

# Opportunities to Worship, Fellowship and Serve

**2012 GIVING ENVELOPES** — are available in the rear of the Sanctuary. May our giving in 2012 reflect our love for God, and our desire for our church to minister to our community and world.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN** — Tuesday, 10 a.m. in the Billy Raley Classroom. All women are cordially invited to attend. Joann Hart will have the program.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIPS** — will resume in February.

**WEDNESDAY CHOIR SCHEDULE** — Harmony rehearsal, 5:45 p.m.; Chancel Ringers rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.; Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

**THE ENERGETICS** — Thursday, 10 a.m. in the Conference Room.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS** — *Trustees*, next Sunday, January 8, 6 p.m.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** — are needed for: **January 22; February 26, March 4, 11, 18, 25.** Please call or email the church office to reserve a date. April through December 2011 open dates are posted on the church website, or may be viewed on the calendar in the office.

**CHURCH WEBSITE** — The church news page is updated every Friday, and the Sunday worship bulletin is also posted on the resources page. Spend time discovering features of the church website, and share the site with a friend.

## Participating in Worship Today

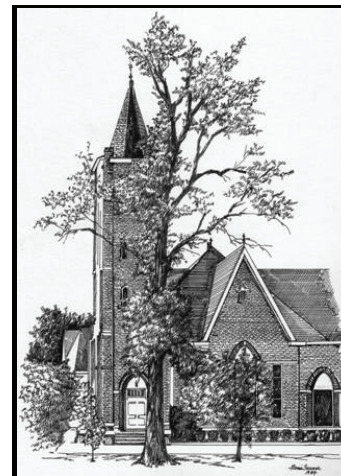
**Crucifer**—Scott Johnson; **Acolyte**—Virginia Williamson;

**Ushers**—Ricky Sheets, Chuck Black, Hub Meggs; Nicky Jacobs

**Nursery**—Brandy Deal, Ann Moody (SS and Worship);

**Greeters**—The Billy Raley Class; **Altar Guild**—Kathy Culbertson, Libby Shutt

Rev. Mary Virginia Taylor.....	RESIDENT BISHOP	Joann Hart .....	FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Rev. Dickie Knight .....	DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT	Rev. J. Leon Newton .....	RETIRED UMC MINISTER
Rev. Dr. Ben Michael Gafford .....	SENIOR PASTOR		
Rev. Jim Hepler ....	DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES	Office Phone .....	843.479.3231
Beth Hepler .....	EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR	Office E-mail.....	BvilleFUMC@bellsouth.net
April McCall .....	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	Website .....	www.BennettsvilleFUMC.net



**First United Methodist Church  
Bennettsville, South Carolina**

*The Epiphany of the Lord*

*January 1, 2012*

*Nations shall come to your  
light, and kings to the  
brightness of your dawn.*

Isaiah 60:3, NRSV



# The Church In Worship

## WELCOME AND PARISH CONCERNS

Please sign the attendance folder and pass it down the pew for each person to sign. As the folder is returned, note the names of others in your pew. Extend a welcome to our guests!

## OPENING VOLUNTARY

Johann Sebastian Bach

### Chorale Prelude on “The Old Year Now Has Passed Away”

*The old year has passed; we thank You, Lord Jesus Christ,  
that You have protected us so mercifully in such great danger this year.*

*Help us leave off sinning and begin to grow faithful.*

*Do not think on the sins of the old year; grant us a year rich in grace.*

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine! Your light has come!

**The light of Christ Jesus is shining this day.**

Arise, shine! *Your* light has come!

**The light of Christ Jesus is shining for us.**

You are members of Christ’s body and share in Christ’s promised salvation.

**The light of Jesus Christ is shining in us.**

Arise, shine! *You* are the light of the world.

**Christ’s light shines through us with justice and peace.**

Arise, shine! May our worship be filled with light and love.

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE 254

“We Three Kings”

KINGS OF ORIENT

## \*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## \*THE GLORIA PATRI 70

MEINEKE

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Mighty God, too often we want what is Yours:

Your glory and Your power, for ourselves and for our loved ones.

Humble us, we pray.

Help us remember a dirty stable

and a poor couple caring for their firstborn child,

even as King Herod used all his might to seek the death of that holy child.

Shine in our lives with Your grace and righteousness,

that we may arise as shining beacons in a world dark with violence and oppression.

Rise up within us, that we may grow into Your likeness

and shine with the glory of love and justice.

In the name and hope of the Christ child, we pray. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Arise, shine, dear friends! Your light has come! The glory of God has risen upon you. As Christ rises within us, we shine in the darkness, for grace is ours to receive and to give.

**Thanks be to God!**

## THE PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE

Silent Prayer and Pastoral Prayer with The Lord’s Prayer in unison

## THE OFFERING OF THE PEOPLE

## OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

Robert Hobby

“Christ Is the World’s Light”

## \*OFFERTORY RESPONSE 95

OLD HUNDREDTH

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;  
praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

(TEXT BY THOMAS KEN, 1674; MUSIC ATTRIBUTED TO LOUIS BOURGEOIS, 1551)

## \*HYMN OF PREPARATION 256

CUSHMAN

“We Would See Jesus”

## THE ANTHEM

“Brighter Than the Sun”

John Helgen

*The Chancel Choir; Ivy B. McLaurin, Accompanist*

## \*SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2: 1-12, pp. 1-2, NT

## THE MESSAGE

“Giving Our Gifts”

Rev. Dr. Gafford

## \*HYMN OF DEDICATION 188

CHRISTE SANCTORUM

“Christ Is the World’s Light”

## \*READING 607 “A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition”

John Wesley

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*CHORAL BENEDICTION

Lee Turner

“May the Road Rise to Meet You”

## CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Johann Pachelbel

Chorale Prelude on “O Morning Star, How Bright and Fair”

\*Those who are able are invited to stand.

**We welcome all who worship with us today!** Whether you are a member of this congregation, or a visitor, you are not meant to be a stranger. Let us extend a hand of friendship to one another. Please join us in worship any time you are able!

**The altar flowers** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of J. P. and Pledger Hodges by Mrs. Virginia Hodges.

**An infant and toddler nursery** is provided during the worship service. It is located on the first floor of the Christian Education Building, and the elevator is available to access the nursery.

**Personal hearing devices** are available for those who have difficulty in hearing the service.