

Ways We Serve

Greeters

5 Steve & Kathy Valentine
12 Peggie Shuford & Wanda Lutz
19 Jerry & Gayle Park
26 Bo & Carol King

Acolytes

5 Karson Shrum
12 Brooks Hardin
19 Owen Krech
26 Noah Hardin

Time For All God's Children

5 Jan Duncan
12 Billy Howell
19 Beverly Beal
26 Robbie Combs

Liturgists

5 Jan Duncan
12 Lisa Cherry
19 Steve Kirksey
26 Sheila Beeker

Pew Keepers

5 Kathy Valentine
12 Chase & Katie Hardin
19 Jeremy & Emily Krech
26 Teresa Shives

Parking Valets

5 Paul Douglas
12 Jeff Noles
19 Steve Herman
26 Jerry Park

Sunday School Rovers

5 Jan Duncan
12 Lisa Cherry
19 Steve Kirksey
26 Sheila Beeker

Altar Guild

Mary Anna Rankin & Amy Lockman

Communion Stewards Jan. 5

Billy & Carole Howell
Amy Lockman

FIRST UNITED METHODIST

BLOOD DRIVE

GIFT THE GIVE OF LIFE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15TH

2:30 - 7 PM

**First United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall**

201 E. Main St. Lincolnton, NC

Register for a donation appointment by visiting

www.redcrossblood.org



Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.
- Mark 11:24

In Your Daily Prayers, Please Pray for:

NEW: Shirley Combs, Larry Parker, Chloe Gibson, The Family of Charles Fontaine, Tim Leonard

CONTINUING: Thomas Allen, Deanie Auton, Debi Ballard, Laurie Anne Beyer, Caylor Brinkley, Jeremiah Buff, Ed & Lyn Campbell, Les Canipe, Greg Clarke, Rob Coles (son of Lynn Campbell), Will & Ryan Conrad, Elvie Cranford, Kathy Douglas, Kathy Eaker, 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, Lois-Mary Hoehne, Betty Howell, Dolly Jones, Jack Jones, Danny Kirkpatrick, Randi Kolseth, Pat Lawing, Karen Leonhardt, Jim Love, Ginger Lowe, Judy Lowe, Mark Ludwig Jerry McClure, Holly McGinnis, Pat Maddux, Danny Nicholson, Patsy Nicholson, Judy Payseur, Suzy Otterman, Letha Owen, Rob Owen, Hal and Joann Parker, Randy Ramsey, Dr. Tim Roberts, Linda Rudisill, Gracie Sceascea, Artie & Linda Shields, Randolph Shives, Kenny Shrum, Blake Sigmon, Laura Smallwood, Jamie Strom, Rhonda Swafford, Jamie VanDohlen, Robin Wooten Wood, Rev. 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: Beulah Cannon (Cardinal Care), Ann Ford (The Addison), Carroll and Mary Heavner (Abernethy Laurels), Jo Huss (Chestnut Ridge Rehab) Judy Komars (The Addison), Verna Rufini (Abernethy Laurels)

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

Please take a few moments to look over the prayer list, and let us know if here are any updates or deletions that need to be made. You may contact the church office with any changes.

Birthdays

- 1 Linda Dedmon
- 2 Kathy Dedmond, Ginger Lowe, Tim Valentine
- 3 Kathy Valentine
- 5 Carole Howell & Curt Moore
- 8 Betsy Sorrell
- 10 Jane Goodson & Reed King
- 13 Joe Wigley
- 17 Mark Hames
- 19 Jennifer Carroll & Mitch Heavner
- 20 Joby Rhyne
- 22 Bobbie Robinson & Lucy Thompson
- 23 Dorea Drum & E. Jackson Sibert
- 25 Cory Cronland
- 26 Lois Lineberger
- 27 Kay Hermann
- 28 Joseph Morton
- 29 Bob Lineberger Jr., & Kelly Wilt
- 30 Carol Henline & Joey Lockman

FUMC News & Updates

Living Will/Healthcare Power of Attorney Class

If you have questions about how to set up a living will, or a healthcare power of attorney, our healthcare ministry team will be leading two separate classes on this subject. Classes will be available on Thursday, January 9th at 6:00 pm in the Annex and on Sunday January 19th at 3:00 pm in the Annex.

Blood Drive Jan. 15

Our next Blood Drive will be on Wednesday, January 15th from 2:30 pm until 7:00 pm. You may register for a donation appointment by visiting ww-redcrossblood.org, or see Pat Stevens or Rosemary Leonard. We are also needing volunteers to help the day of the drive, as well as to provide treats and desserts for those who donate. Please see Pat or Rosemary to volunteer.



