



**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
LEXINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA



At First United Methodist Church we are each alive in Christ, united in nurturing fellowship, reaching out to share God's boundless love.

December 21, 2025

11:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent: "Enthroned by Love"

Like the iconic figures gathered around the Christ Child in our nativity scenes, we gather together because we want to know Jesus more as we seek to bring his Reign of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love on earth.

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome

Rev. Cheryl Skinner

Song of Praise - "Our King Has Come" by Katie Nicole & Matt Maher
Kinsey Calderone and Sam Stowe

Advent Candle Lighting: Candle of Love Ann & Olen Easter

Sung Response

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Reader: We relight the candle of Hope for those who long for Good News.
We relight the candle of Peace for those who yearn for God's Shalom.
We relight the candle of Joy for those who wait for God's Justice.
Today, we light the candle of Love for those who need it most.

People: **For all who feel they are on the outskirts of love.**

Reader: For all who know the loss of a love.

People: **For all who are rejected because of who they are.**

Reader: Our question for today at the scene of the nativity is this:

"How will we make sacrificial love our aim in our time?"

People: **What child IS this?**

This, this, is the babe who was swaddled in love
and wraps us all in love forever.

Sung Response

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Prayer for the Journey

Here, at the nativity of your birth,
give us the courage to face this moment
with a steadfast love that casts out fear.

Open us to new understandings
of the unfolding story of your presence among us.

Show us how to be with and for one another
in ways that add to the flourishing of all creation.
We pray in the name of the Child,
the Love Enthroned in our hearts and lives.

Amen.

Hymn of Anticipation No. 245

"The First Noel"

Traditional English Carol

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Anthem - "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

First UMC Chancel Choir

arr. by Dan Forrest

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently, the wond'rous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessing of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray!
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell!
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel

We Worship with our Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious and Giving God, creator of all,
we return to you thanks for life and breath
and for your gifts of strength and skill,
of money, wisdom, hope, and love.
Use our tangible gratitude and gifts
to extend our sharing of the Gospel,
until you bring to completion
the loving work you have begun in us,
through Jesus Christ, Amen.



A Time for the Child in All of Us

All children are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary for a time just for them! Afterwards, children in kindergarten thru 2nd grade are invited to follow the leader to the Godly Play Room for Children's Church.

by Christina Rossetti

Hymn of Preparation No. 242

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

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Gospel Reading - Matthew 1:18-25

Rev. Kirk Tutterow

Sermon - "Enthroned By Love"

We Ask and We Answer

Leader: As we prepare to go into the world,
let us ask and answer the question we came with.

People: **What child IS this?**

Leader: This is the one surrounded by sacrificial love.

People: **What child IS this?**

Leader: This is the one who would go on to great sacrifice
in the name of love.

People: **What child IS this?**

Leader: This, this is the one "Enthroned by Love"
who invites us into more love
than we thought was possible.

by Josiah G. Holland

Invitation to Love No. 249

"There's a Song In the Air"

Benediction

Song of Response

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Danish

Choral Benediction - "Three-Fold Amen"

First UMC Chancel Choir

Chimes of the Trinity

Postlude - "O, Little Town of Bethlehem"
Phyllis Jones, organ
arr. by Mark Hayes

Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in honor of their 68th wedding anniversary by Kay and Bob Timberlake.

Prayer Requests

Lifting up prayers for our First UMC members, friends, family, community, country, and the world. All are encouraged to review the list and contact the church office to add or remove a name from the prayer list.

First UMC member:

Peggy Everhart
Jemmietta Allred
Judy Hench
Dare Wilson
Dot Cook
G. F. Smith
Doster Wood
Cindy/Tom Smith

Friends & Family:

Lenny Wegwart
Linda Cox
Tricia Royster
Torrey Jackson
Steve Erickson
Carmen Russell
The Schlossberg Family
Special Friends
Julie Milner
Marlene Jones
Kimberly Wood
Lee Ann Bethel
Anna Cruz
Kaitlin Deebel
Jamie Everhart
Beth Graves
Rev. Ed (Patty) Kelaher
Mark Frye
Jackie Truell Butler
Tony Hill
Gary Elms
Jane King
Cathy
Spencer Davis
Phil (Sharon) Kinzer
Jon & Emerson Bethel
Michael Wood
Louise & Ray Kombau
Special Friends (CM)
Julie Griggs
Melba (Charles) Purvis
Sharon (Edsel) Beck
Edith Clement

Member Care

Dana (Rodney) Colquitt
Brentley & Conley Castor
Dale, Mandy & Riley Castor
Curt (Lisa) Miller
Deanna Smith
Tami Robinson
Irene Foster
Dorey Thomas
Elizabeth Morales
Christine
Judy Jordan
Kay Gilmer
Cheryl Crago
Deborah Bisbee
Woody Bowman
Becky Griffith
Kay Crouse
Ron & Kristie Wooten
Greg Leonard
Gary (Pat) Leonard
Tommy Hendrix
Sarah Rakestraw
Gloria Bulluck
Brandon (Jan) Kraft
Trevor Vermette
Joan Briggs
John McNeil
Amy McIntosh
Stan Larson
Betty Jean Whitaker
Kendall Conner

Missionaries

David, Hannah, Nicholas, & Samuel Mora—Honduras

Serving in the Armed Forces

*Major Kacie Allred
*Sergeant McRay Calderone
*SGT John Hall
SGT Alan Ingram
Major Jarrad Thorley

