

THE CONNECTION

CHEROKEE SPRINGS UMC

2870 CHESNEE HIGHWAY · SPARTANBURG SC. 29303

December 2023

Dear Cherokee Springs Family,

I know it's a cliché, but Christmas really was always a magical time of year growing up. My mother really did (and does) deck the halls with garlands and nutcrackers, lights and figures, and everything in between. But as time goes on, the feeling of Christmas seems to change. The everyday stresses and responsibilities of life in adulthood seem to dull the colors and decor, the wonder of Christmastide.

Of course, that's not what Christmas is really about. As a pastor I know the "reason for the season." And I've also come to appreciate the practice of re-learning and embracing that childlike sense of awe and wonder at Advent. It might seem silly or even contradictory to think about awe and wonder as a discipline, but sometimes you gotta do what you gotta do!

It isn't necessary, but it helps to have kids for whom we want to create that same kind of experience. Maggie and Livi Mae are my coaches when it comes to awe and wonder. They keep me young at heart. It seems like Maggie adds another tote of Christmas decorations every year. I try not to think of it as clutter, but rather I invite my childhood self to enjoy and embrace it.

Advent is a time of celebrating the birth and anticipated return of Christ. It is a time of preparation, of adorning our hearts and homes with the trappings of faith. Our hearts with generosity, kindness, humility, and love, and our homes with lights, greenery, and ornaments of every kind. And the hope is that even after the home adornments are put away until next year, the heart adornments will be there to stay.

How will you and your family or circle of friends adorn your hearts this year? It's time to deck the halls and deck the hearts!

With Love,
Pastor Mason
mhcantey@umcsc.org



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

- December 9 - Adopt A Highway
8am
- December 11 - Ladies' Christmas Party
Donna Webber's home
6pm
- December 15 - Church Christmas Party
Fellowship Building
6pm
- December 24 - Christmas Eve Service
@ LUMC time TBD
- December 31 - NYE Watch Night
Fellowship Building
6pm

Virtual services offered through our
Facebook page.



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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3 – Cynthia Codespoti

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE

December 3rd – Our Shocking Peace

Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7

Mark 13:24-37

December 10th – Our Just Hope

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Mark 1:1-8

December 17th – Our Fierce Joy

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126

John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24th – Love that Transforms Us

2 Samuel 7:11

Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26; Luke 1:26-38

December 31st – Watchnight

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148

Luke 2:22-40



Boxes to exchange/sort Christmas Cards for church family are in the church office.



Sunday Servers

Ushers: Dennis Bidy & Stanley Webber

Alt: Bill White

Counters: Rick Van Vleet & Walt Brown

Acolyte: Drennan Cable

READERS

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|-------------|-----------------------|
| December 3 | Liz Pennington |
| December 10 | Berri Meyers |
| December 17 | Mary Ann Hipp |
| December 24 | Dean Hartsoe |
| December 31 | Gail Durant |

Dec 15th

CSUMC Christmas Party

Join us for fun games, pizza and dessert!

What can you bring:

Your *favorite Christmas dessert* to share and *prizes** for games.

*Prizes will be in the style of a white elephant gift exchange. Bring new or gently used items that you would like to pass along!

Dec 11th

Ladies' Christmas Party

All ladies (and men) of the church are invited to their annual Christmas Party!

Bring a dish to share and a wrapped gift (\$20 limit)

Ornament Tree

The tree in the vestibule near the cross wall is dedicated to ornaments you bring that have special meaning for your family.



Dec 3 = Taize Prayer Service

Dec 10th – Party & Caroling

New Years Eve Watch Night!!!

Bring games and snacks to share! Breakfast for supper. Check out the sign-up list in the hall!



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: December 18th

Updates . . . Corrections . . . Changes . . . to the newsletter? Email info@cherokeespringsumc.org