

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LEXINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

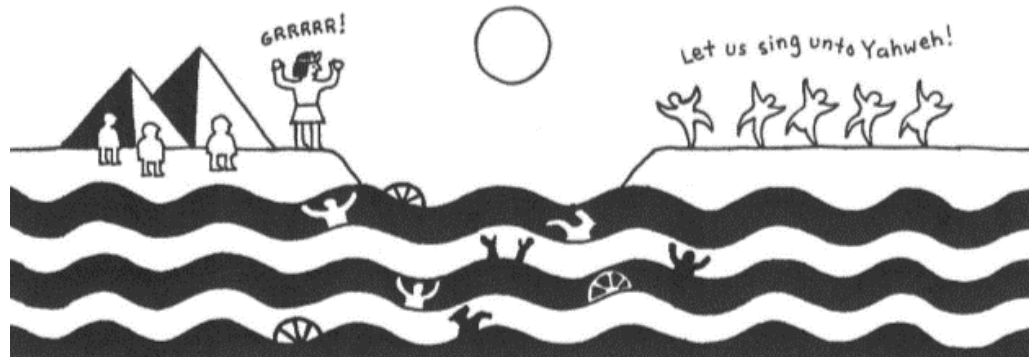
At First United Methodist Church we are each alive in Christ, united in nurturing fellowship, reaching out to share God's boundless love.

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!

September 6, 2026

11:00 a.m.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Manna and Mercy: God Births a People



Chiming of the Hour

Welcome Rev. Amy Higgins

Opening Voluntary - "Go Down, Moses" arr. by Mark Hayes
Phyllis Jones, piano

Call to Worship

Leader: Amid the forces of death and destruction,
People: **it takes a village to save us.**
Leader: Amid the rivers that would carry us out to sea,
People: **it takes willing souls to pull us from the water.**
Leader: Amid the fear and hatred in our world,
People: **it takes ordinary people to reveal God's mercy.**

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, we present our very lives
as holy and living sacrifices to your purposes.
During this time of worship,
we seek the renewal of our minds
and the strengthening of our spirits.
Show us your will,
that we may know what is good, acceptable,
and perfect in your sight. Amen.

Hymn of Praise No. 127 by William Williams
"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

We Worship with our Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

Loving God, accept our gifts
as signs of our commitment
to build your realm in our midst.

Accept our very lives
as pledges of our commitment
to pursue what is good, acceptable, and perfect
in your sight.

May these gifts become resources
to draw the endangered from the waters of death,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Anthem - "Headin' for the Promised Land" by Natalie Sleeth
First UMC Chancel Choir

Brother, sister, lend an ear, I'm headin' for the promised land!
Troubles soon will disappear, I'm headin' for the promised land!
When I reach it there will be love and happiness awaitin' me.
Come along and you will see! I'm headin' for the promised land!
I'll be singin' freedom's song, I'm headin' for the promised land!
That's the place where I belong, I'm heading for the promised land!
I'll get there one day I know; now I've started, I'm ararin' to go
where the milk and honey flow. I'm headin' for the promised land!
O, listen, don't you hear that trumpet, sounding forth the call?
O, children, won't you rise and follow, one and all?
Better days are now in view, I'm headin' for the promised land!
All my dreams are comin' true, I'm headin' for the promised land!
Want to leave the past behind, face the future with a hopeful mind.
Peace and joy I'll surely find, I'm headin' for the promised land!
O, listen, don't you hear that trumpet, sounding forth the call?
O, children, won't you rise and follow, one and all?
Brother, sister, lend an ear, I'm headin' for the promised land!
Troubles soon will disappear, I'm headin' for the promised land!
When I reach it there will be love and happiness awaitin' me.
Come along and you will see! I'm headin' for the promised land!

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.

