

# First United Methodist Church *Messenger*

November 2021



## The Faux Fowl

It wasn't too many years ago that my wife and I decided to spread our wings of adulthood independence. It was probably about time since we were already past those early thirty-something years. But it isn't as easy as some think it to be, especially during the holiday season. Both sets of parents still tend to see us as kids "playing house," which is a bit ironic since we have two teenage girls. But I digress. So, to demonstrate to our family that we have indeed grown to be responsible and capable adults, we declared that that year, we would celebrate at our house.

My parents told us that we could indeed do so, as long as it wasn't on Thanksgiving Day, because we would be at their house on that day. My wife's mother declined as she explained that she didn't have the courage not to be at her mother's house for Thanksgiving. Alas, my wife's father and stepmother graciously accepted our invitation. Our stepmom then asked, "What do you need us to bring?" to which we replied, "Oh, nothing! We have it all taken care of." With that, a long silence met our ears. I almost thought we had dropped the call, except we weren't talking with them on a phone but in

person. That deafening silence was only broken by an uneasy glance being shared between the parents.

The Saturday after Thanksgiving was the day we set aside to show at least one set of parents that we were all grown up (and yes, we did go to my parents on Thanksgiving Day). The morning began very early as we got up and put the 20 lb. bird in the oven, set the right time and temperature and then proceeded in preparing all of the side dishes. Oh, what a smorgasbord we laid out: turkey dressing, yam soufflé, green beans, corn, coleslaw, cranberry sauce (still in the well-crafted shape of a can), green bean casserole, lemon meringue pie, pumpkin pie, banana pudding,...it was just a beautiful sight.

My in-laws arrived just as we were finishing up putting the food on the table. Their eyes widened at the feast before them. Now, I can't be sure, but there has been a bit of speculation that the trashcan was inspected for any signs of ready-to-eat packing (which their wasn't). Trying to hide my enthusiasm and a bit of smugness, I then

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## Ways We Serve

### Greeters

7 Don & Linda Smith  
14 Mike & Letha Owen  
21 Jerry & Gayle Park  
28 OPEN

### Acolytes

7 Brinkley Dedmond  
14 Tattyauna Peterson  
21 Karson Shrum  
28 Owen Krech

### Time (Mostly) For Children

7 Suzanne Peeler  
14 Mike Owen  
21 Whitney King  
28 Robbie Combs

### Pew Keepers

7 Jane & Steve Morton  
14 Emily & Jeremy Krech  
21 Teresa Shives  
28 Brenda Noles &  
Brian Denapoli

### Parking Valets

7 Steve Herman  
14 Ron Metzger  
21 Michael Noles  
28 Carl Henline

### Altar Guild

Amy Lockman

### Safe Sanctuary Rovers

7 Kathy Dedmond  
14 Rosemary Leonard  
21 Ron Metzger  
28 Beverly Beal



# Celebrate November!

## *Birthdays*

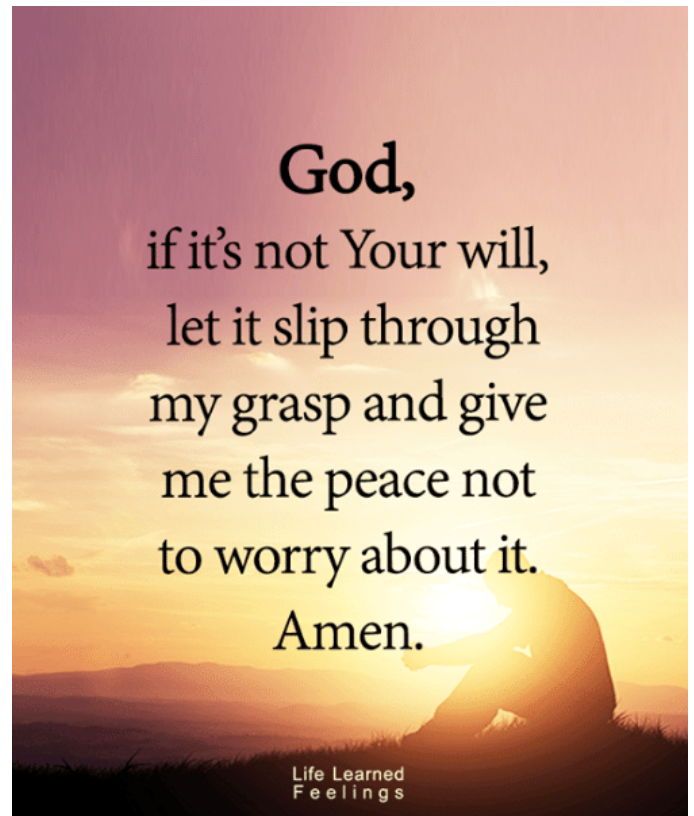
- 2 Lori Sykes
- 3 Megan Carroll
- 8 Bob Heavner & *Jennifer McIlmail*
- 9 Mollie Helms & Colin Rudisill
- 12 Doug Benfield, Matthew Cline, & Helen Claire Hames
- 13 Michael Hovis
- 14 John David Goodson & Louise Shuford
- 15 Scotty Bradshaw
- 18 Matt Edwards
- 24 Rosie Modlin
- 25 Randall Stevens
- 26 Kathy Douglas & George Grier, III
- 23 Rita Cronland & Ann Howell
- 27 Nelva Goodson
- 28 Alex Eagle & Amy Lockman

