

**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: Sharon Gazdeck (at the death of her mother), David Wyant, Faye Morris, Laurie Anne Beyer, Suzy Otterman, Barbara Fitzpatrick, Kim Fitzpatrick, Laura Smallwood.

CONTINUING: Thomas Allen, Beverly Beal, Arlen & Sue Belk, Les Canupe, Greg Clarke, Rob Coles (son of Lynn Campbell), Elvie Cranford, Catherine Douglas, 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, Hal & Joann Parker, Lessie Pendleton, Scott Sain, Gracie Sceascea, Randolph & Teresa Shives, 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

MINISTERS:	All Members of First UMC
LITURGIST:	Jennifer Ellis
GREETERS:	Bill & Karen Leonhardt
ACOLYTE:	Lucas Demofonte
HEAD USHER:	Carl Henline
MEDIA TECHS:	Tim Leonard, Ron Metzger & Thurman Melton
PEW KEEPERS:	Steve & Jane Morton
ROVER:	Letha Owen
VALET:	Bo King

STAFF OF FIRST UMC

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



Christmas is the time of year that is filled with 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 31, 2023

Kneel to Pray
First Sunday of Christmas

Rise to Serve
11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

CHIMING OF THE HOLY TRINITY

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Christmas Prayer

Chancel Choir

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The people who walk in darkness. That's us!

People: We have seen deep darkness in the world around us.

Leader: So we have come to search for the light.

People: We want the light to shine on us!

Leader: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given"

People: A child is born for US! A son is given to ALL of US!

Leader: We come to see the child that has been born,

we come to gather in the glow of the stable,

we come to sing with angels and wonder with shepherds.

People: Come and worship! Come and worship! Come and worship the newborn King!

***HYMN**

Sing We Now of Christmas

UMH #237

***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.

TIME MOSTLY FOR CHILDREN

Dr. Tim Roberts

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3: 16-17; I John 3: 17-18

ANTHEM

Prayer for the New Year

Chancel Choir

SERMON

*Love All
4th in Series:
The Christmas Conspiracy*

Dr. Tim Roberts

***HYMN**

Go, Tell It On The Mountain

UMH #251

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Chancel Choir

***POSTLUDE**

****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!.

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.

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.

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

FLOWER CALENDAR: If you wish to place flowers for morning worship in memory of or in honor of a loved one, the 2024 Flower Calendar is now posted outside of the church office in the Education Building.

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>

OFFERING ENVELOPES: Offering envelopes for the coming year are now available for pick up on the counter in the Middle Building. You can pick up packs of 12, packs of 52, or single envelopes. If you have any questions, please see Letha.

OFFICE CLOSED: The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2024.

CLC MEETING: The Church Leadership Council will hold their first meeting of 2024 on Monday, January 8th at 6:00 pm in the Annex. Church members are invited to attend monthly council meetings, except for Executive Sessions, which convene at the end of the regular meetings.

*Blessings to you in the New Year from
The Pastor and Staff of
First United Methodist Church*

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES UPDATE:

Emergency Services is requesting:

- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Body Wash and Body Lotion
- Backpacks for the homeless
- Jeans waist size 30 and 32

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:

The clothes closet will reopen on January 2.

In January, we are asked to provide volunteers to pack food boxes at Christian Ministries. The designated dates for our church is January 22, 23 and 24th.

Souper Bowl of Caring, which takes place on February 11th, has become an annual tradition for many congregations, schools and other youth-led groups, which can make a big difference for charities such as ours who serve the community's most vulnerable. During the week before the Super Bowl football game, dollars and canned goods are collected and donated through various Souper Bowl of Caring events.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is the ONLY fundraiser that every dollar goes to the Soup Kitchen. This is a great way to support their work. More information to follow.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – January 7

Liturgist: Chase Hardin

Greeters: Jerry & Gayle Park

Acolyte: Brooks Hardin

Time Mostly for Children: Suzanne Peeler

Pew Keepers: Vickie Andrews

Valet: Ron Metzger

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