Scriptures - Exodus 1:8-2:10; 15:1-11, 13, 17-18, 21 OT Pages 48-49

Sermon - "God Births a People" Rev. Cheryl Skinner

Hymn of Response No. 448 African American Spiritual
"Go Down, Moses"

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)

Merciful God, wash away the injuries
we have inflicted upon one another.
We long to replace our bitterness in word and deed
with acts of grace and mercy.
We yearn to replace our willful neglect of others
with acts of support and grace.
We desire to walk in your path of joy and compassion,
that we may bathe in the waters
of your healing love. Amen.
(You are invited to a time of silent confession...)

Words of Assurance

Thanks be to God who rescues us from our foes.
Thanks be to Christ who saves us from forces
that would be our undoing.
In God's loving Spirit, we are set free
and made whole again.

The Great Thanksgiving

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:

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:

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.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

(After receiving Holy Communion, you are welcome to use the seats
and/or the kneelers in the two front pews for a time of silent prayer
and reflection.)

Prayer after Communion

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 Hope - No. 586 by T. Herbert O'Driscoll
"Let My People Seek Their Freedom"

Benediction

Chimes of the Trinity

Postlude - "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" arr. by Gordon Young
Phyllis Jones, organ

Next Sunday: The Wilderness School

- Read Manna & Mercy pages 7-9
- Read Exodus 16:1-36

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 did the Israelites do once they were in the desert?
- Why did they forget the realities of slavery in Egypt so easily?
- What was the lesson God taught with the giving of the manna?
- Why did some people ignore God’s instructions? To what end?
- How do we continue to ignore God’s instructions about manna today? To what end?
- What is the gift of Sabbath, and why is it so central to God’s yearning for God’s people?
- How do you honor the gift of Sabbath rest in your own life?

Notes of Sympathy

Sympathy of the ministers and congregation is extended to Kelly Leonard and Kimberly Leonard upon the occasion of the death of their grandmother, Pauline Byerly Everhart on August 24, 2026.

Sympathy of the ministers and congregation is extended to Larry (Pat) Langley upon the occasion of the death of his sister, Shirley Langley Dennis of Pennsylvania on September 2, 2026.

Giving Generously Together

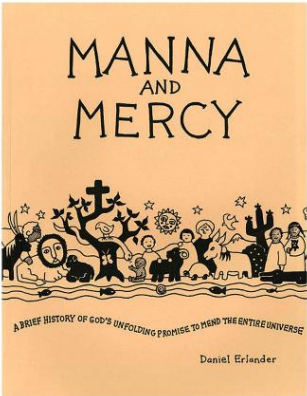
Offering plates are provided at the back of the sanctuary.



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**
310 South Main Street, Lexington, NC - 27292
Office phone: (336) 248-2886 Website: www.fumclex.org

Rev. Cheryl Skinner, Senior Minister, skinnerrev@gmail.com 336-813-2626
Rev. Kirk Tutterow, Executive Associate 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, 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:

Efird Wilson
Peggy Everhart
Betty Pope
Gay Smith
Larry Langley
Daniel Cavender
Lewis McMillan
Jim Dillon
Cindy Davis
Kathy Oliver
Terri Beck
G. F. Smith
Louise Hawley
Curtis Leonard
Judy Hench

Friends & Family:

Sam Nifong & family
Peggy Klass
Sam Branson
Matt
Molly Pflueger
Beth Graves
Becky Leonard
Debbie McNeill
JoAnn Hill
Kimberly Wood
Lee Ann Bethel
Kelly Greathouse
Vernon Murray
Margaret Fite McKinnon
Gary (Pat) Leonard
Fabi (India)
Tami Robinson
Phil (Sharon) Kinzer
Ashlyn Tookey
Alec Rhodes
Mary Sue Leonard
Irene Foster
Rev. Ed (Patty) Kelaher
Special Friends (7-28-26)
Tommy Hendrix
Darrell Shoaf
Marlene Jones

