

**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:** Letha Owen, Blake Sigmon, Carroll Heavner (Rehab at Abernethy Laurels)  
**CONTINUING:** Thomas Allen, Deanie Auton, Debi Ballard, 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, Betty Howell, Dolly Jones, Jack Jones, Danny Kirkpatrick, Randi Kolseth, Pat Lawing, Karen Leonhardt, Jim Love, Ginger Lowe, Judy Lowe, Jerry McClure, Holly McGinnis, Pat Maddux, Danny Nicholson, Patsy Nicholson, Suzy Otterman, Rob Owen, Hal and Joann Parker, Randy Ramsey, Dr. Tim Roberts, Linda 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), Jo Huss (Chestnut Ridge Rehab) Judy Komas (The Addison), Verna Rufini (Abernethy Laurels)  
**HOMEBOUND:** Lou Beal, Winnon Cashion, Donna Connor Morris, Mary Robinson

**THOSE SERVING YOU TODAY**

<b>MINISTERS:</b>	All Members of First UMC
<b>LITURGIST:</b>	Cathy Thornburg
<b>GREETERS:</b>	Bill & Karen Leonhardt
<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>	Jason & Jennifer Ellis
<b>ROVER:</b>	Paul Strachan
<b>VALET:</b>	Jerry Park

**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 8, 2024

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

11:00 A.M.

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHIMING OF THE HOLY TRINITY**

**PRELUDE**

*Gesu Bambino*

Neil Underwood

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Light The Advent Candle*

Chancel Choir

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

The Valentine Family

**\*OPENING PRAYER:**

*O Almighty God, who has taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand: Grant that we may ever be found watching for the coming of thy Son; save us from undue love of the world, that we may wait with patient hope for the day of the Lord, and so abide in him, that when he shall appear we may not be ashamed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**\*HYMN**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

UMH# 211

**\*CANTICLE OF MARY**

UMH #199

**\*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**

Kathy Douglas

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 1: 26-56

**CALL TO PRAYER**

*A Christmas Prayer*

Chancel Choir

**PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**ANTHEM**

*Advent Trilogy*

Chancel Choir

**SERMON**

*Faithful Mary*  
*Series: Angels Among Us*

Rev. Sarah Underwood

**\*HYMN**

*Angels, From the Realms of Glory*

UMH# 220

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION**

*Emmanuel*

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.**

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.

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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. 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 again be open to the public this weekend, Dec 12-14. Come and see the beautiful nativity sets shared by our church family. On Dec 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:** All are invited to our annual Advent Lunch, today 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.

**MORAVIAN LOVEFEAST:** Our Annual Moravian Lovefeast will take place in our sanctuary on Sunday evening, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Invite your friends and family to join us for this most special worship service of the Advent Season as we fellowship together and sing the familiar hymns of Christmas.

**JOINT CHRISTMAS CANTATA:** On Wednesday evening, Dec 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, there will be a joint Christmas Cantata with choirs from First UMC and Boger City UMC, as well as both churches handbell choirs. Join for this wonderful musical offering.

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## 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 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".

### **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  
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## 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

**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.

**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!

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – December 15, 2024

Liturgist: Michael Powers

Acolyte: Owen Krech

Greeters: Jason & Jennifer Ellis

Time For All God's Children: Suzanne Peeler

Pew Keepers: Steve & Jane Morton

Valet: Mike Owen

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## **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.

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