Member Care

*Dot Cook
*Ginnie Easter
*Hilda Flynt
*Louise Hawley
*Larlie Mae Knight
*Edna Morris
*John (Rebecca) Scarff
*Carolyn Smith
*Patricia Smith
*Dr. Hunter Strader
*Ruby (Buddy) Taylor
*Flonnie Thomason
Peggy & Wayne Wegwart
*Dare Wilson

Brilliance Edgewater (Florida)
*Mary Norman

Brookdale (Lexington)
*Libby & Max Lanning
*Ramona Phelps

The Pines (Davidson)
*Carolyn Briggs

Piedmont Crossing (Thomasville)
Assisted Living
*Rachel Hendrix
*Bob Pearson
Residents
*Joan & Dick Bisbee
*Betsy Buchanan
*Herman Crabtree
*Jim Dillon
*Becki & Tom Foust

Westminster Canterbury (Virginia)
*Bettye Gray

United in Nurturing Fellowship

Sunday, December 21

8:30am United Methodist Men, Fellowship Hall
8:45am Early Worship, Sanctuary
9:45am Sunday School for ALL Ages
11:00am Morning Worship, Sanctuary
11:00am LIVE Stream on YouTube at First UMC Lexington NC
7:00pm An Advent Love Feast and Carols, Sanctuary

Monday, December 22**Tuesday, December 23****Wednesday, December 24**

Christmas Eve
12:00pm Church Office Closes for the Day
5:30pm Candlelight Service & Communion, Sanctuary
11:00pm Candlelight Service & Communion, Sanctuary

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day
Church Office Closed

Friday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 27**Sunday, December 28**

First Sunday after Christmas
11:00am Morning Worship, Sanctuary
11:00am LIVE Stream on YouTube at First UMC Lexington NC

Estimate of Giving Card for 2026

As God's people at First UMC, our financial gifts are an important part of fulfilling our mission to offer Christ to the world around us. No gift is too large or too small, but every gift is important. If you haven't already turned in an Estimate of Giving card, please take a moment to fill one out and place it in the offering plate, which will aid the FUMC Finance Committee in planning our 2026 Ministry Budget. Thank you for your support for First UMC.

2026 Offering Envelopes are located on the usher/greeter pew at the back of the sanctuary and are ready for pick up. Thank you!

2026 Flower Calendar is located in the main hallway on the bulletin board near the water fountain by the fellowship hall. You are invited to select a Sunday and sign up to place fresh flowers in the narthex or on the altar in honor or in memory of someone, an occasion (birthday or anniversary), or a notable event. You may also contact the church office to sign up. The church office will need the information you would like printed in the bulletin.



Reaching Out and Sharing God's Boundless Love

Cancer Services of Davidson County
Sponsored by Missions Team

Items Needed:
Ensure
Depends

Charles England & Pickett Elementary Backpack Programs

Sponsored by UW in Faith
Needed food items: A list is located on our website or at the donation site.

Other Items Needed:
Children's Underwear
Small – X Large
Children's Socks
Size 13-4
Adult Underwear & Socks
Small

Communities In Schools

Items Needed:
Individual/Single Serve Sized:
Mac & Cheese, Soups,
Spaghetti O's, Lasagna,
Peanut Butter Crackers,
Ramen Noodles

Hospice of Davidson County**Items Needed:**

Small water bottles
Peanut Butter Crackers
Cheese Crackers
Granola Bars
Little Debbie snack cakes
Peppermint Candies
Canned drinks (12 oz. or less)
Single serve sized:
Goldfish, Pretzels, Teddy Grahams, Popcorn, Assorted Chips

Pastor's Pantry
Canned Food: green beans, tuna, chicken, soups, stews

Open Hands of Davidson County**Items Needed:**

Boxes of Cereal
Spaghetti Noodles
Saltine Crackers
Rice
Mac-n-Cheese
Stove Top Stuffing
Ramen Noodles
Canned Vegetables
Soups / Spaghetti Sauce
Cranberry Sauce
Peanut Butter
Cases of Water
Street Food Items:
Vienna Sausage
Potted Meat
Pop Top Cans of Ravioli, Spaghetti O's, etc.
Single serve sized: Peanut Butter Crackers, Chips, Pop Tarts
Instant Hot Chocolate
Clean & Gently Used: bath towels, washcloths
Personal Care Items:
Body wipes, disposable razors, shampoo, bar soap, deodorant, toothpaste/ toothbrush (Travel size items work quite well.)

Your kindly donated items can be dropped off at the collection site just outside of the church office workroom located on the main hallway.
Thank You!



The Sparrow Project is ready to help you short term, in the case of an emergency, illness, or surgery. We have volunteers to help you with simple household repairs, transportation, computer help, or to run an errand. For short term help, **call Lauren Hall (336) 239-0860**. Also, temporary meal assistance is offered to our church family short term. For temporary meal assistance, **call Terri Beck (980) 234-0686** or **Lisa Bonnaure (301) 609-1780** so that delivery can be arranged and an inventory of prepared meal items can be kept up-to-date. It's that simple. You let us know what you need and we will take it from there.

Ways To Give financially back to God through the ministries of First UMC. offerings in the plates provided at the back of the church.

Mail to First UMC, 310 S. Main Street, Lexington, NC 27292.



Online Giving for mobile device users, the QR code on the right will take you to a secure mobile site for Online Giving from your smartphone or tablet. **On your first visit**, you will need to create a profile.

Text to Give – 855-222-3109—Text the amount you wish to give and follow the directions.

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Lee Mabe, Director of Music maestromabe@gmail.com

Phyllis Jones, Pianist/Organist musician@att.net

Kimberly Leonard, Nursery Staff, Kelly Leonard, Nursery Staff, Jill Michener, Nursery Staff

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