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.

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!

November 1, 2026 ***8:45 a.m.***

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints Sunday

Welcome Rev. Kirk Tutterow

Gathering Music - *"Down to the River/Shall We Gather"*
arr. by Pepper Choplin
Phyllis Jones, piano

Call to Worship
Bless the Lord, whose love shines upon us.
Bless the Lord, my soul!
Bless our lives, that reflect God's love.
Bless the Lord, my soul!
Bless our worship, that it may glorify God.
Bless the Lord, my soul!

Opening Prayer
Glorious God, we come into your holy presence
with joy and gratitude.
Bless this time of worship to draw us closer to you.
Bless our lives to shine brightly with your love.
Bless our work in the world to bring your justice
and compassion to life.
In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn of Praise No. 711 *by William W. How*
"For All the Saints"

We Worship with our Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving
Holy One, thank you for blessing us in so many ways.
Please bless our offerings:
to bring your presence more fully into the world,
to spread your love to places far and wide,
to bring hope and peace where despair runs deep.
In loving gratitude, we pray. Amen.

Anthem - *"For All the Saints"* *arr. by Pepper Choplin*
Phyllis Jones, piano

Scripture - *Matthew 5:1-12* *NT Page 4*

Sermon - *"Blessings"* Rev. Cheryl Skinner

Remembering Our Saints

Mary Hooks
April 22, 1929—December 1, 2025

Nancy Miller Wright
July 6, 1947—December 11, 2025

Carolyn Elizabeth Ross Briggs
March 2, 1938—December 23, 2025

Bettye Dillon Gray
July 23, 1925—February 2, 2026

Myra Harris Harp
February 1, 1942—February 16, 2026

Nancy Snider Kepley
October 9, 1943 - April 28, 2026

Rhonda Clark Holman
June 17, 1952—May 25, 2026

Dr. John E. Scarff
July 6, 1937 – May 28, 2026

Edna E. Morris
June 4, 1942 – October 14, 2026

Hymn of Response No. 723 *by Robert Lowry*
"Shall We Gather at the River"

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)
Sainthood is hard!
Yet you call us to live into your blessings
by loving and caring for all of your creation.
Give us strength to answer our call.
Give us wisdom to live your teachings.
Give us courage to withstand the trials
and tribulations of life.
Give us humility to embrace sainthood,
even when our sins and shortcomings haunt our days
and cause us to judge ourselves and others.
Love us into sainthood,
that others may find us to be
generous and compassionate friends.
(You are invited to a time of silent confession…)

Words of Assurance
God saves us again and again and again,
calling us to blessings and saintly living.
This hope and this grace are enough to purify us,
even as Christ is pure. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving (Musical Setting A) *UMH Page 17*
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...
...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sung Response
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...
…And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Sung Response
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other,
and one 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.

Sung Response
A-men, a-men, amen!

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Hymns during Communion
"I Come with Joy" No. 617
"For the Bread Which You Have Broken" No. 614

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(in unison)*

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Celebration No. 708 *by Fred Pratt Green*
"Rejoice in God's Saints"

Benediction

Chimes of the Trinity

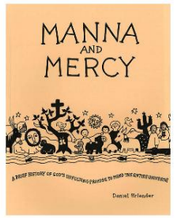
Traveling Music - *"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"* *arr. by Cindy Berry*
Phyllis Jones, piano

Next Sunday: "By the Waters of Babylon"

- Read Manna & Mercy pages 27-29
- Read Jerimiah 7:1-11; Isaiah 1:10-20, 30:1-5; Kings 17 & 25; Psalm 137; Isaiah 43:16-21; Jeremiah 31:31-34

Remember the Four Questions to ask when reading scripture:

1. What does this scripture passage tell you about God?
2. What does this scripture passage tell you about human beings?
3. What does this scripture passage tell you about God's creation?
4. What does this scripture passage tell you about the relationships between God, human beings, and God's creation?



Additional questions to ponder:

- What is the main message of the prophets leading up to the exile? How do the people respond?
- What lessons do the people learn while in captivity?
- How do they find comfort and hope?
- Who are "the remnant" and why are they important?
- What words of both warning and hope are we hearing today?
- What prophetic message does God have for us today? Are we listening?

***** If you have questions, or just want to further discuss the readings or the sermon, please feel free to contact either Pastor Cheryl or Pastor Kirk to continue the conversation!*****

Prayer Requests

Lifting up prayers for our First UMC members, friends, and family. Contact the church office to add or remove a name from the prayer list.

First UMC members: Peggy Everhart, Sandra Michael, Simi Harne, Terri Beck, Lauren Hall, Judy Hench, Cindy Davis, Larry Langley, G. F. Smith, Gay Smith, Curtis Leonard, Lewis McMillan, Ron & Kristie Wooten

Friends & Family: Jim McCutcheon, Davis Tucker, Gary Elms, Torrey Jackson, Deborah Bisbee, Geoff Tookey, Ashlyn Tookey, Debbie McNeill, Julie Milner, Cindy & Tom Smith, Kaitlin Deebel, Cheryl Crago, Betty Jean Whitaker

Member Care: Dot Cook, Ginnie Easter, Hilda Flynt, Louise Hawley, Larlie Mae Knight, Carolyn Smith, Patricia Smith, Dr. Hunter Strader, Ruby (Buddy) Taylor, Flonnie Thomason, 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, Becki & Tom Foust

Serving in the Armed Forces: Major Kacie Allred, Sergeant McRay Calderone, SGT Alan Ingram, Major Jarrad Thorley

Notes of Sympathy

Sympathy of the ministers and congregation is extended to the family of Edna E. Morris upon the occasion of her death on October 14, 2026.

