Linda Miller, Financial Secretary

Debbie Tharpe, Interim Office Assistant

Scott Parham, Building Superintendent

Allison Wooten, Mud Pies Director

Michael Fisher, Building Caretaker

Melvin Boyd, Building Caretaker