



Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

**We love you. We care about you.
We're here for you.**

We offer a grace-filled welcome to all who come
through our doors!

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

September 7, 2025 **11:00 a.m.**
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome Rev. Cheryl Skinner

Opening Voluntary - "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" arr. by Dianne Bish
Phyllis Jones, organ

Call to Worship

Wherever you go, from the top of the highest mountain
or into the deep abysses of the earth, God knows you.

Wherever we go, God knows our name.

Whatever you do, from the time you wake up
until you lay your head down again, God knows you.

Whatever we do, God knows our name.

However you live, from your inner thoughts to your public acts
and everything in between, God knows you.

However we live, God knows our name.

We gather to worship God, who loves us, knows us,
and calls us by name.

**We gather to worship God,
for we are fearfully and wonderfully made
by God who knows our name!**

Invitation to Praise No. 102 by Martin Rinkart
"Now Thank We All Our God"

Opening Prayer (in unison)

Weaver of life, framer of the ages,
we marvel at your artistry and the trust you place in us.

From our first cries to our final breaths,
we are your own.

**Bind us now to each other in ways beyond our choosing,
that your purpose might find fulfillment
in our common life and service,
for we pray in the name of Jesus, the firstborn of all creation.
Amen.**

We Worship with our Tithes and Offerings John McWhorter

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

Holy God,
we give you thanks for the richness of our lives.
Bless our tithes and offerings,
that they might be used as expressions of your steadfast love
for those in need near and far.
In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Anthem - "Psalm 139" by Allen Pote

First UMC Chancel Choir
Lord, you have searched me and known me, O Lord,
You know everything I do.
When I rise up and lie down, you are with me through and through.
Before a word is on my tongue, you know what I will say,
your presence follows me day by day.
Where can I flee from your spirit? Where can I go to run away?
If I go to heaven, or live in hell, you are there.

Lord, you have searched me and known me, O Lord,
You know everything I do.
When I rise up and lie down, you are with me through and through.
Before a word is on my tongue, you know what I will say,
your presence follows me day by day.
Search me, O God, and know me, try me and know my heart.
See if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.
Amen.

A Time for the Child in All of Us

Scripture Reading - Luke 14:25-33 NT Page 78

Sermon - "The True Meaning of Cross-Bearing" Rev. Kirk Tutterow

Hymn of Invitation No. 426 by Timothy Dudley-Smith
"Behold a Broken World"

Invitation to Holy Communion

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession (in unison) - adapted from Psalm 139

O Lord, you have searched me and known me!
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord,
you know it completely.
Whither shall I go from your Spirit,
or whither shall I flee from your presence?
For it was you who formed my inner parts,
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
How profound to me are your thoughts, O God;
how vast is the sum of them.
Search me, O God, and know my heart;
try my, and know my thoughts;
See if there be any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting. Amen.
(You are invited to a time of silent confession...)

Words of Assurance

If God is for us, who is against us?
In Jesus Christ you have been set free.
Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.
Thanks be to God!
Thanks be to God. Amen.

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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere...
...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...
...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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,
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.
Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God. Now and forever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)
Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Invitation to Grace No. 159 by G.W. Kitchin & M.R. Newbolt
"Lift High the Cross"

Benediction

Choral Benediction - "Amen" by Allen Pote

From the Opening Voluntary through the Postlude, the music ministry at First UMC is one of the essential parts of our worship time together. Worship without music would be uninspiring at best. However, the postlude often becomes just a bit of background music for exiting the building. What if we took the time to sit back down after the Chimes of the Trinity and let the music of the postlude filter into our souls to inspire us to follow God throughout the week?

After the Chimes of the Trinity at the end of the service, please consider being seated to join others in thoughtful meditation while listening to the beautiful music of the postlude as a way to get your week of Christian discipleship off to a great start.

(Over)

Chimes of the Trinity

Postlude - "Lift Hlgh the Cross" arr. by Janet Linker
Phyllis Jones, organ

Prayer Requests

All are encouraged to review the list and contact the church office to add or remove a name from the prayer list. (*denotes FUMC members)

First UMC member:
*Judy Hench (JH 9-4-25)
*Martha Williams (MG 9-2-25)
*Pat Langley (PL 8-26-25)
*George Hunt (JJH 8-19-25)
*Cindy/Tom Smith (AC 5-15-25)

Friends & Family:
Sharon/Edsel Beck (JD9-3-25)
Edith Clement (JD 9-3-25)
Dana (Rodney) Colquitt (JD 9-3-25)
Brentley/Conley Castor (JD 9-3-25)
Dale, Mandy, Riley Castor (JD 9-3-25)
Deanna Smith (JD 9-3-25)
Curt (Lisa) Miller (JD 9-3-25)
Phil Kinzer (CM 8-25-25)
Kimberly Wood (CM 8-25-25)
Lee Ann Bethel (CM 8-25-25)
Tami Robinson (CM 8-25-25)
Torrey Jackson (LM 8-25-25)
Steve Erickson (8-13-25)
Beth Graves (MG 8-5-25)
Arlette Walser (BF 7-29-25)
Midway Methodist (7-29-25)
Irene Foster (BF 7-29-25)
Arnold Miller (KW 7-23-25)
Geri/Chuck Bowyer (CM 7-21-25)
Dorey Thomas (JL 7-21-25)
Elizabeth Morales (JL 7-18-25)
Jon & Emerson Bethel (CM 7-16-25)
Michael Wood (CM 7-16-25)
Anna Cruz (CM 7-16-25)
Christine (CM 7-14-25)
Judy Jordan (CM 7-11-25)
Kay Gilmer (CM 7-10-25)
Cheryl Crago (EC 7-8-25)
Deborah Bisbee (JB 7-4-25)
Gil Walser (AB 6-18-25)
Woody Bowman (TF 6-10-25)
Beckey Griffith (CM 5-20-25)
Rick LeBaube (CB 5-13-25)
Special Friends (CM 5-13-25)
Laura Turlington (HC 4-29-25)
Major (DB 4-28-25)
Kay Crouse (TB 4-28-25)
Ron & KristieWooten (OE 4-28-25)

