



# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LEXINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA



*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.*

January 4, 2026

11:00 a.m.

**Epiphany Sunday**

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Welcome**

Rev. Kirk Tutterow

**Opening Anthem - "We Three Kings"**

arr. by Joel Raney

Phyllis Jones and Kirk Tutterow, piano

**Call to Worship**

Leader: In this holy season of Christmas,  
People: **Christ comes to us again.**

Leader: In this quiet after the harried days of December,

People: **God invites us to pause and reflect.**

Leader: Our journey has led us here.

People: **the Spirit is with us now.**

Leader: Let us bow down as sages of old,  
People: **and worship Christ our King.**

**Prayer of the Day (in unison)**

Christ of power and justice,  
help us embrace the power that comes from love,  
and guide us to seek the justice that love reveals.

Open our hearts and minds,  
that we may hear your wisdom  
in this time of worship.

Open our lives in the year ahead  
to the power and strength of your loving Spirit.

In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

**Hymn of Praise No. 254**

"We Three Kings"

by John H. Hopkins, Jr.

**We Worship with our Tithes and Offerings**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)**

Gracious God, bless these gifts,  
that they may be as impactful as the gold,  
frankincense, and myrrh given to the Christ child  
by kings long ago.

**May our treasures bring honor to your name  
and support justice in your world.**

**May our worship bring humility to our hearts,  
and may our time and talents bring love to life  
in all that we say and in all that we do. Amen.**

**Anthem - "Theme and Variations on Noel Nouvelet"** by Michael Burkhardt  
Phyllis Jones, organ



**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.*

Rev. Amy Higgins

**Scripture - Isaiah 60:1-6 & Matthew 2:1-12**

OT Pg. 690 & NT Pg. 2

**Sermon - "Following the Star"**

Rev. Cheryl Skinner

**\*Hymn of Response No. 206**

*"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"*

by Kathleen Thomerson

**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)**

**Light of the world, we yearn to walk in the light,  
but the shadows are all around and oh-so-familiar.  
Pull us from the darkness of fear of gloom-  
familiar places where we hide from you,  
from ourselves, and from others.  
Shine upon us with your grace,  
and pull us forward with your love.  
For we yearn for the courage of sages of old  
who left hearth and home to draw closer to you.  
Give us the passion to stand up for justice,  
to share our gifts and talents generously,  
and to offer our love unconditionally.  
For we long to build your realm upon this earth. Amen.**

*(You are invited to a time of silent confession...)*

**Words of Assurance**

Arise! Shine! Christ the light has come,  
and this light will guide us well.

**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.**

Holy God,

In the beginning was darkness, mystery, and you.  
By your own Word, you shattered the darkness with light.  
You set in the sky radiant beams of sunlight  
and punctured the night sky with sparkling jewels.  
You forever changed our darkness.

Holy God,

Though there are shadows and worries,  
you have placed your Word in us to be a lamp for our feet.  
You have given your Spirit like a bright guiding star.  
You fill us with your Love as glorious as the sun.  
You place your Truth like a crescent moon.  
Every darkness is overcome with Light.  
And every light contains shafts of your Eternal Light.

God of the sun and stars, we praise you  
and with all the creatures of earth and  
all the company of heaven we join the 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.**

Ever-persistent and ever-loving God, you placed a star in the sky  
to guide people from far and near to your child.

Jesus became the Light of the World,  
drawing the lost and forgotten, the hurt and the wounded,  
the oppressed and depressed to the wellsprings of life.

He changed water into wine,  
called unheralded workers to be disciples,  
preached good news to the poor,  
healed the sick and beckoned people to love their neighbor.  
By his baptism, suffering, death and resurrection he revealed  
the depths of your love and the power of light over darkness.

On the night he gave himself up, Jesus gathered with his friends.  
He took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to his followers,  
saying, "Take, eat, this is my life broken for you."

Likewise, he took the cup, blessed it and gave it to his disciples.  
"Drink this, all of you, for this is my life poured out for you and for  
all, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Therefore, Holy God;  
grant that in praise and thanksgiving, we may be a living sacrifice,  
holy and acceptable in your sight, and that our lives may proclaim  
the mystery of faith:

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these gifts of bread and wine,  
that through Christ's presence we may become a beacon of holy  
light, a source of joy, a witness for peace.

**By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, one with seekers far and near,  
and one in ministry to all the world  
until we feast at the 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)**

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table  
where we have known the presence of Christ  
and have received all Christ's gifts.

