

First United Methodist Church *Messenger*

May

2026

Transitions

To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1

The month of May represents a shift from early spring into summer. Gardens are planted, flowers placed around our homes, and temperatures rise.

Relationships begin to shift as children and youth graduate from one school level to another, often culminating in college graduation. Mothers and others who have nurtured us are celebrated, and we remember those who gave their life in service to our country.

These events, along with so many others, make us feel nostalgic. Parents smile at the images of gap toothed children, hair sticking up everywhere, smiling for the camera. We say, "How did they grow up so fast?" Astonished grandparents wonder at how quickly their grandchildren are maturing, and smile through their tears, remembering their own children when they were of similar age.

Mother's Day is joyful, but there can be a shadow side for those whose mothers have passed away, or whose relationship with their mother was strained. Those women who longed for children, but were never blessed with them, may find this day painful.

Likewise, Memorial Day gives us pause. It is a day which celebrates more than the start of our summer holidays. It is a reminder that we are forever in debt to those who gave their life in defense of their country. Celebrate summer: boating, swimming, and cooking out-yes. Yet, we are bidden to also pause and remember.

The author of Ecclesiastes reminds us that life is cyclical. There is a time to be born, to die, to laugh and cry. All of this is beautiful. One ending ushers in another beginning. God's provision sustains us in all circumstances. With Ecclesiastes 3:11 we note that "God makes everything beautiful in its own time."

May your times be beautiful,

Pastor Sarah



Ways We Serve

Greeters

- 3 Steve & Jane Morton
- 10 Charles Stevens & Michael Powers
- 17 Carl Henline & Rosalind Welder
- 24 Keith & Kathy Dedmond
- 31 Calvin & Cathy Thornburg

Acolytes

- 3 Noah Hardin
- 10 Brooks Hardin
- 17 Helen Claire Hames
- 24 Owen Krech
- 31 Noah Hardin

Time For All God's Children

- 3 Beverly Beal
- 10 Kathy Douglas
- 17 Cale Thornburg
- 24 Billy Howell
- 31 Chrissie McGovern

Liturgists

- 3 Ron Metzger
- 10 Jennifer Ellis
- 17 Joey Lockman
- 24 Steve Kirksey
- 31 Katie Hardin

Pew Keepers

- 3 Beverly Beal
- 10 Kathy Valentine
- 17 Chase & Katie Hardin
- 24 Jeremy & Emily Krech
- 31 Dianne Putnam

Parking Valets

- 3 Calvin Thornburg & Thurman Melton
- 10 Keith Dedmond & Sgteve Cain
- 17 Carl Henline & Paul Douglas
- 24 Jerry Park & Paul Strachan
- 31 Steve Kirksey & Steve Herman

Safe Sanctuary Rovers

- 3 Carol King
- 10 Rosemary Leonard
- 17 Pam Metzger
- 24 Carl Henline
- 31 Letha Owen

Communion Assistants May 3: Mike & Letha Owen, Vickie Andrews

Altar Guild: Kay Lowe & Patsy Herman



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:

OUR CHURCH FAMILY: Family of Linda Smith, Deanie Auton, Sally Brookins, Elvie Cranford, Jody Cronland, Shirley Drum, Jennifer Ellis, Jane Finger, Steve Ford, Ed Hatley, Susan Henthorn, Kelly Kinard, Randi Kolseth, Ginger Lowe, Judy Lowe, Pat Maddux, Faye Morris, Joann Parker, Steve & Suzanne Peeler, Randy Ramsey, Nancy Rhyne, Linda Shields, Randolph & Teresa Shives, Rev. Sarah Underwood, Linda Wolfe

