

Sunday, September 20, 2026

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



"Manna in the Wilderness"

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL



WELCOME

First Christian United Church of Christ Mission Statement
(Revised February 4, 2024)

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."

WORSHIP MATTERS

Communion...again?

The Deacon Board and I wish to emphasize the importance of Communion to the life of First Christian, so we will be observing the sacrament twice a month for a limited time.

The experience of Communion varies from person to person, but I would suggest that it falls generally into one of two categories. It tends to be a highly personal, individual experience of devotion, or a communal, corporate experience emphasizing the unity of the Body of Christ.

Today we will foster the communal nature by serving each other, passing the elements down the pews while seated in place. When the tray or plate is passed, please take the bread or cup and pass the tray to your neighbor.

Please hold on to the element until everyone is served. I will indicate when to partake of the element in unison.

Please place your used cup in the holder next to the hymnal rack on your pew.

Pastor Stephen

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC

September 20th, 2026 at 10:30 am

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We arrive this morning carrying our desert complaints, our rumbling bellies, and our curated anxieties.

People: We drag our feet in the dust, wondering if there is ever enough to go around.

Leader: And yet, look down: the dew has lifted, and the ground is dusted with grace.

People: Not a banquet fit for an empire, but bread enough for today.

Leader: The table is spread where we least expect it.

People: Let us gather the gift. Let us worship God.

**HYMN OF PRAISE: "Glorious Things of You Are Spoken"*

The New Century Hymnal #307

THE ACT OF CONTRITION

All: God of the wandering road, we confess our deep addiction to stockpiling. We hoard our energy, our grace, and our pantry shelves, convinced tomorrow will leave us empty-handed. Like our ancestors, we turn our noses up at daily wonders because they do not match our five-year plans. Forgive us when we look at your gifts and mutter, "What is it?" Break our panic. Loosen our white-knuckled grip on what we cannot control, and teach us to taste the mercy waiting on the morning grass. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 16:2-15

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Leader: The Word of God for all people.

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PSALM Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD; call on his name; make known his deeds among the peoples.

People: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Leader: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

People: Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Leader: Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles and the judgements he uttered,

People: O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

GLORIA PATRI: (#759 NCH)

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen. Amen.

ANTHEM *Sing to the Lord*

by B. Harlan

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:1-16

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Leader: The Word of God for all people.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: “*Manna in the Wilderness*”

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS AT THE TABLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response:

Leader: God who rains bread from heaven,

People: Teach us to trust the morning.

THE MINISTRY OF GENEROSITY

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: God be with you!

People: And also with you!

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD AND SHARING THE CUP

The communion elements will be passed from person to person as they remain seated. Please hold the element until all have been served and we will partake together.

PRAYER OF THANKGIVING

All: We thank you, God for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts.

Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY GOES INTO THE WORLD

**HYMN OF DEDICATION: "Sing Them Over Again to Me"*

The New Century Hymnal #319

*BENEDICTION

EXTROIT

POSTLUDE

Announcements

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, September 29th

Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm

Saturday, October 3rd

Alamance CROP walk at 9:00 am

*(registration starts at 8:30 am at the
Trinity Worship Center)*

All are welcome to participate in the walk
or contribute financially.

Sunday, October 4th

World Communion Day

Monday, October 5th

Margaret Lightbourne Circle at 11:00 am

Monday, October 12th

Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm

Tuesday, October 13th

Centennial Circle at 5:30 pm

Ongoing Mission Project

We will be collecting 13-gallon trash bags
to help Allied Churches.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office Hours

Monday - 9am – 12pm

Tuesday – 9am – 12pm

Wednesday - 9am – 12pm

Thursday - 9am – 12pm

Friday - closed

Serving in our Armed Forces

CPT Kirk Workman

James Barnwell

Dalton Anthony Jones, Ensign US Navy

(Family of June & Dotti)

Notes

Inspired by something said in the word or sung in a song today? Take a moment to write it here to remember later.

Our Love and Prayers

Please remember all our sick, at home members, others in need of our prayers, and those in our area hospitals in your prayers this week.

Buster Freeman

Nell Allred

Amber Massey

Joe Strickland

Ross Strange Sr.

Trisha Shelly

Ray Palyok

(Matt's Step-Father)

Lewis Fowler

Shawn Hooks

(Matt's Nephew)

Brenda Grogan

The Family of Patty Howey

(Charlie Vitou's Niece)

Holly Bent

Nanci Isley

(Friend of Sherry Massey)

Jon & Judy Kipp

Betty King & Roger King

Blake Jones

June Sellars

Nancy Hughes

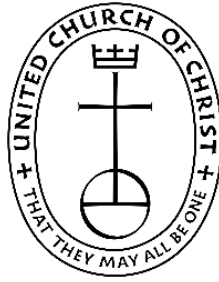
(Trish Ball's Mother)

Darla Bray

Eleanor Lovgren

Dana Matherly

(Terry Ragland's daughter)



Church Officers

President: Jamie Fonville
Vice President: Cindy Sharpe
Treasurer: Vacant (*Julie M. acting Treasurer*)
Assistant Treasurer: Julie Miller
Secretary: Matt Rice

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL
pastorfcucc@gmail.com / 336-276-0374
Organist/Choir Director: Matt Rice
Custodian: Rodney Paul
Office Administrator: Debbie Norris
(*Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 9 -12pm*)

Worship Participants

Liturgist: Tena Barnwell
Hymn Leaders & Anthem: Choir
Greeters: Benjie Terrell & David Hodges
Ushers: Benjie Terrell, Julie Miller, Charlie Vitou, Eleanor Lovgren