

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given by
Louisa and Paul Goebel
to the Glory of God
and in honor of all Sunday School teachers.

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

LICENSES

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ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Karen Easter-Bayne
Lead Pastor

Rev. Erin Yow
Associate Pastor

Rev. Steven Coss
Associate Pastor

Michael S. Brannon
Director of Music

Chancel Choir; Ewa Woble, soloist
Musicians

Lawrence Stewart
Acolyte

Dennis Sanders
Cross Bearer

Susan Harvey
Reader

Louisa Goebel
Altar Guild Volunteer

Louisa Goebel, Jean Greene, Becky Kirtley, Kelly Case
Communion Servers

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 this QR code,
send a check to the church, or give through regular
bank drafts. Thank you for your generosity.



If you have not returned your 2026 Commitment
Card, you may place it in the offering plate today, or
in the deposit opening in the Finance Office.

MARCH 2026 GIVING

Funds Needed - \$107,250.00
Funds Received - \$118,543.69

2026 YTD GIVING

Funds Needed - \$321,750.00
Funds Received - \$347,851.61



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Hendersonville, NC 28739
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Website: www.fumchvlnc.org

FIRST

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 3, 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

CHIMING THE TRINITY

OPENING VOLUNTARY It is Well With My Soul

arr. Craig Phillips

† HYMN 472 Near to the Heart of God

McAFEE

**There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God;
a place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.**

Refrain

**O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
hold us who wait before thee near to the heart of God.**

**There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God;
a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God. *Refrain***

**There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God;
a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God. *Refrain***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by
what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole
heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly
repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown. Uphold us by your
Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

All pray in silence.

Hear the good news!

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.

† RESPONSORIAL HYMN 71 Glory Be to the Father
**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**

GREATOREX

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

† THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 7:54-60; Romans 8:26-28

† RESPONSE TO THE LESSON

**The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.**

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

SERMON

When the Worst Happens

Rev. Karen Easter-Bayne

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

SOLO

Pewnej nocy (One Night)

Pawel Piotrowski

One night, tears from my eyes Jesus wiped away with his hand. And He said to me: “Do not be afraid, I am with you.” “I, on Golgotha, gave My life for them, so that everyone might live.” Then He looked at me—I will not forget that moment, that whole world filled with light, overwhelming in its power. And turning to me, full of care, He said: “At that time you were like the blind.” He restored my sight. He said: “Tell the people that I love them, that I still care for them. If they have already strayed from My paths, tell them that I seek them.”

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Our Father

Alexander Gretchaninoff

† RESPONSORIAL HYMN 94

Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ,
whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.



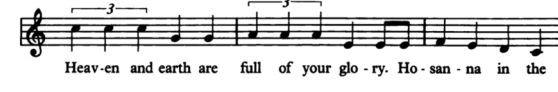
Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain!



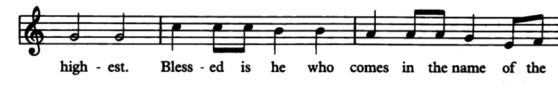
A - men, a - men a - men.



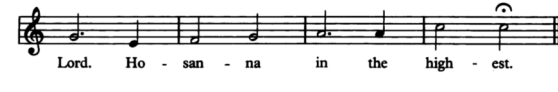
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.



Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the



high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN 315 Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

ST. KEVIN

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness;
God hath brought forth Israel into joy from sadness;
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters,
led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the spring of souls today; Christ hath burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath risen;
all the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
from his light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.

Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts, comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection.

Neither might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal hold thee as a mortal;
but today amidst the twelve thou didst stand, bestowing
that thy peace which evermore passeth human knowing.

“Alleluia!” now we cry to our King immortal,
who, triumphant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark portal;
“Alleluia!” with the Son, God the Father praising,
“Alleluia!” yet again to the Spirit raising.

COMMUNION HYMN 301 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross NEAR THE CROSS

Jesus, keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calvary's mountain.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. *Refrain*

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. *Refrain*

Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. *Refrain*

SENDING FORTH

† HYMN 623 Here, O My Lord, I See Thee PENITENTIA

Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face; here would I touch and handle things unseen;
here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace, and all my weariness upon thee lean.

This is the hour of banquet and of song; this is the heavenly table spread for me;
here let me feast, and feasting, still prolong the hallowed hour of fellowship with thee.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God, here drink with thee the royal wine of heaven;
here would I lay aside each earthly load, here taste afresh the calm of sin forgive.

Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear; the feast, though not the love, is past and gone.
The bread and wine remove; but thou art here, nearer than ever, still my shield and sun.

Feast after feast thus comes and passes by; yet, passing, points to the glad feast above,
giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy, the Lamb's great bridal feast of bliss and love.

† DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Voluntary on Lift High the Cross arr. Craig Phillips

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.

The ushers will direct you to receive Holy Communion at the altar. Gluten-free bread is available; ask your server if needed.

If you are unable to walk forward, let the usher know and you will be served at your seat. All are invited to join in singing the Communion hymns while others are being served.