

First United Methodist Church Messenger

December 2021

Please Don't Be Late!

Just a couple of weeks before Thanksgiving, I heard one. I knew that their faint call of celebration would soon be audible to even the deafest of ear, but I was caught off-guard to its early heralding. The high-pitched squeal of a chipmunk alerted me to the change of the season. Well, this was no ordinary chipmunk. No, he is one you have heard too as he and his furry posse harmonize with the familiar beckon, "We can hardly stand the wait, Please Christmas, don't be late."



I sincerely doubt that Christmas will be late since it seems that the Christmas season starts a little earlier each year (was it really in late September that I saw the first Christmas decorations for sale?). Maybe if we are honest with ourselves, these couple of lines in Alvin's song portrays a different message. Let's think about the first line, "We can hardly stand the wait," – yes, the nauseatingly long wait of endless pleas to spend money on senseless gifts that will inevitably be returned, the passing of the annual fruit cake of which nobody dares to eat a piece, and those songs that are incessantly played which, though they may utter the word "Christmas," have absolutely nothing to do with Christmas. Yes, Christmas, PLEASE DON'T BE LATE! I don't think I can stand another moment of the insanity that has come of this holy day!

Hold on though, maybe it's not all that bad. There is some good in the wait too - like, watching A Christmas Story. Is it possible to ever tire of watching Ralphie pining for his Official Red Ryder Carbine-Action Two-Hundred-Shot Range Model Air Rifle! I seriously doubt it. But ahh; it keeps getting better! There are the fun gifts (you know, the ones you don't return); like the Leg Lamp I used to have on my office desk (Are you starting to get the feeling I like that movie?).

No, no, no! I refuse to succumb! I, like so many others, am filled with the consternation that Christmas has become too commercialized. We are so wrapped up with the hoopla of the season we forget the meaning behind it! But hold on, maybe I am missing something. Maybe there is something beneficial to learn from all this chaos. Is it possible that I can get so caught up with being peeved with other's lack of acknowledgement of Jesus' birth that I miss the point too?

Ways We Serve

Greeters

5 Phillip & Cheryl Cole
12 Bo & Carol King
19 Charlie & Whitney King
26 Steve & Jane Morton

Acolytes

5 Brinkley Dedmond
12 Tattyauna Peterson
19 Karson Shrum
26 Owen Krech

Time (Mostly)

For Children

5 Kathy Douglas
12 Suzanne Peeler
19 Robbie Combs
26 Mike Owen

Pew Keepers

5 Ernie & Betty Parker
12 Betty Ann Oppelt
19 Sherry Reinhardt
26 Joe & Susan Wigley

Parking Valets

5 Phillip & Cheryl Cole
12 Bo & Carol King
19 Charlie & Whitney King
26 Steve & Jane Morton

Altar Guild

Kay Lowe

Sunday School Rovers

5 Cheryl Cole
12 Kathy Dedmond
19 Keith Dedmond
26 Carl Henline



Celebrate December!

Birthdays

- 1 Stephen Hovis
- 2 Tim Leonard
- 3 Sandra Eagle & Michelle Johnson
- 4 Linda Shields
- 6 Steve Cain & Teresa Irby
- 8 Jeremy Jackson & Larry Wease
- 10 Artie Shields
- 12 Stan Cronland
- 14 Matthew Eagle & Paul Sykes
- 18 Merideth Church & Larry Parker
- 19 Page Abernethy & Gayle Park
- 20 Laurie Johnson
- 21 Sharon Gazdeck
- 22 George Brookins
- 23 Dora Jovaneli
- 24 Bill Blackwell, Jr. & Eddie Goodson
- 25 Phillip Cole, Bart Cranford, & Lydia Lineberger
- 26 Donna Morris
- 27 Rob Bundy Jr., Emily Krech,
& Joanna Underwood
- 28 Mary Jean Rollins

Anniversaries

- 20 Elliott & Lou Beal
- 22 Wayne & Peggy Sibert
- 22 Chris & Kelly Wilt
- 26 George & Becky Grier
- 30 Mike & Libby Cline
- 30 Keith & Kathy Dedmond
- 31 Gordon Hubbell & Randi Kolseth



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, Family of Carol Conner, Carolyn Dysart (Robbie Combs' aunt), Ed Hatley, Family of Nika Henthorn (Susan Henthorn's sister-in-law), Lee & Lois May Hoehne (parents of Kathy Douglas), David Lowe, Rev. Nancy Rankin, Claudia Rose (mother of Susan Taylor), Liz Strachan

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, Queeta Ramseur, Mary Robinson, Verna Rufini, Shirley Smith



NEW church email address!
firstumclinc@gmail.com

Change Coming! Help Wanted!

