



Monthly Calendar (subject to change)

Church Office Closed
Monday, April 1—Easter Monday

United Women in Faith
Monday, April 8 (10a)
Conference Room, 2nd Floor

Uwharrie District United Women in Faith Prayer Breakfast
Saturday, April 13 (9:30a—12p)
Flag Springs UMC, Asheboro, NC
Carpool leaves promptly at 8:30a

May Newsletter Articles Due:
April 15

Koinonia Spruill Fellowship provides evening meal
Davidson County First Hope Ministries
Tuesday, 16 (5:45p)

Faith Seekers
Thursday, April 18 (6p)
Home of Judy Deal

United Methodist Men
Sunday, April 21
(8:45a) Fellowship Hall

Weekly Events

Sundays

- Early Worship (8:45a)
- Sunday School (9:45a)
- Morning Worship (11a)
- YouTube Live (11a)
- Godly Play (11:15a)
- Teens of Life Youth (refer to monthly postcard on back page)

Grief Share
Sunday, April 7 & 14
(2:30p-4:30p) First Presbyterian

Mondays
DISCIPLE Bible Study
(7p) ZOOM online

Lexington Choral Society
(7p) Fellowship Hall

Tuesdays
DISCIPLE Bible Study
(10a) Conference Room

Prayer Warriors Lunch
(12p) Barbeque Center

Wednesdays
Chancel Bell Choir Rehearsal
(6p) Bell Room

Chancel Choir Rehearsal
(7p) Choir Room

April 1, 2024 - Breaking News!



The Endowment Committee of First United Methodist Church: Lexington, NC is glad to announce the creation of the Frances and Klynt Ripple Music Fund to supplement and support the church's Music Ministry Budget.

The Endowment Committee recently received a bequest from the Frances and Klynt Ripple Estate in excess of \$140,000. After consultation with the Board of Trustees, Ripple family members, and Lee Mabe, the Director of Music Ministries, the committee established the Ripple Music Fund in accordance with the church's Endowment Investment, Spending, and Distribution Policy.

As with most of the church's other Endowment Trust funds, the principle has been invested to provide yearly income for the Music Ministry while allowing the principle to grow at a reasonable rate. All Endowment Trust Funds provide a long-term benefit to the church's mission and ministry, ensuring a lasting legacy of faithful service that will be handed down for many generations to come.

The members of the Endowment Committee and the Board of Trustees are grateful for the thoughtfulness of Frances and Klynt Ripple in leaving this bequest from their estate to First UMC and their children for requesting the fund be used for Music Ministries. With the addition of the Ripple Music Endowment along with the Biesecker Music Endowment, the Music and Worship Trust is now well funded.

Donations and bequests made to one of the church's Endowment Funds provide yearly income to the church in the following areas:

- Capital Improvement Trust
- Children and Youth Trust
- Education and Programs Trust
- Mission and Outreach Trust
- Music and Worship Trust
- Permanent Operating Budget Endowment

Gifts to the various Endowment Funds allow individuals to extend the witness of their personal stewardship by contributing to a fund with lasting value and impact. Endowments are funded through bequests, capital appeals, gifts from IRA required minimum distributions, memorial gifts, and other second mile gifts that go beyond the basic gifts to the church that fund the church's current ministry budget. As endowment funds grow, they provide income to the church from the interest and investment gains earned by the principal investment.

First UMC also has a Scholarship Endowment Fund which is fully funded and not currently accepting donations. If you wish to support young people, please consider a gift to the Children and Youth Trust. Funds which are in need of donations include the Capital Improvement Fund and the Permanent Operating Budget Endowment Fund. These funds cover major repairs and equipment and support shortfalls in the annual church budget.

Donors may make their contribution in honor or memory of family members or friends. Consult your tax advisor to ensure that your donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for your support for the ministries of First United Methodist Church in Lexington, NC through your tithes and offerings along with your ongoing support for the Endowment Trust funds.



Rise Against Hunger UPDATE

Awesome news, First UMC Lexington, NC! Meals packaged at your Rise Against Hunger Experience in November 2023 have shipped!

At this moment, healthy meals are on their way to a community in urgent need of nutrition. We're excited to share that destination with you. (Drumroll, please!)

Meals you packaged are headed to Burundi!

Located in the Rift Valley in East Africa, Burundi faces poverty and high levels of food insecurity. Since the country gained independence, internal conflict has impacted agricultural production, an important source of livelihood for many. Refugees and returning displaced Burundians depend on food assistance, yet available resources have become scarce. The Global Hunger Index, which assesses food insecurity based on indicators that measure undernourishment and undernutrition, estimates that Burundi has an "alarming" level of hunger.

