

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The greens on the altar are given by Grace Vineyard to the Glory of God and in honor of the Arizona Vineyards' anniversary and birthdays.

To donate flowers, please contact Becky Kirtley at 252-331-3431.

LICENSES

Some music for our worship experience is offered with express permissions granted by One License A-734965.

ASSISTING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Rev. Karen Easter-Bayne — *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Erin Yow — *Associate Pastor*

Rev. Steve Coss — *Associate Pastor*

Michael S. Brannon — *Director of Music*

Greg Turnage — *Acolyte*

Dr. Leslie Turnage — *Cross Bearer*

Chancel Choir — *Musicians*

Marge Heard — *Reader*

Jan Richards — *Altar Guild Volunteer*

Jason Gardner, Keith Anderson — *Sound Technicians*

GIVING

To support the ministries and missions of First United Methodist Church, place a gift in the offering plate, give online through the QR code below, send a check to the church, or give through regular bank drafts. Thank you for your generosity.



FEBRUARY 2026 GIVING

Funds Needed - \$107,250.00

Funds Received - \$101,069.09

2026 YTD GIVING

Funds Needed - \$214,500.00

Funds Received - \$215,969.02



204 Sixth Avenue West
Hendersonville, NC 28739
828-693-4275
fumchvnc.org

A warm welcome to all guests and newcomers. Please fill out the attendance register on your pew. All persons are welcome at First United Methodist Church, as Jesus Christ has welcomed us into the love and grace of God. Our mission is to change lives and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

At the chiming of the Trinity, please silence your mobile devices and prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

† Please rise in body
or in spirit

FIRST

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 15, 2026
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT



GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Chiming the Trinity

Opening Voluntary

Just as I Am, without One Plea

Robin Dinda

Prayer of Invocation

Everlasting God, because of your tender mercy toward all people, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus, to take upon himself our flesh, to live our human life, and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of his great humility and sacrificial love and also share in his resurrection life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

† Hymn 173

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

RATISBON

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night;
Day-spring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see;
till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, Radiance divine, scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

† Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

United Methodist Hymnal #881

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried;

the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

†Responsorial Hymn 70 MEINEKE
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

†Gospel Lesson Luke 14:7-24; Revelation 22:16-17
The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon Choosing the Cheap Seats Rev. Erin Yow

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn 3149 A Place at the Table PLACE AT THE TABLE
**For just and unjust, a place at the table, abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
In anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live.
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!**

Invitation to Offering

Anthem When I Survey the Wondrous Cross arr. Dan Forrest
When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died, My richest
gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. Forbid it, Lord, that I
should boast, Save in the death of Christ my God; All the vain things that charm me
most, I sacrifice them to His blood. See, from His head His hands, His feet, Sorrow
and love flow mingled down. Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose
so rich a crown? Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too
small; Love so amazing so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

†Responsorial Hymn 95 Doxology OLD 100TH
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us, not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Welcome New Members
Congregational Response
We rejoice to welcome you as a members of First United Methodist Church.
With you we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts,
our service, and our witness. We will pray for you; we will serve with you; and we will
grow in faith and love with you, as together we seek to change lives, make disciples,
and follow Jesus Christ.

SENDING FORTH

†Hymn 569 We've a Story to Tell to the Nations MESSAGE
We've a story to tell to the nations, that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light, a story of peace and light.

Refrain
For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

We've a song to be sung to the nations, that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,
a song that shall conquer evil and shatter the spear and sword,
and shatter the spear and sword. *Refrain*

We've a message to give to the nations, that the Lord who reigneth above
hath sent us his Son to save us, and show us that God is love,
and show us that God is love. *Refrain*

We've a Savior to show to the nations, who the path of sorrow hath trod,
that all of the world's great peoples might come to the truth of God,
might come to the truth of God. *Refrain*

†Dismissal with Blessing

†Choral Response Go Forth for God Kenneth Dake
Go forth for God, Go to the world in peace;
Go forth for God, Go to the world with love.

There will be no closing voluntary during Lent.

As our time of
worship comes
to an end, our
time of service
begins; we
depart to be the
church in the
world.

The closing
voluntary is
offered as the
final act of praise
of God. Go forth
as the music
ends to continue
praising the Lord
with your life.