

## Valentine's Day



The history of Valentine's Day is quite lengthy and lurid, involving pagan ceremonies, popes, priests, rebels, and nefarious behavior. Look it up! It is a fascinating history. And then there is some debate about who the real St. Valentine was. One explanation is that he was a Catholic priest who defied Emperor Claudius II's orders banning military members from getting married. Claudius felt marriage distracted them from their military duties. Priest Valentine defied the emperor by performing marriage ceremonies for soldiers and their chosen mates, thereby earning himself a place in prison with beheading to come later on February 14th in the 3rd century. Because Priest Valentine refused to deny his faith, and because of his biblical belief in the importance of marriage, he was later declared a saint in the Catholic Church.

Before the 14th century, St. Valentine's Day was primarily about honoring a Christian martyr. The English poet Geoffrey Chaucer is credited with connecting St. Valentine's Day to the idea of romance. Chaucer lived in the Middle Ages, the era of courtly love, when broad, romantic statements of devotion—poems, songs, paintings—celebrated partnership. In his circa 1382 poem "The Parliament of Fowls," possibly written to commemorate the engagement of King Richard II, he envisions birds gathering on St. Valentine's Day to choose their mates. Not long after this all of England began sending cards to their sweethearts.

Today, we celebrate by sending millions of cards, gifts of flowers, candy and jewelry. Restaurants are filled with sweethearts sharing a meal. In our eagerness

### Ways We Serve

#### Greeters

- 2 Steve & Jane Morton
- 9 Charles Stevens & Michael Powers
- 16 Carl Henline & Rosalind Welder
- 23 Keith & Kathy Dedmond

#### Acolytes

- 2 Lucas Demofonte
- 9 Karson Shrum
- 16 Brooks Hardin
- 23 Owen Krech

#### Time For All God's Children

- 2 Cale Thornburg
- 9 Kathy Douglas
- 16 Mike Owen
- 23 Suzanne Peeler

#### Liturgists

- 2 Vickie Andrews
- 9 Steve Morton
- 16 Jennifer Ellis
- 23 Joey Lockman

#### Pew Keepers

- 2 Dianne Putnam
- 9 Ernie & Betty Parker
- 16 Peggie Shuford
- 23 Joe & Susan Wigley

#### Parking Valets

- 2 Calvin Thornburg
- 9 Keith Dedmond
- 16 Carl Henline
- 23 Steve Cain

#### Sunday School Rovers

- 2 Carol King
- 9 Rosemary Leonard
- 16 Pam Metzger
- 23 Ron Metzger

#### Altar Guild

- Kay Lowe & Patsy Herman

#### Communion Stewards Feb. 2

- Jason & Jennifer Ellis
- Molly Tweed



*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: Family of Larry Parker, Family of Mary Heavner, Beulah Cannon

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), Elvie Cranford, Kathy Douglas, Jane Finger, Barbara Fitzpatrick, Kim Fitzpatrick, Rev. Keiko Foster, Chloe Gibson, Billy Harkey, Donald Hartsell, Ed Hatley, Jayce Heff, Susan Henthorn, Denise Hobbs, Lois-Mary Hoehne, Dolly Jones, Jack Jones, Danny Kirkpatrick, Randi Kolseth, Pat Lawing,, Karen Leonhardt, Jim Love, Ginger Lowe, Judy Lowe, Mark Ludwig, Jerry McClure, Pat Maddux, Danny Nicholson, Patsy Nicholson, Suzy Otterman, Rob Owen, Hal and Joann Parker, Randy Ramsey, Linda Rudisill, Gracie Sceascea, Taryn Schou, Artie & Linda Shields, Randolph & Teresa Shives, Kenny Shrum, Laura Smallwood, Rhonda Swafford, Rev. Sarah Underwood, Jamie VanDohlen, Robin Wooten Wood, Rev. David Wyant,

NURSING FACILITIES: Shirley Combs (Cardinal Care-Rehab), Ann Ford (The Addison), Carroll Heavner (Abernethy Laurels), Jo Huss (Chestnut Ridge Rehab) Judy Komas (The Addison)

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*

- 2 Paige Beal, Nick Kommas, & Zachory Wilt
- 4 Skip Lowe, Jr. & Vicki Lyons
- 7 Tammy Heavner & David Ramsey
- 12 Steve Morton
- 13 Cindy Hatley
- 15 Bo King
- 18 Rodney Robinson
- 20 Chase Hardin
- 21 Kenan Ballard & Chad Sibert
- 22 Peggie Shuford
- 23 Winnon Cashion
- 25 Sheila Beeker, Mary Catherine Robinson & Peggy Sibert
- 27 Mike Cline & Kathy Dellinger

### *Anniversaries*

- 18 Richard and Lynne Jonas
- 26 Tim & Karen Valentine

# FUMC News & Updates



**Bring cans of food or monetary donations to support the Soup Kitchen at Lincoln County Christian Ministries.**

## 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 a class on this subject on Thursday February 13 at 6 p.m. in the Annex. There is no charge for the class, and they are open to members and non-members. We do ask that you register by calling the church office.