Your Impact

To address some of the food security challenges that children, families, and communities in Burundi face, Rise Against Hunger partners with organizations that support educational programs by providing meals to children at schools and early child development centers. This is a key part of Rise Against Hunger's Nourishing Lives pathway. In some cases, the food children receive at school will be the majority of the food they eat in a day. The meals you packaged will help ensure that children have access to the consistent nourishment they need to live healthy lives and successfully pursue their education.

Thank you again for volunteering your time! The impact we are making together starts with a meal and leads to resilient communities world wide.

Gratefully,
Rise Against Hunger



Gifts4Mission

What does it mean to you when you come to the altar and pray on a prayer gift (fleece blanket, crochet or knitted shawl or throw, etc.)?

To the recipient, it means (a few excerpts from Thank you notes from recipients):

- "It was a sweet and loving gesture, that from someone I've never met, there is the feeling of love and support."
- "It has been much comfort to me and a pleasant reminder of the love and support of my church family."
- "It is special to me, because I remember going to Wednesday Prayer Gathering, walking to the altar, laying hands on a blanket while praying, tying knots at the end. I always had the feeling I was tying my love and prayers to the person receiving the thoughtful gift."
- "I have felt the Lord's spirit with me as I cuddle underneath it"



Happy Spring



- “This note is to say thank you so much for all you do to spread love, joy, comfort and your beautiful faith. You touch so many lives in such a wonderful way. I have seen first hand how much the prayer blankets have lifted spirits and warmed hearts.”
- “I felt so warm, secure, and so loved. I would wrap a knot around my finger and think that a special person tied this knot for me.”
- The love of Christ truly flows through our beautiful prayer blankets. I really believe we can feel His peace & comfort under their warmth.

- “My family is deeply touched and honored by the lovely prayer blanket... Thank you so very much for all the time and effort you put into something so special to show God’s love.”
- “Your ministry is such a special one and reaches so many people adding a special touch of prayer and care for them.”
- “Your blankets have given many people hope, joy and peace after a difficult time in life.”
- “We saw God’s grace in all the caring people like you that reached out to us”



Prayerfully,
Patricia Dance, Gifts4Mission



Teens of Life Youth Kickball & Palm Sundaes

Notes of Sympathy

Sympathy of the ministers and the members of the congregation is extended to Pat Harrison and family upon the occasion of the death of his wife, Barbara Harrison, on March 4, 2024.

Sympathy of the ministers and the members of the congregation is extended to Mary Fran Spencer and family upon the occasion of the death of her husband, Darrell Spencer, on March 9, 2024.

Sympathy of the ministers and the members of the congregation is extended to the family of Janis “Jan” Wilson Johnson upon the occasion of her death on March 21, 2024 in Boone, NC.

Sympathy of the ministers and the members of the congregation is extended to Dan & Laurie Briggs, their children, Sidney, Lyndon, Hadley, Jack, II and their family upon the occasion of the death of Dan’s father, Jack Daniel Briggs, on March 25, 2024.



Lenten Wednesday Services



Teens of Life Youth Ministry Events & Happenings

- APRIL 7 - LASER TAG @ SPARE TIME, GREENSBORO, NC
- APRIL 14 - SCAVENGER HUNT FOR PASTOR'S PANTRY
- MAY 5—YOUTH SUNDAY

APRIL 7	Meet @ FBC (1:45p) - Laser Tag @ Spare Time, Greensboro, NC. You will need money to cover the cost of laser tag (\$5/game) & arcade games. Returning to FBC (approx. 5:00p)
APRIL 14	(5p-6p) Scavenger Hunt for Pastor's Pantry. Meet @ the home of the Revs. Cheryl & Kirk (613 Bellwood Drive)
APRIL 21	(5p-6p) DR Mission Trip Planning, FBC Fellowship Hall—REQUIRED for participants
APRIL 28	(5p-6p) Prep & Rehearse for YOUTH Sunday, First UMC Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary

And as always, invite a friend(s)!

For more information about Teens of Life Youth Ministry:
Lee Mabe, Director of Youth Ministry 336-248-2886 or maestromabe@gmail.com



Maundy Thursday

Our Participation in the Worship of God

- Weekly mailer (to those without computer access)
- 8:45a (in-person)
- 11:00a (in-person)
- YouTube Livestream (participating on Sunday)
- On Demand Livestream (participating at other times)
- WED Midday Prayer Gathering (in-person)

MAR	Weekly Mailer	8:45a	11:00a	You Tube	On Demand	WED	Weekly Total
3	34	22	94	83	12	31	276
10	34	30	101	77	44	35	321
17	34	19	120	82	37	30	322
24	34	22	124	68	68	14	330
28			100				100
31	33	19	200	126	29		407
Avg.	34	22	123	87	38	28	293

Without Exception. God Loves Everyone. Come Join Our Journey at First UMC.