

**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:** Debi Ballard, Betty Howell, Holly McGinnis

**CONTINUING:** Thomas Allen, Deanie Auton, Laurie Anne Beyer, Caylor Brinkley, Jeremiah Buff, Beulah Cannon, Les Canipe, Greg Clarke, Rob Coles (son of Lynn Campbell), Elvie Cranford, Jody Cronland, Kathy Douglas, Jane Finger, Barbara Fitzpatrick, Kim Fitzpatrick, Rev. Keiko Foster, Billy Harkey, Donald Hartsell (brother-in-law of Kathy Dellinger), Ed Hatley, Jayce Heff, Susan Henthorn, Denise Hobbs, LoisMary Hoehne, Dolly Jones, Jack Jones, Danny Kirkpatrick, Randi Kolseth, Pat Lawing, Karen Leonhardt, Jim Love, Ginger Lowe, Judy Lowe, Jerry McClure, Pat Maddux, Thurman Melton, Danny Nicholson, Patsy Nicholson, Suzy Otterman, Rob Owen, Hal and Joann Parker, Randy Ramsey, Dr. Tim Roberts, Linda H Rudisill, Gracie Sceascea, Artie & Linda Shields, Randolph Shives, Laura Smallwood, Rhonda Swafford, Rev. Sarah Underwood, Jamie VanDohlen, David Wyant, First UMC, Peace in Europe, Prayers for the homeless, United States of America, Our brothers and sisters in Western NC, First responders, Rescue Teams

**NURSING FACILITIES:** Ann Ford (The Addison), Mary Heavner (Abernethy Laurels), Judy Komars (The Addison), Verna Rufini (Abernethy Laurels)

**HOMEBOUND:** Lou Beal, Winnon Cashion, Jo Huss, Donna Connor Morris, Mary Robinson

**THOSE SERVING YOU TODAY**

<b>MINISTERS:</b>	All Members of First UMC
<b>LITURGIST:</b>	Robbie Combs
<b>GREETERS:</b>	Tim & Rosemary Leonard
<b>ACOLYTE:</b>	Karson Shrum
<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>	Letha Owen
<b>VALET:</b>	John Lantz

**STAFF OF FIRST UMC**

<b>PASTOR</b>	Rev. Sarah Underwood	sunderwood@wnccumc.net
<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.**



**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

*Enter to Worship*

*Kneel to Pray*

*Rise to Serve*

December 1, 2024

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

11:00 A.M.

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MISSION MOMENT**

**CHIMING OF THE HOLY TRINITY**

**PRELUDE**

*Good King Wenceslas*

Neil Underwood

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Light The Advent Candle*

Chancel Choir

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

The Beeker Family

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: We come from a world of darkness

**All: Into Christ's world of light.**

One: We come from a world of weariness

**All: Into God's strength and hope.**

One: We come from a slumbering world.

**All: Strengthened by the Spirit, we come to awaken our souls and watch for the coming of Christ.**

**\*HYMN**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

UMH# 196

**\*CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH**

UMH #208

**\*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 FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN**

Jan Duncan

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 1: 5-25

**CALL TO PRAYER**

*A Christmas Prayer*

Chancel Choir

**PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**ANTHEM**

*Waiting for Bethlehem's Light*

Chancel Choir

**SERMON**

*In God's Presence*  
*Series: Angels Among Us*

Rev. Sarah Underwood

**\*HYMN**

*People, Look East*

UMH# 202

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION**

*Emmanuel*

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.**

Register Here for the Pastor's Advent Study: Dec 4, 11 & 18 at 10:00 am. Please include name and phone number and place 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. Our new online giving portal is up and running, and may be accessed through the “Give” page on our church website, or you can visit the following link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZMXD>

**OLD SALEM “CANDLE TEA”:** We have reserved 20 tickets for a trip to Old Salem on December 14<sup>th</sup> for their annual Moravian Candle Tea. We will carpool from the church, leaving around mid-morning as our tour time is 1:00 pm. If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office. We have 6 spots open.

**NATIVITY DISPLAYS:** Our Nativity display will be open starting this Thursday, Dec 5<sup>th</sup> and will continue each weekend, ending on Dec 21<sup>st</sup>. Come and see the beautiful nativity sets shared by our church family. On Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>, you can also enjoy our First Annual Live Nativity on the porch of the fellowship hall. Invite friends and family to share in this special event.

