

“What's the
WORD?”



FIRST CHRISTIAN
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Weekly Updates & Musings

Beloved Church,

Word of the Day : March 2, 2021

Hello friends!

I like to check out the word of the day in the dictionary. It is always interesting, to me, to see how that word could relate to our faith.

organoleptic 

adjective | or-guh-noh-LEP-tik

So today in Merriam-Webster Dictionary the word of the day is **organoleptic**. Hmm.... How can we relate this word with our faith? The definition of the word is this... being, affecting, or relating to qualities (such as taste, color, odor, and feel) of a substance (such as a food or drug) that stimulate the sense organs.

It reminded me of a conversation we had during the adult Sunday school zoom this past Sunday. Jamie provided the lesson and talked about our Spirituality types. How do you connect with God? Is it through words, through song, through feeling or wisdom? Through Head or Heart? What senses are important for you in worship? Perhaps you sense the presence of God in the smell of fresh bread on communion Sunday. Or maybe in the color of the altar cloths. For some, it is in the beautiful sound of the music sung by our choir. What qualities of worship stimulate your connection and relationship with the Holy One?

I love experiential worship, I believe our worship should engage all of our senses and all of our beings, body, mind and spirit.... I pray that you will always find some part of our worship service meaningful for you. We do not necessarily need to be touched personally by every single moment in worship. The hope is that there is a part of worship that helps each unique individual to connect with our Triune God. Maybe if you open your heart and mind, your Spirituality and connection with God will grow and more of the elements in worship will become meaningful for you each week!

Blessings on your week, friends!

Love & Light,

Michelle

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 is having a biopsy of neck lymph nodes tomorrow, Wednesday March 3rd

Former member, Bobby Ray Whitfield, went to be with God on Saturday, February 27th. Please keep his family in your prayers as they grieve.

Troy Johnson is continuing to consult with Drs at Duke after his fall. He has a long road ahead.

Julie Miller - is in her Last week of radiation therapy!

Continue to pray for Christ's Church, First Christian UCC, as we continue to discern God's call and look toward the future.

Those remaining in our Prayers

Linda Cobb, Joyce Collins, Lewis & Vonnie Fowler, Kevin May, Keith Miller, Joe Strickland, Nancy Thomas, Benji Terrell, Troy Johnson, Julie Miller, Betty King, those hospitalized or in specialized care facilities and our homebound.

March Calendar correction Please Note: Beth Painter's Birthday is March 3rd! It was inadvertently missed on the calendar. Please add to your copy thank you!

Prayers of Gratitude & Joy

Thank you to all of those that serve God in so many ways! May you continue to find ways to serve God and neighbor, serving with JOY in your heart!

Those serving in our Armed Forces

PFC Matthew Knight
1Lt Kirk Workman



March Birthdays

March 3 - Beth Painter
March 5 - Nell Allred
March 6 - Harriet Sowinski
March 8 - Connie Collins
March 12 - Kevin May
March 13 - Helen Little
March 13 - Garry Massey
March 23 - Sherry Massey
March 28 - Sandy King
March 30 - Barbara Price



March Anniversaries

March 23 - Troy & Peggy Johnson

Upcoming Worship Services

Date	March 7th	March 14th	March 21	March 28th
Theme	Lent 3 - Stories Mental Health	Lent 4 - Different Pictures Intellectual Health	Lent 5 - Restoration Environmental Health	Palm Sunday Holy, Wholly Integrated Health
Scripture	Matthew 9:27-33	Matthew 9:18-26	Matthew 8:18-27	Mark 11:1-11, Matthew 9:1-8
Liturgist	Carol Fonville	Jamie Fonville	Sandy Stone	Matt Rice
Hymn	Be Still, My Soul	There is a Balm in Giliad	O How Glorious, Full of Wonder	All Glory Laud & Honor

LITTLE PORTION FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

MONDAY – February 8th – 11:30 AM – 5:00 PM

The next food distribution for the Little Portion Food Pantry sponsored by Blessed Sacrament Church is scheduled. Please share the information with your congregations, clients or any person in need. The food pantry is located at 408 West Davis Street, Burlington, NC. 27216. The streets are cordoned off to allow easier access for guests. Please encourage attendees when possible to arrive earlier in the day when the selection of fresh produce and other limited products is greater. The distribution is open to anyone regardless of race, creed, ethnicity, etc. No proselytizing of any sort permitted. Volunteers to help with the distribution efforts are always welcome and appreciated! We need all the help we can receive!

