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, 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:	Chase Hardin
GREETERS:	Dianne Putnam & Wanda Lutz
ACOLYTE:	Helen Claire Hames
HEAD USHER:	Carl Henline
MEDIA TECHS:	Tim Leonard, Ron Metzger & Thurman Melton, Levi Stroud, Mike Owen
PEW KEEPERS:	Kathy Valentine
ROVER:	Keith Dedmond
VALET/SECURITY:	Paul Strachan & Bo King

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***

October 4, 2026 **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY** 11:00 A.M.

GATHERING MUSIC Neil Underwood

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMING OF THE HOLY TRINITY

PRELUDE Neil Underwood

Ashoken Farewell

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP Chancel Choir

Surely The Presence

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

JESUS PRAYED that we might be one.
One in spirit
One in mission
In union and communion with each other and with you.

Today, God, we confess fumblings and failures in accomplishing unity, as we set aside yet another day to remind ourselves of the task. On this World Communion Sunday, give us eyes to recognize your reflection in the eyes of Christians everywhere. Give us a mind to accept and celebrate our differences. Give us a heart big enough to love your children everywhere. We thank you for setting a table with space enough for us all! Amen.

***HYMN** UMH #170

O How I Love Jesus

TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN Brittany Beeker

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 21: 23-32

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER Chancel Choir

Open My Eyes, That I May See

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM Chancel Choir

They'll Know We Are Christians

SERMON *The Authority of Jesus* Rev. Sarah Underwood

***SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** UMH #8

***HYMN** UMH #620

One Bread, One Body

***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 our Blessing of the Animals service today.

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)

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.

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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.

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.

OCTOBER LYNC: For the month of October, LYNC Youth and Kids activities will be at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 2639 NC Hwy 150. LYNC youth is tonight from 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm, and LYNC Kids will be Wednesday, Oct 7, from 5:00 pm until 6:30 pm.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: The Blessing of the Animals service will go on as planned today, rain or shine. Join us at 3:00 pm under the portico at the Education Building for this special time with your most special pets.

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 as we welcome back Rev. Philip Cole as our Homecoming speaker, with musical offerings from our handbell and chancel choirs, as well as a fellowship feast following worship! Invite friends and former members to relive fond memories of First UMC

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 – Oct 11, 2026
Liturgist: Steve Herman
Acolyte: Brooks Hardin
Greeters: Jerry & Gayle Park
Time for All God's Children: Billy Howell
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LINCOLNTON APPLE FESTIVAL BBQ

Saturday, Oct 17th

11:00 am – 4:00 pm

FUMC Fellowship hall

Proceeds will support local mission opportunities such as Backpack Ministries, Christian Ministry, Hesed House and more!!!

BBQ
FUNDRAISER

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