Sympathy of the ministers and congregation is extended to the family of James McDuff "Jim" Dillon upon the occasion of his death on October 23, 2026.

United in Nurturing Fellowship

Sunday, November 1
All Saints Sunday
8:45am Early Worship, Fellowship Hall
9:30am Sunday School for ALL Ages
11:00am Morning Worship Service, Sanctuary
11:00am LIVE Stream on YouTube at First UMC Lexington NC
12:00pm Event Set-Up, Fellowship Hall
2:00pm RISE Against Hunger Event, Fellowship Hall
2:00pm Teens of Life Youth, RISE Against Hunger Event

Monday, November 2
6:00pm Foundations of Investing, Agape Classroom, 2nd Floor
7:00pm Lexington Choral Society Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Tuesday, November 3
10:00am "The Way of Blessedness" Bible study, Fellowship Hall
12:00pm Prayer Warrior's Lunch, B-B-Q Center

Wednesday, November 4
10:00am Staff Meeting, Library
1:00pm Restorative Yoga, Fellowship Hall
4:00pm Crocheting, Fellowship Hall
6:00pm Chancel Bells, Bell Room
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Thursday, November 5
(7:30a-9:30a) Triad Referral Partners, Fellowship Hall
4:00pm Covenant Group, Parlor

Friday, November 6
4:00pm First UMC Book Club, Parlor

Saturday, November 7
12:00pm Private Event, The family of Jim Dillon, Fellowship Hall
2:00pm Burial of Jim Dillon, Lexington City Cemetery
3:00pm A Celebration of Life Service for Jim Dillon, Sanctuary

Sunday, November 8
8:45am Early Worship, Fellowship Hall
9:30am Sunday School for ALL Ages
11:00am Morning Worship Service, Sanctuary
11:00am LIVE Stream on YouTube at First UMC Lexington NC
12:00pm Dedication Service of Prayer Garden & Gazebo
3:00pm Annual Charge Conference, Macedonia UMC, 10890 NC-8, Lexington, NC 27292

Poinsettia Sale sponsored by United Women in Faith

Order forms will be available in the bulletin on **Sunday, November 8th**. All poinsettias must be pre-ordered & pre-paid. Price: $15

Meals On Wheels of Lexington Dine Out Fundraiser

Tuesday, November 17 (10:00am – 9:00pm) Dine-In **OR** Take Out
Christo's Original, 1500 S. Main Street

Anticipating Advent Event

You are invited to a church-wide "Anticipating Advent" family event as we prepare our church and ourselves for the Advent and Christmas seasons!

What: Worship, Decorating, Children's Advent Fair, Food & Fellowship
Where: Our Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
When: Sunday, November 22 at 4:00 p.m.
Who: EVERYONE—ALL members of the church are invited!

Hanging of the Greens

We will gather in the Sanctuary for a brief "Hanging of the Greens" Service, followed by an opportunity to help decorate our church for the holiday season. Refreshments will be served, and Pastor Amy will offer our Annual Advent Fair for the children—***continue reading for more details.***

Come and join in the fun as we prepare our hearts, minds, and space for the coming of Christ—what a great way to begin this sacred time of year!

Children's Advent Fair

Preschool and elementary aged children are invited to attend the Advent Fair in the Fellowship Hall to learn about the ways we can prepare for the birth of Jesus and the blessings of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love we are given. Crafts to keep and gifts to share will be made, as well as an Advent Wreath with devotional and activities will be taken home to enjoy as a family. It is sure to be a great time of fun and learning (and some yummy snacks)!

Reaching Out and Sharing God's Boundless Love

NOVEMBER Featured Mission Partner: Pastor's Pantry
Regularly, we receive canned food items: **green beans, tuna, chicken, soups & stews** to help stock the Pastor's Pantry to assist the surrounding community.

Starting today, November 1st, the annual **CORN CHALLENGE** is back!
500 regular sized cans of whole kernel corn



Our donated cans of corn assist with the Thanksgiving & Christmas meals provided by Pastor's Pantry serving 425 households feeding 700 people locally in the surrounding community.

The challenge goes out to everyone—individuals, families, classes, groups—donate as many cans as you are able. The collection site is the table just outside of Donna's office in the reception area. Look for the sign! We are receiving your kindly donated items the **entire month of November**.

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 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

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.

First United Methodist Church
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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 acarlton@firstumclex.org
Donna Huskins, Administrative Assistant churchoffice.fumclexnc@gmail.com

Operation Christmas Child

Contact Judy Deal by **November 16** if you would like for her & Faith Seekers to fill an OCC shoebox for you. Cost: **$25** includes shipping. **To fill your own OCC shoebox**, pick up a shoebox from one the church displays & follow the instructions inside. Please return filled shoeboxes to the church by **Sunday, November 22, 2026**. Place them on the table under the bulletin board in the hallway.

OCC Processing Center - Friday, December 4th in Charlotte, NC
Meet at Judy & William Deal's home at 7:15a and serve at the center from 9a until 2p. **Contact: Judy Deal to RSVP.**