UMW Meeting

The First UMW will meet next Sunday, January 12th at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are invited to attend to begin planning for the new year. Coffee and snack items will be provided. Please join this wonderful and dedicated group of women!

2025 Flower Chart

The 2025 Flower Calendar has been posted outside the church office. If you wish to place flowers in the church for worship, you may sign up at any time.

Email Updates

As a way to ensure proper communication channels to Pastor Sarah and the church office, here are the correct emails that may be used:

- The main church email is firstumclinc@gmail.com, and it is monitored by Robbie in the church office.
- Robbie's direct church email is firstumcministries@gmail.com.
- Pastor Sarah's direct email is sunderwood@wnc-cumc.net. This is the only email that Sarah monitors on a regular basis.

[cumc.net](mailto:sunderwood@wnc-cumc.net). This is the only email that Sarah monitors on a regular basis.

All other staff emails are correct as printed on the back of the weekly bulletin.

Financial Update

Nov. 2024 YTD Revenue	\$336,818
Nov. 2024 YTD Expense	\$361,462
Nov. 2024 YTD Deficit	\$(24,644)

Girl Scout Update

Lincoln County Girl Scouts went “Caroling for Cans” for Lincoln Christian Ministry on Sunday, December 8th. We are very proud of the girls as several Cadets stood at each door handing out needs as customers came in, while the group sang some favorite Christmas carols. The collection was a huge success.



Remembering Christmas 2024

What a wonderful Advent and Christmas season we have had at First: Lincolnton. We are truly blessed with many outstanding volunteers who helped make December truly a month to remember.

From our delicious Advent lunch prepared by loving hands and hearts to the beautiful donations of nativity sets that graced the Annex to the moving depiction of our live nativity presentation, First UMC shared the joy of the season with all of downtown Lincolnton.

Some of us learned the traditions of the Moravian Lovefeast before our own meaningful Lovefeast service. The gift of incredible music graced our church with the joint cantata with Boger City UMC, and the simple elegance of the Christmas Eve candlelight communion service brought families together to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

To all who played a part in making all of these services and events the successes they were, we truly thank you for your devotion to our church.

At right, just one of the many many nativity scenes on display in the church Annex throughout December.

Below, our joint Christmas Cantata with Boger City United Methodist Church.



On January 1, members of FUMC prepared and served food to those in attendance at Lincoln County Christian Ministry Soup Kitchen. Special thanks to those who purchased and prepared things in advance and to those who served the meal of lasagna, Texas Toast, salad and desserts with a smile!



The fellowship hall was full of joy and laughter as the Kaye Waters SS Class hosted a Christmas party for the UMAR clients. The pictures are of two of the employees and the party hosts. We are not permitted to post pictures of the clients. Pizza, cookie icing, and a treat bag from Santa were highlights of the day. A blessing was received by all in attendance!

The Good News Sunday School class prepared and served a New Year meal of black eyed peas, slaw, cornbread, pork barbeque and assorted fruit to the residents. All were wished a Happy New Year and prosperity during 2025. Pictured are some members of the class but many others prepared and donated food to make the meal a huge success.



Thanks to so many members of FUMC congregation for volunteering to be “angels” for 24 students in the Massey Backpack Program and 12 children or adults from Amy’s House. In addition, many church members participated in being “angels” to many children through Lincoln County Christian Ministry. Also, church members volunteered to assist in the special toy, food give away days sponsored by Christian Ministry! Thanks to all at FUMC who shared their love through the community.

December CLC Recap

The December meeting of the CLC took place on Monday, December 9th, with Pastor Sarah hosting the group at the parsonage. Some of the main topics for discussion were as follows:

- The church has contracted with Hardy Contracting to begin some masonry repairs on the front steps of the sanctuary, the Academy St. steps leading to the breezeway entrance and choir room, and the steps leading to the entrance between the Sanctuary and the Annex. Work is scheduled to begin on January 6.
- There are ongoing discussions on ways to improve the safety and security of our campus on Sunday mornings, as well as during the many activities that take place during the week at the church.
- Plans were discussed for a fellowship meal with a Leadership Fair to take place sometime in January or February. More details will be released as plans are finalized.
- Our Witness team liaison is working on another family testimonial video to take place during morning worship sometime in the next few weeks.
- Final worship plans for Advent and Christmas services were discussed. The Worship Committee will meet again on January 6th.
- Work on all the roofs has been completed. Some repair work on one of the boilers has been completed. Most all the work at the parsonage has been completed, with the exception of some continued minor projects.
- We now have improved Wi-Fi connection in the Middle Building, thus improving our overall internet connectivity through the campus.
- We are continuing to take part in the WNCC First Church Cohort, with Bryan Beal as our Laity Champion. The classes so far have been very informative.
- Work on the organ is nearly completed. The goal is to have it ready in time for the joint Christmas Cantata on Wednesday, December 18th. The final work on the organ will take place after the first of the year.