## *Anniversaries*

- 4 Jeremy & Emily Krech
- 6 Bill & Linda Church
- 17 Thad & Ginger Lowe
- 23 Larry & Kathy Wease

## Poinsettias for Christmas

During November, we will be taking orders for poinsettias to be placed in honor of or in memory of loved ones. All orders must be turned in to the church office NO LATER THAN Sunday, November 28th, as we have to have our order in by December 1. The poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on December 12th, 19th and 24th. The price is \$20. An order form will be available in bulletins through November.



*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. - Mark 11:24*

### *In Your Daily Prayers, Please Pray for:*

Jim Barkley (relative of Jody Cronland), Elliot Beal, Benjamin Brown (Page Abernethy's brother), Lou Ann Cain, Sherry Garner, Ed Hatley, Lee & Lois May Hoehne (parents of Kathy Douglas), Steve Kirksey, David Lowe, Claudia Rose (mother of Susan Taylor)

**NURSING FACILITIES:** Nancy Boulware (Abernethy Laurels), Carolyn Dellinger (Brian Center), Mary Heavner (Abernethy Laurels), Judy Komars (The Addison), Ken Marks (TerraBella Lake Norman), Mary Jean Rollins (Summit Place - Mooresville)

**HOMEBOUND:** Ron and Brenda Ballard, Winnon Cashion, Jo Huss, Donna Connor Morris, Marie Nichols, Queeta Ramseur, Mary Robinson, Verna Rufini, Shirley Smith



**NEW church email address!**  
**firstumclinc@gmail.com**

## Sunday School Snippets

During the month of November, our theme for activities for the ROTATE Class will be Thankfulness. For the three Sundays prior to Thanksgiving, we will be focusing on those things for which we are thankful.



- **November 7** – We are thankful for our faith – Robbie will lead in Music for this Sunday, and Beverly Beal will lead with our story time.
- **November 14** – We are thankful for our friends – Kathy Dedmond will lead a food activity, and Jan Duncan will lead the kids in a fun game.
- **November 21** – We are thankful for our family (not just our own family, but the whole Family of God) – Today’s activity revolves around a service project for the children, inviting them to bring food items for our Backpack Ministry. During our class time, the children will take a “Field Trip” with Whitney King to the Backpack Room to learn about the importance of this ministry to the many families we support through G.E. Massey. For the second half of this Sunday, we will begin our transition to the Season of Advent, which will begin on Nov 28th. The Children will begin to make personal Advent Candles to be used with their families during the Advent Season
- **November 28** – The First Sunday of Advent – We will begin our Advent Celebrations. For anyone who feels led to lead or help with an activity for this Sunday, or any of the Sundays in December, please contact Robbie or Beverly Beal.

We are really doing some wonderful ministry with the children of the church, and we look forward to inviting more children and adults into this new adventure.

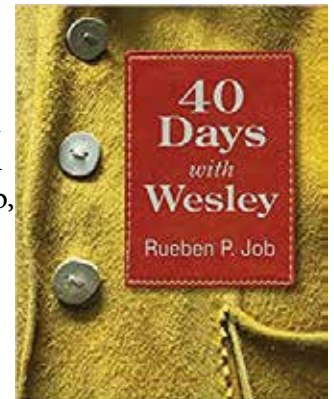
## UMW News

The UMW 5th Wednesday Readers met on September 29th in the church library. The group welcomed Susan Henthorn. Cheryl Cole is writing an article about our Reading Group to be included in an upcoming UMW Response Magazine. Members are completing their reading for Level 1 or Level 2 Participation. Carol King will be the new leader of the group beginning in January. We invite you to join the 5th Wednesday Readers for some great literature and fellowship.

## UMW Reading Selection for November

*40 Days with Wesley* by Rueben P. Job

This engaging daily devotional weaves quotes and excerpts from John Wesley, the father of Methodism, with inspirational readings on faith and prayer from Rueben P. Job, well-known leader in spiritual formation. Each selection offers a simple daily pattern of reflection with a prayer, Scripture, and short readings that make this daily devotional an easy read. You’ll also find that this book makes a wonderful gift or award for anyone who needs reassurance and inspiration.



