

## Take the Time

*Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!*  
*Psalm 34:8*

We are now in the midst of the Lenten season. As much as I love Advent, I love Lent even more because it is free from the distractions of Christmas: decorating, parties, and shopping for presents.

These are enjoyable and wonderful distractions, but I find that Lent is a more sedate, reflective time. One of my favorite poets for both seasons is Ann Weems. Here is an excerpt from her book: "Kneeling in Jerusalem."

### Lent

Lent is a time to take the time  
To let the power of our faith story take hold of us,  
A time to let the events  
Get up and walk around in us,  
A time to intensify  
Our living into Christ,  
A time to hover over  
The thoughts of our hearts,  
A time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem  
Or to walk along the sea and listen to his word,  
A time to touch his robe  
And feel the healing surge through us,  
A time to ponder and a time to wonder...

Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God

Amen!

*Pastor Sarah*

## Ways We Serve

### Greeters

- 1 Tim & Rosemary Leonard
- 8 Bill & Karen Leonhardt
- 15 Bo & Carol King
- 22 Carl Henline & Rosalind Welder
- 29 Chase & Katie Hardin

### Acolytes

- 1 Lucas Demofonte
- 8 Karson Shrum
- 15 Noah Hardin
- 22 Helen Claire Hames
- 29 Brooks Hardin

### Time For All God's Children

- 1 Jan Duncan
- 8 Beverly Beal
- 15 Kathy Douglas
- 22 Cale Thornburg
- 29 Steve Herman

### Liturgists

- 1 Thurman Melton
- 8 Carol King
- 15 Jason Ellis
- 22 Cathy Thornburg
- 29 Jennifer Carroll

### Pew Keepers

- 1 Chase & Katie Hardin
- 8 Jeremy & Emily Krech
- 15 Dianne Putnam
- 22 Ernie & Betty Parker
- 29 Peggie Shuford

### Parking Valets

- 1 John Lantz
- 8 Paul Strachan
- 15 Steve Morton
- 22 Mike Shrum
- 29 Steve Kirksey

### Safe Sanctuary Rovers

- 1 Gayle Park
- 8 Mike Owen
- 15 Liz Strachan
- 22 Kathy Dedmond
- 29 Keith Dedmond

Communion Assistants: Billy & Carole Howell, Pam Metzger

Altar Guild Steve & Jane Morton



*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 Earl Scronce, Family of Carroll Heavner, Terry Bruner, Hilda Wilfong, Jackson Sigmon, Charlie Grigg

CONTINUING: Thomas Allen, Deanie Auton, Laurie Anne Beyer, Caylor Brinkley, Sally Brookins, Jeremiah Buff, Lyn Campbell, Les Canipe, Tiffany Chambers, Greg Clarke, Rob Coles (son of Lyn Campbell), Elvie Cranford, Jody Cronland, Ayron Dorsey, Dale Dorsey, Greg Eldridge, Jennifer Ellis, Ronnie Engle, Jane Finger, Barbara Fitzpatrick, Kim Fitzpatrick, Steve Ford, Jim Fortenberry, Rev. Keiko Foster, Dale Gilmore, Donald Hartsell, Ed Hatley, Jayce Heff, Susan Henthorn, Denise Hobbs, Mark Johnson, Dolly Jones, Jack Jones, Isla Keener, Danny Kirkpatrick, Randi Kolseth, Jim Love, Ginger Lowe, Judy Lowe, Mark Ludwig, Pat Maddux, Faye Morris, Danny Nicholson, Patsy Nicholson, Suzy Otterman, Betty Parker, Joann Parker, Steve & Suzanne Peeler, Mike Politano, Randy Ramsey, Nancy Rhyne, Rachel Roy, Linda Rudisill, Gracie Sceascea, Shedlass Family, Linda Shields, Randolph & Teresa Shives, Kenny Shrum, Anna Shuford, Laura Smallwood, Nick Swafford, Rhonda Swafford, Doris Taylor, Harold & Cindy Towery, Kevin Turner, Rev. Sarah Underwood, Jamie VanDohlen, Veofa Wilfong, Margret Wetz, Rev. David Wyatt

HOMEBOUND: Lou Beal, Winnon Cashion, Mary Robinson

CARE FACILITIES: Ron Ballard (Lincoln Rehab)

### *Birthdays*

- 1 Trey Nantz III
- 3 Bill Church
- 5 Jan Price & Lizzie Beal
- 7 Bethany Demofonte
- 9 Libby Cline
- 11 Courtney Sorrell
- 15 Debbie Cochrane & Randy Sorrell
- 16 Noah Hardin & Elizabeth Noles
- 17 Kyle Gazdeck
- 18 Doug Ballard
- 19 Allison Thompson
- 20 Billy Howell
- 21 Betty Thompson
- 22 Matthew Lowe
- 23 Sonny Abernethy Jr. & Jody Cronland
- 24 Katie Grigg
- 26 Susie Bradshaw, Lou Ann Cain, & Ernie Parker III
- 29 Jason Blackwell
- 31 Becca Pomeroy & David Sibert

