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

Please update any change in information

Name(s)

Name(s)

Street Address

City/State/ZIP

Phone

Email

PRAYER CONCERNS

In your daily prayers, please pray for:

OUR CHURCH FAMILY: Deanie Auton, Elvie Cranford, Jody Cronland, Shirley Drum, Jan Duncan, Jennifer Ellis, Jane Finger, Steve Ford, Ed Hatley, Carl Henline, Susan Henthorn, Billy Howell, Randi Kolseth, Ginger Lowe, Judy Lowe, Pat Maddux, Faye Morris, Jerry Owen, Joann Parker, Steve & Suzanne Peeler, Randy Ramsey, Linda Shields, Randolph & Teresa Shives, Rev. Sarah Underwood, Linda Wolfe.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Steve Abernethy, Avery (Mountain Top Leader), Thomas Allen, Laurie Anne Beyer, Terry Bruner, Jeremiah Buff, James Calvert, Lyn Campbell, Les Canipe, Eddie Cannon, Greg Clarke, Rob Coles, Anthony & Cathy Davis, Janice Dellinger, Kenny Dellinger, Greg Eldridge, Ronnie Engle, Callen Evans, Barbara Fitzpatrick, Kim Fitzpatrick, Jim Fortenberry, Rev. Keiko Foster, Dale Gilmore, Nancy Harris, Donald Hartsell, Jayce Heff, Denise Hobbs, Butch Humphrey, Mark Johnson, Shelby Jones, Dolly Jones, Jack Jones, Isla Keener, Jane Kerr, Danny Kirkpatrick, Jim Love, Ellis Grace McPherson, Grant Newsome, Danny Nicholson, Patsy Nicholson, Mary Novotny, Suzy Otterman, Joyce Parlier, Kristin Parrish, Rico (from The Meating Place), Rachel Roy, Gracie Sceascea, Shedlass Family, Kenny Shrum, Anna Shuford, Laura Smallwood, Rhonda Swafford, Greer Stamey, Doris Taylor, Harold & Cindy Towery, Kevin Turner, Jamie VanDohlen, Veofa Wilfong, Margret Wetz, Carolyn Wirth, Rev. David and Denise Wyant, Joe & Josephine Young

HOMEBOUND: Lou Beal, Winnon Cashion, Mary Robinson

CARE FACILITIES: Ron Ballard (Lincoln Rehab), Linda & Phillip Graham (The Wexford House, Denver)

THOSE SERVING YOU TODAY

MINISTERS:	All Members of First UMC
LITURGIST:	Jason Ellis
GREETERS:	Steve & Kathy Valentine
ACOLYTE:	Noah Hrdin
HEAD USHER:	Carl Henline
MEDIA TECHS:	Tim Leonard, Ron Metzger & Thurman Melton, Levi Stroud, Mike Owen
PEW KEEPERS:	Beverly Beal
ROVER:	Kathy Dedmond
VALET/SECURITY:	Paul Strachan & Steve Cain

STAFF OF FIRST UMC

PASTOR	Rev. Sarah Underwood	sunderwood@wnccumc.net
DIR. OF MINISTRIES	Robbie Combs	firstumcministries@gmail.com
DIR. OF MUSIC	Joanna Underwood	junmor61@gmail.com
ORGANIST/PIANIST	Neil Underwood	nunderwoodband@gmail.com
FACILITIES MGR.	Steve Herman	paherman@charter.net
PRESCHOOL DIR.	Kristen Willis	preschool@fumclincolnton.com
PARISH NURSE	Betty Parker	bparker2787@gmail.com

