

May



2024

NEWSLETTER

Devotion

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24. NIV

The iris is one of the most beautiful flowers of spring for me. The iris blossoms are so showy, and the standards and falls are so richly and delicately colorful that they rival the orchids in beauty.

There is only one problem for me with iris. Iris blooms only stay open for two days, and unless you keep careful watch do not know which day will be that second day. You can go outside and notice the iris in bloom and think, "I'll plan to cut that flower tomorrow to enjoy inside the house." You go outside the next day and you may discover that the flower has withered away.

The iris reminds me of the brevity and uncertainty of life. We may put off doing something until tomorrow, thinking we have adequate time, but we may discover that we waited too long.

People laughingly say, "Never do today what you can put off until tomorrow!"

That may be true when we want to avoid washing windows, trimming the shrubs, or ironing clothes. When it comes to things that are important, such as nurturing relationships with people, we need to ignore such advice, for we are not guaranteed the opportunities will exist tomorrow.

The beauty of the iris is to be appreciated in this day, for we do not know if we will have the chance to enjoy it tomorrow. Likewise, both in our relationship with God and in our relationships with people, it is best to not ignore opportunities we have to nurture them and to deepen the quality of the relationships.

Devotion

We may feel a desire to contact a friend, but we do not, and then we later discover a phone call or visit would have lifted their spirit when they were having a difficult day. We may not contact a family member, and miss the joy of sharing in a special event in their life. We may have wronged someone, and know we should apologize, but we put off the effort, and then discover later that the hurt has “calcified,” and they are in no mood to forgive and make amends with us.

With God, we may be so involved in making a living, or in seeking pleasure in the world, that we ignore seeking God’s fellowship and aid.

We live to please ourselves, and then one day we discover that life is quickly passing by, and we have nothing of value within us to sustain us. In a time of crisis we turn to God, and discover that we do not know how to find God’s strength. We decide we want God to straighten out our messed up life, but we discover that we ignored the directions God gave that were needed to build our life to begin with, and the mess is ours to straighten out.

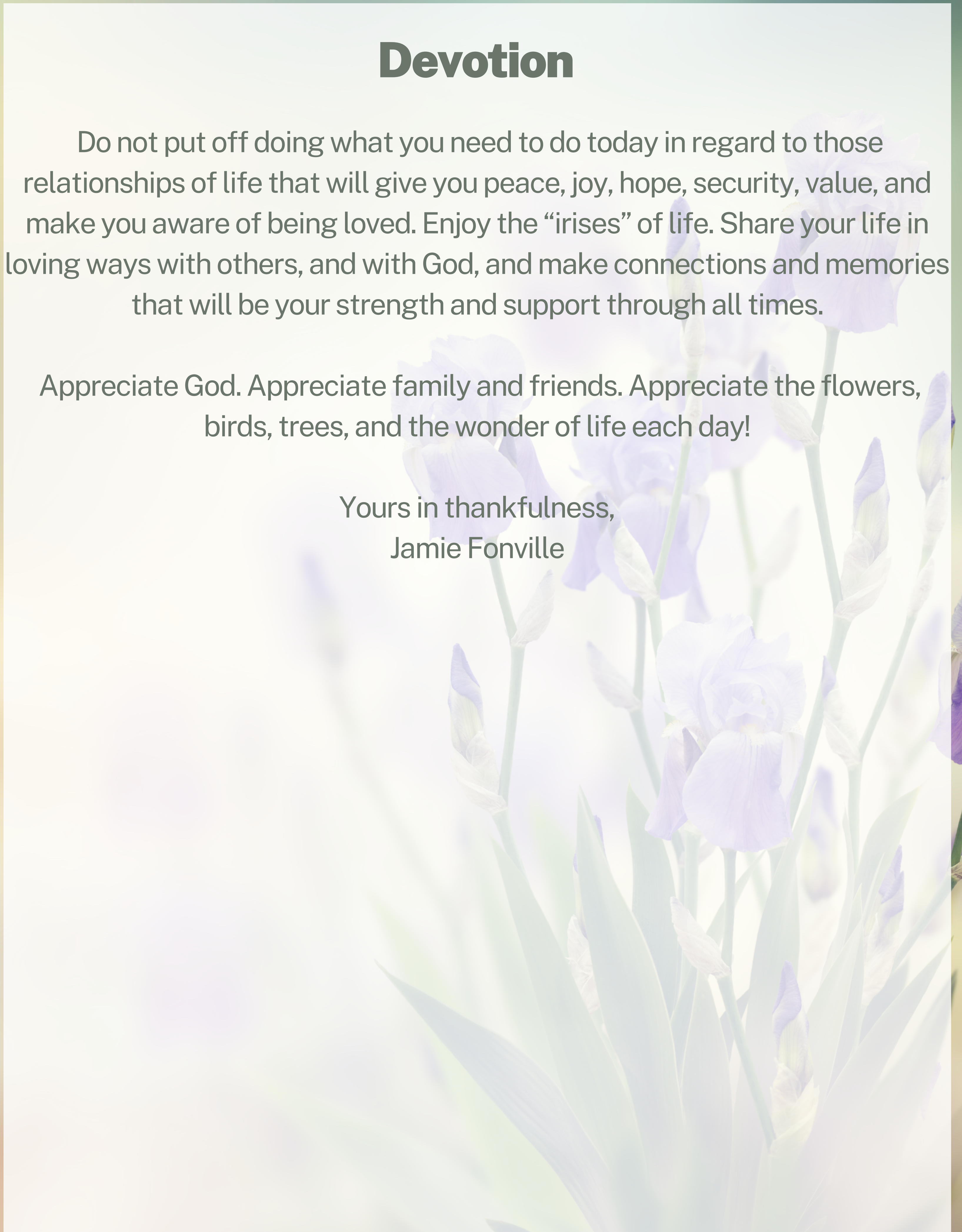
Too easily we can put off until tomorrow what we need to do today, and later we regret we had misplaced our values, or did not develop the values that would give life its deepest meaning, its greatest hope, and its most important awareness of peace.

