



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

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!

August 16, 2026 **11:00 a.m.**
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Back to School Sunday

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome Rev. Amy Higgins

Opening Music - “As the Deer” by Marty Nystrom
Joy Brindle and India Cockrell , Sacred Dancers

Call to Worship - Cody Webster
Leader: Family of God, we gather today
to unite our voices and our lives in praise to God!

**People: How good and pleasant it is
when we live together in unity!**
Leader: We gather to celebrate how God binds us together
to live, work, play, and rest as the Body of Christ!

**People: How good and pleasant it is
when we live together in unity!**
Leader: We gather to remember how God has worked through us
to share Christ’s love with one another and our neighbors
through our prayers, our presence, our gifts,
our service, and our witness.

**People: How good and pleasant it is
when we live together in unity!**
Leader: Family of God, today we come as diverse and unique
members of the Body of Christ to learn and grow
not in uniformity but in unity to love God, self,
neighbor, and all creation.

**People: How good and pleasant it is
when we live together in unity!**
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2026.

Opening Prayer (in unison) Nick Leahy

Almighty God,
whose compassion embraces everyone,
gathers the outcast and the lost,
heals the wounds of fear and distrust,
and makes us a community of reconciliation
that we may embody your merciful love
and rejoice in your astounding grace
in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Song of Praise - “Joy of the Lord” by C. Llewellyn, E. Cash, G. Gilkeson
The ALIVE! Praise Band

1. Though the tears may fall, my song will rise,
my song will rise to you.
Though my heart may fail, my song will rise,
my song will rise to you.
While there’s breath in my lungs
I will praise you, Lord.
2. In the dead of night, I’ll lift my eyes,
I’ll lift my eyes to you.
When the waters rise, I’ll lift my eyes,
I’ll lift my eyes to you.
While there’s hope in this heart
I will praise you, Lord

Chorus
The joy of the Lord is my strength!
The joy of the Lord is my strength!
In the darkness I’ll dance,
In the shadows I’ll sing,
The joy of the Lord is my strength!

3. When I cannot see you with my eyes,
let faith arise to you.
When I cannot feel your hand in mine.
Let faith arise to you,
God of mercy and love, I will praise you, Lord.

4. Oh, you shine with glory, Lord of light;
I feel alive with you.
In your presence now. I come alive;
I am alive with you,
There is strength when I say;
“I will praise you, Lord!” **Chorus 2x**

Bridge
When sorrow comes my way, you are the shield around me.
Always, you remain, my courage in the fight.
I hear You call my name. Jesus, I am coming,
walking on the waves, reaching for your light! **Chorus 2x**
Chris Llewellyn, Ed Cash, Gareth Gilkeson - CCLI Song #7047091
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Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer Rev. Amy Higgins

Song of Prayer - “Hymn of the Holy Spirit” by C. Tomlin, P. Barrett
The ALIVE! Praise Band

1. Holy Spirit, guide my vision, help me see the way you see.
Always Jesus, ever Jesus, Christ in all as Christ in me.
2. Holy Spirit, guide my speaking, words of grace and truth abound.
Let my lips be filled with stories of the mercy that I've found.

Chorus
You're the light; you're my path.
You're the shepherd of my soul.
All I am, all I have, Holy Spirit, lead me on

3. Holy Spirit, guide my hearing, wake my ears to words you speak.
In the thunder, in the stillness, let your voice be clear to me.
Let your voice be clear to me. **Chorus**
4. Holy Spirit, lead me onward, walking through the great unknown.
Trusting, leaning, holding, clinging, till the day you lead me home.
Till the day you lead me home.

Brenton Brown, Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Pat Barrett - CCLI Song #7113814
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We Worship with our Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison) Evan Weeks

**Gracious Lord, you have given us more mercy
than we could imagine
and more blessings than we deserve.
receive now these gifts as tokens of our gratitude to you,
that your mercy may be multiplied
and your blessings abound
to embrace all those in need. Amen.**

A Time for the Child in All of Us Rev. Amy Higgins
All children are invited to follow the leader to the Godly Play Room for
Children’s Church.

