MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Fourth Wednesday	Ladies Meeting will meet at 10:00 am, Sue Herrin's home
Fourth Monday Monthly	Cereus Garden Club meets at 10:00 AM
Wednesdays	Choir Practice, 6:30 PM
THURSDAYS	9:00 am, Volunteers to help with maintaining buildings & grounds
Sunday	9:45 AM, Adult Sunday School, Educational Bldg.

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Monday, December 7th	SJMC Annual Christmas Banquet
Sunday, December 13th	SJMC Children's Christmas Program immediately following Service
Tuesday, December 15th	St. John Seniors, BPW Bldg., Noon
Sunday, December 20th	SJMC Choir Christmas Cantata
Thursday, December 24th	STMC Christmas Eve Service

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Our Ministry Worship Team

Children & Youth:
Esther Timmerman

Music Director:
Kay Minor

CONTRIBUTIONS

Current received	$165,453.55
Year to date goal	$141,440.00
	$24,013.55

Date	Sunday	Worship	Weekly needed	Current given
11/22/2026	-	70	$3,000.00	$2,091.00

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WE WAIT IN HOPE FOR THE LORD.

PSALM 33:20, NIV

First Sunday of Advent
November 29th, 2026

18 Gregg Street
P.O. Box 38, Graniteville, SC 29829
stjohngraniteville.com 803-663-7041

ST. JOHN METHODIST CHURCH

Graniteville, SC

November 29th, 2026

First Sunday of Advent

Prelude
Welcome and Announcements
*Call to Worship **"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"** MH 204

*Hymn of Praise **"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"** MH 131

*Affirmation of Faith **Apostles' Creed** MH 881
*Gloria Patri MH 71

First Sunday of Advent

Leader: We light the first candle of Advent, the Candle of Hope. The prophets of old declared that a Savior would come, a light for all nations, to bring deliverance to God's people. In a world still waiting for redemption, we kindle this light as a sign of the hope we have in God's unfailing promises.

(Light the first candle.)

Leader: As this first candle burns, we remember Christ our Hope. May His light strengthen our faith, renew our hope, and prepare our hearts for His coming.

Leader: Let us respond together.
All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Shine Your light in us, and awaken our hope. Amen.

Lifting up the Hearts of the People
Preparation for Prayer
Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*Doxology *(tune of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel")*
**Praise God from whom all blessing flows; praise Him,
all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.**

*Hymn of Preparation **"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"** MH 196

*Passing the Peace of Christ

"God's Big Family"
**God's big family, precious souls set free,
God's big family, cleansed at Calvary;
Those whose lives have been redeemed,
Those whose blinded eyes now see,
Yes, I'm so glad I'm a part of God's big family.**

Sermon "Before The Manger, There Was Hope"

Charles Goodman, Jr.

Scriptures: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7** ***NRSV
Romans 15:12-13
1 Timothy 1:1

Sermon Theme:

Long before the manger in Bethlehem, God promised His people a Savior. Through generations of waiting, hardship, and uncertainty. His promise endured. What the prophets foretold, God fulfilled through the birth of Jesus Christ -- the true hope of the world.

As we begin Advent with the Candle of Hope, we are reminded that our hope is not found in perfect circumstances, but in a faithful God who keeps His promises. Jesus came t\not to remove every difficulty from life, but to bring salvation, light, and everlasting hope into a troubled world.

This Advent season calls us to prepare more than our homes and churches for Christmas. It calls us to prepare our hearts for Christ, to trust Him through life's uncertainties, and to share His hope with others.

Before the manger, there was a promise. In Bethlehem, that promise was fulfilled. And today, that hope has a name -- Jesus Christ.

*Response Hymn **"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"** MH 206

*Benediction

Postlude

Those who are able, please stand.