### *Anniversaries*

- 26 Bob & Lois Lineberger
- 26 Rick & Stephanie Schou

*thank you*

*Dear Church Family – I have certainly missed going to church and being with all you good people. You have been so generous with all the phone calls, cards, food and visits. Please continue to pray for me since I am so old, but remembering all my friends at FUMC. Thank you very much for everything you have done for me.*

*I Love You, Jody*

# FUMC News & Updates

## 2026 Community Lenten Services

First United Methodist Church  
Fellowship Hall  
Noon - Lunch (cost of meal, \$7)  
12:30 - 1 p.m. Worship

### Speaker Schedule

*March 4*

*Pastor Reed Conley – Artisan Church*

*March 11*

*Rev. Scott Hagaman – First Baptist Church*

*March 18*

*Rev. Elizabeth Tester – St Luke’s Episcopal Church*

*March 25*

*Rev. Ronnie Roseboro – Boger City UMC*

*We hope you will join us for this  
time of reflection and devotion  
during the Season of Lent.*



**Spring Forward March 7**

Set your clock forward one hour

you to gain access to Safe Sanctuaries training videos offered through our WNC Conference online learning platform. These videos will enhance your understanding of the importance of the Safe Sanctuary program.

If you have any questions, please contact Robbie in the church office. Please note, those who wish to work with children and youth of our church will be subject to a criminal background check.

### Easter Lilies; Palms

Orders for Easter Lilies and palm plant rentals are now being taken. We will rent about 6 palm plants, and place orders for lilies on Monday, March 16th. Rental for the palms will be \$10.00 and the purchase price for the lilies will be \$13. Order forms will be in the Sunday bulletins for the next few weeks, or you may order through the church office.

### Parish Nurse Notes

A high percentage of the population desires to lose weight or at least not gain any weight. Because of excess concern about weight, many people turn to sugar substitutes to help with cause.

Unfortunately, there are also issues with sugar substitutes. While having an occasional diet soda or sugar-free candy is unlikely to be harmful, sugar substitutes are being used more widely, often in food you would not expect to have them, like ketchup, breakfast

### Safe Sanctuaries Training

There will be a Safe Sanctuaries training on Sunday, March 15th at 9 a.m. during Coffee and Conversation. This will be an overview of our church's policies for anyone who is a part of our Roving Ministry, or others who wish to work with children and youth involved with our LYNC program.

At this training, there will also be opportunities for

cereals, and popcorn.

Research has shown that a significant use of artificial sweeteners over a period of years may adversely affect heart function, brain memory and thinking skills. Some alternatives to artificial sweeteners include fruit/fruit juice, spices (cinnamon, nutmeg, etc) and also dilute your drink. Gradual change of your drink works better than sudden dramatic change. Use fresh or dried fruit on dry cereal instead of sugar or substitutes. Spices and natural honey can be used on solid food.

A good policy is to read the label on your food or drink before purchase. You may be ALARMED!

Betty

## Charlotte UMAR Luncheon

The UMAR program does so much to support and enrich the lives our disabled families and neighbors. Their annual luncheon/fundraiser is coming up soon, so please consider attending this event and donating. Information on the event is below:

### Charlotte Luncheon

#### Benefitting the UMAR Legacy Fund

Taking a cue from Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, our 2026 Charlotte Luncheon, a fundraising event benefiting the UMAR Legacy Fund, will introduce donors and friends to the people we support and the community members who enrich their lives. Our residents and program participants will be paired onstage with people from the business where they work, the organizations where they volunteer and the places they visit to highlight how rich our community is in relationships and support.

Tuesday, April 21, 2026 | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Providence United Methodist Church  
2810 Providence Road  
Charlotte, NC 28211

## Financial Update

Jan. 2026 YTD Revenue	\$ 17,809
Jan. 2026 YTD Expense	\$ 32,631
Jan. 2026 YTD deficit	\$(14,822)

## Calling all Artists!

Attention all First UMC Artists, Potters, Woodworkers, Crafters, Quilters, Seamstresses etc...

Our United Methodist Women is organizing a booth in the Annex for the Downtown Lincoln Spring Art Crawl on May 1. The cost will be a minimum 10% donation of each participant's net profit as a donation to the church. If you are interested in selling your creations in The Annex, see Sheila Beeker, Rosemary Leonard, or call the church office. An organizational meeting is planned for the new future.

## United Methodist Men

Once a month the United Methodist Men meet for fellowship and breakfast. Mark your calendar for the next breakfast Sunday morning March 22 at 8 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there!