FRIENDS & FAMILY: Thomas Allen, Laurie Anne Beyer, Terry Bruner, Jeremiah Buff, James Calvert, Lyn Campbell, Les Canipe, Greg Clarke, Rob Coles (son of Lyn Campbell), Greg Eldridge, Ronnie Engle, Callen Evans, Barbara Fitzpatrick, Kim Fitzpatrick, Jim Fortenberry, Rev. Keiko Foster, Dale Gilmore, Nancy Harris, Donald Hartsell, Jayce Heff, Ray Hemmann, Denise Hobbs, Mark Johnson, Dolly Jones, Jack Jones, Isla Keener, Jane Kerr, Danny Kirkpatrick, Jim Love, Mark Ludwig, Danny Nicholson, Patsy Nicholson, Suzy Otterman, Rachel Roy, Gracie Sceascea, Shedlass Family, Kenny Shrum, Anna Shuford, Laura Smallwood, Nick Swafford, Rhonda Swafford, Doris Taylor, Harold & Cindy Towery, Kevin Turner, Jamie VanDohlen, Veofa Wilfong, Margret Wetz, Rev. David Wyant

HOMEBOUND: Lou Beal, Winnon Cashion, Mary Robinson

CARE FACILITIES: Ron Ballard (Lincoln Rehab)

We would like to keep our prayer list updated. Please let the office know of any changes, names to add or delete.



Birthdays

- 1 Jane Morton & Klay Shrum
- 2 Ed Lynn
- 3 Patsy Herman
- 6 Brittany Beeker & Steve Kirksey
- 7 Brian Blackwell & Guy Howell
- 8 Roy Lightfoot
- 9 Sally Brookins
- 10 Jo Huss & Mary Rudisill
- 11 Banks Dedmond & Connor Dedmond
- 16 Jane Lawing
- 18 Kallie Dedmond, Shirley Drum, & Chris Wilt
- 20 Trey Gazdek & Letha Owen
- 21 Patty Blackwell
- 22 Kerry Blackwell
- 23 Cale Thornburg & Marie Nichols
- 24 Gabe Ellis & Thurman Melton
- 26 Emily Morton
- 27 Spencer Sibert
- 28 Michael Wirth
- 30 Charlie King
- 31 Rev. David Wyant

Anniversaries

- 14 Michael & Letha Owen
- 16 Steve & Suzanne Peeler
- 17 Scotty & Susie Bradshaw
- 18 Phillip & Cheryl Cole
- 25 Joey & Amy Lockman
- 26 Jeff & Jamie Strom

FUMC News & Updates

Church Security Update

For everyone's safety, we are limiting access to our buildings on Sunday morning. The Education building will be opened by our Valet on Sunday morning during Sunday School. Entrance into the sanctuary is now available from the Courtyard Entrance in between the middle building and the sanctuary. If you are entering through the portico, simply proceed through the middle building to the Courtyard Entrance. You may also enter through the center front door of the church. The Sanctuary Doors will be locked soon after worship begins. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

May 13 Blood Drive

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive will be Wednesday, May 13, from 2-6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you already have an appointment, thank you. If you are not sure or want to make an appointment please see either Pat Stevens or Rosemary Leonard and they can help you make one. Remember your iron supplement and greens before donating.



New Members Class

Interested in joining First UMC? A New Members Class will be offered to those wishing to join First UMC, or for those who wish to learn more about the United Methodist Church. The class will be on Sunday, May 3, 2026 following morning worship. Please contact the church office 704-735-7489 or Pastor Sarah if you would like to attend. Thank you!

Chorus Concert

All are invited to join us in our sanctuary on Tuesday evening, May 12 at 6:30 p.m. for the Lincolnton Middle School choral concert, with Coleman Warner as their director. Coleman is the music educator at Lincolnton Middle School and has shared his musical gifts with us on numerous occasions. We hope you will join us!

LYNC Update



LYNC Activities for the month of May will take place at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 2639 NC Hwy 150 in Lincolnton. Discussion and activities around the Fruits of the Spirit will continue.

Dates for LYNC Activities:

LYNC Youth: Sundays, May 3rd and May 17th from 5 - 7:30 p.m.

Middle School from 5 - 6 p.m.

