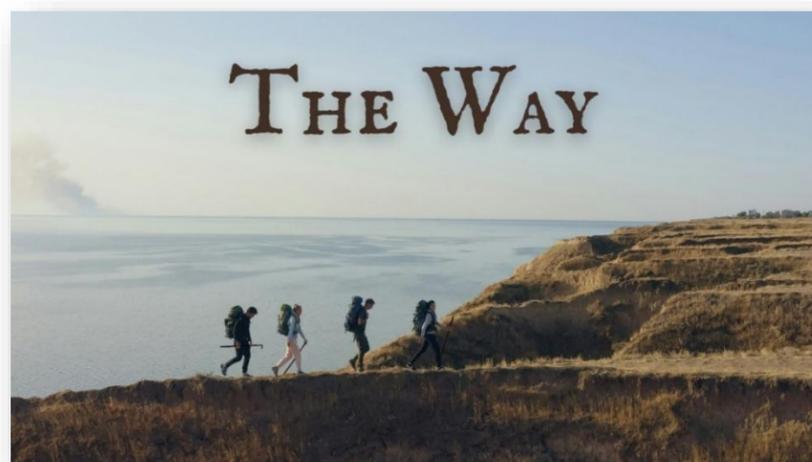




FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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 15, 2026

11:00 a.m.

*Fourth Sunday in Lent
"Our Neighbors Along The Way"*

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome

Rev. Cheryl Skinner

Opening Voluntary - "Dancing by the Stream"

by Shao Ying Low

Debi Pivetta, flute, Ashley Barrett, oboe

Call to Worship - adapted from Psalm 25:4-10

Leader: Show me your ways, O Lord!

Teach me your paths!

People: **Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation.**

Leader: Remember your mercies, O Lord, your love—
your ancient and unwavering love!

People: **Pardon the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;
remember me because of your love,
because of your goodness, O Lord!**

Leader: And how good and upright you are, YHWH!
You instruct sinners in the path,
you guide the humble in what is right,
and teach them your way.

People: **All of your paths, O Lord,
are full of love and faithfulness
for those who keep your Covenant and follow your way.**

Today, we continue our worship series that invites us to contemplate our journeys in life. Yet even in the midst of journeys, we never lose a desire for "home." No matter what we call "home" in this physical world, we yearn for a spiritual home within that offers serenity, acceptance, and belonging without question. on how the journey changes us. But we do not journey alone. Not only does God go with us, but we encounter many other sojourners from many walks of life on The Way. The best part of having companions on The Way is the sharing that we get to do that makes us feel just a little less alone.

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

**Our God who is our Home,
be with us on The Way.**

At times we aren't sure about

**the relationship of the road we travel
and the people that travel alongside us.**

**Remind us that you make all people in your image,
and call all people to walk in your Way.**

As we walk,

**help us share our fears and hopes with our fellow travelers,
knowing that Jesus walks with us all.**

**And whether we are feeling lost or at home,
may we know you are always with us.**

Amen.

Hymn of Praise No. 577

by Harry Emerson Fodsick

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Anthem - "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

arr. by Mack Wilberg

FBC Choir and FUMC Choir

Debi Pivetta, flute, Ashley Barrett, oboe

My Shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is His name.
In pastures fresh He makes me feed beside the living stream.
He brings my wand'ring spirit back when I forsake His ways
And leads me for His mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death, Thy presence is my stay;
One word of Thy supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread.
My cup with blessings overflows; Thine oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days.
O may Thy house be mine abode and all my work be praise!
There would I find a settled rest while others go and come—
No more a stranger nor a guest, but like a child at home.

Anthem - "How Can I Keep from Singing"

arr. by Taylor Davis

FBC Choir and FUMC Choir

Debi Pivetta, flute, Ashley Barrett, oboe

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear its music ringing.
It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

While though the tempest loudly roars, I hear the truth, it liveth.
And though the darkness round me close, songs in the night it giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since love is lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble sick with fear, and hear their death knell ringing,
when friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing?
In prison cells and dungeon vile, our thoughts to them are winging,
when friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing?

How can I keep from singing?

Worshipping God with Our Gifts, Tithes & Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

Holy God, giver of life,

we thank you for raising us up

**and joining us together as one people, your people,
with our neighbors in Christ around the world.**

As you have delivered us from death,

**use our gifts and our lives to proclaim the good news
of new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



A Time for the Child in All of Us

Rev. Kirk Tutterow

*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.*

Hymn of Reflection No. 451

"Be Thou My Vision"

Ancient Irish Hymn

Scripture Reading - Isaiah 56:1-8

OT Page 686

Sermon - "Our Neighbors Along The Way"

Rev. Kirk Tutterow

Prayer of Yearning

**Dear Lord,
You have shown me
what a bridge Love is across my wild rivers of anger
and my deep valleys of mistrust;
how it can tame that uncompromising beast, Guilt,
and its constant companion, Anxiety.
You have shown me how Love
warms without burning,
cools without chilling,
holds without crushing.**

**Whenever I may be hungry,
Love can fill my emptiness.
Whenever I may be wounded,
Love can heal.
However down I may feel,
one touch of its pleasure
can make me a saint.**

There are times, though, when Love expects more of me than I have to give. If it is possible, let that cup pass from me, but if not... Amen.

Hear this:
No matter how unworthy you feel of God's acceptance, you have it because that is just the way Love works. Whether or not you know it, believe it, or feel it, Jesus is with you now because Jesus knows God's welcome and shared it without hesitation. You are forgiven because Love is Home, no matter how far you think you've strayed. May it be so.

Hymn for the Journey No. 560 by Fred Kaan
"Help Us Accept Each Other"

(During the Hymn for the Journey you are welcome to come up and sit or kneel on the front row for a time of prayer as you feel led.)

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 let others share with you their journey stories, and for you to share yours, so you might come to know each other more fully. May it be so. Amen.
"Buen Camino!"

Chimes of the Trinity

Postlude - "He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought" arr. by Gail Pollock
Phyllis Jones, organ



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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:

Terri Beck
Peggy Everhart
Judy Hench
Larry Langley
Pat Harrison
Cindy/Tom Smith

Friends & Family:

Gary Elms
Special Friends
Teddy McCoy
Bobbi Mukosiej
Ginger Hill
Ted Williams
Myrna Davis
Phil (Sharon) Kinzer
Joyce Metters
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

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
Christine
Judy Jordan
Kay Gilmer
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

Missionaries

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

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

United in Nurturing Fellowship

Sunday, March 15

8:30am United Methodist Men, Fellowship Hall
8:45am Early Worship, Fellowship Hall
9:30am Sunday School for ALL Ages
9:45am **Event Set-Up, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen**
11:00am Morning Worship, Sanctuary
11:00am LIVE Stream on YouTube at First UMC Lexington NC
12:00pm **Evangelism & Hospitality Fellowship Meal, Fellowship Hall**
2:00pm **Trustees, Parlor**
(4pm-6pm) Teens of Life Youth

Monday, March 16

7:00pm Lexington Choral Society Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, March 17

10:00am Companions in Christ Small Group, Conference Room
12:00pm Prayer Warriors' Lunch, B-B-Q Center
5:00pm **Endowment, Parlor**
5:30pm **Altar Guild, Fellowship Hall**
5:45pm **Agape provides evening meal, DC First Hope Ministries**

Wednesday, March 18

12:00pm **Lenten Midday Prayer, Sanctuary**
1:00pm **Chair Yoga, Fellowship Hall**
6:00pm Chancel Bell Rehearsal, Bell Room
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Thursday, March 19

(7:30a-9:30a) Triad Referral Partners, Fellowship Hall
6:00pm **Chair Volleyball, Fellowship Hall**
6:00pm **Faith Seekers, Home of Judy Deal**