*thank you*

*Dear Church Family – Thank you for all the love, support and prayers during this difficult time. I appreciate the work and patience in planning the service. Thank you also to the choir for the beautiful music and for taking time on your Saturday. Lastly, thank you for the delicious meal you provided. My family and I truly enjoyed eating and visiting with each other since we rarely get together. I also wanted to thank the ladies that visited BB. She truly enjoyed them and she loved the opportunity to talk about her family.*

*Love, Lisa C.*

*Pastor Sarah and Bereavement committee – Thank you so much for the love and kindness you showed our family and especially Lisa as we mourned the loss of our mother. Thanks for your time, the food and again your love and kindness.*

*Much Love, Joe and Alison Cherry*

# CLC Recap for February

## GUEST PRESENTATIONS:

Sheila Beeker, UMW President, brought a request to the CLC, asking to use the Annex on May 1 to set up an opportunity for church artists and crafters to sell their art pieces during the Downtown Spring Art Crawl. Based on this recommendation from the UMW, Dianne P. made a motion to allow for rental of the Annex to the UMW for a minimum donation of 10% of the net profits sold by each artist. A second to the motion was provided by Jennifer E. The motion passed. An organizational meeting for this event will be taking place in the near future.

Bryan Beal, in his role as interim financial assistant for the church, provided some updates to the CLC, informing them of some changes he has made to help streamline the accounting systems currently in use by First UMC. Effective Jan 1, we are now using Quickbooks Online to help organize and better track our overall financial picture.

## **Following the guest presentations, we moved into regular ministry reports:**

### FINANCE – Dianne Putnam

Dianne presented the end of year budget comparison, which showed a slight deficit for the year. The Finance team is looking at ways to utilize restricted funds in a better way. Some funds may be recategorized or combined if they show similarities in their utilization.

We have received a gift to the church from the Ann Ford Estate, but we have not received the full amount as yet. It is the hope that this gift may be used as a possible endowment for the church. We are also working on a plan to encourage estate planning.

### WORSHIP – Jennifer Ellis

We are preparing for Lent and Easter. Order forms for Easter Lilies will begin in late February. Orders have been placed for the Palm and lily badges for Palm Sunday and Easter. Additional plans will be announced at a later date.

An idea was presented regarding the use of liquid candles for the candlesticks in the sanctuary windows. More research is needed to see if this might be a viable option to help protect the candlestick tubes

from excess wax buildup.

### WITNESS – Chase Hardin

We are working on a new t-shirt design with a new company – Fine Folk Print House. A design has been created and we are looking at colors and style to make available. More info to come

### NURTURE – Rosalind Welder

The February fellowship lunch with special entertainment was a huge success

Plans are finalized for the Lenten Lunches, which will begin on February 18th and run through March 25th. Again, the participating churches will be providing desserts through the 6 week meal/service series.

### OUTREACH – Steve Kirksey

Backpack Ministries continues to go well  
Steve will present a Mountain TOP presentation to the LYNC parent meeting on February 22, as well as presentations to the participating LYNC churches to encourage students and others to attend Mountain TOP this summer. The goal is to have donations of other churches to help defray costs from First UMC. We have 20 spots reserved. An in- church presentation will take place sometime in March.

### TRUSTEES – Bo King, in Keith's absence

We are continuing to look at church security as a primary need at this time. A security task force is being established to implement a workable plan to better protect our church staff and congregation from harm. We are looking at various options for cameras and improved entry systems to allow access to the buildings, as well as seeking insight from a number of security professionals.

Here some initial steps that are taking place now, but may be updated later upon further investigation.

The main sanctuary doors at the top of the steps will remain locked, except for the center door which will be open from 10:30 am until 11:05am, and monitored by the ushers and greeters

The Education building doors will be locked on Sunday mornings. The valet service members will

have the keycode to allow access to the building

The main entrance is the Courtyard (or Philathea Room) door. It will be monitored by a greeter until around 11:10 am, so that “late comers” can enter for morning worship.

STAFF/PARISH – Richard Beeker

No official report, but he did state that the conference has changed its timing on when pastor’s evaluations must be completed and sent in to the DS and the Conference.

### Staff Reports:

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES – Robbie Combs

We will have a Safe Sanctuaries training sometime in March specifically for those in the Rover Ministries. I am also working on a way for church members to view Safe Sanctuary videos online through the WNC Conference online learning platform. More information on that will be out in the March Newsletter

LYNC Update

We are the host church for LYNC in March. The dates will be March 8 and 22nd for Youth activities, and March 11th and 25th for Kids activities. We will need volunteer help for these nights to help with meal prep and clean up. Ashlyn will provide more information about the themes for those activity nights soon.

