



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 7, 2025 11:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent: “The Silent Word”

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 - “Carol of the Bells” arr. by Douglas Wagner  
First UMC Chancel Bells

Welcome Rev. Cheryl Skinner

Bell Voluntary - “Fum, Fum, Fum” arr. by Valerie Stephenson  
First UMC Chancel Bells

Advent Candle Lighting: Candle of Peace  
Names (11:00)

Sung Response

Why lies he in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.

Reader: We relight the candle of hope  
for those who long for Good News.  
Today, we light the candle of peace for those who need it most.

People: **For all who are being silenced.**  
Reader: For all who are afraid to speak out.  
People: **For all who know that peace comes with justice.**

Reader: Our question for today at the scene of the nativity is this:  
“How will we cry out for true peace for ALL people?  
How will we soothe the trauma of the world in our time?”  
People: **What child IS this? This, this is the Prince of Peace  
who invites us to proclaim his reign 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 new air in our lungs.  
Open us to new understandings of the unfolding story  
of your presence among us.  
Show us the true meaning of peace on earth, good will for all.  
We pray these things in the name of the Child,  
the Prince of Peace in our hearts and lives.  
Amen.

Hymn of Anticipation No. 230 by Phillips Brooks  
“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

We Worship with our Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, Holy One, for all good things:  
for this universe and for Earth itself,  
for creatures and plants,  
for water and food,  
for light and darkness;  
for Jesus who offers eternal peace that the world cannot give ,  
setting himself before us  
as the bread and wine of abundant life;  
and for the Holy Spirit, who comes to us in baptism  
and moves in our midst with the power to lead us to you.  
Turn our offerings to your good will,  
and turn us always to you in gratitude.  
Amen.

Bell Anthem - “O Little Town of Bethlehem” arr. by Jason Krug  
First UMC Chancel Bells



A Time for the Child in All of Us Rev. Amy Higgins

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.

Scripture - Luke 1:5-25

Responsive Reading No. 208 - “Canticle of Zechariah” (with response)

Sermon - “The Silent Word is Pleading” Rev. Kirk Tutterow

Anthem - “Awake, Arise and Hail the Morn” arr. by Mack Wilberg  
First UMC Chancel Choir

Awake, arise and hail the morn, Halle, hallelujah,  
For unto us a Savior’s born, Halle, hallelujah,  
See how the angels wing their way, Halle, hallelujah,  
To usher in the glorious day, Halle, hallelujah,  
To us a child is born in heav’n, halle, hallelujah,  
To us the Son of God is giv’n, Halle, hallelujah,  
His name the wonderful shall be; Halle, hallelujah,

His wonders heav’n and earth shall see, Halle, hallelujah!  
Come, join the angels in the sky, halle, hallelujah,  
Glory to God who reigns on high, Halle, hallelujah,  
Let peace and love on earth abound, Halle, hallelujah,  
While time revolves and years roll ‘round, Halle, hallelujah!  
Hark! What sweet music, what a song, Halle, hallelujah,  
Sounds from the bright celestial throng!  
Halle, hallelujah, Sweet song whose melting sounds impart  
Halle, hallelujah,  
Joy to each raptur’d, listn’ing heart, Halle, hallelujah!  
Our faith in grateful triumph boast, Halle, hallelujah,  
These wonders of the Lord of Hosts, Halle, hallelujah,  
And trust the zeal that form’d the plan, Halle, hallelujah,  
To perfect what that zeal began, Halle, hallelujah.  
Halle, hallelujah!

Invitation to Holy Communion

This communion setting uses the hymn tune, “In the Bleak Midwinter,” with words by  
Amanda Udis-Kessler and Marcia McFee, woven throughout.  
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The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is good, Holy One, to give thanks to you, always and everywhere.  
You created us, you loved us into being,  
you delivered us, and you spoke to us through prophets.  
And then the time came for you to be with us, Emmanuel.

[sung response]  
**In a time of trouble, poverty, and pain,  
Living was a struggle. Hoping was a strain.  
Fear and desperation robbed the world of joy.  
In a weary world, Mary had a boy.**

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

[sung response]  
**Holy, Holy, Holy, God of pow’r and might.  
Raise we now, “Hosanna,” to the highest height.  
Heav’n and earth proclaim it, in all time and space.  
Blest are we to meet you, in this holy place.**

Mary’s boy became a man, compassionate and kind.  
He invited all to follow the ways of God,  
inviting people to set aside division and rancor and strife.  
Wherever he went,  
he tended to those who suffered from poverty and illness.

[sung response]  
**Teaching, feeding, healing, Jesus showed the way,  
Sacred love revealing day by day by day,  
Practicing resistance, cultivating care,  
Centered in persistence, every act a prayer.**

His own suffering at the hands of the elite  
gave birth to a movement of your Spirit, O God,  
that would forge a new covenant of peace.  
Jesus promised to be with us always,  
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.



