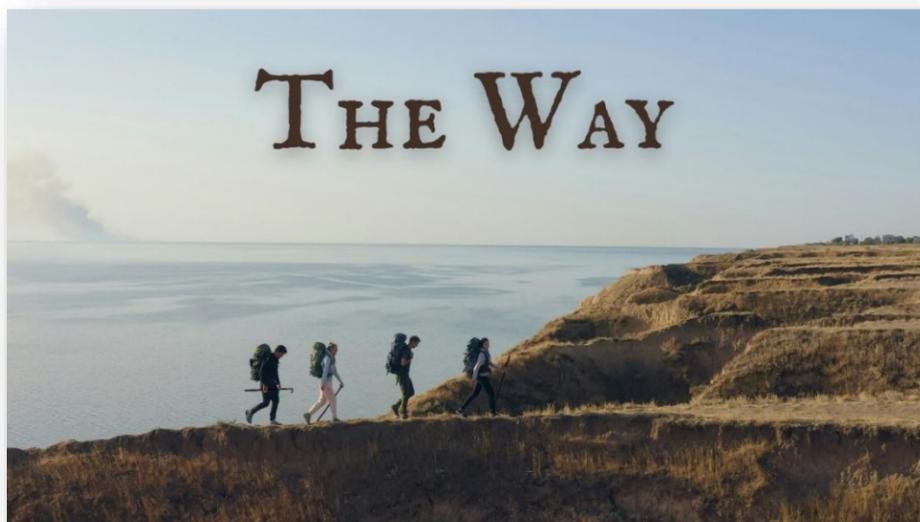


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LEXINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

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



March 1, 2026

Second Sunday in Lent
"The High Way"

8:45 a.m.

Welcome

Rev. Cheryl Skinner

Gathering Music - "In Christ Alone"

Phyllis Jones, piano

by Paul Getty

Call to Worship - Psalm 37:23-27

Leader: Our steps are made firm by the Lord
when God delights in our way.

People: **Although we often stumble, we shall not fall headlong,
for the Lord holds us by the hand.**

Leader: I have been young and now am old,
yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken
or their children begging bread.

People: **They are ever giving liberally and lending,
and their children become a blessing.**

Leader: Depart from evil, and do good;
so you shall walk with God forever.

Today, we continue our worship series called "The Way" that invites us to a spiritual journey during this season. We come to the table to be sustained for the road ahead. In our society, we are taught that everything costs something. But our ways are not God's ways. We are all invited to the table of Jesus without price. This is the abundance of God's grace. This is the higher way that we are invited to embody for the sake of the world. The rich food that we are invited to receive and share is the richness of life when all have enough – not simply to survive – but to thrive.

Hospitality is the way – even though we do not agree on everything, we are still one family at one table.

Sung Response

by Jim Strathdee

We are a wilderness wandering people on a journey of the soul.
May we find our destination in our longing to be whole.
Our Holy God is calling to us.
With Jesus by our side may compassion be our compass;
may the Spirit be our guide, on The Way,
on The Way, on The Way.

Prayer for the Path (in unison)

God of Grace,
we know you are with us on The Way.
But we need sustenance in order to make the journey.
As we come seeking peace and a place at the table,
we find that you have already prepared
and were expecting us.
Help us to set tables of abundance
for all who travel this journey of life,
just as Jesus did. Amen.

Hymn of Praise No. 733

by Isaac Watts & Robert Lowry

"Marching to Zion"

We Worship with our Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

Gracious God,
we dedicate to you not only these gifts,
but also ourselves, in deep gratitude
for your call on our lives,
your guidance in our journey with you,
and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others.
Accept what we bring for your own good purposes.
In Christ we pray. Amen.

Anthem - "Of the Father' Love Begotten"

arr. by Gail Smith

Phyllis Jones, piano

Scripture - Isaiah 55:1-9

OT Pages 685-686

Sermon - "The High Way"

Rev. Kirk Tutterow

**Hymn of Response No. 521*

African-American Spiritual

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

Invitation to Holy Communion

Will you open yourselves to the grace of Jesus Christ that is always
and already available here at this table?

If so, say, "Open us to your grace, Lord."

"Open us to your grace, Lord."

Will you open yourselves once again to the call of Jesus Christ?

If so, say, "Open us to your call, Lord."

"Open us to your call, Lord."

Will you open yourselves to the possibility of transformation
through Jesus Christ? If so, say, "Transform us, O Lord."

Transform us, O Lord.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**O God, you so love the world that you give and give and give:
the generous gift of Life itself, freedom of choice,
sunrise in the morning, sunset in the evening,
and all those surprises in between.**

Then you give us all the time there is—eternity.

**I confess that my schedule often crowds out
appreciation for these gifts**

and my numbness allows me to take them for granted.

**Everyday living requires such a serious investment of my energy
that I easily neglect the grandeur all around me.**

Set me free to dance to the rhythms of your Spirit.

**Help me see that even times of sorrow and despair
often enable me to discover strength I never knew I had.**

Make me strong at the broken places.

Yet when the dark night of the soul approaches,

if it is possible,

let that cup pass from me,

but if not...

Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hear this: No matter whether you pause in gratitude
for the gifts of God or not, God never stops giving.

We can begin a higher way at any time.

