

“What's the
WORD?”



FIRST CHRISTIAN
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Weekly Updates & Musings

Hello Church!

It is so good to be among this beloved community! Last week I was “preparing” for our ministry together by unpacking boxes! I also enjoyed spending some time with your amazing interim Pastors, Deborah & Tim. I look forward to getting to know each of you over the next few months. We will begin to discern and become “Those Who Dream”! Working toward “God’ dream” become a reality for First Christian UCC in downtown Burlington.

New name! We have a new name for our weekly updates & musings. Each week I will be reflecting on a word... whether it be from scripture, or just simply a word. We will also share updates for folks within this family of faith and our community.

We’ve gone from Thanksgiving right into Advent, the beginning of the liturgical church year. We are now in the midst of preparing and waiting, as we anticipate the birth of the Christ Child.

This week I would like for us to reflect on the word, Gratitude. What are you grateful for in this time of new beginnings? I am thankful that God has seen it fit for us to be in ministry together. I am also thankful for your interim pastors, Deborah & Tim. They have been so welcoming and helpful. I can see what a wonderful impact their ministry has had on your faith community. You have grown in your faith and in relationship with one another during their time among you. I look forward to seeing where “God’s Dream” takes them next!

As you continue through this week, think about what you are grateful for, what are you taking time to thank God for? And then look forward... What are your dreams? What is your dream for this faith community? How can FUCUU be a part of God’s Dream for our world?

Let us begin to *DREAM* together!

Love & Light,

Michelle

gratitude noun

 Save Word

grat-i-tude | \ 'gra-tə-'tüd , -tyüd \

Definition of gratitude

: the state of being grateful : THANKFULNESS

// expressed *gratitude* for their support

Do you have a pastoral concern, joy or announcement or just want to check in? Feel free to contact me:

Call or text: 610-390-9624

Email: fcuccpastor@gmail.com

*please note Friday & Saturday are my Sabbath days.
(with the exception of scheduled events.)

I am available for emergencies only those days

Prayer Concerns

Please keep these individuals/families in your prayers...

Benji Terrell - having chronic headaches and more testing is being done

Julie Miller - received Chemo treatment last week and is doing well.

Keith Miller - receiving rehab for his shoulder

Kevin May - recovering from automobile accident in which he broke two ribs)

Joe Strickland - (Faye Strickland's son) had brain surgery and is doing well

Prayers of Gratitude & joy

Giving God thanks for....

Helen Little - the neurologist she saw on Dec 1 said that the tumor located high up on her temple is both benign and small. It is believed there will be no need for treatment.

Our Interim Pastors Deborah & Tim - For helping this transition go smoothly and for loving and caring for this congregation for the past 14 months!



TODAY, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8th

“Meet N Greet” Outdoor Open House

Tuesday December 8th 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Join us outdoors for a “Meet and Greet” with our Newly called Pastor, Rev. Michelle Funk. Drop in during our outdoor “open house” to say hello!

Due to the cold weather, Michelle will stand in the parking lot, this will be a “drive by” open house!



Outdoor Devotional Service Today
Tuesday December 8th at 12:30 pm *weather pending...

CHRISTMAS CHEER!

We are once again taking donations for *Christmas Cheer* which provides gifts to children. To donate, please make your checks out to First Christian UCC and note Christmas Cheer on the memo line. You may send your check into the church or drop it off.

Thanks for your generosity – we have already received over \$900!

2021 BUDGET APPROVED

The 2021 Budget has been approved by the congregation! Thank you Deacons for reaching out to the membership for this important vote! We continue to appreciate everyone's generosity. We thank you for continuing to send in or drop off your tithes and offerings. Our ministry continues to impact our community thanks to your support!

