



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 Traditional English Carol
“The First Noel”

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

Anthem - “O Little Town of Bethlehem” arr. by Dan Forrest
First UMC Chancel Choir

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.

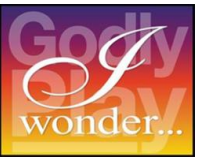
How silently, how silently, the wond’rous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessing of His heav’n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

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.

Hymn of Preparation No. 242 by Christina Rossetti
“Love Came Down at Christmas”

Gospel Reading - Matthew 1:18-25 NT Page 1

Sermon - “Enthroned By Love” Rev. Kirk Tutterow

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.

Invitation to Love No. 249 by Josiah G. Holland
“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!

Choral Benediction - “Three-Fold Amen” Danish
First UMC Chancel Choir

Chimes of the Trinity

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

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	Dana (Rodney) Colquitt	Member Care
Jemmetta Allred	Brentley & Conley Castor	*Dot Cook
Judy Hench	Dale, Mandy & Riley Castor	*Ginnie Easter
Dare Wilson	Curt (Lisa) Miller	*Hilda Flynt
Dot Cook	Deanna Smith	*Louise Hawley
G. F. Smith	Tami Robinson	*Larlie Mae Knight
Doster Wood	Irene Foster	*Edna Morris
Cindy/Tom Smith	Dorey Thomas	*John (Rebecca) Scarff
	Elizabeth Morales	*Carolyn Smith
	Christine	*Patricia Smith
Friends & Family:	Judy Jordan	*Dr. Hunter Strader
Lenny Wegwart	Kay Gilmer	*Ruby (Buddy) Taylor
Linda Cox	Cheryl Crago	*Flonnie Thomason
Tricia Royster	Deborah Bisbee	Peggy & Wayne Wegwart
Torrey Jackson	Woody Bowman	*Dare Wilson
Steve Erickson	Beckey Griffith	<u>Brilliance Edgewater (Florida)</u>
Carmen Russell	Kay Crouse	*Mary Norman
The Schlossberg Family	Ron & Kristie Wooten	<u>Brookdale (Lexington)</u>
Special Friends	Greg Leonard	*Libby & Max Lanning
Julie Milner	Gary (Pat) Leonard	*Ramona Phelps
Marlene Jones	Tommy Hendrix	<u>The Pines (Davidson)</u>
Kimberly Wood	Sarah Rakestraw	*Carolyn Briggs
Lee Ann Bethel	Gloria Bulluck	<u>Piedmont Crossing</u>
Anna Cruz	Brandon (Jan) Kraft	<u>(Thomasville)</u>
Kaitlin Deebel	Trevor Vermette	<u>Assisted Living</u>
Jamie Everhart	Joan Briggs	*Rachel Hendrix
Beth Graves	John McNeil	*Bob Pearson
Rev. Ed (Patty) Kelaher	Amy McIntosh	<u>Residents</u>
Mark Frye	Stan Larson	*Joan & Dick Bisbee
Jackie Truell Butler	Betty Jean Whitaker	*Betsy Buchanan
Tony Hill	Kendall Conner	*Herman Crabtree
Gary Elms		*Jim Dillon
Jane King	<u>Missionaries</u>	*Becki & Tom Foust
Cathy	David, Hannah, Nicholas, &	<u>Westminster Canterbury</u>
Spencer Davis	Samuel Mora—Honduras	<u>(Virginia)</u>
Phil (Sharon) Kinzer	<u>Serving in the Armed</u>	*Bettye Gray
Jon & Emerson Bethel	<u>Forces</u>	
Michael Wood		
Louise & Ray Kombau	*Major Kacie Allred	
Special Friends (CM)	*Sergeant McRay Calderone	
Julie Griggs	*SGT John Hall	
Melba (Charles) Purvis	SGT Alan Ingram	
Sharon (Edsel) Beck	Major Jarrad Thorley	
Edith Clement		

United in Nurturing Fellowship	
<u>Sunday, December 21</u>	
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
<u>Monday, December 22</u>	
<u>Tuesday, December 23</u>	
<u>Wednesday, December 24</u>	
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	
12:00pm	Church Office Closes for the Day
5:30pm	Candlelight Service & Communion, Sanctuary
11:00pm	Candlelight Service & Communion, Sanctuary
<u>Thursday, December 25</u>	
<i>Christmas Day</i>	
Church Office Closed	
<u>Friday, December 26</u>	
Church Office Closed	
<u>Saturday, December 27</u>	
<u>Sunday, December 28</u>	
<i>First Sunday after Christmas</i>	
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	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) <i>Single serve sized:</i> Goldfish, Pretzels, Teddy Grahams, Popcorn, Assorted Chips	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.)
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	Pastor's Pantry Canned Food: green beans, tuna, chicken, soups, stews
Communities In Schools Items Needed: <i>Individual/Single Serve Sized:</i> Mac & Cheese, Soups, Spaghetti O's, Lasagna, Peanut Butter Crackers, Ramen Noodles	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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