Dinner from 6 m- 6:30 p.m.

High School from 6:30 til 7:30 p.m.

LYNC Kids: Wednesdays, May 6th and May 20th from 5 - 6:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6 p.m.

Save the Date! Bible School

Save the date!!! August 5-8, 2026 from 5:30 until 8 p.m. This year's theme is Road Trip: On The Go With God!! Road trips are a great way to build strong relationships and create lifelong memories. Based on Joshua 1:9 – “the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” – kids will discover God's presence everywhere and explore new places, make new friends and experience God's goodness. This will be a combined VBS with our LYNC partner churches. More information will be available soon on how you can volunteer to help during this time.

Parish Nurse Notes

This is the time of year when most of us are outside more hours of the day, and often in the sun. Some types of skin cancer are on the rise in older adults and most often caused by sun damage over the years. Basal cell and squamous cell carcinoma increased by more than 60% in people 60 years and older between 1990 and 2021, according to a 2025 scientific study. The good news is that these two cancer types are easily cured if treated early. The other skin cancer, melanoma, is more serious and aggressive

and can be fatal if not treated early. The lighter your skin tone, the more dangerous sun exposure can be. It is wise to be checked (whole body exam) by a dermatologist at least annually after age 60 or a skin cancer. If you want to be in the sun, it is wise to use sun screen. Buy one that is broad-spectrum for UVA and UVB rays and at least number 30. Put on plenty of lotion/spray and re-apply often – at least every two hours if in the water or excessive sweating. You should apply sunscreen at least 15-30 minutes before sun exposure.

Ukrainian Family Update

Yulia Ivanenko, her husband Edik, and their 9 month old twin sons have decided to relocate to Ukraine. Of course, this isn't what we had in mind, but it's their decision. They plan to leave April 30. However, Sasha is staying; he has acclimated well to life in America. Thank you again for your generous support of this lovely family. They need our prayers more than ever. Thank you.

Quilt Ministry



We are truly blessed to have some very talented members of our church. Our FUMC Quilters have been busy since they reorganized last year, making quilts for many of our homebound members, as well as working on special projects for the church, including the beautiful wall hanging that is found in the newly renovated library, and one that will soon grace the church office. Many thanks to this team for the long hours and devoted service to creating these amazing works of art!

Financial Update

Mar. 2026 YTD Revenue	\$ 102,060
Mar. 2026 YTD Expense	\$ 109,241
Mar. 2026 YTD deficit	\$ (7,181)

Dutch Treat Lunch



The April 16 Dutch Treat lunch was a huge success with 25 members of FUMC attending. Folks gathered for food and fellowship at Court Street Grill. These lunches are open to all at the church. Another will be scheduled in next few months so plan to attend if you missed this one!

Easter UMAR Party

The Kaye Waters Sunday School Class and Pastor Sarah had a great time on Tuesday, March 31, hosting our UMAR neighbors at our annual Easter party. They enjoyed their City Lunch hotdogs, chips, cupcakes, and drinks. Bingo was a hit with numerous prizes earned. The spoon and egg races were a new addition and such a hit they must but be added to the agenda. Thanks to Teresa Shives for joining us and being the accompanist for many songs, including a couple duets with UMAR guests. Holly McGinnis gives so freely of her time and is the Easter Bunny. The guests have come to expect an appearance from her! Easter baskets were given to the guests as they departed. Our class is already looking forward to the laughs we'll enjoy at the Christmas party!



What a joyous time we had during our Easter Season at First UMC! Throughout the season of Lent, we were blessed with several dramatic readings from various biblical characters as they shared how they viewed the events leading up to the death of Christ. Following another successful year of weekly Lenten services, we entered Holy Week with a beautiful cantata as our Chancel Choir presented the cantata, Worthy is the Lamb, featuring wonderful instrumentalists. From the joy of Palm Sunday, we continued through the week with a thought provoking and inspired presentation of "Is It I, Lord?"; an account of the last days of Jesus' earthly ministry. The Easter Season culminated with our Sunrise Celebration, followed by breakfast, and a meaningful Easter Sunday Service, with special music from our Chancel and Handbell Choirs, and an exciting Easter message from Pastor Sarah. Many, many thanks to all those who made our Lent and Easter Season so meaningful and special.