Since October, a group of nine volunteers plus the church staff have been crafting a new way to get things done. This isn't because we're doing anything wrong. It's because we can and should always look for better, faster, and more efficient ways – ruts are comfortable but usually quite slow and often cause problems even while fixing problems. The Church Leadership Council (CLC for short) has been “slightly” presented and duly approved but this group is braving the task of changing the governance of First United Methodist Church of Lincolnton to make it faster and easier for us to do more things and better things, but not without good purpose. There's more to do and know. Other churches have successfully proved the CLC concept and significantly benefitted. We can, too!

Beginning very soon you'll start to receive details about how our new organizational dynamic is going to progress past a lot of planning and into fruition. There'll be letters, bulletin bits, newsletter articles, related sermon topics, gathering events, and some personal touch calling, too. This is a process, not an event. YOU and every member are a part of it and it'll take some thought and action for all of us to pick our spots and understand how to work better together. Please open your hearts to the intention as we introduce change and open the CLC concept to everyone.
 Gordon Hubbell
 Convener, CLC

Financial Snapshot

October 2021 YTD Revenue \$295,583
 October 2021 YTD Expense \$2945,956
 October 2021 YTD Surplus \$627

Memorials

For Phyllis Hoffman: Bunny Nantz, Pamela G. Dixon, Lou and Elliott Beal, Jody Cronland, The Ruth Quinton Circle, Rev. Nancy Carol Stahl

A Gift to the Playground Fund in memory of Kelly Edwards, given by Bo and Carol King

Boy Scout Update

The Pack and Troop have had a busy few weeks, much of which involved participation in community activities, including the Veterans Day Activities and “Scouting for Food” to aid Christian Ministries. On November 13, Scouts conducted a very professional and dignified Retired Flag Ceremony in conjunction with the Lincoln County Historical Association and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Troop had a weekend campout at an airport in Rutherford County where they worked on their Aviation merit badges. During this learning experience, their instructors allowed the boys to take control of the aircraft while in flight.

The Boy Scouts are appreciative for the financial and facility support given by First United Methodist Church.

Parish Nursing Notes

Over the years, I have seen many conflicting recommendations concerning diet including dairy products. Having grown up on a dairy farm, I consumed considerable milk and butter as a child. I still think a diet including dairy is important throughout the lifespan, including into the elderly years. Drinking milk as a child helps develop denser and healthier bones. I believe children under 12 years should have very limited soft drinks, especially if drinking soft drinks results in less milk consumption. Milk also provides Vitamin D, which most Americans are deficient in due to less sun exposure and use of sunscreen.

There are other health benefits to dairy in your diet. Dairy, yogurt in particular, may help lower the risk of type 2 diabetes. Milk and other dairy products lower the risk of colorectal cancer. There is contradictory evidence concerning how much fat content in milk is best for you. Probably 1-2% is a good choice instead of skim or whole (4%). If you opt for plant milk, choose one that has no added sugar and about the same amount of calcium as cow's milk. If you are lactose intolerant, choose lactose-free milk/dairy products if you consume more than one serving a day. Aged cheeses (cheddar, gouda, parmesan & swiss) have little or no lactose. Overall, yogurt is the best and safest dairy product. It provides much protein with few calories unless it has added sugar.

If you choose a non-dairy diet, you need to evaluate foods to make certain you get adequate calcium and vitamin D. In some manner, it is important to consume calcium and vitamin D through your whole life.

Church members are encouraged to take any of the magazines that are displayed next to the bulletin board in the Education building. They contain articles for healthy living, how to eat the right foods, and other vital information for our daily lives.

Betty Parker, A.P.R.N., BC
704-435-9042

Christian Ministries

December is our month to collect food and pantry items for Christian Ministries of Lincoln County. Current needs for food or others items are: Pop Topped Canned food items (Spam, Beef Stew, etc), Corn, Soup, Mac & Cheese and Clothes Detergent. There is also a need for plastic shopping bags. All items may be brought to the church and placed in the shopping basket in the hallway of the Education Building, and they will be delivered to Christian Ministries.

Nativity Display

This year, we will see the return of our "Going to Bethlehem" Nativity Display, which will be located in the Annex. Come share in the beauty of the season as we view nativity sets provided by our church members. The display will be open to the public on December 10th – 12th, and again on December 17th – 19th from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm. All nativities may be picked up beginning on Dec 20th.

