

A decorative background featuring several pink tulips with green leaves arranged around a large white circle. The tulips are in various stages of bloom, and the leaves are long and pointed.

March

NEWSLETTER

2024

First Christian United Church of Christ

Devotion

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
Ecclesiastes 3:1.*

Christians began the season of Lent on Wednesday, February 17th. Lent is a forty-day period of time before Easter when we give special thought to Jesus' willingness to go to Jerusalem, knowing that his trip there would lead to his death. The 40 days of Lent are considered days for repentance and fasting. Sundays are not considered part of Lent, for Sundays are feast days.

The word "Lent" comes from an old English word that meant "springtime." The suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus occur in the springtime of the year for us in the northern hemisphere.

Because Lent is considered a time for penitence and fasting, many people give up something they like and enjoy during the time of Lent, as we remember that Jesus gave up his life for us. I would encourage us to adopt this approach, for it is a helpful way to remind us to appreciate what Jesus did for us.

The Christian word "Lent" comes from a word that meant "springtime." However, another way for us to consider this season before Easter is to consider the modern definition of "lent." "Lent" in modern usage means something that we allow another to use. It is the past tense of "lend." I may ask someone to lend me \$20 and they may then tell someone that, "I lent Jamie Fonville \$20."

Devotion

This period of time from February 17th to Easter on March 31st is a period of time that God has loaned to us when we might reflect upon just how much God cares for us and desires for our well-being on earth, and also in God's heavenly realm.

I hope you will use these days before us to daily consider the wonder of God's goodness to us and of God's hope for our lives. God's gift of salvation to us through Jesus is free, but it is not cheap. That gift from God cost Jesus his earthly life. It also gained him eternal reward!

Jesus gave up his life for us. I hope you will join me in giving up something that we can do without during Lent, but would enjoy having!

I hope you will join with me in using this time of life that has been "lent" to us to consider the wonder of God's love, and how we should seek to respond to such a wonderful, hope-providing love.

Jesus speaks of the need for us to pick up our cross and follow him (Matthew 16:24). In response to his call to us, I would also hope that we might consider taking up some worthwhile activity during Lent. Through our taking up, or participating in, a worthwhile activity we would enable God to have our life be an instrument to help make our family, or our church, or our place of employment, or our community a better place because of what we are seeking to do by how we live.

May you and I make use of the time in Lent to have it be a time for our spiritual growth.

*Peace and joy in the journey,
Jamie Fonville*

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Birthdays

Beth Painter 3/3	Helen Little 3/13
Cindy Sharpe 3/3	Mason Greer 3/13
Nell Allred 3/5	Sherry Massey 3/23
Kevin May 3/12	Sandy King 3/28
Garry Massey 3/13	Barbara Price 3/30

Anniversaries

None...yet!

Those Remaining in Our Prayers

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

Best friend and best
grandmother of Tena
Barnwell
Amber Massey
Joe Strickland
Bob Price
(Is in the hospital)
Jerry Gertz
(Brother of Judy 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

We need your help!

If you are in need of prayers, or know someone that is, Please let us know!
New (or all) ideas are welcome!

CHURCH UPDATES

- **Sunday, March 3rd**
 - *Worship with Holy Communion at 10:30 am*
- **Monday, March 4th**
 - *Margaret Lightbourne Circle at 11:00 am*
- **Sunday, March 10th**
 - *Daylight Savings - Spring Forward*
 - *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering*
 - *Christian Ed Meeting after worship*
- **Monday, March 11th**
 - *Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm*
- **Tuesday, March 12th**
 - *Centennial Circle at 5:30 pm*
- **Tuesday, March 19th**
 - *Finance Meeting at 11:00 am*
- **Tuesday, March 26th**
 - *Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm*
- **Thursday, March 28th**
 - *Maundy Thursday*
- **Sunday, March 31st**
 - *Early Service at 8:30 am*
 - *Breakfast at 9:00 am*
 - *Easter Worship with Holy Communion*

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

THEMES & LITURGISTS

Communion

Phil Bray 3/3

Mike Smith & Julie Miller 3/28

Dotti Davis & Ann Strange 3/31

Greeter

Tena Barnwell

Ushers

Benji Terrell (head)

Julie Miller, Eleanor Lovgren, Charlie Vitou

Liturgists

March 3 - Beth Painter

March 10 - Dotti Davis

March 17 - Kathy Russell

March 24 - Joy Ballard

March 31 - Julie Miller

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