Our Newest Eagle Scout, Jake Tweed

Congratulation to our newest Eagle Scout! It was an awesome evening for Jake Tweed and an Eagle Scout Board of Review and the achievement of such a high honor. From a Crossover back in May 2019 of a young boy walking over the bridge up to receiving the Eagle Scout Award... what an amazing journey!

Special thanks to Joe (Eagle Council Chair), Eagle Board members: Ed Hatley (Mayor), Laura Morris (Legacy 75 Eagle Scouts Mom), and Lara Reed (Cmt Chair), and of course Jake's Mom & Dad (Molly & Travis) who are very special members of the Troop 75 Family. We are so proud of you Jake and look forward to watching you continue to soar whether at UNC as a Morehead Scholar, a future Doctor, fishing, or simply giving back to Scouts. Great job Jake!



CLC Recap for April

MINISTRY AREA REPORTS:

Worship:

- Special thanks to everyone who helped with all of our Lenten activities. It has been a beautiful Lenten and Easter Season.
- Mother's Day and Father's day will be observed on their appropriate dates, and Graduate Sunday will be on Sunday, May 17th. We have three high school graduates, and no known college graduates

Witness:

- We are currently taking t-shirt orders. We need 25 of each screen in order to print the initial order. Hoping to send in the first order in early May.
- Plans are being made to pass out water bottles again at the Alive After 5 concerts update, starting at the end of May.

Finance:

- An endowment committee has been established and is looking into investment options for church monies with UM Foundation. Previously, the idea of setting up an endowment had surfaced within the CLC. After an initial discussion on endowments, we have invited Aly Mayernik from the Foundation to come and tell us about what other investment options might be available. After reviewing all the information the committee will present their recommendations to CLC for next steps. That meeting took place on April 18th.

Nurture:

- Current nurture ministries are continuing to go well: Visitation and Card Ministry, Backpack Ministry, craft classes, Griefshare, Bereavement meal team, healthcare team
- We are monitoring our Sunday School classes to make sure we are covered for teachers, especially among our children and youth classes.
- Our dutch treat lunch at Court Street Grille was a big success with around 25 people attending.

Outreach:

Recently met with Ashlyn Rhyne, LYNC Program Director, to move ahead with Mountain TOP plans

Staff/Parish Relations – Richard Beeker:

- Personnel Manual - The manual itself is complete,

pending the editorial formatting.

Trustees:

Facilities Use Package:

- Addendums were added to the Facilities Use Policy to include a statement about the use of church property for political groups, as well as addition of church member fees and a custodial fee.
- As a part of the Facilities Use Policy, it is time to update our wedding policy also. The last update for this policy was in the late 90s/early 2000s.
- A policy binder is proposed to be kept in the office which would hold the Facilities Use policy, the Safe Sanctuary policy, and any other information deemed important.

Parsonage:

- Plans for the proposed renovation of the kitchen at the parsonage have been received. We are still waiting for a quote on cabinetry, as well as some minor plumbing
- All plans are pending base on resolving issues with the foundation.

Security:

- The valet team will also be serving at our security monitoring team. Going forward, there will be two people serving in this role on Sunday mornings. Additional people are being asked to serve in this role on a rotating basis.
- CPI will be installing a limited monitoring system, to include cameras placed in strategic spots throughout the church campus and fellowship hall. The main church office will be wired with an alarm, with sensors on 4 main doors in the education building and fellowship hall.

