

**WELCOME GUESTS  
AND MEMBERS!**

We are so glad you chose to worship Jesus Christ with us today! We would love to know that you were with us. Please fill out this slip, detach it, and drop it in the offering plate.

**GUESTS**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to become a member
- I would like to become involved in a ministry or mission
- I would like the pastor to call me

**MEMBERS**

List each person present and update any info

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

**In your daily prayers, please pray for:**

NEW: Prayers for the homeless, Susan Henthorn (continued testing for future treatment), Neil Underwood (Hip Surgery)

CONTINUING: Thomas Allen, Beverly Beal, Arlen & Sue Belk, Les Canupe, Greg Clarke, Rob Coles (son of Lynn Campbell), Elvie Cranford, Kathy Douglas, Sandy Eldridge, Jane Finger, Pam Freeman, Donald Hartsell (brother-in-law of Kathy Dellinger), Ed Hatley, Betty Jo Helms, Jayce Heff, Denise Hobbs, Dolly Jones, Jack Jones, Danny Kirkpatrick, Randi Kolseth, Pat Lawing, Jim Love, Judy Lowe, Danny Nicholson, Patsy Nicholson, Lessie Pendleton, Scott Sain, Gracie Sceascea, Linda Smith, First UMC, Peace in Europe

NURSING FACILITIES: Ann Ford (The Addison), Mary Heavner (Abernethy Laurels), Judy Komas (The Addison), Brenda Noles (Heath House), Mary Jean Rollins (Summit Place - Mooresville)

HOMEBOUND: Brenda Ballard, Lou Beal, Winnon Cashion, Jo Huss, Donna Connor Morris, Bobbie Robinson, Mary Robinson, Verna Rufini

**THOSE SERVING YOU TODAY**

<b>MINISTERS:</b>	All Members of First UMC
<b>LITURGIST:</b>	Joey Lockman
<b>GREETERS:</b>	Mike & Libby Cline
<b>ACOLYTE:</b>	Brooks Hardin
<b>HEAD USHER:</b>	Carl Henline
<b>MEDIA TECHS:</b>	Tim Leonard, Ron Metzger & Thurman Melton
<b>PEW KEEPERS:</b>	Joe & Susan Wigley
<b>ROVER:</b>	Rosemary Leonard
<b>VALET:</b>	John Lantz

**STAFF OF FIRST UMC**

<b>PASTOR</b>	Dr. Tim Roberts	336-293-3698	troberts@wncumc.net
<b>PASTOR EMERITUS</b>	Rev. Phillip Cole		
<b>DIR. OF MINISTRIES</b>	Robbie Combs	firstumcministries@gmail.com	
<b>DIR. OF MUSIC</b>	Joanna Underwood	junmor61@gmail.com	
<b>ORGANIST/PIANIST</b>	Neil Underwood	nunderwoodband@gmail.com	
<b>FINANCIAL ASSIST.</b>	Letha Owen	lrowen520@gmail.com	
<b>FACILITIES MGR.</b>	Steve Herman	paherman@charter.net	
<b>PRESCHOOL DIR.</b>	Kristen Willis	preschool@fumclincolnton.com	

CCLI #20422793 (Music), #20422803 (Streaming), CVLI #504379166 (Video)



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

201 East Main Street, Lincolnton, North Carolina 28092  
704-735-7489      fumclincolnton.com



**First United Methodist Church  
Lincolnton**

*Love God. Love All. Be Like Jesus.*



Advent is that time of year when we really get into the full swing of Christmas - shopping, parties, giving gifts, getting gifts, holiday foods, Santa Claus, family, friends, Christmas carols, ...  
It is such a fun time of the year!  
How could it get any better?

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

*Enter to Worship*  
December 3, 2023

*Kneel to Pray*  
First Sunday of Advent

*Rise to Serve*  
11:00 A.M.