Friday, March 20

9:30am Kindermusik, Ground Floor classroom
10:45am Kindermusik, Ground Floor classroom
1:30pm **Crafting, Home of Terri Hawley**

Saturday, March 21

Sunday, March 22

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
12:00pm **Children's Easter Celebration & Egg Hunt**
(4pm-5pm) Teens of Life Youth, Scavenger Hunt for Pastor's Pantry

Upcoming Lenten and Easter Events

Children's Easter Celebration & Egg Hunt
Sunday, March 22 (12p) –Call or Text Rev. Amy Higgins at 336-403-2413 or email: ahiggins@wnccumc.net

Palm Sunday Walk to the Square -Sunday, March 29 (12p)

Maundy Thursday -Thursday, April 2 (7p) First UMC Sanctuary

Easter Sunday -Sunday, April 5 -Bring fresh flowers to place on the flower cross.

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.

Thank You Notes

Dear church family and friends,
I have been humbled and overwhelmed by the love and kindness shared with me and Larry over the last few months. From offering to run errands, cook meals, texts, calls, beautiful cards of encouragement and so many needed prayers for my health and recovery. It has not been a fun road but you all made it less bumpy with the showing of your love at every turn. My church family has always been an important part of me. You have never let me down and you have certainly lifted me up this time. I look forward to the day I can be in church and hug everyone.

Love,
Terri Beck

Dear First UMC family,
DeLee and I are deeply grateful for your prayers, the cards, the love and the many acts of kindness shown to us during the passing of my dad. And, thank you for honoring my father's memory with your contributions to the music at First UMC and Madison First Baptist Church.

Peace to you,
Lee Mabe

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.)

Daniel Bible Study To Begin after Easter

The Reverend Jack Tookey will be leading a new Bible study on the Book of Daniel titled "Growing Strong in an Alien World" beginning after Easter.

The study will follow Daniel through his journey from kidnapped noble Jewish child to the most powerful man in Babylon to a "highly favored person" before his God Most High.

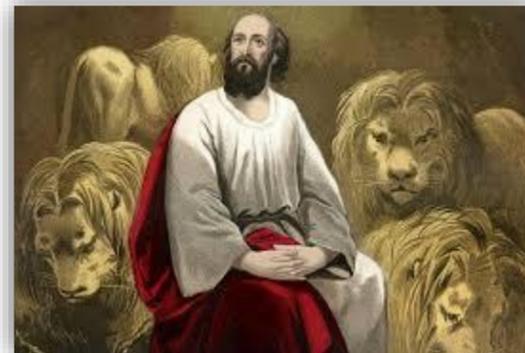
The eight-session series will focus on the role of prayer and faith fellowship in Daniel's (and, our) personal and spiritual growth.

If you would like to participate in the study, please contact Jack: (Call or Text) 336-337-2343 or (Email) jtookey@mindspring.com

Let him know what days and times work best for you.

All classes will meet in the **library at First UMC**, with day and time determined by what works best for participants' schedules.

We hope you will prayerfully consider this opportunity to dig deeper into a remarkable book of the Bible!



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.

An Opportunity to Serve

We are looking for a few folks to serve as team members overseeing the care and upkeep of the kitchen. You will serve together as team that will divide and complete tasks as they arise. Please contact Gil Bonnaure: (Call or Text) 301-648-6113 or (Email) gilbonn@comcast.com

Complimentary Tickets to Dollywood

Our church filled over 100 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes in 2025. Judy Deal, our very own OCC shoebox liaison, entered our church into the "Shoebox Challenge" and because of the number of shoeboxes filled, we have been given **(4) complimentary one day tickets good until Jan 3, 2027 for Dollywood**.

The free tickets are **first come, first served** to anyone **who filled a shoebox in 2025**. So... if you would like one or more of these tickets, please see Judy Deal to receive the ticket(s) personally from her.

Thank you for participating in Operation Christmas Child this past year.