ZOOM SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are continuing with our virtual Zoom Sunday School which is held each Sunday at 9:30 am. *This Sunday our teacher is Meryl Sharpe.* Here is the link for Zoom Sunday School at 9:30 am.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/99385710248> *This link may redirect you to a second link. Follow that. It will then take a few moments for the "zoom" host to admit you.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please send Matt Rice *one* photo that represents your holiday this year. It can be a photo of your tree, decorations, family, pets, whatever brings you joy this Advent/Christmas season. He will be including them in upcoming worship videos. Please have photos emailed to Matt (msrice23@gmail.com) by no later than Monday, December 21st at noon.

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2020 DUE

Please turn in your reports to Joan Paschal by *December 15*. Thanks for your help in getting the 2020 report prepared.

December Birthdays



December 5 - Ken Little
December 8 - Elijah Johnson
December 21 - Elsie Bolick
December 27 - Eleanor Lovgren
December 30 - Barbara Mebane

December Anniversaries



December 31 - Robert & Barbara Johnson

Upcoming Events, Mark Your Calendars!



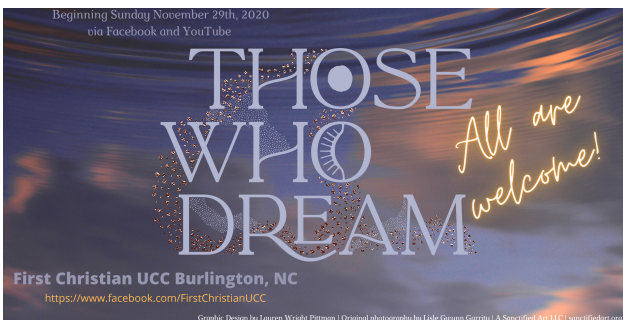
Zoom Trivia Night!

Wednesday, December 9th at 6:30 pm

Join us from the comfort of your home as we learn more about our newly called Pastor, Rev Michelle Funk. We will do some guessing, enjoy some laughter, and begin to get to know each other better during this time of "at home" fellowship! Feel free to pop some popcorn, pour your favorite beverage, and login for some game night fun!

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/95462786480>.

Or by phone: 1-301-715-8592. (You will be prompted to enter meeting code: 954 6278 6480)



This Sunday, December 13h - The Third Sunday in Advent "Those who Dream... sow joy" (joy)

Liturgist: Cindy Sharpe

Advent Wreath Lighters: Cindy Sharpe & Brooke Manning

Ultimately, dreams sow joy, even if that joy doesn't immediately spring forth. Sowing seeds into the soil always feels risky and feeble—how can something so small become something so beautiful, so big, and so nourishing? Like Mary, we are called to tend and nurture the dreams God has woven into us. ~ Luke 1:46-55

"Let It Go" Zoom Worship Service

Sunday, December 13th at 5:00 pm

This year has been very difficult for so many of us. Between COVID, economic, health, loss of loved ones, relationship struggles, and other issues we have burdens that we are entering this Christmas season with. Join us as we "Let it Go" and give our anxiety, worries, anger, grief, and struggles over to God. As we "Let it Go" we make room. We make room to fill ourselves with God's comfort, a sense of peace and some joy this Christmas season!

ZOOM LINK: <https://zoom.us/j/96904757625>

Or by phone: Or by phone: 1-301-715-8592. (You will be prompted to enter meeting code: 969 0475 7625)





“Roll into Christmas”

Community Christmas Drive Thru Event! All from the comfort of your car!

Saturday December 19th beginning at 11:00 am
Invite your entire family & friends to our “Roll into Christmas” Drive In “Christmas-In-A-Bag” pick up! Socially distanced and safely prepared “at home” Christmas activities for the whole family! HO! HO! HO! A little elf gave us some news! Santa may even be joining us! Bring your cameras and tell your grandchildren, great grandchildren, your neighbors and friends! Help us spread the word, Christmas is almost here! It is almost time to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child!

CHRISTMAS EVE at 5:00 PM ***OUTDOOR BRIEF CHRISTMAS SERVICE***

Join us on Christmas Eve in the parking lot for a very brief service including a Christmas prayer, candlelit singing of Silent Night (battery operated) and Blessing
***Weather permitting

