

October 13, 2026



Dear First UMC Family and Friends,

I am writing to thank you for your continued support of the ministries and mission of First UMC. We would not be where we are right now without you.

As we begin planning for our 2026 ministry budget, I am reminded of two very important scripture verses. The first states what God is doing for creation, and the second states what we in the church are called to do in response.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16 (KJV)

Jesus said to him, "The greatest commandment is this: 'you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your mind, and with all your soul'. And a second is like it: 'you shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Matthew 22:37-40

The church in all its forms is called to be the embodiment of God's love, even if we don't always get it right. The world, our country, even our community is facing violence, destruction, dissention, hate-filled speech, outright lies, and growing divisions between neighbors, family, and friends. The world needs the church now more than ever. But many churches are being swept up in the divisive tides and failing to love God and neighbor. The world desperately needs churches that take these two verses very seriously and make them the foundation of their ministry and their witness.

In his first inaugural address, President Abraham Lincoln longed for a time when people would once again be touched, "by the better angels of our nature." These "better angels of our nature", a phrase Mr. Lincoln borrowed from a Shakespeare sonnet, is what we strive together to live into in our discipleship journey as a community of faith.

Your financial gifts to First UMC are an integral part of making our journey together possible.

Please pray for our church as we seek to love God and love our neighbors to the best of our ability. Then prayerfully fill out the enclosed Estimate of Giving / Pledge Card, seal it in the enclosed envelope, and place it in the offering or mail it to the church by Sunday, Nov. 23rd, 2025.

Thank you for your generous financial support of First United Methodist Church in Lexington as we seek to grow in our love for God and offer that love to all.

Betty Pope
First UMC Stewardship Chair

Wendy Norris
First UMC SPRC Chair

Clark Smith
First UMC Finance Chair

Lauren Hall
First UMC Church Council Chair

Rev. Cheryl Skinner
First UMC Co-Pastor

Rev. Kirk Tutterow
First UMC Co-Pastor