Charlotte Froelich
Aubrey Ward
Brad
Torrey Jackson
Tony Hill
Linda Cox
Jackie Truell Butler
Julie Milner Kendall Conner
Christine
Jon & Emerson Bethel
Cindy & Tom Smith
Beckey Griffith
Janet Fite Coyne
Ron & Kristie Wooten
Mark Frye
Special Friends (4-28-26)
Jim McCutcheon
Jane King
Kaitlin Deebel
Cheryl Crago
Sarah Rakestraw
Anna Cruz
Deborah Bisbee
Jamie Vasquez
Kayla
Ginger Hill
Joyce Metters

Long Term (6 months or longer):

Jean McCrary
Richard Slater
Michael Wood
Elizabeth Morales
Judy Jordan
Kay Gilmer
Kay Crouse
Trevor Vermette
Joan Briggs
Amy McIntosh
Stan Larson
Betty Jean Whitaker

Missionaries

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

Member Care

*Dot Cook
*Ginnie Easter
*Hilda Flynt
*Louise Hawley
*Larlie Mae Knight
*Edna Morris
*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 Alan Ingram
Major Jarrad Thorley

Sunday, September 13

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 Medical Response & Security Teams, Fellowship Hall
(4pm-6pm) Teens of Life Youth bowling @YMCA with our friends from FBC

United Women in Faith WNCC Annual Celebration

Saturday, September 12 in Hickory. The cost is \$25 including lunch. We'll need to leave the church parking lot at 7:30a sharp. It's a wonderful time to celebrate our mission to women, children, and our sisterhood.

Port-a-Pit Chicken Fundraiser Sponsored by the UNITED METHODIST MEN – Friday, September 18 (10a until 6p)

Pick up at the State Street entrance - \$13/plate – **TICKETS ON SALE** until **September 11**.

Bake Sale Fundraiser Sponsored by the UNITED WOMEN in FAITH – Friday, September 18 (10a until 1p)

State Street entrance – Be sure to purchase your homemade desserts for the weekend! **Attention ALL FUMC bakers: If you would like to bake an item for the bake sale, we encourage you to do so. Please have your baked goods at the church by 9a.**

United Women in Faith September Meeting has MOVED

Mark your calendars to join us on **Thursday, October 1st (11a-1p)** in the Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship over lunch and our meeting.

Toys, Tots, & Tailpipes Cruise-In Sponsored by the United Methodist Men – Saturday, October 17 (10a-2p)

You may **SCAN** the QR code on the right with your smartphone for details & registration, contact Richard Foust (336) 971-6158 or pick up a printed copy of the flyer/registration form at the Volunteer's Desk.



United Women in Faith Silent Auction Fundraiser – Saturday, October 17

in conjunction with the UMM Car Show event. In preparation for the event, we are asking our church family to consider donating items for the Silent Auction. **Suggested donations: NASCAR memorabilia or other car related items, gift certificates to local stores & restaurants, BIG 4 memorabilia/collectibles of championship teams (no clothing) – accessories are okay, BIG 4 sporting event tickets, weekend getaways to the beach or mountains.** Proceeds from the fundraiser will provide continued support to the Backpack Programs at Picket and Charles England Elementary Schools which remains vital to the students in the Lexington School System. Questions? Please contact Marsha Garwood at 704-418-1947.

RISE Against Hunger Experience - Sunday, November 2

Fellowship Hall - Join us as we pack nutritious meals that represent the hopes and dreams of people worldwide. Volunteers are the heart of the mission to end hunger. RISE Against Hunger could not send millions of meals around the globe each year without YOU! **You are asked to sign-up for the event.**

Choose an option below:

- Contact the church office (336) 248-2886 and Donna can help you sign-up
- Go directly to our website **EVENTS/NEWS** section & **Click & Go** on the RISE Against Hunger logo

Thank you for your support of this project that makes such a difference worldwide.

United in Nurturing Fellowship

Sunday, September 6

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

Monday, September 7

Church Office Closed in observance of Labor Day Monday

Tuesday, September 8

12:00pm Prayer Warrior's Lunch, B-B-Q Center

Wednesday, September 9

7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Thursday, September 10

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

Friday, September 11

Kindermusik (Refer to website for details)

Saturday, September 12

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 UVV 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.)



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 and we will take it from there.