STAFF REPORTS:

Music Ministry:

- There is a need for new chairs in the choir room, as the ones currently in use are falling into disrepair. We have enough of the black plastic chairs to be used in the choir room. The Tuesday Morning
- Men's breakfast group will help move the chairs into the choir room
- The piano in the Fellowship Hall – A request was made to some funds to help refurbish the hammers in that piano, as they have become dried out, and do

not make the best sound for the space. We are also requesting to have a dolly purchased to set that piano on (like the one we have in the sanctuary) to make moving it much easier. The CLC voted in favor of the requested funds, and we are looking to get a quote for the dolly and the needed repairs to the piano.

- Choir Robes – Our current choir robes are close to 20 years olds and are starting to fall apart. Robbie is looking into what new robes would cost, and what styles would be the best for us. We may look into a fundraising campaign to help pay for these robes later in the year.

Director of Ministries:

- Vacation Bible School will be on August 5-8, 2026 at our church, from 5:30 pm til 8:00 pm. This will be a combined event with the LYNC partner churches. More information about volunteering will be available soon.
- LYNC Update: LYNC Activities for the month of May will be hosted at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.
- We have received a request from the Girl Scouts, asking for funds to help with scholarships for membership fees for potential new Girl Scouts. In the past, we have contributed to them to assist with trips and other activities. This request was approved, and a check has been given to the Girl Scout leader.
- Our next Blood Drive will be on Wednesday May 13 from 2:00 pm til 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall.
- The Preschool will end their year on Thursday, May

14th, with their 2 year old program in the morning, and the 3- and 4-year olds program that evening at 6:30 pm. The 4 year olds will also be with us on Graduate Sunday to sing.

- Newsletter items at due by April 20th.

Pastor:

- We received many positive reactions to Holy Humor Sunday. Possible idea for next year – have a covered dish following worship, and have the Joke Contest at that time.
- Many thanks for those who helped us during the month of March when we hosted the LYNC activities.
- Vacation planned for May 30 – June 6th, and will be out for Annual Conference from June 18-21. Gordon will preach on Conference Sunday.
- New member class – May 3rd following morning worship – Sarah, Robbie, Gordon and Bo will help lead this class.
- Delphine Botherel will be returning to Lincolnton this Summer. She is pursuing ministry, and Sarah will be working with her through this process.
- Denver UMC is requesting office space in the Lincolnton Area for their homeless Soul to Soul Ministry. It may become a leasing situation if we can find the appropriate space for them.
- Nominations are coming in for those rolling off the CLC this year. More information will be provided later.

thank you

Dear FUMC Family,

I cannot express enough how sincerely grateful I am to everyone for all the love and support you have shown my family and I during my illness. We are so thankful for the calls, texts, visits, cards, meals, gifts and prayers we have received over the past several months. Your kindness and generosity have helped us find our way through this journey. Please know how much you mean to us and how truly thankful we are for all of you. It is truly a blessing to be a part of such a loving and caring church family. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

With Love and Gratitude, Jennifer Ellis.



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

Website: fumclincolnton.com



Follow us on Facebook and YouTube

Events this coming month

- May 2 5 - 7 p.m. - The Amazing Race – Christian Ministries Bingo Fundraiser
- May 3 Blood pressure checks in breezeway before and after morning worship
- May 10 10 – 9:00 am – United Methodist Women will meet in the Fellowship Hall during Coffee & Conversation
- Healthcare Team meets in the library following church service
- May 11 6 p.m. – Church Leadership Council will meet in the Annex. All church members are invited to attend CLC meetings. However, if an SPRC/Executive session is called, only CLC members may attend.
- May 12 6:30 p.m. – Lincolnton Middle School Choral Concert in our Sanctuary. All are invited to attend.
- May 13 2 - 6:30 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Drive in the Fellowship Hall.
- May 14 6:30 p.m. – FUMC Preschool End of the Year program for 3- and 4-Year Olds. – Fellowship Hall
- May 17 11:00 a.m. – Graduate Recognition during the morning worship hour.
- May 24 UNITED METHODIST MEN WILL NOT MEET FOR THE MONTH OF MAY!