**ADVENT LUNCH:** Our Annual Advent Lunch will take place on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> in the fellowship hall following morning worship. We hope you will join us for this time of friends, family and fellowship, and of course, a wonderful meal.

### **FIRST UMC ONGOING SCHEDULE:**

Sunday - Coffee & Conversation – 9:00am - Fellowship Hall  
Monday – Quilting Ministry – 9:30 am -2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Middle Bldg  
Monday – Griefshare – 10:00 am – The Annex  
Wednesday – Pastor’s Advent Study – 10:00 am  
Wednesday – Handbell Choir – 6:00 pm – Middle Bldg  
Wednesday – Chancel Choir – 7:00 pm – Middle Bldg

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TITHES AND OFFERINGS:** The offering plates are located at each entrance for you to give of your weekly tithe and offerings. Our new online giving portal is up and running, and may be accessed through the “Give” page on our church website, or you can visit the following link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZMXD>

**OLD SALEM “CANDLE TEA”:** We have reserved 20 tickets for a trip to Old Salem on December 14<sup>th</sup> for their annual Moravian Candle Tea. We will carpool from the church, leaving around mid-morning as our tour time is 1:00 pm. If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office. We have 6 spots open.

**NATIVITY DISPLAYS:** Our Nativity display will be open starting this Thursday, Dec 5<sup>th</sup> and will continue each weekend, ending on Dec 21<sup>st</sup>. Come and see the beautiful nativity sets shared by our church family. On Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>, you can also enjoy our First Annual Live Nativity on the porch of the fellowship hall. Invite friends and family to share in this special event.

**ADVENT LUNCH:** Our Annual Advent Lunch will take place on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> in the fellowship hall following morning worship. We hope you will join us for this time of friends, family and fellowship, and of course, a wonderful meal.

### **FIRST UMC ONGOING SCHEDULE:**

Sunday - Coffee & Conversation – 9:00am - Fellowship Hall  
Monday – Quilting Ministry – 9:30 am -2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Middle Bldg  
Monday – Griefshare – 10:00 am – The Annex  
Wednesday – Pastor’s Advent Study – 10:00 am  
Wednesday – Handbell Choir – 6:00 pm – Middle Bldg  
Wednesday – Chancel Choir – 7:00 pm – Middle Bldg

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS (contd)**

**ADVENT STUDY:** *The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent*, a three-week Advent study, explores the four angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. In this study, the reader will explore the visits and dive deep into the history of the angel Gabriel—and other angels—in the Old Testament. *The Angels of Christmas* uses these four angelic appearances to discuss God's presence in history and our lives today. The messages of the angels hold meaning for listeners both then and now.

Our class will meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am. If there is enough interest, an evening class could also be scheduled. Please call the church office to register for the class. Meeting dates are: December 4, 11, & 18. The cost of the book for the study is \$10.00, and you may put your payment in the offering plate. Please make checks out to First UMC and notate in the memo line "Advent Study Book".

### **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – December 8, 2024**

Liturgist: Cathy Thornburg

Acolyte: Brooks Hardin

Greeters: Bill & Karen Leonhardt

Time For All God's Children: Kathy Douglas

Pew Keepers: Jason & Jennifer Ellis

Valet: Jerry Park

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS (contd)**

**ADVENT STUDY:** *The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent*, a three-week Advent study, explores the four angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. In this study, the reader will explore the visits and dive deep into the history of the angel Gabriel—and other angels—in the Old Testament. *The Angels of Christmas* uses these four angelic appearances to discuss God's presence in history and our lives today. The messages of the angels hold meaning for listeners both then and now.

Our class will meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am. If there is enough interest, an evening class could also be scheduled. Please call the church office to register for the class. Meeting dates are: December 4, 11, & 18. The cost of the book for the study is \$10.00, and you may put your payment in the offering plate. Please make checks out to First UMC and notate in the memo line "Advent Study Book".

### **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – December 8, 2024**

Liturgist: Cathy Thornburg

Acolyte: Brooks Hardin

Greeters: Bill & Karen Leonhardt

Time For All God's Children: Kathy Douglas

Pew Keepers: Jason & Jennifer Ellis

Valet: Jerry Park

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE**

**CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES UPDATE:** December is our month to collect food items for the Food Pantry and the Soup Kitchen. Here are the present needs:

Soup Kitchen – Most Needed Items for Pantry:

- Cereal, breakfast foods, detergent, bar soap, pop top canned foods

Wish List for Soup Kitchen:

- 12 ounce cups, lasagna noodles, parchment paper, flour tortillas

**EMERGENCY SERVICES IS ASKING FOR:**

- Toboggans, gloves, handwarmers, tents, slightly used or new blankets

**USED TOY GIVE AWAY:**

The Good News Sunday School Class has two class members who are heavily involved in Christian Ministry used toy drive. Please support their efforts and help the children in our community.

