



April  
**NEWSLETTER**  
2024

**First Christian United Church of Christ**



# Devotion

*When they came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to ask if you are the one he said was going to come, or should we expect someone else?" He (Jesus) answered John's messengers, "Go back and tell John what you have seen and heard; the blind can see, the lame can walk, those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases are made clean, the deaf can hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is preached to the poor. How happy are those who have no doubts about me!" Luke 7:20-23*

*One of the interesting, hypothetical questions I hear people raise on occasion is, "If Jesus were alive today, how would he live?"*

*In our day, would Jesus walk or have a car? Would he use the radio or TV to share his message? Would he be dressed in suit and tie, blue jeans and t-shirt, or in rags? Would he own a house, rent, stay with friends who would give him a place to sleep, or stay outdoors? How would Jesus live if he lived in our day?*

*I find this to be an interesting, imaginative exercise, especially since we are called to be his followers. If Jesus were living among us today, how would you and I recognize him so that we could follow him? What do we have to take up, or give up, to be a faithful disciple of Jesus? How far can we stray from his lifestyle and still be accepted as one of his followers?*

*I believe the way you and I would be able to know of Jesus' presence among us today would be in the same way Jesus told John the Baptist's disciples that he was the expected Messiah. We would know Jesus through the work that he did among us.*



# Devotion

*An important issue that I think we have to consider is Jesus' words spoken to Philip in John 14:12. Jesus said, "I am telling you the truth: whoever believes in me will do what I do – yes, he will do even greater things, because I am going to the Father."*

*Jesus is not physically alive among us, but we have the calling as his followers to do the work that he did if we are to be faithful to him.*

*Maybe the scary question that you and I should ask is, "Do other people know that I believe in Jesus through what they see and hear from me?"*

*We will celebrate Easter on March 31. It is the day we remember that Jesus conquered death, as he said he would do. If Jesus knew this would happen, then we should also believe the other truths he taught as well. We should also be concerned to obey Jesus' command for us to love one another, so that Jesus' work may still be done on earth through the efforts of our lives.*

*Is Jesus able to work through you to accomplish the good that he would like to see done on earth? Can others know of Jesus through the words and actions of your life? Jesus tells us, "The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them. And you are my friends if you do what I command you." (John 15:13-14)*

*Easter is when we remember Jesus gave his life so that he might receive life again, and so give us hope that we, too, may have eternal life.*

*Jamie Fonville*



# OUR CHURCH FAMILY

## Birthdays

Betty King 4/1  
Morgan Linton 4/4  
Peggie Foster 4/15

Mary Menefee 4/28  
Spanky Newsome 4/28

## Anniversaries

Roger & Betty King 4/9

## Those Remaining in Our Prayers

Buster Freeman  
Lewis & Voncile Fowler  
*(At Hospice House)*  
Nell & David Allred  
Darla Bray  
Popek Family  
*(Judy Kipp's cousins who  
had a tragic death of a  
son-in-law)*

Amber Massey  
Joe Strickland  
Bob Price  
*(Is in the hospital)*  
Jerry Gertz  
*(Brother of Judy Kipp)*  
Thomas Barber  
The Family of Jan Miles  
John Kipp

Lola Pipes  
Ross Strange Sr.  
Justin Smith  
Houck Family  
*(Close friends of the Kipps  
who lost their daughter to  
Covid)*  
Merle Sharpe  
Harvey Sharpe

## Prayers

If you need prayers or know someone that does please let us know.  
You can call the office or call your Deacon.  
We are here to assist in anyway that's helpful.



# CHURCH UPDATES

- **Monday, April 1st**
  - *Margaret Lightbourne Circle at 11:00 am*
- **Monday, April 8th**
  - *Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm*
- **Tuesday, April 9th**
  - *Centennial Circle at 5:30 pm*
- **Thursday, April 11th through Monday, April 15**
  - *The office will be closed*
- **Tuesday, April 16th**
  - *Finance Meeting at 11:00 am*
- **Tuesday, April 30th**
  - *Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm*

## Official Board Update

The Official Board has authorized we begin the search for a Settled Part-time Pastor. The Official Board recommended to the members that the following people be elected to serve on the Search Committee: Joy Ballard, Judy Kipp, Norma Simons, Mike Smith, and Charlie Vitou. At the congregational meeting on March 17th, the membership elected those people to serve on the Search Committee. If you have suggestions for people whom this committee may contact, please let one of these persons know.

## ***John Graves Sunday School Update***

The John Graves Sunday School Class has begun studying the book: *Questions Jesus asked* by Mcgray DeVega. The class meets at 9:30 am in the library and all are invited to join in these learning times.

***\*\*Choir practices have been moved to after Worship on Sundays\*\****



# THEMES & LITURGISTS

## Communion

No Communion

## Greeter

Merle Sharpe

## Ushers

Benji Terrell (head)

Julie Miller, Eleanor Lovgren, Charlie Vitou

## Liturgists

April 7 - Sandra Workman

April 14 - Judy Kipp

April 21 - Cindy Sharpe

April 28 - Carol Fonville

## Receptions

Please join us in the parlor for fellowship and light refreshments after  
Worship on Sundays.



# CHURCH INFORMATION

## Mission Statement

*(Revised 2/4/24)*

First Christian United Church of Christ in Burlington, North Carolina opens wide its doors to all who hunger for God and God's righteousness. It seeks to provide rest for weary spirits, comfort for troubled hearts, and to inspire all to follow Jesus Christ in unselfish service to humankind. We, in the spirit of Jesus' great commandments, commit to love God and our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:28-34) and follow Paul's teaching of acceptance of one another (Romans 14:1-15: 13).

We believe that all people are created in God's image and are blessed and loved equally by God. We welcome with respect, and nurture with intention, the gifts of all who come to us on the journey of faith and seek eternal salvation under the New Covenant of Jesus Christ. We welcome everyone to join us in the life and leadership of our family of faith, and in our ongoing commitment as an Open and Affirming Congregation. The people of First Christian United Church of Christ are dedicated to always being a welcoming and loving church; a "House of Christian Fellowship for ALL people."

## Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am - 12 pm

## Church Officers

President: Jamie Fonville

Vice President: Cindy Sharpe

Treasurer: Judy Kipp

Assistant Treasurer: Julie Miller

Secretary: Mark Garrison

## Church Staff

Interim Chaplain: Deborah Suess

Supply Pastor: Rev. Jamie Fonville

Organist / Choir Director: Matt Rice

Custodian: Rodney Paul Sr.

Office Administrator: Debbie Norris