Whether or not you know it, believe it, or feel it,

Jesus is with you now because Jesus promised to set the table
along our journey of life over and over again.

You are forgiven and invited,

especially when you think you have no place.

May it be so.

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 to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, Creator of all that was, and is, and is to come.

You formed us in your image, creating all in goodness,
asking us to walk with You in love.

When we held back from Your invitation,

You sought us out, encouraging us on our way, time and again.

You led those who could not see by a road they did not know.

You have turned nighttime before them into light.

You have smoothed out the rough places and made them plain.

You have released the prisoners from the dungeon.

You have made all things new.

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.

Your Spirit anointed him to walk with the poor, the captive,
and the oppressed

and to proclaim freedom and abundance in your name.

On dusty paths and lakeside shores

he encountered friends, strangers, and enemies,
inviting them to journey with him and to eat with him.

He offered newness of life

and renewed covenants of love by water and the Spirit.

On the night that he gave himself up for the path of justice,
 he was at the table with his friends.
 He invited them... and he invites us,
 to pause in our quest for destinations
 and savor the company of each other
 and the ways in which he still is present in our gathering together.

He took the bread, he broke it and blessed it and shared it.
 "Do this in remembrance of me."

He took the cup, he poured into it, blessed it and shared it.
 "Do this 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.

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's pilgrimage
 in this life and the life to come,
 walking together one with each other,
 working together 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)

**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 for the Journey No. 206 by Kathleen Thomerson
"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Benediction

The Creator God filled you with breath,
 inviting you to this journey called Life.
We will follow on The Way.

Jesus, our Guide, showed us what it means
 to make a new way with Love.
We will follow on The Way.

The Spirit gives us strength to move forward
 with Courage and Compassion for all we meet.
We will follow on The Way.

May this week be filled with opportunities to choose
 to take the higher ways of the Holy,
 offering friendship, grace, and sustenance to those you meet.
 May it be so. Amen.
 "Buen Camino!"

Chimes of the Trinity

Traveling Music - "Lift High the Cross"
 Phyllis Jones, piano

arr. by Cindy Berry

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:

Peggy Everhart
 Terri Beck
 Louise Hawley
 Terri (Richard) Hawley
 Judy Hench
 Larry Langley
 Pat Harrison
 Cindy/Tom Smith

Tony Hill
 Jane King
 Cathy Jon & Emerson Bethel
 Michael Wood
 Louise & Ray Kombau
 Special Friends
 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

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

Serving in the Armed Forces

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

Friends & Family:

Teddy McCoy
 Bobbi Mukosiej
 Ginger Hill
 Peg Leahy
 Ted Williams
 Myrna Davis
 Phil (Sharon) Kinzer
 Joyce Metters
 Special Friends
 Spencer Davis
 Kimberly Wood
 Lee Ann Bethel
 Richard Slater
 Roger Thompson
 Emily Sink Cash & Family
 Pam & Ron Sink
 Rev. Ed (Patty) Kelaher
 Torrey Jackson
 Cheryl Crago
 Tami Robinson
 Beth Graves
 Bob Kuster
 Marlene Jones
 Deborah Bisbee
 Anna Cruz
 Linda Cox
 Julie Milner
 Kaitlin Deebel
 Mark Frye
 Jackie Truell Butler

Christine
 Judy Jordan
 Kay Gilmer
 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—United States

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.



United in Nurturing Fellowship

Sunday, March 1

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
 (4pm-6pm) Teens of Life Youth

Monday, March 2

7:00pm Lexington Choral Society Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, March 3

10:00am Companions in Christ Small Group, Conference Room
 12:00pm Prayer Warriors' Lunch, B-B-Q Center
 6:00pm **CPR, AED, & Tourniquet Training, Fellowship Hall**

Wednesday, March 4

12:00pm **Lenten Midday Prayer, Sanctuary**
 6:00pm Chancel Bell Rehearsal, Bell Room
 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Thursday, March 5

(7:30a-9:30a) Triad Referral Partners, Fellowship Hall

Friday, March 6

9:30am Kindermusik, Ground Floor classroom
 10:45am Kindermusik, Ground Floor classroom

Saturday, March 7

Sunday, March 8

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
 (4pm-6pm) Teens of Life Youth

CPR/AED & Tourniquet Training for ALL who are interested



Tuesday, March 3 (6:00 pm) Fellowship Hall
YOU are invited to join the Medical Response &
 Security Teams for the annual CPR/AED &
 Tourniquet training led by Davidson County EMS. **To sign-up, please contact Lisa Bonnaure (301)-609-1780 or Mike Hall (336) 239-2068.**

Wednesday Midday Lenten Services - Wednesday March 4, 11, 18, & 25, we will gather each week at 12:00pm for Lenten Midday Prayer together in our sanctuary.

Lenten Church-Wide Mission Project – Items for parents and babies in the NICU. Detailed lists with instructions are located at the back of the sanctuary & online. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Make checks payable to: **Breanna Tysinger**. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Bre Cavender (336)250-7175 (Call or Text)

2026-2027 Scholarship Applications - Grandparents & Parents – Please Note – Important - Do you have a high school senior or a rising college sophomore, junior or senior? Scholarship applications are **available online** and on the Volunteer's Desk. Need assistance or have questions, contact the church office **336-248-2886**. **Application deadline is Wednesday, March 11.**



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

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!*

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 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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