## United Methodist Men’s Breakfast

United Methodist Men will have their monthly breakfast on November 28 at 8 am in the Fellowship Hall. All men of the church are invited to attend.



## For Security

We have installed keypad locks on the street level doors (Main St. and Academy St.) leading up to the sanctuary. If you normally use these doors to access the sanctuary, contact Pastor Tim to receive the keypad code.

## Christian Ministries of Lincoln County

Due to the recent COVID-19 Pandemic and supply shortages, Christian Ministry is currently not able to purchase our normal food items in bulk. The Adopt-A-Food items this year are critical, so we invite you to be a part of this year's food item donations. With the holidays approaching, we are in need of the following items:

Canned Beans	Green Beans	Rice	Grits
Peanut Butter	Corn	Saltine Crackers	
Laundry Detergent	Soup	Spaghetti Noodles	

Also, this is an early reminder for you that December is our church's regular collection month for Christian Ministries. We will share more information about what we are to collect in the coming weeks.

## Highlights from the Jill Owen Circle

The Jill Owen Circle continues to actively reach out to the community in a number of ways, mainly through providing meals for the residents at Hessed House of Hope and serving at the Christian Ministries Soup Kitchen. However, due to continued concerns over COVID-19, they have put a hold on their Lunch Buddies program with Battleground Elementary School.

Their outreach continues within the walls of our church as well, as they are actively seeking ways to help with our new ROTATE Sunday School class, as well as our Lay Visitation Team. For their October meeting, Carole Howell led the group in an inspiring Pledge to Mission service entitled "Knitted Together and Reaching Out," using imagery of a basket of yarn of different colors, textures and weights to represent ways that we may knit together our talents, skills and resources to bring about a better tomorrow.

## September Financial Report

Sept. '21 YTD Revenue	\$254,868
Sept. '21 YTD Expense	\$267,394
Sept. '21 YTD Deficit	(\$12,526)

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glasbergen.com



"This week's sermon is about how we all need to simplify our lives. Unfortunately, I lost the whole thing when my computer crashed."

## Update from the Bereavement Group Chair

I'm so happy to welcome the United Methodist Men as Group 6 to our Bereavement Group List. I know this group will be ready to provide a family with food at their time of need.

We have 6 groups that provide good meals as requested by the family of our deceased church members. If you would like to be a part of one of these groups, please contact me.

- Mary Anna Rankin - 704-240-2333  
E-mail: [mannarankin@gmail.com](mailto:mannarankin@gmail.com)

## Wednesday Morning Prayer and Study Group on Pause

The Wednesday Morning Prayer and Study group will take a pause for the holiday months and will return in January. If you're interested in learning more about this group, contact Michelle Johnson.

## Scouts in Action!



Thanks to the Boy Scouts of Troop 75, our new playground is continuing to take shape! We are thankful that our Troop has taken on the task of maintaining the playground space as an ongoing project, as well as helping to assemble the new play equipment. Over the next few weeks, we will make further additions to the space, including a fence surrounding the entrance, the addition of another playset and other improvements.

## The Faux Fowl - continued

opened the oven to reveal one of the prettiest birds that has ever come out of a oven. The crisp brown skin glistened in the warm light of the kitchen and the pan sizzled as the juices lapped at the sides of the pan. The only sight I beheld that was more pleasing was the look of possible acceptance into adulthood by our parents.

Ah, here it was, the perfect Thanksgiving dinner and by our hands at that! As we gathered, my wife and I breathed a sigh of relief as we gave thanks to God for all of the blessings we had over the year and for God's grace and mercy on us. Following the heart-felt amen, I began to slice into the turkey. Making the incision through the skin released a heavenly aroma. The knife continued to carve into the juicy flesh with ease until...a strange resonance of grating tore me away from my euphoria. With a slight twisting and tilting of the knife, I was able to peer into the cut section to reveal the succulent morsel of meat that then transitioned into a disturbingly pink section tainted with ice crystals! Oh, the bird was perfectly done about halfway through, but the inside was still as frozen as the day I bought it.

In my haste to prove my culinary maturity, I neglected to peruse the proper fowl thawing chart. So that Thanksgiving, rather than eating a bird that was to be

symbolic of freedom from our imposed youth, we dispensed of that Ptomaine Turkey and feasted on another staple of American cuisine – hamburgers. Somehow though, mine somehow had the distinct flavor of crow.

Since that day, I have learned that the best thought-out plans do not always produce desired results. So, instead of being thankful for our own ingenuity and doing, I give thanks to our God who still feeds us even when we mess up the meal.

Godspeed,





Are You at a Loss over the Death of a Loved One?