Christian Ministry is collecting used toys now for the Used Toy Give Away on December 7. Donations can be dropped off Monday – Friday, 9am to 1pm. at Christian Ministry. Also, if smaller toys, we can collect and take to Christian Ministry weekly so leave in grocery cart (or near it) or in box in the hall of the middle building

**BACK-UP LEADERS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL:** There is currently a need for a few back-up leaders in our children’s Sunday school class and nursery to cover in the event that the regular teacher has to be out on a Sunday morning. If you feel led to be “on call” as a back-up leader, please contact the church office.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE**

**CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES UPDATE:** December is our month to collect food items for the Food Pantry and the Soup Kitchen. Here are the present needs:

Soup Kitchen – Most Needed Items for Pantry:

- Cereal, breakfast foods, detergent, bar soap, pop top canned foods

Wish List for Soup Kitchen:

- 12 ounce cups, lasagna noodles, parchment paper, flour tortillas

**EMERGENCY SERVICES IS ASKING FOR:**

- Toboggans, gloves, handwarmers, tents, slightly used or new blankets

**USED TOY GIVE AWAY:**

The Good News Sunday School Class has two class members who are heavily involved in Christian Ministry used toy drive. Please support their efforts and help the children in our community.

Christian Ministry is collecting used toys now for the Used Toy Give Away on December 7. Donations can be dropped off Monday – Friday, 9am to 1pm. at Christian Ministry. Also, if smaller toys, we can collect and take to Christian Ministry weekly so leave in grocery cart (or near it) or in box in the hall of the middle building

**BACK-UP LEADERS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL:** There is currently a need for a few back-up leaders in our children’s Sunday school class and nursery to cover in the event that the regular teacher has to be out on a Sunday morning. If you feel led to be “on call” as a back-up leader, please contact the church office.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE (Contd)**

**SUPPORT FOR UPCOMING MISSION TRIP:** One of our members, Brittany Beeker, is again going on a mission trip with the organization, Practice Mercy, out of Texas. She will be providing spiritual support and assisting in the relocation of refugees in Mexico.

We can help support her by providing funds toward her transportation and living costs (\$1,500) and the purchase of storybooks in Spanish for the children. Some other much needed items for the refugees are feminine hygiene products, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and bar soap. Donations toward her costs and storybooks can be made by check to FUMC and earmarked for “Mission trip”. A box will be placed in the hallway of the Middle building for the collection of any items.

Her mission trip is planned for January 2025 so donations are needed by December 29, 2024. Your support of Brittany and this mission is greatly appreciated. For more information, please contact our Outreach Coordinator, Dianne Putnam.

**ANGEL GIFTS FOR 2024:** Angels, angels, angels! As in past years, our church has angels for children and survivors staying at Amy’s House. Amy’s House is an 501(c)3 nonprofit operated by Lincoln County Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Contact Rosalind at church or 704-472-0128 for an Amy’s House Angel!

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE (Contd)**

**SUPPORT FOR UPCOMING MISSION TRIP:** One of our members, Brittany Beeker, is again going on a mission trip with the organization, Practice Mercy, out of Texas. She will be providing spiritual support and assisting in the relocation of refugees in Mexico.

We can help support her by providing funds toward her transportation and living costs (\$1,500) and the purchase of storybooks in Spanish for the children. Some other much needed items for the refugees are feminine hygiene products, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and bar soap. Donations toward her costs and storybooks can be made by check to FUMC and earmarked for “Mission trip”. A box will be placed in the hallway of the Middle building for the collection of any items.

Her mission trip is planned for January 2025 so donations are needed by December 29, 2024. Your support of Brittany and this mission is greatly appreciated. For more information, please contact our Outreach Coordinator, Dianne Putnam.

**ANGEL GIFTS FOR 2024:** Angels, angels, angels! As in past years, our church has angels for children and survivors staying at Amy’s House. Amy’s House is an 501(c)3 nonprofit operated by Lincoln County Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Contact Rosalind at church or 704-472-0128 for an Amy’s House Angel!