

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 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 - 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 by Kathleen Thomerson
"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

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
Jemmietta 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

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
Beckey 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

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


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)
*Bettie 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:
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


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!
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 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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Lee Mabe, Director of Music maestromabe@gmail.com
Phyllis Jones, Pianist/Organist musician@att.net
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