## 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.

## Communication Options

One of our means of communicating important updates to the congregation is our OneCall system. However, there may be some, especially newer mem-

bers, who may not be receiving calls or emails through this system. If you are not receiving these calls or emails, and would like to, please contact the church office and we will make sure you are added to the database.

## Scout Sunday

On February 9th, we will have our annual recognition of our Boy Scout Program, where our Scouts will take leadership in our morning worship service. We hope you will join us for this special Sunday, and help us welcome our Boy Scouts and their families.

## Scout Pancake Breakfast

There will be a Scout Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Saturday, February 22nd, from 9 - 11 a.m. in our Fellowship Hall. This fundraiser is to help raise money for an Eagle Project from one of our scouts, Marcus Collie. He is collecting funds to purchase supplies for emergency buckets he is making for the classrooms at Lincolnton High. We hope you will come out and support Marcus in his project goals.

## Financial Update

Dec. 2024 YTD Revenue	\$386,097
Dec. 2024 YTD Expense	\$392,260
Dec. 2024 YTD Deficit	\$(6,163)

## Griefshare

The next session of our Griefshare Group will begin on Monday, February 24th at 10:00 am in the Annex. If you would like to register for this session, you may do so at the following link: <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/257893> or see Joe Lockman, Sheila Beeker, Katie Hardin or Jane Finger.

## Christian Ministries Needs

The following are the current needs for Christian Ministries:

- Emergency Services – toboggans, gloves, hand warmers, slightly used or new blankets
- Soup Kitchen Wish List – Parchment Paper, black pepper, cups (12 and 16 oz.), Olive Oil



## Parish Nurse Notes

In a study of 120,380 people hospitalized for a cardiac event, researchers found that chilly spells increased the chance of a heart attack. Exposure to low temps may hike blood pressure, heart rate, and the risk of blood vessel clots in the heart. Avoiding low outdoor temperatures in a cold snap could reduce these risks. If you **MUST** be outside in the cold, limit the length of time and go back inside to warm up frequently. When traveling by auto, always have warm clothes in the car, water to drink, and no less than one half a tank of gas or electric charge in case you get “stuck” on the highway for any reason.

## FUMC at Food Pantry!

FUMC members worked and stocked the Lincoln County Christian Ministry Food Pantry during January. It was our church’s time to do this and our work team made it happen! Special thanks to Lou Ann Cain, Tricia Stroud, Bryan Beal, Billy Howell, Steve Kirksey and Thurman Melton for their work.



## Hesed House Meal

The Kaye Waters Sunday School class brought a warm meal to the residents at Hesed House on Tuesday, January 21. Many commented that the country style steak reminded them of their grandmother’s. What a blessing we had sharing a meal with God’s children. We were reminded how proud we are of our community for providing a warm, safe environment on such a cold night. Serving the meal were Mary Anna Rankin, Kathy Valentine, Patty Blackwell, Diane Hames, Vickie Andrews, Kay Lowe, and Wanda Lutz. Also helping were Patsy Herman, Lisa Cherry, Jane Finger, and Joann Parker.

LINCOLN THEATRE GUILD...Celebrating 43 years



**MAIN STREET  
DINNER THEATRE**

A MUSICAL REVUE

**Friday, February 14, 2025  
& Saturday, February 15, 2025**

~Dinner Seating begins at 5:30pm ~ Show begins at 6:15pm~  
TICKETS: \$35 Single/\$60 Couple ~ Dinner & Show ~ \$15 Show Only

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL  
201 E. MAIN STREET, LINCOLN, OH

Tickets available at the LCC (show ONLY)  
& on [lincolntg.booktix.com](http://lincolntg.booktix.com) (Dinner & Show)

**\*\*LIMITED SEATING FOR BOTH\*\***



# MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS



We recognize and acknowledge gifts to the church given in honor and loving memory:

In Memory of May Reasoner, given by Keith and Kathy Dedmond.

In Memory of Brenda Ballard, given by Mike & Letha Owen

In Memory of Ann Gaither, given by Mike & Letha Owen

In Memory of Ann Gaither, given by Bo & Carol King, for the Handbell Fund

In Memory of Lula Strachan, given by Mike & Letha Owen

In Memory of Catherine Douglas, given by Paul & Kathy Douglas, for our Prison Ministry

In Memory of all the Saints of the Church, given by Jow Southards

In Memory of Jennings & Peggy Benfield, given by Lori Benfield

In Memory of Mary Armstrong Coffey, given by Steve & Patsy Herman, for the Backpack Ministry

In Memory of Jason Conrad, given by Bo & Carol King, for the Grounds Fund

In Honor of Bryan Beal, given by the Good News Sunday School class, for Christian Ministries

In Honor of Gordon Hubbell, given by The Men's Bible Class



The Good News Sunday School class met on Sunday December 21 at the home of Keith and Kathy Dedmond for a class party. Members enjoyed an evening of fellowship, good food, and singing Christmas carols.



# January CLC Recap

The Church Leadership Council met on Monday, January 13 in the Annex. Below is a recap of the major items discussed at that meeting:

**Outreach** - The CLC approved the purchase of 5 entry mats for education building, annex and fellowship hall (3 w/ cross and flame logo and 2 plain, color selection and artwork to be provided).

