

# Sunday Worship

January 11, 2026



*Through the Waters*

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

**First Christian United Church of Christ**

# **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."

## **To All God's beloved...who are called to be saints... -Romans 1.7**

To be a saint is to be sanctified;  
set apart for a sacred purpose.

That would be you.

Every breath of your life is for a sacred purpose:  
to shed light, to radiate God's love.

You don't have to be influential,  
or pious, virtuous or pure.

You have to be yourself.

The You of you is what God has made holy.

You are God's beloved.

All you have to do is act like it.

Everything you do today is an opportunity  
to embody God's love,  
not by your effort or skill,  
but by the love you embody.

The light of God is in you.

Be transparent to it.

*Steve Garnaas-Holmes  
Unfolding Light*

# Baptism of Christ

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC  
**10:30 am Worship Service      January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

*Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL*

## **THE COMMUNITY GATHERS**

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF THE WATER

Pastor: Eternal God, who was and is and is to come: Your Spirit moved over the face of the waters at creation, breathing life into the void. Your voice thundered over the waters of the Jordan, declaring the Beloved Son.

**People: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders.**

Pastor: We pray you, Almighty God, sanctify this water by the power of your Holy Spirit. May it be for us a fountain of grace and a river of life.

**People: Wash us in your mercy, and renew us in your love.**

Pastor: As this water is poured out, pour out your Spirit upon us, that we who are washed in this font may die to sin and rise to new life in Christ. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen. Blessed be God, the Fountain of Life.**

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, you who are weary,  
you who have been bruised by life,  
you whose flame has flickered in the winds of the world.

**People: We come, longing to be renewed.**

Leader: The Holy One who stretches out the heavens  
is stretching us now –  
stretching our hearts towards courage,  
our hands toward compassion,  
our lives toward gentle justice.

**All: We open ourselves to be stretched into new life.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE: "Take Me To The Water"

*The New Century Hymnal #322*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Let us silently confess our sins against God and neighbors...

## SILENT CONFESSION

## CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: God, you know that we have sinned...

**All: You know that we have hurt each other, been unkind and thought only of ourselves. You have given us such grace and mercy; help us to extend the same to our brothers and sisters. Free us from holding grudges, from gossip and from passing judgement. Let us never pour shame upon another, but instead love and peace. Help us walk with each other toward forgiveness and restoration. Thank you for the beauty you will bring to our relationships because we have sought your healing. We are yours, gracious God. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: In this, we have assurance of God's forgiveness: While we were sinners, we were reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. Because we have received God's mercy, we are able to grant mercy to those who have wronged us. Thanks be to God.

## **THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD**

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 42:1-9

## SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 29

Leader: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**People: Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.**

Leader: The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

**People: The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

Leader: The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**People: The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl and strips the forest bare, and in his temple all say, "Glory!"**

Leader: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

**People: May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!**

## GLORIA

**All: Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and blessed; One God, now and forever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE: Acts 10:34-43

## SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM: Down to the River to Pray

Arr. Mary McDonald

## READING OF SCRIPTURE

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel According to Matthew 3:13-17

*(scripture reading)*

Pastor: The Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON: "Through the Waters"

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

## **THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD**

\*HYMN OF CELEBRATION: "Jesus Loves Me"

*The New Century Hymnal #327*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

CHORAL RESPONSE

INVITATION TO GIVE

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

DOXOLOGY

**ALL: 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 COMMUNITY GOES INTO THE WORLD**

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION: "Arise, Your Light Has Come"

*The New Century Hymnal #164*

\*BENEDICTION

EXTROIT

POSTLUDE

*Altar flowers are given in honor of the installation  
for Stephen from the congregation.*

# Announcements

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### **Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm**

Rev. Stephen Ball's Installation Service  
FCUCC at 3:00 pm

### **Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**

Margaret Lightbourne Circle at 11:00 am  
Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm

### **Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**

Centennial Circle at 5:30 pm

### **Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
*The Office is Closed*

### **Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>**

Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Regular Office Hours**

Monday - 9am – 12pm  
Tuesday – 9am – 12pm  
Wednesday - 9am – 12pm  
Thursday - 9am – 12pm  
Friday - closed

# 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  
John Moon  
Ray Palyok  
*(Matt's Step-Father)*  
Lewis Fowler  
Carolyn Wolley / Family  
Dave Smudski / Family  
Brooke Manning

David Hodges  
Brenda Grogan  
Spanky Newsome  
Holly Bent  
Troy Marquardt  
Joy McPhail  
Blake Jones  
Jerry Barnwell  
Chris Wysocki  
Debbie Caporoli  
Nanci Isley  
*(Friend of Sherry Massey)*  
Our Nation

# **Serving in our Armed Forces**

*CPT Kirk Workman  
James Barnwell*

## Notes

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



## **Church Officers**

President: Jamie Fonville  
Vice President: Cindy Sharpe  
Treasurer: Judy Kipp  
Assistant Treasurer: Julie Miller  
Secretary: Mark Garrison

## **Church Staff**

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL  
[pastorfcucc@gmail.com](mailto: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: Jamie Fonville  
Hymn Leaders & Anthem: Choir  
Greeters: Benjie Terrell & David Hodges  
Ushers: Benjie Terrell, Julie Miller, Charlie Vitou, Eleanor Lovgren