March newsletter items are due by Feb 20.

PASTOR – Rev. Sarah Underwood

The employee handbook is in its final edit phase, and will be sent out to CLC members for any additional edits.

Pastor Sarah shared that the Conference website is always offering courses and workshops throughout the year on various topics and themes. It was recommended that the link to the conference website be shared in the bulletin and newsletter so the congregation might be made more aware of these offerings.

FINAL THOUGHTS – Bo King

We still need to work on thoughts for nominations for future officers for the CLC.

## Visitation Ministry

A big thank you to Patsy Herman, Patty Blackwell, Carolyn Heafner, and Jody Cronland for their years of service to the visitation ministry!



The committee met on February 22 to plan this year’s schedule. Currently members of the ministry are Pastor Sarah, Wanda Lutz, Beverly Beal, Rosemary Leonard, Kathy Dedmond, and Gayle Park. Unable to attend was Lisa Cherry.

If you know of others who would like to be included, please contact Wanda Lutz, 704-472-7600.



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



What a turn out for the bow making class taught by Kathy Valentine! A large group of women are now available to wrap finely dressed packages with lovely bows. Not only a time to learn to tie a bow but time for fellowship with other church members.

Our class treated the GEM staff to doughnuts for Valentine's Day. At the beginning of school, we'll provide the back to school lunch. We support the students each month by providing ice cream for students who are unable to purchase it. Twice a year, we help students purchase books at the book fair. Both of these student projects (\$850.) are paid for by my class members' monthly donations.



# *Fabulous February!*



We are so thankful for our preschool children who provided special music for our Ash Wednesday Service. Thank you to Ms. Joanna and the teachers for getting them all together and sharing their gifts with us.



Some men and women from FUMC provided cheer to residents of Heath House in February. Valentine favors, refreshments, music and individual conversations with residents made for a nice get together.



FUMC had a delicious covered dish luncheon to celebrate Valentine's Day! Also, there was plenty of fellowship, laughs and exciting entertainment. We also celebrated the Souper Bowl of Caring, where we collected 94 cans of food and \$556 in cash donations. We also observed Boy Scout Sunday, where all current and past Scouts were recognized.



201 East Main Street  
Lincolnton, NC 28092

**Sunday School at 10 am**

**Service at 11 a.m. each Sunday.**

Office Hours: 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. M-Th

Office: 704.735.7489

Email: [firstumclinc@gmail.com](mailto:firstumclinc@gmail.com)

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



Follow us on Facebook and YouTube

## Events this coming month

- Mar. 1 11 a.m. – Morning Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion
- Mar. 4 Noon - 1 p.m. – Lenten Lunch Service – Pastor Reed Conley will be our speaker
- Mar. 5 10 a.m. – Pastor’s Bible Study on Mark in the Annex  
5 p.m. – UM Men’s Spaghetti Meal – Fellowship begins at 5, meal begins at 6
- Mar. 8 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS – turn your clock FORWARD on Sat. March 7th!!  
9 a.m. – United Methodist Women will meet in the Fellowship Hall  
11 a.m. – Morning Worship – Girl Scout Sunday – Join us as we recognize our Girl Scout program  
5 - 7:30 p.m. – LYNC Youth Activities – First UMC hosting
- Mar. 9 6 p.m. – CLC meeting in the Annex – All members are invited to attend CLC meetings. However, SPRC/Executive sessions are for CLC members only
- Mar. 11 Noon - 1 p.m. – Lenten Lunch Service – Dr. Scott Hagaman will be our speaker  
5 - 6:30 p.m. – LYNC Kids activities – First UMC Hosting
- Mar. 12 10 a.m. – Pastor’s Bible Study on Mark in the Annex
- Mar. 18 Noon - 1 p.m. – Lenten Lunch Service – Rev. Elizabeth Tester will be our preacher
- Mar. 19 10 a.m. – Pastor’s Bible Study on Mark in the Annex
- Mar. 22 8 a.m. – United Methodist Men’s Breakfast in the Fellowship hall  
5 - 7:30 p.m. – LYNC Youth Activities – First UMC hosting
- Mar. 25 Noon - 1 p.m. – Lenten Lunch Service – Rev. Ronnie Roseboro will be our preacher  
5 - 6:30 p.m. – LYNC Kids activities – First UMC Hosting
- Mar. 26 10 a.m. – Pastor’s Bible Study on Mark in the Annex
- Mar. 31 Noon – We will host the UMAR Easter Party in the Fellowship Hall

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- Griefshare meets each Monday at 10:00 am in the Lighthouse Building
- Quilting Ministry meets each Monday at 9:30 am in the Quilting Room (2nd floor, Middle Bldg)
- Handbell Choir meets every Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm in the Choir Room
- Chancel Choir meets every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm in the Choir Room