

THE CONNECTION

CHEROKEE SPRINGS UMC

2870 CHESNEE HIGHWAY · SPARTANBURG SC. 29303

JANUARY 2023

Dear Cherokee Springs Family,

I want to share with you a poem from one of my favorite poets, Wendell Berry. The poem is called "Planting Crocuses."

I made an opening
to reach through blind
into time, through
sleep and silence, to new
heat, a new rising,
a yellow flower opening
in the sound of bees

Deathly was the giving
of that possibility
to a motion of the world
that would bring it
out, bright, in time.

My mind pressing in
through the earth's
dark motion toward
bloom, I thought of you,
glad there is no escape.
It is this we will be
turning and re-
turning to

I know poetry isn't for everyone. Oftentimes I cannot sit with a poem long enough—ADHD is partly to blame—to discern any meaningful meaning. I just want the answer. Tell me what it means. If only there were "answer keys" in the back of the book. But I was blessed to be able to sit long enough with this one to see what Berry is talking about. When we dig holes and plant seeds, we do so with the hope that, in time, they will bloom. But we also do so at the risk of the seed not making it.

This is the risk we take with life and faith. At our baptism we die with Christ, but we are also raised to new life with him. We have not yet seen the fruits of that raising with our own eyes. "Deathly is the giving of that possibility"—"a yellow flower opening in the sound of bees"—"that would bring it out, bright, in time." Planting seeds is vulnerable work; but with faith comes fruit. I pray that in this new year, we can continue making openings to reach through, as we look forward to the eventual fruits of our vulnerable labor.

With Love,
Pastor Mason
mhcantey@umcsc.org
843-598-4928



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:15am

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

10:00am

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Bible Study: Tuesday 6:30pm

Choir Practice: Wednesdays 6:30pm

Youth: Sundays 5-7pm

*8th – Consecration for Fellowship Hall
10am*

*11th – Church Council
7:15pm*

Virtual services offered through our
Facebook page.



*Calendar changes will be announced during
Sunday services and on the
CSUMC Facebook page.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2 - Larry Corbin
2 - Mary Jo Newton
4 - Melissa White
7 - Liz Corbin
9 - Kristen Brown

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

13 – Rick and Donna Van Vleet

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE

January 1

Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12

January 8

Isaiah 42:1-9
Matthew 3:13-17

January 15

1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 22

1 Corinthians 1:10-17
Matthew 4:12-23

January 29

1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday Servers

Ushers: Walt Brown and Bill White

Alt: Bradley Newton

Acolyte: MerriElizabeth Cable

READERS

January 1	Mary Ann Hipp
January 8	Dean Hartsoe
January 15	Gail Durant
January 22	Mena Codespoti
January 29	Rick Van Vleet

Fellowship Hall Consecration

January 8, 2023

10:00 am

**Join us in the Fellowship Hall for Sunday Service and our
Building Consecration**

*Please continue to pray for those on our prayer list.
If you have a new prayer request or update, please text them to 864-921-0662.*

*Deadline to submit next month's newsletter info is: January 16th
Updates . . . Corrections . . . Changes . . . to the newsletter? Email info@cherokeespringsumc.org*