GriefShare may be a flicker of hope in your darkness. This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. Past participants have related how helpful the information and follow-up discussions were to them.

Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines. Too often people, including Christians, tend to stuff their grief instead of allowing it to do the God-given work for which it is intended. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program.

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. You will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief and that you do not need to live in bondage to certain emotions. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future.

GriefShare will be held each Monday at 10 a.m. in the Philathea Room, immediately behind the sanctuary.

Cost is \$20 for the workbook (scholarships are available)  
To register, call the church office at 704-735-7489



*For all the Saints, who  
from their labors rest.*



We remember with love those of our congregation who have passed from us over the last year. While they are no longer with us in body, their spirit continues to strengthen us. Well done, good and faithful servants

*Robert Lee (Bob) Rankin  
February 1, 1952 – December 19, 2020*

*Hazel Houser Cashion Robinson  
December 26, 1923 – January 9, 2021*

*Doris Jean Leonhardt Lail  
May 7, 1937 – February 1, 2021*

*Mary B. Carpenter Abernethy  
August 7, 1926 – March 5, 2021*

*Jonathan Blake Ballard  
September 23, 1963 – March 20, 2021*

*Sherry Lynn Noles  
October 10, 1964 – April 11, 2021*

*Anna Ingram Land  
February 11, 1915 – May 27, 2027*

*Kelly Richard Edwards  
September 22, 1980 – July 13, 2021*

*Espra (Phyllis) McGhee Hoffman  
September 24, 1925 – September 4, 2021*



## Children's Sabbath Thank You

Our Children's Sabbath service took place on October 17th, and what a blessing it was! Thank you to Brinkley Dedmond and Tattyaua Peterson for leading in the Children's Sabbath Litany, and a big thank you to the 3 and 4 year old classes of our preschool for their gift of music. How blessed we are with the children of First United Methodist Church!

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## To Be United Methodist: What is Advent?

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the church year for Christians.

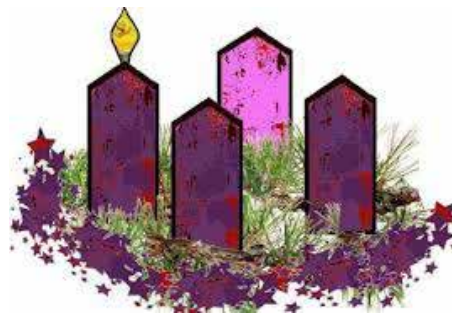
During Advent, we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for and need of forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

Although we are accustomed to celebrating Christmas on a single day, in both Christian tradition and on the church calendar, the Christmas season lasts from sundown on Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) through Epiphany of the Lord (Jan. 6). This is sometimes referred to as "the 12 days of Christmas."

On the first Sunday in Advent, November 28th, we light the candle of hope. When we look at the first candle we remember God's promise to send a

Savior to the people. The prophet Isaiah wrote about God fulfilling the promises made to care for people. God is loving and just. God brings peace. This gives us hope. We look forward to the time when everything is fair, when the world is at peace, and all people are treated justly.

The color for Advent has traditionally been purple, although some churches have adopted blue. In practice, however, as churches increasingly incorporate the symbols and decorations of Christmas during Advent, more and more red, green and gold are appearing. The United Methodist Book of Worship upholds the traditional color of purple for Advent, signifying penitence and royalty, but also allows blue, the color of hope."



*Adapted from "What is Advent?" and "Understanding Advent" by Dean McIntyre, retired director of music resources, Discipleship Ministries.*

*Originally published in Interpreter Magazine, November–December, 2017.*



201 East Main Street  
Lincolnton, NC 28092

**Sunday School at 10 am**

**Service at 11 a.m. each Sunday.**

Office Hours: 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.: Mon.-Thur.

Office: 704.735.7489

NEW Email: firstumclinc@gmail.com

Website: fumclincolnton.com



Follow us on Facebook and YouTube

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*The Mission of First United Methodist Church of Lincolnton is to be “First” in love to all people; welcoming and accepting all. Through worship, prayer and fellowship and service, we invite you into a relationship with Jesus Christ, celebrating our differing gifts so as to strive for unity as one body in Christ.*

## Events this coming month

Nov. 7 – Blood pressure screenings 10:30 - 11 a.m. and following morning worship in the breezeway.

Nov. 7 – Charge Conference, 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Nov 22 - 25 – Preschool closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 25 – Thanksgiving! Give thanks for all blessings! The church office will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 25th

Nov 28 – United Methodist Men’s Breakfast, 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Nov. 28 – First Sunday of Advent

Nov. 28 – Downtown Lincolnton Christmas Parade, 4 p.m.

• **GriefShare Group** meets Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Philathea Class (behind sanctuary)

• **Lincolnton Rotary Club** meets every Monday from Noon until 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall