

**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: Catherine Douglas (Paul Douglas' mother), Randolph & Teresa Shives

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, Susan Henthorn, 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, Prayers for the homeless

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>	Billy Howell
<b>GREETERS:</b>	Carl Henline & Rosalind Welder
<b>ACOLYTE:</b>	Lucas Demofonte
<b>HEAD USHER:</b>	Carl Henline
<b>MEDIA TECHS:</b>	Tim Leonard, Ron Metzger & Thurman Melton
<b>PEW KEEPERS:</b>	Vickie Andrews
<b>ROVER:</b>	Ron Metzger
<b>VALET:</b>	Steve Kirksey

**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 10, 2023

*Kneel to Pray*

Second Sunday of Advent

*Rise to Serve*

11:00 A.M.

**PRELUDE**

*Christmas Joy*

Handbell Choir

**CHIMING OF THE HOLY TRINITY**

**GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Light the Advent Candle*

Chancel Choir

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

**People: And hope to every discouraged heart.**

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

**People: And peace to every conflicted soul.**

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

**People: And joy to every downcast spirit.**

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

**People: And love to everyone.**

Leader: Let us sing praises to our God.

**People: Let us offer this light against the darkness.**

**\*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**

The Hardin Family

*O Come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh,  
To us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel*

**TIME MOSTLY FOR CHILDREN**

Jan Duncan

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 2: 8-20

**ANTHEM**

*Appalachian Christmas*

Handbell Choir

**SERMON**

*Spend Less*

Dr. Tim Roberts

*2<sup>nd</sup> in Series: The Advent Conspiracy*

**\*HYMN**

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

UMH #213

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Chancel Choir

**\*POSTLUDE**

Handbell Choir

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**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!.

*The flowers on the altar today are given to the Glory of God and to celebrate the marriage of Morgan Ellis and Dylan Houser, who were married yesterday, December 9, 2023. Morgan is the daughter of Jason and Jennifer Ellis*

**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.

### **SPECIAL HOLIDAY SERVICES:**

- 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

**MEDICAL DEBT RIP:** As Pastor Tim has mentioned the past couple of weeks, our church has an opportunity to greatly help those in our area who are overcome with medical debts. More information will be coming regarding this program, but you may check the following website to answer some questions you may have:

<https://tinyurl.com/First-RIPMedical>

**PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:** The Preschool Christmas program for the 3's and 4's will be on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, in the Sanctuary. All are invited to attend.

## 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 17**

Liturgist: Keith Dedmond

Greeters: Keith & Kathy Dedmond

Acolyte: Noah Hardin

Time Mostly for Children: Billy Howell

Pew Keepers: Jeremy & Emily Krech

Valet: Steve Morton

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