Pastor Michelle to Guest Preach at Elon Community Church

Sunday March 7th 11:00 am

Pastor Michelle will be guest preaching at Elon Community Church this coming Sunday. They will be celebrating Women in Ministry and she has been invited to guest preach. Please feel free to come and visit Elon Community Church this week joining in worship with the wider church! They do like to have an idea on how many will be attending so if you are interested please let Pastor Michelle know call or email by Thursday night so she can report our attendance numbers to Elon by Friday. They are worshipping in person following COVID precautions. Masks & social distancing is required and communion will be served in individual single serve cups. The text she will be using is John 4:5-24, the story of the woman at the well.

Lenten Mid-week Recharge Zoom

Join us on Wednesday nights at 6pm during Lent for a “mid-week” recharge! We will discuss wholeness & Recovery topics in further detail from the prior Sunday worship service. Feel free to enjoy a meal, snack, or your favorite beverage as we enjoy a time of discussion and fellowship together over Zoom!

Wednesday, March 3rd - Community/Economic Health

Wednesday, March 10th - Mental Health

Wednesday, March 17th - Intellectual Health

Wednesday, March 24th - Environmental Health

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92768583670> or dial in by phone +1 (301) 715-8592 you will be prompted to enter meeting ID #993 8571 0248. Once you have entered, you will be placed in a virtual “waiting room” Please stay on the line and someone will admit you into the meeting shortly.





Sunday Worship Series
February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21

HOLY VESSELS



A LENTEN SEASON OF RECOVERY

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

Join us for our Virtual Lenten Worship Series "Holy Vessels"
Each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of embodied love. We have been through a harrowing time since last Lent that has shattered our sense of wholeness—body, mind, and spirit—like a glass vessel fractured into pieces. In this Lenten “season of recovery” for our

physical, communal, mental, intellectual, and environmental health, we will explore the healing narratives of Jesus that tell of divine solidarity with human suffering and remind us that we can begin a journey toward making something beautiful from that which is seemingly broken.

Beach glass offers us a multifaceted symbol of this transformative process.

(If you do not have a piece of beach glass, you can pick one up at the church office or at our drive through Ash N Dash on Ash Wednesday.)

Sunday, March 7th - Stories (Mental Health) Matthew 9:27-33

Sunday, March 14th - Different Pictures (Intellectual Health) Matthew 9:18-26

Sunday, March 21st - Restoration (Environmental Health) Matthew 9:1-8

New Members Group forming!

Have you been thinking it is time to officially join the faith community of First Christian United Church of Christ? We are preparing to receive new members in worship on Sunday, April 25th.

If you are not a member and would like to join, please let Pastor Michelle know! Email: fcuccpastor@gmail.com or call her at the church office 336-226-7428. More details soon!



ZOOM SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us for Sunday school at 9:30 am via Zoom.

Here is the link for Zoom Sunday School at 9:30 am. Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/99385710248> or dial in by phone +1 (301) 715-8592 you will be prompted to enter meeting ID #993 8571 0248. Once you have entered, you will be placed in a virtual “waiting room” Please stay on the line and someone will admit you into the meeting shortly.



PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, March 28th 10:30 am

Holy Week Services

Join us for the walk through Holy Week!

More information about Easter services will be coming in a couple weeks.

PALM SUNDAY - March 28th Virtual worship service 11:30 am
Palm Pick Up Parade in our parking lot

MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 1st Zoom Worship Service 6:00 pm (Have bread/cracker and wine/juice/water available for communion)

GOOD FRIDAY - April 2nd Virtual Joint Worship Service with First Reformed & Life's Journey UCC

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE - April 4th 7:30 am (outside church office near wooden cross). Please bring your own chair, social distance, and wear your masks

EASTER WORSHIP - April 4th - more exciting information to follow within a couple weeks!



Save the Dates!

Sunday, April 11th - Holy Humor Sunday - We recognize the important, but often overlooked, sacred gifts of laughter and joy! Laughter is a gift that allows us to keep our hearts light, even at the most difficult of times. We will celebrate with joy and laughter knowing that because of Jesus, life indeed has the last laugh over death.



Holy Humor Sunday

SUNDAY, APRIL 11TH



Sunday, April 18th - Pastor Michelle's Installation - Rev Eddie Weathers from ENCA will be participating in the service. More details coming soon!



INSTALLATION SERVICE

Rev. Michelle G. Funk
First Christian UCC Settled Pastor

Sunday, April 18th 2021