ROTATE Sunday School Snippets

This month in the ROTATE Class, we are anticipating the birth of the Christ Child as we journey through Advent. We are learning songs that we will sing during worship on Dec 19th with the Adult Choir and Handbell Choir, as well as enjoying other craft and science activities, including a "Nativity Escape Room!" What a great way to close out the year! We have a lot planned for 2022 also, and look forward to having the kids of our church take part!

UMW Reading Group

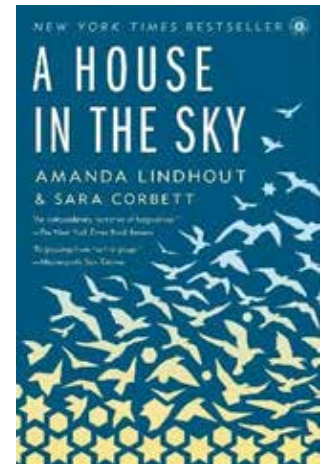
The UMW Reading Group will meet on Wednesday, December 29th at 12:00 pm in the church library. Those wishing to bring a bag lunch are invited to do so.

UMW Reading Selection for December

A House in the Sky by
Amanda Lindhout &
Sara Corbett

At 19, Amanda Lindhout began saving her waitressing tips so she could travel the globe. Aspiring to understand the world and live a significant life, she backpacked through Latin America, Laos and India. She went on to Sudan, Syria and war-torn

Afghanistan and Iraq, carving out a fledging career as a television reporter. In August 2008, she traveled to Somalia, "the most dangerous place on earth," and on her fourth day, she was abducted by a group of masked men and held hostage for 460 days. She survived on memory, strategy, fortitude and hope, and by reaching for a house in the sky when she became most desperate.



United Methodist Men's Breakfast

The United Methodist Men will meet for their monthly breakfast meeting on Sunday, December 19th at 8:00 am in the fellowship hall. All men of the church are invited to attend.

Angel Tree Gifts for G.E. Massey Elementary

Thank you to everyone who is helping to make a child's Christmas so much brighter by providing gifts to an "angel" at G.E. Massey. All Angel gifts are due in by December 15th, wrapped and tagged. They are to be dropped off at Massey, and once they are dropped off, please notify Whitney King by text or email.



Poinsettias Given In Loving Honor of:

Michael & Letha Owen and Bill & Karen Leonhardt by Bobbie W. Robinson	Judy Komas by Nick Komas Bobbie Robinson by Michael & Letha Owen	Owen Krech by Paw and GaGa Mike, Chris, and Donna by Sherry Garner
Bobbie Robinson by Carl Henline & Rosalind Welder	Robbie Combs by Neil & Joanna Underwood	My loving family by Laurie Johnson Brenda Noles by Jeff Noles
Bo & Carol King by Whitney, Charlie, Reed, and Lulu King	Our children & grandchildren by Carl Henline & Rosalind Welder	Faye Morris by Neil & Joanna Underwood
Betty Parker by the Gratefully Helen Combs Circle	Our children - Charlie, Whitney, Reed and Lulu King; Sarah, Sean, Leighton, and Grant Paone by Bo & Carol King	Our FUMC family by Neil & Joanna Underwood

Poinsettias Given In Loving Memory of:

Douglas Warlick by Bobbie Robinson	Dan Auton by Deanie Auton	Donald C. Rudisill Jr., by Stephen and Jane Morton
Our Parents by Carl Henline & Rosalind Welder	Joe & Consie Melton by Thurmon Melton	Bob Rankin by Mary Anna Rankin
Sherry Noles & David Noles by Jeff Noles	Sherry Noles by Jeff Noles	Elbert & Helen Combs by Mary Anna and Amy
Donald & Pat Rudisill by Stephen and Jane Morton	Our Parents Sam and Jean King; Abe & Louise Siemens by Bo & Carol King	Reid & Hilda Parker; Howard & Nancy Steele by Ernie & Betty Parker
Tommy Andrews by Vickie Andrews	Bob Rankin by Whitney, Charlie, Reed & Lulu King	Rev. and Mrs. J.W. Combs; Rev. Bob Combs by Shirley and Robbie Combs
Our Parents by Jerry & Gayle Park	Sarah Lantz by the Good News Sunday School Class	David Noles by Jeff Noles

Wreaths Given In Loving Honor of:

First UMC Chancel & Handbell Choirs, for outstanding dedication during these difficult times by Neil & Joanna Underwood	Brenda Noles by Jeff Noles
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Wreaths Given In Loving Memory of:

Jim & Jill Owen, and Max and Faye Robinson by Michael and Letha Owen	Our Parents – Ralph & Margaret Dedmond and Ed & Lena Hoggle by Keith & Kathy Dedmond	Dr. & Mrs. S.A. Wilson by Jane & Kenny Finger
Sherry Noles by Jeff Noles Larry Garner by Sherry Garner	David Noles by Jeff Noles	Harold & Heloise Ford and Bob & Gene Henthorn (our parents) by Steve Ford and Susan Henthorn
Sarah Lantz by John Lantz		



I LOVE A PARADE!