**FIRST UMC is a
Lighthouse Congregation
of the
Western North Carolina
Conference of the
United Methodist Church.**

New Year's Resolutions You Can Really Keep

Let's face it, we all mean well. But keeping our New Year's resolutions intact after late January can be a push for even the best intentioned.

So why do we even make them, if the odds say we won't keep them?

Terry L. Ledford, Ph.D., of Woodbridge Psychological Associates in Rutherfordton, and author of *Parables for a Wounded Heart: Overcoming the Wounds to Your Self-Esteem and Transforming Your Perceptions of You*, thinks he may have an answer.

"We make resolutions because we want to improve our lives," says Dr. Ledford. "Most resolutions are in the area of self-improvement such as losing weight, stopping bad habits such as smoking and drinking, and behaving more positively toward those we love. We resolve to make these changes on January 1st because a new year suggests a new beginning. It feels like a good time to start over."

Making New Year's resolutions may go back as far as Babylonian times to honor the Roman god Janus, whose two faces looked both to the year that was and forward to the new year. (It's also a great time to put off our good intentions so that we don't feel so bad about our holiday overindulgence.)

"I think resolutions are rather harmless and may help us improve," says Dr. Ledford. "At the very least, they reflect that we have hope for change."

Some research even confirms that people who actually set a resolution, rather than just saying they want to achieve a goal, have a significantly greater percentage of success.

If you're really serious about your resolutions, Dr. Ledford recommends setting goals that are realistic, specific, and reachable. Start small.

"Saying 'I will weigh 150 pounds by March 1' is much better than saying, 'I'm going to lose weight.' A goal without a deadline is just a wish, and it doesn't usually get very far. Put it in writing, and chart your progress. Tell a supportive friend to check on your progress periodically. Reward yourself for small successes."

But even the most disciplined of us will fall behind on some days. Don't beat yourself up over a candy bar or a spending splurge. Resolve to start fresh the next day.

Want some ideas for resolutions that guarantee to improve the life of even the laziest individual? Why not pick a few and get started?

- I will eat right 90% of the time, and eat whatever I want 10% of the time. I will reach for the water before I grab a glass of sweet tea or a soda.
- I will walk to more places. I will park at the far end of the parking lot and I will take the stairs every time I can.
- Rather than becoming resentful, I will nicely say, "no" when someone asks me to do something that I don't want to do.
- I will focus on what went right every day, instead of what went wrong.
- I will take long, hot bubble baths or showers as often as I need them to relax.
- I will get as much sleep as I need to be happy, healthy, and fun to be around.
- I will be kinder to people and not call attention to their faults. I will set a better example to my children by not making negative comments about others.
- I will take care of myself by getting my annual physical exams without procrastination.
- I will focus on something that's spiritual to me. That could be a daily devotional, time for meditation, or even tending a garden.
- I will "seize the day." I will do something every day that makes me laugh out loud.

Just remember that if you missed the January 1 start date, that doesn't mean that you have to wait until next year. Why wait until 2026? You can always resolve to improve your life, and today is as good a day as any.

– Carole Howell



201 East Main Street
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Sunday School at 10 am

Service at 11 a.m. each Sunday.

Office Hours: 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.: Mon.-Thur.

Office: 704.735.7489

NEW Email: firstumclinc@gmail.com

Website: fumclincolnton.com



Follow us on Facebook and YouTube

Events this coming month

- Jan 5: Blood pressure checks, 10:30 - 11 a.m. and following morning worship
Sacrament of Holy Communion, 11 a.m.
- Jan. 6 Worship Committee meeting in the Sanctuary, 6 p.m.
- Jan. 9 Living Will/Healthcare Power of Attorney Class, Annex, 6 p.m.
- Jan. 12 Healthcare Team Meeting - Immediately following worship in the church library
- Jan. 13 Church Leadership Council - In the Annex
(CLC general meetings are open to all church members, and you are welcome to attend. If there is a need for a Staff/Parish session, they are held following the main business meeting and they are for CLC members ONLY)
- Jan. 15 Blood Drive - In the Fellowship Hall from 2:30 - 7 p.m.
- Jan 19 Living Will/Healthcare Power of Attorney Class, Annex, 3 p.m.

ONGOING SCHEDULE

Sunday - Coffee & Conversation – 9:00am - Fellowship Hall

Monday – Quilting Ministry – 9:30 am -2nd floor, Middle Bldg

Wednesday – Handbell Choir – 6:00 pm – Middle Bldg

Wednesday – Chancel Choir – 7:00 pm – Middle Bldg