**PRELUDE**

**CHIMING OF THE HOLY TRINITY**

**GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Light the Advent Candle*

Chancel Choir

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We gather wondering, 'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

**People: We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of grandparents.**

Leader: We gather asking, 'where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

**People: We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.**

Leader: We gather wanting to know, 'where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'

**People: We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.**

**\*HYMN**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

UMH #196

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost! As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel, And Ransom Captive Israel That Mourns in Lowly Exile Here, Until the Son of God Appear Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel Shall Come To Thee, O Israel*

The Ellis Family

**TIME MOSTLY FOR CHILDREN**

Suzanne Peeler

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 2: 1-12

**ANTHEM**

*Waiting on Bethlehem's Light*

Chancel Choir

**SERMON**

*Worship Fully  
1<sup>st</sup> in Series: The Advent Conspiracy*

Dr. Tim Roberts

**\*HYMN**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

UMH #234

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Chancel Choir

**\*POSTLUDE**

*\*\*\*You are invited to stand, as you are able\*\*\**

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**WELCOME:** To all who need a church home, who mourn and need comfort, who are lonely and need friendship, who know how to pray and who do not, who sin and need a Saviour, who are displaced and are searching for community, who are tossed in turbulent waters and are seeking a safe harbor, and to whosoever will – First United Methodist Church opens wide its heart, mind, and doors, and in the name of Jesus the Christ says: WELCOME!.

**PRAYER CONNECTIONS**

*Jesus said, "Therefore I say to you, whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you will receive it, and it will be so for you."*  
- Mark 11:24 (CEB)

We believe in the power of prayer. If you have a prayer concern that you would like for the church and/or the pastor to pray with you about, please let us know by writing it down on the slip below and dropping it in the offering plate.

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**Check here to have your prayer request to be shared with the church. Otherwise, it will remain confidential.**

Use the space below to list any requests for more information about events or to provide additional information about yourself. Please place this slip in the offering plate.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TITHES AND OFFERINGS:** The offering plates are located at each entrance for you to give of your weekly tithe and offerings. You may also choose to use our online giving portal at: [www.fumclincolnton.com/give-online](http://www.fumclincolnton.com/give-online)

**GRIEFSHARE:** Our GriefShare group meets each Monday, at 10:00 am in the Annex. For more information about the group, please see Joey Lockman. The last meeting for this current session of GriefShare will be on December 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

**BLOOD PRESSURES:** Blood pressure checks will be offered following morning worship in the fellowship hall.

**ADVENT LUNCH:** Join us for our Annual Advent Luncheon immediately following today's worship service. Let's bring in the holiday season with our church family!

**HOLIDAY MUSIC:** The Handbell Choir of First UMC will be playing this Friday night, December 8<sup>th</sup>, between 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm at First Federal Park's Christmas Village. Come out and hear some festive "Sounds of the Season"!

### **SPECIAL HOLIDAY SERVICES:**

- December 10 – Handbell Choir will provide special music for morning worship.
- December 17 – The Chancel Choir will present the Christmas Cantata, "A New and Glorious Morn", featuring an orchestra of local musicians.
- December 17 – 7:00 pm – Join us for our annual Moravian Lovefeast, a service of Christmas hymns and readings and fellowship as a church family.
- December 24 – Christmas Eve morning worship
- December 24 – 5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight service

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

### **CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES UPDATE:**

Emergency Services is requesting:

- Blankets – Special need for the cold weather
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Body Wash and Body Lotion
- Backpacks for the homeless

Current Food Needs:

Peanut Butter, Crackers, Breakfast food (cereal, grits, oatmeal), Macaroni & Cheese, Pop-top cans of food (easy to use for our homeless)

Clothes Closet:

We will not be accepting any clothes donations from Nov. 1 thru Jan. 1st. Our clothes closet will reopen on January 2.

December is our month to collect specific food items for Christian Ministries. First UMC has been asked to concentrate on bringing in crackers, laundry detergent (dollar store types), and all types of soups. If you have a surplus of other food items it is fine to add these. A grocery cart is in the entry of education building and a collection box is in the middle building.

**MENTORS NEEDED:** Lincoln County Schools is looking for mentors to outreach to their students from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. If you feel led to volunteer for being a book buddy, tutor, or big brother/big sister, please contact Josh Henderson, assistant principal at Lincolnton Middle School. His phone number is 704-735-1120, ext 34106, or email him at [Joshua.henderson@lincoln.k12.nc.us](mailto:Joshua.henderson@lincoln.k12.nc.us).

### **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – December 10**

Liturgist: Billy Howell

Greeters: Carl Henline & Rosalind Welder

Acolyte: Lucas Demofonte

Time Mostly for Children: Jan Duncan

Pew Keepers: Vickie Andrews

Valet: Steve Kirksey

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