Worship with Music and Dance - by Samantha Ebert
“Forty-One”

Joy Brindle and India Cockrell , Sacred Dancers
Well, it's been a while and I'm still waiting
And if I'm being honest, I'm getting tired
Of praying when nothing's shifting, mm
Where are You? Are You listening?
I've read about the days and nights they wandered
Aimless in the wilderness
Asking how much longer until they'd see it, mm
Will I ever see it?
If You could keep a promise after forty years of wandering
When the answers felt like secrets
But You always have Your reasons
'Cause You're not in the business of keeping things unfinished
While You're preparing something
My waiting's not for nothing
'Cause forty-one is coming
Forty-one is coming
So, if it's not Your timing, then don't change it
Just promise You'll be with me every minute that I face it
I might be tired, mm, mm
But I know Your ways are higher
If You could keep a promise after forty years of wandering
When the answers felt like secrets
But You always have Your reasons
'Cause You're not in the business of keeping things unfinished
While You're preparing something
My waiting's not for nothing
'Cause forty-one is coming, mm, mm
Forty-one is coming
I've lived through nights that feel like lifetimes
And days that never end
But I trust You just enough to know that You'll do it again
If You could keep a promise after forty years of wandering
I'll keep hoping 'til I see it
I'm not going back to Egypt
'Cause You're not in the business of keeping things unfinished
While You're preparing something
My waiting's not for nothing
Forty-one is coming

Psalter Lesson - No. 791 Mirabella Seuberling
Psalms 67 (without sung response)

Scripture - Matthew 15:21-28 (NT Page 17) Ava Moore

Sermon - “Fallen Crumbs” Rev. Amy Higgins

Affirmation of Faith No. 881 - “The Apostles’ Creed”

Song of Hope - “My Lighthouse” Chris Llewellyn & Gareth Gilkeson
The ALIVE! Praise Band

In my wrestling and in my doubts,
in my failures you won't walk out.
Your great love will lead me through.
You are the peace in my troubled sea,
You are the peace in my troubled sea

In the silence, you won't let go.
In the questions, your truth will hold.
Your great love will lead me through.
You are the peace in my troubled sea,
You are the peace in my troubled sea

Chorus: My Lighthouse, my lighthouse,
shining in the darkness, I will follow You
My Lighthouse, my lighthouse, I will trust the promise,
You will carry me safe to shore, safe to shore,
safe to shore, safe to shore.

I won't fear what tomorrow brings.
With each morning I'll rise and sing.
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea,
You are the peace in my troubled sea. **repeat chorus**

Fire before us, You're the brightest
You will lead us through the storms **repeat**

repeat chorus

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Benediction

Chimes of the Trinity

Traveling Music - “My Lighthouse” Chris Llewellyn & Gareth Gilkeson
The ALIVE! Praise Band

Next Sunday: Manna & Mercy Begins!

Manna & Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe is an enlightening and engaging book written by Rev. Daniel Erlander, who is now deceased but spent most of his life as a Lutheran pastor in Washington State. Erlander's book is a flying overview of scripture with a focus on what he sees as the main message of the Bible: **God's abundant care and provision (Manna) and God's overwhelming love and grace (Mercy) offered to all of God's creation.**

Starting next week, Kirk and I will be preaching through the Bible, using the biblical scriptures and “Manna & Mercy” as our main reference materials. **There will be copies of Rev. Erlander's book available for anyone who wants it, including a box of colored pencils** with which to make notes, underline sentences, and, if you so choose, to color the many whimsical illustrations. “Manna & Mercy” was actually one of my textbooks at Divinity School—and yes, when I purchased it at the Duke University bookstore, it came with a box of colored pencils, so feel free to embrace your inner child!

See you next week,
Pastor Cheryl



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

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:

Louise Hawley
Curtis Leonard
Terri Beck
Jim Dillon
Larry Langley
Mary Plyde Bell
Lewis McMillan
Judy Hench
G. F. Smith

Friends & Family:

Debbie McNeill
Vernon Murray
Matt
Julie Griggs
Molly Pflueger
Margaret Fite McKinnon
Gary (Pat) Leonard
Fabi (India)
Tami Robinson
Phil (Sharon) Kinzer
Sam Branson
Ashlyn Tookey
Alec Rhodes
Mary Sue Leonard
Irene Foster
Beth Graves
Rev. Ed (Patty) Kelaher
Special Friends (7-28-26)
Tommy Hendrix
Darrell Shoaf
Marlene Jones
Charlotte Froelich
Aubrey Ward
Brad
Torrey Jackson
Tony Hill
Linda Cox
Jackie Truell Butler
Julie Milner