Missionaries
David, Hannah, Nicholas, & Samuel Mora—Honduras

Member Care
*Eddie (Jemmietta) Allred
*Dot Cook
*Ginnie Easter
*Hilda Flynt
*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

Ways To Give financially back to God through the ministries of First UMC.
We Worship with our Tithes and Offerings—On Sunday, place your tithes and 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.

arr. by Janet Linker

United in Nurturing Fellowship

Sunday, September 7
8:45am Early Worship, Fellowship Hall
9:45am Sunday School for ALL Ages
11:00am Morning Worship, Sanctuary
11:00am LIVE Stream on YouTube at First UMC Lexington NC
Monday, September 8
7:00pm Lexington Choral Society Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, September 2
10:00am Companions in Christ, Conference Room
12:00pm Prayer Warrior Lunch, BBQ Center
7:00pm Jesus’ Parables Study, Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, September 3
12:00pm Midday Prayer Service, Sanctuary
5:00pm KINDERMUSIK, Ground Floor Classroom
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
Thursday, September 4
(9a-11:30a) Event Set Up, Fellowship Hall
12:00pm United Women in Faith Lunch & Meeting, Fellowship Hall
Friday, September 5
9:30am KINDERMUSIK, Ground Floor Classroom
(10a-6p) Port-A-Pit Chicken Fundraiser, State Street entrance
(10a-1p) UW in Faith Bake Sale Fundraiser, State Street entrance
10:45am KINDERMUSIK, Ground Floor Classroom
Saturday, September 6
Sunday, September 7
8:45am Early Worship, Fellowship Hall
9:45am Sunday School for ALL Ages
11:00am Morning Worship, Sanctuary
11:00am LIVE Stream on YouTube at First UMC Lexington NC
12:00pm Medical Response Team, Fellowship Hall
4:00pm Teens of Life Youth “New Year” Kick-Off Pizza Party with our friends at FBC

Spiritual Formation Studies for Fall
To register, you may contact the church office.

Jesus’ Parables – Led by Jack Tookey
Tuesday evenings at 7pm – Join us in the Fellowship Hall for our first meeting

Companions in Christ Small Group Experience (Begins September 9)
Led by Cheryl Skinner – 28-week study – Cost: \$15 for a participant’s book
Tuesday mornings at 10am – Conference Room, 2nd Floor

The Fruit of the Spirit – Led by Norman Hubbard **(Begins September 29)**
Monday mornings at 10am – Conference Room, 2nd Floor

United Women in Faith Backpack Program Polo Shirt Fundraiser
Today, the UW in Faith begins a fundraiser with an opportunity for you to purchase a high-quality First UMC embroidered logo polo shirt in a variety of colors and sizes. **A detailed order form can be found in the bulletin.** The United Women in Faith will be **accepting orders on today and September 14.** Thank you in advance for your support!

Toys, Tots, & Tailpipes Cruise In
Sponsored by the United Methodist Men

Saturday, October 11 (10a-2p)
You may scan the QR code with your smartphone for **details & registration** or contact Richard Foust (336) 971-6158. Visit the NEWS Section on our website or pick up a **printed copy of the detailed flyer & registration form** at the Volunteer’s Desk.



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



come to the altar and pray for those who will receive the prayer gifts. As you pray, tie a double square knot with a print and solid strip on the fleece blanket or lay hands on the knitted and crocheted shawls that are presented.



The Sparrow Project
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. **If you need short term help, call Lauren Hall (336) 239-0860 or the church office (336) 248-2886.** The Sparrow Project temporary meal assistance is offered to our church family short term, in case of an emergency, illness, or surgery. If you need 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.

 First United Methodist Church
310 South Main Street - Lexington, NC - 27292
Office phone: (336) 248-2886 Website: www.fumclex.org

Rev. Cheryl Skinner, Minister skinnerrev@gmail.com 336-813-2626
Rev. Kirk Tutterow, Minister kingtutt65@gmail.com 336-918-0275
Rev. Amy Higgins, Assistant Minister of Next Generations Ministries ahiggins@wnccumc.net 336-403-2413

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
Alma Carlton, Financial Secretary acarlton@firstumclex.org
Donna Huskins, Administrative Assistant dhuskins@firstumclex.org

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

Open Hands of Davidson County
Clean & Gently Used: bath towels, washcloths
Personal Care Items: Shampoo, bar soap, deodorant, toothpaste/ toothbrush (Travel size items work quite well.)
Pastor’s Pantry
Canned Food: green beans, tuna, chicken, soups, stews

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!