



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 8:45 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.

Welcome Rev. Cheryl Skinner

Gathering Music - “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” arr. by Lee Dengler
Phyllis Jones, piano

Advent Candle Lighting: Candle of Peace
Cathy & Greg Lemly and Maywood Wilkerson (8:45)

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.

Anthem - “I Wonder as I Wander” arr. by Mark Hayes
Phyllis Jones, piano

Scripture - Luke 1:5-25

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

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

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!

Traveling Music - “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” arr. by Mark Hayes
Phyllis Jones, piano

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.

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
Deanna Smith
Tami Robinson

Arlette Walser
Irene Foster
Dorey Thomas
Elizabeth Morales
Christine
Judy Jordan
Kay Gilmer
Cheryl Crago
Deborah Bisbee
Woody Bowman
Beckey Griffith
Kay Crouse
Ron & Kristie Wooten
Lenny Wegwart
Greg Leonard
Gary (Pat) Leonard
Tommy Hendrix
Tricia Royster
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 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 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.



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Alma Carlton, Financial Secretary acarlton@firstumclex.org

Donna Huskins, Administrative Assistant churchoffice.fumclexnc@gmail.com

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.