Devotion

Do not put off doing what you need to do today in regard to those relationships of life that will give you peace, joy, hope, security, value, and make you aware of being loved. Enjoy the “irises” of life. Share your life in loving ways with others, and with God, and make connections and memories that will be your strength and support through all times.

Appreciate God. Appreciate family and friends. Appreciate the flowers, birds, trees, and the wonder of life each day!

Yours in thankfulness,
Jamie Fonville



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Birthdays

Sandra Greene - 5/5

Lisa Reid - 5/7

Iris Workman - 5/8

Carol Fonville - 5/17

Matt Rice - 5/23

Gayle Watson - 5/31

Anniversaries

Ken & Helen Little - 5/25

Mary & Spanky Newsome - 5/28

Those Remaining in Our Prayers

Buster Freeman

Lewis Fowler

The Family of Voncile

Fowler

Nell & David Allred

Darla Bray

Mary Newsome

Amber Massey

Joe Strickland

Bob Price

Thomas Barber

The Family of Jan Miles

John Kipp

Merle Sharpe

Harvey Sharpe

Lola Pipes

Ross Strange Sr.

Justin Smith

Houck Family

*(Close friends of the Kipps
who lost their daughter to
Covid)*

Jason Coleman

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

- **Sunday, May 12th**
 - *Mother's Day Brunch hosted by the Men of FCUCC*
 - *Please RSVP on one of the sign up sheets in Bray Hall or the Narthex*
- **Monday, May 13th**
 - *Margaret Lightbourne Circle at 11:00 am*
 - *Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm*
- **Tuesday, May 14th**
 - *Centennial Circle at 5:30 pm*
- **Sunday, May 19th**
 - *Pentecost Sunday*
- **Tuesday, May 21st**
 - *Finance Meeting at 11:00 am*
- **Monday, May 27th**
 - *Memorial Day - The office will be closed*
- **Tuesday, May 28th**
 - *Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm*

****Choir practices are after Worship on Sundays****

THEMES & LITURGISTS

Communion

May 5th - Mary Newsome & Joy Ballard

Greeter

Dotti Davis

Ushers

Benji Terrell (head)

Julie Miller, Eleanor Lovgren, Charlie Vitou

Liturgists

May 5 - Dotti Davis

May 12 - Nancey Simmons

May 19 - Matt Rice

May 26 - 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