First United Methodist Church

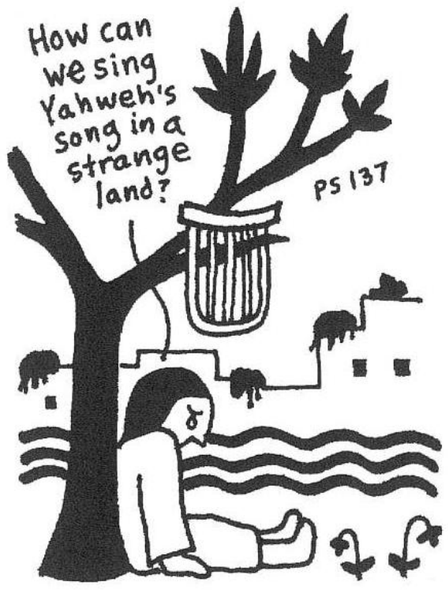
Lexington, North Carolina

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 8, 2026 ***11:00 a.m.***

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Manna and Mercy: By the Waters of Babylon



Chiming of the Hour

Welcome Rev. Cheryl Skinner

Opening Voluntary - *"Prelude and Fugue in g minor" by J. S. Bach*
Phyllis Jones, organ

Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord is making a new covenant with the people of God.
People: **Here in this place and many others,**
Christ writes the law of love on our hearts.
Leader: Together, we are children of the living God.
People: **Together, let us worship the Lord of Love!**

Opening Prayer (in unison)

O God of creation and connection,
you yearn to be so close to us
that we can know you in every breath,
in every hope, in every relationship.
Meet us here today and teach us to recognize
the covenant of justice, peace, and love
you have written on our hearts.
May our desires become your desires,
our work become your work,
and our community
the place where you are sought and found.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Hymn of Praise No. 110 *by Martin Luther*
"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Anthem *- "Abide with Me" arr. by Jantz Black*
First UMC Chancel Choir

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee
help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.
I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.
Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes,
hine through the gloom,
and point me to the skies; heav'n's morning breaks,
and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in death,
O Lord, abide with me.
Abide with me.

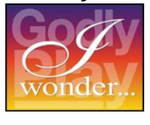
We Worship with our Tithes and Offerings

Stewardship Moment Grace Woods

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

Gracious Lord,
you have given us more mercy than we could imagine
and more blessings than we deserve.
Receive now these gifts as tokens of our gratitude to you,
that your mercy may be multiplied
and your blessings abound to embrace all those in need.
Amen.

A Time for the Child in All of Us Rev. Amy Higgins



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 No. 441 *- adapted by Albert Bayly from Micah 6:6-8*
"What Does the Lord Require"

Scripture Reading I - *Isaiah 1:16-20* *OT Page 631*

Sermon Part I - "*Defeat, Destruction, & Exile"* Rev. Kirk Tutterow

Responsive Reading No. 852 *- Psalm 137*

Scripture Reading - *Isaiah 43:1-3a, 14-21* *OT Page 672*

Sermon Part II *- "Out of Devastation, Hope and a New Beginning"*

Affirmation of Faith No. 887 *- Affirmation from Romans 8:35, 37-39*

Hymn of Sending #129 *by Paul Gerhardt*
"Give To the Wind Thy Fears"

Benediction

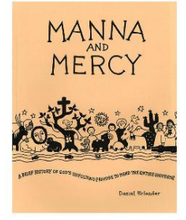
Chimes of the Trinity

Postlude - *"The Glory of God in Nature" by Ludwig Von Beethoven*
Phyllis Jones, organ

During the Postlude you are invited to follow the ministers out to the Prayer Garden and Gazebo for a brief Service of Dedication.

Next Sunday: "Home Again"
- Read Manna & Mercy pages 30-32
- Read Isaiah 43:16-21, Nehemiah, Ezra, Ruth, Jonah

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 role did Persia's King Cyrus play in the Israelites' return to Judah and Jerusalem?
- What was life like for the remnant that returned? What advice did they receive from leaders like Nehemiah and Ezra?
- How does the story of Ruth run counter to Ezra's teachings? How does it set the stage for what is to come?
- Have you ever thought of Jonah as a prophet? What message does he relay through his words and actions, and why are they important?
- Are you surprised at the differing opinions reflected in these readings? How are they instructive for our own divisive times?

***** 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 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

Monday, November 9
7:00pm Lexington Choral Society Rehearsal, Sanctuary

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

Wednesday, November 11
4:00pm Crocheting, Fellowship Hall
6:00pm Chancel Bells, Bell Room
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Thursday, November 12
(7:30a-9:30a) Triad Referral Partners, Fellowship Hall

Friday, November 13

Saturday, November 14

Sunday, November 15
8:30am United Methodist Men, Fellowship Hall
8:45am Early Worship, Sanctuary
9:30am Sunday School for ALL Ages
11:00am Morning Worship Service, Sanctuary
11:00am LIVE Stream on YouTube at First UMC Lexington NC
3:00pm Church Visioning, Fellowship Hall

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. 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.**

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 – A percentage of ALL proceeds will benefit Meals on Wheels of Lexington – *A United Way Partner Agency*



Poinsettia Sale sponsored by United Women in Faith

All poinsettias must be pre-ordered & pre-paid. Please turn in your completed form and payment to the church office by **Sunday, November 22.**



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.

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**.

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 acarlton@firstumclex.org
Donna Huskins, Administrative Assistant churchoffice.fumclexnc@gmail.com

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