The Boy Scouts of Troop 75 and the Cub Scouts of Pack 75 took part in the Community Veterans Day Parade on November 11th. Following the parade, the boys and their leaders had a “Work Day” at the church, where they completed building a new piece of play equipment for our new playground, as well as cleaning up and improving their meeting space, located in the lower level of the Education Building.

In this year’s Community Veterans Day Parade, Girl Scout Troop 20740 carried pictures of family members that are serving or have served in the Armed Forces in the past and helped introduce the parade as one of the first scout units.



Our preschool children showed their pride for our country and those who protect it as they watched the Community Veterans Day Parade from the front steps of the church.



Spread some holiday cheer with these special members who are in our nursing

Ron and Brenda Ballard
2504 Ivey Church Road
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Nancy Boulware
Abernethy Laurels
102 Leonard Ave.
Newton, NC 28658

Winnon Cashion
121 Linwood Drive
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Carolyn Dellinger
Brian Center
515 S. Generals Blvd.
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Ann Ford
P.O. Box 85
Lincolnton, NC 28093

Carroll Heavner
250 Geitner Ave.
Newton, NC 28658

Mary Heavner
Abernethy Laurels
102 Leonard Ave.
Newton, NC 28658

Jo Huss
709 S. Cedar St.
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Judy Komas
The Addison
440 Salem Church Road
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Nick Komas
P.O. Box 518
Lincolnton, NC 28093

Jim Lail
904 S. Aspen St.
Lincolnton, NC 28092

David & Kay Lowe
905 Danbrook Circle
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Ken Marks
TerraBella-Mooresville
140 Carriage Club Dr., GW17
Mooresville, NC 28117

Rosie Modlin
510 N. Sherrill St.
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Donna Connor Morris
119 E. Dixon St.
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Marie Nichols
105 Wellons Dr.
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Queeta Ramseur
209 E. Jennings St.
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Bobbie Robbins
842 N. Aspen St.
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Mary Robinson
102 Mockingbird Lane
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Mary Jean Rollins
Summit Place - Mooresville
128 Brawley School Road
Mooresville, NC 28117

Verna Rufini
212 Gilead Road
Andover, CT 06232

Shirley Smith
212 Jennings St.
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Jim Stamey
Abernethy Laurels
102 Leonard Ave.
Newton, NC 28658

Bob Williams
433 N. Cedar St.
Lincolnton, NC 28092



Please Don't Be Late! - continued from page 1

Many years ago, a wise man pondered about the birth of a baby whom he would not live to see. Yet, he was inspired enough to say that a virgin would give birth to the little boy whom would be called Immanuel.

Wow, that subtle message from a sacred book should stop and make one think. I get upset because I think people are forgetting Jesus in the all the celebrations. Yet, I would almost bet that two millennia ago, people were focused on other things than the baby, like this pregnant young girl, who claims to be a virgin! Sometimes the circumstances may overshadow the purpose. But the purpose is still just as real. Although she probably had to endure much scorn, the young virgin, Mary, still gave birth to a son named Jesus, also known as Immanuel, meaning 'God is with us.'

Maybe a lesson to be learned is regardless of all the chaos of the past, present, and future, God did enter into human history as an unassuming baby. Whether we greet this season with joyful glee or sheer angst, whether we recognize him or not, the baby named Jesus, whose birth we celebrate, is still Immanuel, God is with us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jim".



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

Events this coming month

Dec. 5 – Blood Pressure checks – 10:30-11:00 am and following Morning Worship

Dec 10-12 – Nativity Display open to the public – 6 - 8 p.m. in the Annex

Dec 16 – Preschool Christmas Program – 6:30 in the Sanctuary

Dec 17-19 – Nativity Display open to the public - 6 - 8 p.m. in the Annex

Dec 19 - United Methodist Men's Breakfast – 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Dec 19 – Christmas Cantata, featuring Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir and Children of the church during Morning Worship

Dec 22-23 – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Communion/Candlelight Service – 5 p.m.

Dec 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY! JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD HAS COME!!

Dec 29 – UMW Reading Group – 12:30 in the church library