**Strengthen our faith,  
increase our love for one another,  
and let us show forth your praise in our lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Hymn of Sending Forth No. 203** *by James Montgomery*  
"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

### Benediction

### Chimes of the Trinity

**Postlude - "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"** *by J. S. Bach*  
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:

G. F. Smith  
Peggy Everhart  
Jemmetta Allred  
Judy Hench  
Dare Wilson  
Dot Cook  
Cindy/Tom Smith

#### Friends & Family:

Gary Elms  
Jeanne Beck  
Deborah Bisbee  
Lenny Wegwart  
Spencer Davis  
Kimberly Wood  
Lee Ann Bethel  
Anna Cruz  
Tami Robinson  
Emily Sink Cash & Family  
Pam & Ron Sink  
Steve Erickson  
Linda Cox  
Tricia Royster  
Torrey Jackson  
Carmen Russell  
The Schlossberg Family  
Special Friends  
Julie Milner  
Marlene Jones  
Kaitlin Deebel  
Jamie Everhart  
Beth Graves  
Rev. Ed (Patty) Kelaher  
Mark Frye  
Jackie Truell Butler  
Tony Hill  
Jane King  
Cathy  
Phil (Sharon) Kinzer  
Jon & Emerson Bethel  
Michael Wood  
Louise & Ray Kombau  
Special Friends (CM)  
Julie Griggs  
Melba (Charles) Purvis  
Sharon (Edsel) Beck

#### Member Care

Edith Clement Dana  
(Rodney) Colquitt  
Brentley & Conley Castor  
Dale, Mandy & Riley Castor  
Curt (Lisa) Miller  
Deanna Smith  
Irene Foster  
Dorey Thomas  
Elizabeth Morales  
Christine  
Judy Jordan  
Kay Gilmer  
Cheryl Crago  
Woody Bowman  
Becky Griffith  
Kay Crouse  
Ron & Kristie Wooten  
Greg Leonard  
Gary (Pat) Leonard  
Tommy Hendrix  
Sarah Rakestraw  
Gloria Bulluck  
Brandon (Jan) Kraft  
Trevor Vermette  
Joan Briggs  
John McNeil  
Amy McIntosh  
Stan Larson  
Betty Jean Whitaker  
Kendall Conner

#### 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

#### Westminster Canterbury (Virginia)

\*Bettye Gray

### A Note of Sympathy

Sympathy of the ministers and members of the congregation is extended to son, Lee (DeLee) Mabe, grandsons, Zach (Olivia) Mabe and Micah (Kimberly) Mabe, and great grandchildren, Kenleigh, Madi, Noah, & Margot upon the occasion of the death of Morris Mabe on December 30, 2025.

**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, January 4

##### **Epiphany Sunday**

8:45am Early Worship, Fellowship Hall  
9:30am Sunday School for ALL Ages  
11:00am Morning Worship, Sanctuary  
11:00am LIVE Stream on YouTube at First UMC Lexington NC  
**(2p-5p) After Christmas Open House, Home of Judy & William Deal**

#### Monday, January 5

#### Tuesday, January 6

10:00am Companions in Christ Small Group, Conference Room  
12:00pm Prayer Warriors Lunch, B-B-Q Center

#### Wednesday, January 7

12:00pm Midday Prayer Gathering, Sanctuary  
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

#### Thursday, January 8

6:00pm Faith Seekers, Home of Wendy Norris' mother

#### Friday, January 9

9:30am Kindermusik, Ground Floor classroom  
10:45am Kindermusik, Ground Floor classroom  
Private Event Set-Up, Fellowship Hall

#### Saturday, January 10

(7am-3pm) Private Event followed by Clean-Up, Fellowship Hall

#### Sunday, January 11

**Baptism of the Lord Sunday**  
8:45am Early Worship, Fellowship Hall  
9:30am Sunday School for ALL Ages  
11:00am Morning Worship, Sanctuary  
11:00am LIVE Stream on YouTube at First UMC Lexington NC

**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.



### After Christmas Open House

Sunday, January 4 (2pm-5pm)  
Home of Judy & William Deal, 337 Pinnix Drive, Lexington  
**JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL AFTER CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE BUT DECORATED DIFFERENTLY**  
Questions/directions? 336-479-7244  
Donations accepted for Faithful Friends Animal Sanctuary in Salisbury. Feel free to bring a friend...hope to see you then!



### Reaching Out and Sharing God's Boundless Love

#### Cancer Services of Davidson County

Sponsored by Missions Team

#### 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

#### 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

#### 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.)

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, 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.

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Rev. Kirk Tutterow, Minister [kingtutt65@gmail.com](mailto:kingtutt65@gmail.com) 336-918-0275

Rev. Amy Higgins, Assistant Minister of Next Generations Ministries [ahiggins@wnccumc.net](mailto:ahiggins@wnccumc.net) 336-403-2413

Lee Mabe, Director of Music [maestromabe@gmail.com](mailto:maestromabe@gmail.com)

Phyllis Jones, Pianist/Organist [musician@att.net](mailto:musician@att.net)

Kimberly Leonard, Nursery Staff, Kelly Leonard, Nursery Staff, Jill Michener, Nursery Staff

Alma Carlton, Financial Secretary [acarlton@fumclex.org](mailto:acarlton@fumclex.org)

Donna Huskins, Administrative Assistant [churchoffice.fumclexnc@gmail.com](mailto:churchoffice.fumclexnc@gmail.com)