**Nurture** - Our next congregational meal will be in February 9th, which is Boy Scout Sunday and also the Souper Bowl collection for Christian Ministries. Plans are being made for a Maundy Thursday enactment of the Last Supper on April 17.

**Worship** - Ash Wednesday is March 5th and will begin our community Lenten lunch services in the fellowship hall.

**Trustees** - It was reported that the repair for the old boiler for the sanctuary building was \$10,000.00. All doors on the church campus are being evaluated for keyless entry, with the three main front doors into the sanctuary need locks replaced. All three roofs are completed and paid for.

**Finance** - A yearly rental contract for the old Drum's Florist building was presented for approval (at no cost to FUMC); allowing us to use it for storage if needed and also the parking lot.

**Staff** - Dedication for the new piano and organ will be held in spring 2025. An easier access door for Neil to get from the organ to the piano was unanimously approved. A meeting was set with Dennis Williams to discuss the possibility of building an elevator on campus to allow for access to the second floor of the education and middle buildings. The importance of upcoming nominations was discussed, and Robbie was asked to connect with Parker Productions to discuss video upgrades in the sanctuary.



The poster features an illustration of three hands raised in front of a red heart. Below the illustration, the text reads: **LINC MEALS** and **Volunteers Needed**. Underneath, it states: **Our church delivers meals M-F on a specific route.** The poster is divided into two columns of information:

<b>What we need</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a few more drivers!</li></ul>	<b>How often</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• your choice</li></ul>
<b>How long does it take?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• about an hour.</li></ul>	<b>What do I get?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a blessing each time!</li></ul>
<b>How do I know where to go?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• an experienced driver will go with you the first time to show you the route</li></ul>	<b>Sign me up!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• contact Rosalind by call or text 704-472-0128 or see her at church.</li></ul>

**Questions? Just ask!**



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

## Valentine's Day - continued from page 1

to proclaim our love, we sometimes may need to pause to consider what love really is all about. How would you describe it? The description certainly is much broader than romantic love, no matter how wonderful that is. Let's take a look at various definitions.

LOVE..... There are many ways to describe what love is. An online dictionary describes it this way:

1. A deep, tender, ineffable feeling of affection and solicitude toward a person, such as that arising from kinship, recognition of attractive qualities, or a sense of underlying oneness.

In 1 John 4: 7-12, The Holy Bible describes it this way:

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.

The online website [dailygood.org](http://dailygood.org) shares children's views of love:

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy - age 4 (My favorite!)

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." Nikka - age 6 (we need a few million more Nikka's on this planet)

Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child. The winner was a four year old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his Mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, I just helped him cry." (We could learn from this kid!)

So.....how would you describe love?

Happy Valentine's Day!

*Pastor Sarah*

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## Opportunities for Clergy and Laity

We are confronted with signs of trauma, division and rising tensions all around us, and yet, as leaders of the church, we are called to live and serve as ambassadors of healing and peace. To respond faithfully, we have two upcoming opportunities for Clergy and Laity.

**HEALING CENTERED CHURCH SUMMIT:** Saturday, February 8th from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm at St Luke's UMC, 52 16th Ave NW in Hickory. This trauma-informed summit, led by Brett Loftis, the staff at Crossnore Communities, and other WNCC leadership, includes plenary presentations and worships to explore the intersections of trauma, peace building, anti-racism, inclusion and allyship.

Registration is FREE! You may register now through the following link: [wnccumc.org/newsdetail/healing-centered-church-summit](http://wnccumc.org/newsdetail/healing-centered-church-summit)

**BREAKING DOWN THE DIVIDING WALLS-PEACE CONFERENCE 2025:** April 4-6, 2025 at the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center. Enjoy beautiful Lake Junaluska in the spring for three days of worship, interactive plenaries, workshops, hands-on shalom experiences, film screenings and informal dialogue. We will learn from front-line peace practitioners how to build bridges of peace across political, theological and social divides,

Register NOW through the following link: [wnccumc.org/peace-conference-2025](http://wnccumc.org/peace-conference-2025)



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](mailto:firstumclinc@gmail.com)

Website: [fumclincolnton.com](http://fumclincolnton.com)



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## Events this coming month

**Feb. 9:** Boy Scout Sunday during morning worship

**Souper Bowl of Caring**, Canned food collection during morning worship. Souper Bowl

Congregational Meal immediately following morning worship in the Fellowship Hall

**Feb. 10:** 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)

**Feb. 13:** Living Will/Healthcare Power of Attorney Class, Annex, 6 p.m. There is no charge for this class and it is open to anyone, but you are asked to register with the church office prior to the class.

**Feb. 14-15:** Lincoln Theater Guild is sponsoring the "Main Street Musical Revue" at 5:30 pm.

Tickets are available online through [lincolntg.booktix.com](http://lincolntg.booktix.com).

**Feb. 18 & 20:** Healthcare Team is sponsoring a First-Aid/CPR class in the Fellowship Hall.

Attendance at both classes is required. Additional information will appear in the church bulletin.

**Feb 23:** United Methodist Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall, 8 a.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