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

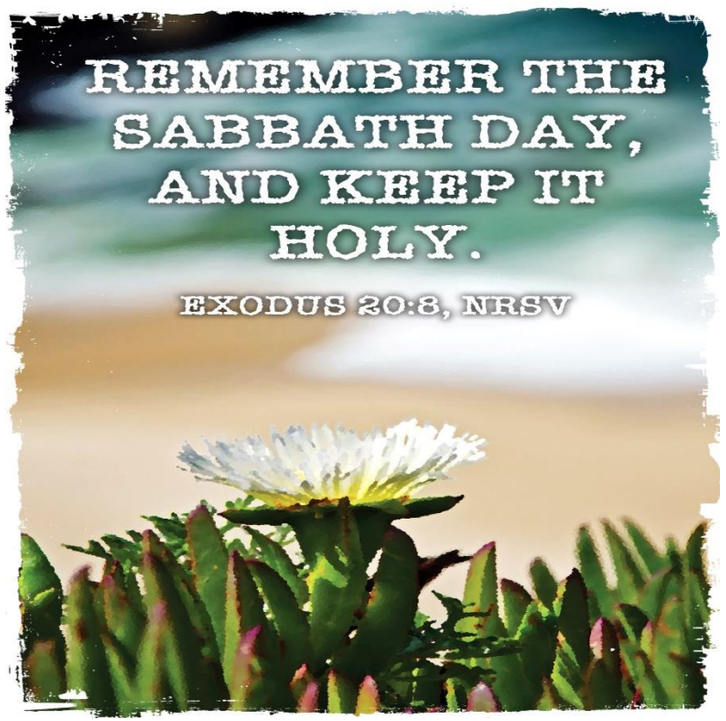
201 East Main Street, Lincolnton, North Carolina 28092

704-735-7489

First United Methodist Church

Lincolnton

Love God. Love All. Be Like Jesus.



LIGHTHOUSE Congregation

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Enter to Worship ***Kneel to Pray*** ***Rise to Serve***

Sept 27, 2026 **18th Sunday After Pentecost** 11:00 A.M.

GATHERING MUSIC Neil Underwood

Come We That Love the Lord

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMING OF THE HOLY TRINITY

PRELUDE Neil Underwood

The Lord's My Shepherd

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP Chancel Choir

Surely The Presence

***OPENING PRAYER: (in unison)**:

Almighty God, we open this gathering in your name. Come and fill this place with your presence. Quiet our hearts and focus our minds on your goodness. Lead every word, every song, and every heart back to you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN** UMH #154

All Hail the Power (vs 1,2,3 & 6)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** UMH #883

The Statement of Faith from the United Church of Canada

***GLORIA PATRI**

TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN Beverly Beal

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 20: 1-20

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER Chancel Choir

Open My Eyes, That I May See

PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER

ANTHEM Chancel Choir

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

SERMON *God Speaks* Rev. Sarah Underwood

Series: Lessons in Leadership

***HYMN** UMH #189

Fairest Lord Jesus

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

****You are invited to stand, as you are able****

* *

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!

The beautiful flowers gracing our sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in honor of the members of the Chancel Choir and Handbell Choirs who give of their time and talent to provide lovely music for our church.

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.

☐ **Check here to have your prayer request to be shared with the church. Otherwise, it will remain confidential.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the pew pads and pass them to your neighbor.

Nursery is located downstairs from the sanctuary. See an usher for directions. Restrooms are located in the sacristy through the right side door, with a handicapped accessible restroom in the Middle Building.

Important! Be certain all doors are closed when you exit a building.

PRAYGROUND: At First UMC, all of God's children are invited to worship together as family. Being in church helps kids learn how to pray, listen, and sing while they strengthen their relationship with God. Our Prayground is designed for young families with children aged 4 to 4th grade. It is situated at the front of the sanctuary so children and parents have a good view of how our love of God is shared together at First United Methodist Church.

GRIEFSHARE: Our next Griefshare group will begin on Monday, October 12th at 10:00 am. For more information, see Joe Lockman, Katie Hardin or Sheila Beeker.

PUMPKINS, PUMPKINS!!! The Grounds Committee would like you to bring a pumpkin to the church to be used in decorating our flower beds on Academy Street for Apple Festival on October 17th. We would like to have the pumpkins at church by Sunday, October 11th. Bring as is or decorate if you wish. We would also welcome anyone interested in helping with the grounds!!! (See Carol King or Rosemary Leonard)

PROJECT AGAPE: Thank you to all for your generosity in providing the shoeboxes for Project Agape. We delivered 66 shoeboxes to the pick-up location in Lenoir this week.

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NOTICE: Update to church campus safety and security.
Our church nursery is now located downstairs from the sanctuary. This allows parents to have their children cared for during the Sunday School and Worship hours (9:45 to12:00 noon) in the same building without having to navigate multiple locked doors between the sanctuary and the education building. Please direct parents to the sanctuary by way of the courtyard or portico doors. Signage will be posted. For those who wish to use the restroom during the worship hour, please use the door at the right front of the sanctuary to access the restroom in the sacristy. During these hours the nursery is to be used by the nursery attendant(s) and the children in her care only.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: We will have a "Blessing of the Animals" service on Sunday, Oct 4th in the Drums parking lot at 3:00 pm. See the September newsletter for all the details.

