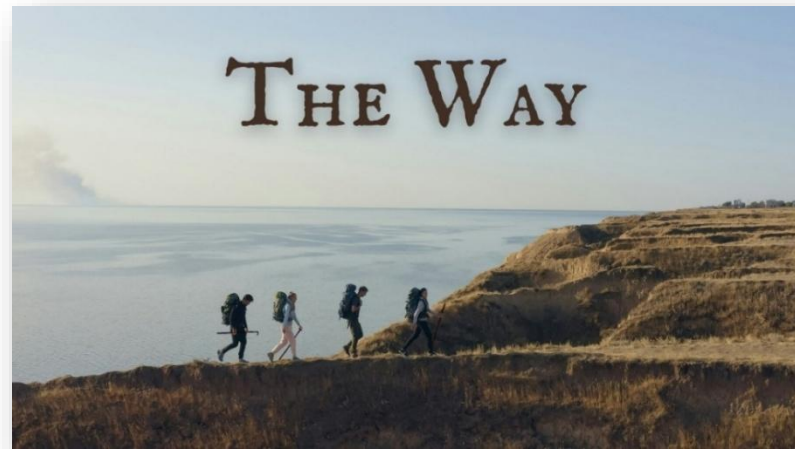


# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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 22, 2026

*Fifth Sunday in Lent  
"The Free Way"*

11:00 a.m.

## *Chiming of the Hour*

*Bell Prelude - "Processional and Joyful Dance"*  
First UMC Chancel Bell Choir

*by Margaret Tucker*

## *Welcome*

Rev. Kirk Tutterow

*Bell Voluntary - "Portraits of the Cross"*  
First UMC Chancel Bell Choir

*arr. by Jason Krug*

## *Call to Worship - adapted from Psalm 126*

Leader: When we have been hurt and lost,

**People: God brings us laughter and joy.**

Leader: When our lives reach a dead end.

**People: God opens a way forward.**

Leader: When the rivers of our lives dry up,

**People: God sends living water to quench our thirst.**

Leader: God has done great things for us!

**People: Let us rejoice!**

Our worship series leads us along the path of our faith journey in a way that leads to new life in Jesus Christ, the message of Easter that we move towards. New paths are possible through freedom in Christ. And these ways can be made plain before us if we have eyes to see. Yes, we will strain against adversity—such is life. We don't reach Easter until we've been through the agony of Holy Week that will soon be upon us. But new paths are always possible. New horizons are possible through our relationship with God and with each other. There will be both stumbling blocks and stepping stones along the way. But God is our rock and our redeemer—God is with us every step of The Way.

## *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*

**God our Rock,  
be with us on The Way.  
At times we are not sure how we will carry the burdens  
of grief and disappointment that accumulate in life.  
We come asking for help in lightening the load  
so that we can be free to move in new directions.  
Help us to help each other as Jesus asks us to do.  
Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise No. 140* *by Thomas O. Chisholm*  
*"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

## *Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer*

*Bell Anthem - "Do Lord"* *arr. by Valerie Stephenson*  
First UMC Chancel Bell Choir

## *Worshipping God with Our Gifts, Tithes & Offerings*

### *Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)*

**Holy One, curator of all, we give you thanks  
for all you have entrusted to us.  
As good stewards, we now bring you these gifts  
and ask that you use them to help your children  
around the world.  
As we bring our gifts, we also offer our lives,  
praying that you will use us to bear good fruit  
for all people. Amen.**

*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.*

*Hymn of Reflection No. 389* *by Carol Owens*  
*"Freely, Freely"*

*Scripture Readings - Isaiah 43:16-19 & Philippians 3:12-14*  
OT Pg 672 & NT Pg 198

*Sermon - "Journeying The Free Way"* *Rev. Cheryl Skinner*

## *Prayer of Yearning*

**O God,  
There are times  
when I feel hopeless and afraid.  
I become confused and unsure  
as to how to face the next moment.  
What difference does my life make  
in the midst of such a vast universe?  
Sometimes the thought of my own death  
stirs up feelings of doubt and uncertainty.**

**I feel as though I am on a treadmill,  
rather than moving toward a destination.  
Worst of all, in the midst of my anxiety,  
I become impatient and angry with those  
who mean the most to me.  
If it is possible,  
let that cup pass from me,  
but if not...  
Amen.**

Hear this:  
You are already free because Jesus makes it so.  
Whether or not you know it, believe it, or feel it quite yet,  
your burden is shared by Jesus,  
who is gentle and humble of heart.  
You are forgiven and freed,  
especially when your Way needs the relief of less weight.  
May it be so.

*Hymn for the Journey No. 368* *by Edward Mote*  
*"My Hope Is Built"*

*(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 choose  
to let go of those things that no longer serve you,  
And be on the lookout for ways to encourage the same in those you meet.  
May it be so. Amen.  
"Buen Camino!"

*Bell Benediction - "God Be With You Till We Meet Again"*  
*arr. by Kevin McChesney*  
First UMC Chancel Bell Choir

## *Chimes of the Trinity*

*Postlude - "Trumpet Finale"* *by Tommaso Albinoni*  
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:

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

### Friends & Family:

Gary Elms  
Deborah Bisbee  
Tami Robinson  
Special Friends  
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  
Beth Graves  
Bob Kuster  
Marlene Jones  
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 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, Fellowship Hall (Pizza lunch, egg hunt, crafts, & snacks)**  
**3:30pm Sunday Matinee Showing of the movie "The Way" in the fellowship hall (refer to bulletin insert)**  
Teens of Life Youth, Scavenger Hunt for Pastor's Pantry

### Monday, March 23

7:00pm Lexington Choral Society Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall  
**7:00pm Staff Parish Relations Committee, Parlor**

### Tuesday, March 24

10:00am Companions in Christ Small Group, Conference Room  
12:00pm Prayer Warriors' Lunch, B-B-Q Center  
**5:30pm Scholarship Committee, Conference Room**  
**6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall**

### Wednesday, March 25

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

### Thursday, March 26

(7:30a-9:30a) Triad Referral Partners, Fellowship Hall  
**6:00pm Chair Volleyball, Fellowship Hall**

### Friday, March 27

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

### Saturday, March 28

### Sunday, March 29

8:45am *Palm Sunday*  
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  
**Walk to the Square following morning worship service**  
(4pm-6pm) Teens of Life Youth, Kickball & Ice Cream, Grimes Park

## Now is the Time to Order your Easter Lily

The Altar Guild will place **30 Easter lilies** in the church on Easter Sunday. If you would like to purchase one or more in honor and/or in memory of someone, you may complete the purple insert in today's bulletin and return it to the church office with your payment. Thank you for your support!

## Upcoming Lenten and Easter Events

**Palm Sunday Walk to the Square** -Sunday, March 29 (12p)  
Downtown churches join together for a Walk to the Square for music and Palm Sunday message on the old courthouse stairs.

**Maundy Thursday** -Thursday, April 2 (7p) First UMC Sanctuary  
Our neighbors from First Presbyterian will join us for this evening service.

**Easter Sunday** -Sunday, April 5 (8:45a & 11a) -Bring fresh flowers to place on the flower cross.

## 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.net](mailto:gilbonn@comcast.net)

## Complimentary Tickets to Dollywood

**(4) complimentary one day tickets good until Jan 3, 2027 for Dollywood.** The free tickets are **first come, first served** to anyone **who filled an OCC 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.

## 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**



**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.

## 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](mailto: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!

## 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.

### 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.)