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 22, 2026 ***11:00 a.m.***

Christ the King Sunday
Manna and Mercy: Intertestamental Times

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome Rev. Kirk Tutterow

Opening Voluntary - *"Now Thank We All Our God"*
by Sigfrid Karg-Elert
Phyllis Jones, organ

Violin Voluntary - *"Meditation"* *by Jules Massenet*
Colleen Chenail, violin

Call to Worship

Enter God's gates with gladness,
and God's courts with praise.
Rejoice as God's people,
and rest as sheep in God's pasture.
Serve God with joyful hearts,
and worship God with justice and mercy.

Opening Prayer (in unison)

Glorious God, enlighten our eyes
to our hope in Christ.
Help us claim the richness of our glorious inheritance
in Christ, our shepherd.
Reveal to us your ways,
and guide us on right paths,
that we might bring the light of your love
to a world shrouded in shadow.
Bless this church with unity and strength,
that we may be Christ for the world.
For our shepherd rescues the perishing
and reclaims the lost and scattered
through those who follow as his sheep. Amen.

Hymn of Praise No. 327 *by Matthew Bridges*
"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Anthem - *"A Simple Thanksgiving"* *arr. by Joseph Martin*
First UMC Chancel Choir
Colleen Chenail, violin

'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free, 'tis a gift to come down
where we ought to be and when we find ourselves in the place just right,
we'll be in the valley of love and light.
When true simplicity is gained to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.
To turn, turn will be our delight 'til by turning,
turning we come 'round right.

This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears, all nature sings
and 'round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world, I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the wonders wrought.
This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.

'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free,
'tis a gift to come down where we ought to be.
'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world. He shines in all that's fair.
In rustling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me ev'rywhere.
In rustling grass I hear Him pass.
In simple things I hear him sing. He sings to me ev'rywhere.

We Worship with our Tithes and Offerings

Stewardship Moment Rev. Jack Tookey

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

Glorious Lord of love, may the gifts we bring this day:
be nourishment for a hungry world,
clothing and shelter for those in need,
and compassion for those who are hurting.
Bless these offerings,
that they may help those in need.
With gratitude, we pray. Amen.

A Time for the Child in All of Us Rev. Cheryl Skinner



All children are invited to come to the front of the church at this time. Afterwards, children in kindergarten thru 2nd grade are invited to follow the leader to the Godly Play Room for Children's Church.

Hymn of Preparation TFWS #2036 *by Henry Smith*
"Give Thanks"

Scripture Reading - *Jeremiah 23:5-6; Isaiah 43:19*
OT Page 725; 672

Sermon *- "A New Thing"* Rev. Cheryl Skinner

Affirmation of Faith No. 883 *- "A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada"*

Hymn of Sending #102 *by Martin Rinkart*
"Now Thank We All Our God"

Benediction

Chimes of the Trinity

Postlude - *"We Gather Together"* *arr. by John G. Barr*
Phyllis Jones, organ

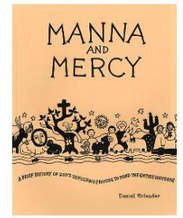
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Next Sunday: "God's Surprise–Context"

- Read Manna & Mercy pages 36-top of 39
- Luke 1:17, 67-79; 2:25, 29-32

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:

- Who were the Sadducees, the Pharisees, the Essenes, and the Bandit Groups? What role did they play in Roman-occupied Israelite society?
- Who were the Anawim, and why were they particularly vulnerable? How does God answer their cries for justice?
- What are the divisions in our society today? Who is most vulnerable, and how might God be calling us to address their cries for justice?
- What is our idea of "righteousness" today? How do we get it right, and how do we get it wrong?

***** 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



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, November 22
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
4:00pm Anticipating Advent Event, Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary & Church Campus
4:00pm Teens of Life Youth participate with Anticipating Advent Event

Monday, November 23
7:00pm Lexington Choral Society Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Tuesday, November 24
10:00am "The Way of Blessedness" Bible study, Fellowship Hall
12:00pm Prayer Warrior's Lunch, B-B-Q Center

Wednesday, November 25
12:00pm Church Office Closes

Thursday, November 26
Thanksgiving Day – Church Office Closed

Friday, November 27
Thanksgiving Friday – Church Office Closed

Saturday, November 28

Sunday, November 29
First Sunday of Advent
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

Anticipating Advent Event - Join Us Today!

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)!

Operation Christmas Child

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.**

Poinsettia Pick Up

Friday, December 4th (9:30a until 12p) State Street entrance

Lexington Choral Society presents "Welcome to December"

Saturday, December 5 (5p) First UMC Sanctuary – FREE to the public

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.



The annual **CORN CHALLENGE** is back!
500 regular sized cans of whole kernel corn

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.

First United Methodist Church
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Rev. Amy Higgins, Associate Minister of Next Generations Ministries ahiggins@wnccumc.net 336-403-2413
Lee Mabe, Director of Music maestromabe@gmail.com
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