Kendall Conner
Christine
Kimberly Wood
Jon & Emerson Bethel
Lee Ann Bethel
Cindy & Tom Smith
Beckey Griffith
Janet Fite Coyne
Ron & Kristie Wooten
Kelly Greathouse
Mark Frye
Special Friends (4-28-26)
Jim McCutcheon
Jane King
Kaitlin Deebel
Cheryl Crago
Sarah Rakestraw
Anna Cruz
Deborah Bisbee
Jamie Vasquez
Kayla
Ginger Hill
Joyce Metters

Long Term (6 months or longer:

Jean McCrary
Richard Slater
Michael Wood
Elizabeth Morales
Judy Jordan
Kay Gilmer
Kay Crouse
Trevor Vermette
Joan Briggs
Amy McIntosh
Stan Larson
Betty Jean Whitaker

Missionaries
David, Hannah, Nicholas, & Samuel Mora—United States

Member Care

*Dot Cook
*Ginnie Easter
*Hilda Flynt
*Louise Hawley
*Larlie Mae Knight
*Edna Morris
*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

Piedmont Crossing (Thomasville)

Assisted Living

*Rachel Hendrix
*Bob Pearson

Residents

*Joan & Dick Bisbee
*Betsy Buchanan
*Herman Crabtree
*Jim Dillon
*Becki & Tom Foust

Serving in the Armed Forces

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

Sunday, August 23

8:45am Early Worship, Fellowship Hall
9:30am Sunday School for ALL Ages
11:00am Morning Worship Service, Sanctuary
11:00am LIVE Stream on YouTube at First UMC Lexington NC
3:00pm Church Council, Fellowship Hall

FALL Bible Studies

The Way of Blessedness, a 10-Week study on the Beatitudes, **Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.** in the **Church Library** beginning **September 15**. Cost of participant's book: \$10

Disciple Fast Track 1: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study, a 24-week study offering a broad overview of the Bible. **We need at least six participants**—time & place to be determined by what works best for the most people. Cost of participant's book: \$17

Sign-up: call the church office, email Rev. Cheryl or visit our website. You may pay for and pick up your participant books at the church office.

Homemade Ice Cream Social – August 30 (5p-7p) Rain or Shine!

Please let Judy Deal know by **Sunday, August 23**, if you would like to **donate a freezer, or maybe two, of homemade ice cream** for the event, contact Judy Deal at **336-479-7244 OR** the church office.

Appreciation Dinner – September 2 (6pm) Fellowship Hall

An invitation to the members of the **Chancel Choir, Chancel Bells, ALIVE! Praise Band, Sound/Video Teams, Emergency Response Team, Security Team, Usher/Greeters**, and **Office Volunteers** in appreciation of your devoted ministry to the church. Spouses/significant others are invited. **To RSVP:** call or email the church office **OR** visit our website no later than **Monday, August 31**.

Amtrak Train to the NC State Fair – Payment Due for Train Ticket

You, your family, friends, and neighbors are invited to join us and travel by Amtrak train to the NC State Fair in Raleigh, NC. ***Round-trip ticket: \$52 per person *Amtrak ticket money must be paid to Judy Deal or Alma Carlton no later than Sunday, September 6**. Amtrak tickets cannot be purchased without payment.

NC State Fair ticket: \$13 (ages 13-64) at the gate & **FREE (65 and over) the day we are going**. Questions, feel free to contact Judy Deal at 336-479-7244.

Port-a-Pit Chicken Fundraiser Sponsored by the UNITED METHODIST MEN – Friday, September 18 (10a until 6p)

Pick up at the State Street entrance - \$13/plate – **TICKETS ON SALE** until **September 11**.

Bake Sale Fundraiser Sponsored by the UNITED WOMEN in FAITH – Friday, September 18 (10a until 1p)

State Street entrance – Be sure to purchase your homemade desserts for the weekend!

Toys, Tots, & Tailpipes Cruise-In Sponsored by the United Methodist Men – Saturday, October 17 (10a-2p)

You may **SCAN the QR code** on the right with your smartphone for details & registration, contact Richard Foust (336) 971-6158 or pick up a printed copy of the flyer/registration form at the Volunteer's Desk.



Giving Generously Together

Offering plates are provided at the back of the sanctuary.



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

Online Giving for mobile device users, the **QR code on the left** 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.

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 UVV 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

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!

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.)



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 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.

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