On the night in which he gave himself up for us,  
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:  
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
“Drink from this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so,  
in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice,  
in union with Christ’s offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

[sung response]  
**Christ came to uplift us, by his life we give.**  
**Christ gave up his lifeblood, by his death we live.**  
**Christ comes to us now, still, as we gather here.**  
**Christ will come again, so, nothing shall we fear.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
so that we may be for the world the body of Christ,  
redeemed by his blood.

**By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other,**  
**and one in ministry to all the world,**  
**until Christ comes in final victory**  
**and we feast at his heavenly banquet.**

[sung response]  
**So, my friends and neighbors, now it’s up to us.**  
**May we welcome strangers, building faith and trust.**  
**May we live like Jesus in our time and place**  
**’Til the weary people know amazing grace.**

*The Lord’s Prayer*

*Sharing the Bread and the Cup*

*Sending Forth*

As we prepare to go into the world,  
let us ask and answer the question we came with.  
What child IS this?  
**This is the one born in a time when too many were silenced.**  
What child IS this?  
**This is the one whose voice rings out,**  
**reminding all that peace does not come through violence.**  
What child IS this?  
**This, this is the Prince of Peace**  
**who shows us that in God’s kingdom all have a place,**  
**all have a voice, and no one is afraid.**

*Invitation to Peace No. 431* by Sy Miller & Jill Jackson  
*“Let There Be Peace on Earth”*

*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”*  
First UMC Chancel Choir

*Chimes of the Trinity*

*Postlude - “Vom Himmel hoch, da komm’ ich her”* by Johann Pachelbel  
Phyllis Jones, organ

**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:**  
Dot Cook  
Peggy Everhart  
Jemmietta Allred  
Doster Wood  
Judy Hench  
Dare Wilson  
G. F. Smith  
Kay Timberlake  
Carlie Bostick  
Rachel Roberts  
Cindy/Tom Smith

**Friends & Family:**  
Marlene Jones  
Kimberly Wood  
Lee Ann Bethel  
Anna Cruz  
Kaitlin Deebel  
Jamie Everhart  
Torrey Jackson  
Beth Graves  
Rev. Ed (Patty) Kelaher  
Mark Frye  
Jackie Truell Butler  
Tony Hill  
Gary Elms  
Jane King  
Cathy  
Julie Milner  
Spencer Davis  
Phil (Sharon) Kinzer  
Jon & Emerson Bethel  
Michael Wood  
Louise & Ray Kombau  
Special Friends (CM)  
Julie Griggs  
Melba (Charles) Purvis  
Steve Erickson  
Sharon/Edsel Beck  
Edith Clement  
Dana (Rodney) Colquitt  
Brentley & Conley Castor  
Dale, Mandy & Riley Castor  
Curt (Lisa) Miller

**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

**Notes of Sympathy**  
Sympathy of the ministers and members of the congregation is extended to Susie (Norman) Hubbard and family upon the occasion of the death of her father, Baxter Wilson Carter, on November 28, 2025 at Hinkle Hospice House in Lexington, NC.

Sympathy of the ministers and members of the congregation is extended to family of Mary Hooks upon the occasion of her death on December 1, 2025 at Brookdale Falling Creek in Hickory, NC.

*Danish*

**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.

**United in Nurturing Fellowship**

**Sunday, December 7**  
8:45am Early Worship, Fellowship Hall  
9:45am Sunday School for ALL Ages  
**9:45am Event Set-Up, Fellowship Hall**  
11:00am Morning Worship, Sanctuary  
11:00am LIVE Stream on YouTube at First UMC Lexington NC  
**12:00pm Evangelism & Hospitality Fellowship Meal, Fellowship Hall**  
**(4p-6p) Teens of Life Youth, Presents & Presence –** Deliver gifts & visit with members of our First UMC family.  
**7:00pm Community Candlelight Piano & Organ Concert, First Reformed UCC**

**Monday, December 8**  
**Tuesday, December 9**  
10:00am Companions in Christ, Conference Room  
12:00pm Prayer Warriors Lunch, B-B-Q Center

**Wednesday, December 10**  
12:00pm Midday Prayer Service, Sanctuary  
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

**Thursday, December 11**  
**11:30am United Women in Faith Meeting & Christmas Lunch, Yarborough’s**  
**Friday, December 12**  
**7:00pm Center Street Saxophone Quartet Christmas Concert, First Reformed UCC**

**Saturday, December 13**  
**Sunday, December 14**  
8:45am Early Worship, Fellowship Hall  
9:45am Sunday School for ALL Ages  
**11:00am Carols with the Chancel Choir & Orchestra, Sanctuary**  
11:00am LIVE Stream on YouTube at First UMC Lexington NC  
**6:00pm Community Love Feast Candlelight Service** sponsored by Greater Lexington Alliance Ministerial Association, **First Reformed UCC**

**Salvation Army Bell Ringer**  
If you have an interest in volunteering to ring the bell for the Salvation Army during the Christmas season, please give them a call at (336) 481-7324.

**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 out this online form, which will aid the FUMC Finance Committee in planning our 2026 Ministry Budget. Thank you for your support for First UMC.

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