5TH WEDNESDAY BOOK CLUB: The UMW 5th Wednesday Book Club will gather in the church library on Wednesday, Sept. 30th at 12:00 pm.

CPR CLASS: Steve Valentine has offered to again teach a CPR class for our church members. If you are interested, please contact the church office your name, phone number and whether you would prefer a daytime class or an evening class. Betty will contact you regarding scheduling the best time and date to make the CPR class available.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS: The offering plates are located at each entrance for you to give your weekly tithe and offerings. Our online giving portal may be accessed through the "Give" page on our church website, or you can scan the QR code to the right:

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

SAVE THE DATE: Homecoming 2026!! November 15th!! Special worship and fellowship meal! More details to follow!

CHARGE CONFERENCE: Our annual Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, Nov. 1, following morning worship. All members are invited to attend, but only CLC members are considered voting members for this annual business session.

TRUNK OR TREAT: Over the past few years, we have joined with other downtown businesses to take part in a Drive Thru Trunk-or-Treat for the community, and we've had a great time!! This year, the city has decided to go a different route with this annual activity, but that doesn't mean we can't create own event! We will provide our Trunk-or-Treat on Saturday evening, October 31st from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm, in the parking lot of the Lighthouse building. Come and decorate your car trunks, pick up truck beds or whatever vehicle you have, and help as we provide this outreach opportunity to our friends and neighbors. Costumes are encouraged but not necessary, although I hear we may have a bunch of gingerbread people hanging around!! If you're interested in taking part, contact Robbie or Pastor Sarah.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT: The Women of the Church would like to begin a FAMILY GAME NIGHT. This is open to ALL ages and will be held in the youth room on Tuesday evening, October 6th from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm. We hope to make this a regular event, hopefully monthly. If you plan to attend, you are asked to contact the church office so we can plan for refreshments. For this first night, there will be pizza, beverages and drinks. You are invited to bring your favorite game from home to play with your family, or mix and mingle. We hope to see you there!!

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – Sept 27, 2026
Liturgist: Jason Ellis
Acolyte: Noah Hardin
Greeters: Steve & Kathy Valentine
Time for All God's Children: Beverly Beal
Pew Keeper: Beverly Beal
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Be Present: How Can We Support Foster Families and Children?
Every Church, Every Child

Tuesday, September 29, 2026
Dinner at 5:30 PM
Events on Main, Lincolnton, NC

What does it look like for your church to care for the vulnerable children and families in our own community?

Lincoln County does not have enough licensed foster families for the children who need one. Some children spend their first night in a Lincoln County DSS office. Siblings are separated because there is not a home that can take them together. This is happening here, in our community, right now.

Be Present brings pastors, mission leaders, and outreach leaders from Lincoln County and surrounding communities together for a dinner of real stories, a short word from Scripture, and a clear, low pressure way for your church to get involved.

To learn more, or to register, follow this link, https://theadvocatemission.org/be-present-lincoln-county

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In partnership with

North Carolina Council of Churches

Partners in Health and Wholeness

NC Department of Health and Human Services

James B. Duke — The Duke Endowment

Life, *More* Abundantly:

The Conditions of Communal Thriving

A SUMMIT ON FAITH AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Our faith traditions call us to seek abundant life for ourselves, our neighbors, and the communities we share. Join us to explore what it means to create the conditions where people, families, congregations, and communities can flourish.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

LEADING CAUSES OF LIFE

David R. Tillman, PhD
Professor andChair oftheDepartment
of Public Health at Campbell University

Register Here

Thursday, October 1

Lincolnton
First UnitedMethodistChurch
201 E Main St, Lincolnton

In partnership with

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NC Department of Health and Human Services

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Thursday, October 1

Lincolnton
First UnitedMethodistChurch
201 E Main St, Lincolnton

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

FIRST UMC

OCTOBER 4, 2026 3:00 PM

The Lighthouse Parking Lot : 204 N Academy Street, Lincolnton

Our First United Methodist Church family invites YOU to a community blessing event celebrating God's love for our animal family members!

Bring your furry, scaly, and hooved family members for an afternoon of fun and fellowship! All animals must remain on a leash or in a carrier at all times.

Activities Include

- A Blessing for each pet.
- Pelican's SnoBalls
- Caricature Sketches of You and Your Pet!
- HATS (Helping Animals to Survive) will offer an adoption clinic.

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