

August

2025 NEWSLETTER



Devotion

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

Psalm 118:24 NRSV

I recently saw an illustration where a little girl is shown talking to her younger brother. They are sitting outdoors on the ground. The little girl says, "Yesterday is the past, tomorrow is the future, but today is a gift. That is why it is called the present."

A child's perspective can be helpful for us to have at times! How easy it is to get so caught up in our thoughts about the past or the future that we forget to live in the only real time we have, which is the present. This present time we should view as a gift to us from God.

I find that it is hard to live in the present. I easily get caught up in memories from the past. I remember special times with family and friends. I find I am bothered by mistakes I made in the past, and feel guilty about hurts I have brought on others. I spend time wishing I could undo some things I have done. I spend time wondering about decisions I have made as I consider whether I did the right thing at the time. The past takes up much of my time in the present.

I also find that the future takes up much of my time in the present. I find myself looking forward to special events that are to happen. I also find myself worrying about the future, especially in regard to financial matters and health concerns. Will I have enough money to be retired comfortably? Will my health remain good enough to enjoy retirement, and how long may I live to enjoy family and friends?

Devotion

In various ways I have the future to occupy much of my present time. Yet it is only the present that I have as a gift from God to enjoy. I find that when I can push the past and the future from my mind that the present has much to offer. I find it is exciting to notice the complexity and beauty of nature. It is fun to spend time being with people to enjoy their smiles and laughter. It gives a good sense of accomplishment to do some task which you want to do. It is peaceful to reflect upon God's presence with you, and to find that God's spirit gives special worth and value to your life.

It is in the present that we have the opportunity to enjoy life, to fellowship with God and other people, and to be in service to God. It is in the present that God promises to be with us. God is not working in our past - we cannot ask God to undo or repeat over what has happened in the past. Neither is God in the future - God cannot solve our worries about events yet to come and will not rush the future to occur. God is only actively with us in the present. It is in the present, when we receive it as the gift of time that it is, that we are able to find the value and joy, the peace and the worth which makes life so special - whether we are alone, with others, or consciously with God.

I believe it is important for each of us to live as much as we can in the present, for the present is a gift to us from God. It is a "present" which we should not take for granted, for it is in the present time when we may know God is with us, seeking to give our life its greatest worth.

Peace and hope in the day!
Jamie Fonville

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Birthdays

Susan Horne 8/4
Matthew Terrell 8/7
Carolyn Pettigrew 8/13

Evan Russell 8/21
Jerry Barnwell 8/25

Anniversaries

Mack & Beth Painter - August 23rd
Nevin & Jill Caldwell - August 22nd

Those Remaining in Our Prayers

Buster Freeman
Nell Allred
The Family of David Allred
Amber Massey
Joe Strickland
Ross Strange Sr.
Trisha Shelly

John Moon
Ray Palok
(Matt's Step-Father)
Lewis Fowler
Tom Peterson
(Protection, deliverance & peace)
Our Nation

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.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **Sunday, August 3rd**
 - *Worship with Communion*
- **Monday, August 4th**
 - *Women's Circle Super Salad Bar at 5:30 pm*
 - *Bring your own toppings*
- **Wednesday, August 6th**
 - *Finance Meeting at 11:00 am*
- **Sunday, August 10th**
 - *Choir practice begins to prepare for 8/24 start date*
- **Monday, August 11th**
 - *Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm*
- **Thursday, August 13th**
 - *Ice Cream Social at 7:00 pm*
- **Tuesday, August 26th**
 - *Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm*

Community Engagement

Blessed Sacrament Food Distribution will be moving their location to their building on our block. We have agreed to allow them to use our parking lot for their distribution lines.

2nd Mondays from 10:30 - 1:30 pm

4th Mondays from 1:30 - 3:30 pm

THEMES & LITURGISTS

Communion

Mary Newsome & Judy Hodges 8/3

Greeter

David Hodges

Ushers

Benji Terrell (head)

Julie Miller, Eleanor Lovgren, Charlie Vitou

Liturgists

August 3rd - Dotti Davis

August 10th - Judy Hodges

August 17th - Nancey Simmons

August 24th - Brooke Manning

August 31st - Tena Barnwell

Receptions

Please join us in the parlor for fellowship and light refreshments after
Worship on Sundays.



**FIRST CHRISTIAN
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

First Christian United Church of Christ

415 South Church Street

P.O. Box 1678

Burlington, N.C., 27216

www.firstchristianucc.org

office@firstchristianucc.org

336-226-7428

**SPECIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT**

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CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2025
AFTER OUR 10:30 WORSHIP SERVICE**

The Official Board has voted unanimously to accept the unanimous recommendation of the Pastoral Search Committee that we join in a Covenant Agreement with Rev. Stephen Ball to become our settled, part-time pastor!

Rev. Ball is a graduate of Wake Forest University and of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky. As an ordained minister, he has served as a pastor of churches and has served as a Staff Chaplain of Morehead Memorial Hospital, Eden, NC. He has also served as an instructor in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools. He and his wife are active members of the Lutheran Church of the Epiphany in Winston-Salem, NC.

Rev. Ball is married to Patricia “Trish” Hughes Ball, who graduated from Eastern Alamance High School and was a music educator prior to her retirement. Stephen Ball and his wife, Trish, will be moving to the Burlington area in the near future.

Many of you had the opportunity to see and to hear Rev. Ball lead our worship service on Sunday, July 20, 2025, and to visit with him and Trish after the service. If you did not attend the service, or see it online, you may go to the church website to see and hear the service for Sunday, July 20, 2025.

I hope that each of our members will make an effort to be present on Sunday, August 10, 2025, to affirm the decision of the Pastoral Search Committee and of the Official Board and vote to have Rev. Stephen Ball become our settled, part-time pastor. We believe he will help us move forward in our ministry for Jesus the Christ, and in our service to each other and to others.

Jamie Fonville,
Chair of the Official Board





Classroom Collection Campaign

by **alamance chamber**
#AccessEducation

20th Annual campaign will run: **July 19 - August 13, 2021**

Organized by the Alamance Chamber this campaign is designed to support students by supplying items needed for a successful school year. As you know, many families are struggling to make ends meet and current circumstances have certainly increased that need. While student learning practices have been altered, the need for school supplies is still there. Eventually, students will return to the classroom and we want to be sure they are prepared when that time comes. Donated supplies will be stored in a central location and distributed by school social workers to students with the greatest need.

Each year nearly 37,000 school supplies are collected through the Classroom Collection Campaign. These supplies ensure that roughly **3,000 Alamance-Burlington School System students** in need are supplied with basic tools necessary for a successful school year.

There is a large need in our county. Currently, **approximately 52%** of students enrolled in Alamance-Burlington Schools receive free or reduced breakfast/lunch and **11 schools** provide every student with free breakfast/lunch.

Please encourage family, friends, churches, and civic organizations to donate supplies at any of the designated public drop sites. Keep in mind, some businesses may be operating on an amended schedule, so please check current business hours before visiting a public drop site. If you would like additional information or would like to support the campaign, please contact Reagan Gural, 336-228-1338. The pick up of large donations can be arranged.



This year we will offer an option for community members to donate through a secure, online platform. You can scan the donation code to the left, [click here](#) or visit [alamancechamber.com](#) and click on *Classroom Collection Campaign*, located under the *education* tab, to make a monetary donation. Cash donations can be made to the Classroom Collection Campaign through the Alamance Chamber. For tax deductible donations, make checks payable to Alamance County Economic Development Foundation. The committee will research best bulk options and purchase school supplies online, using the collected funds.

Public Drop Sites:

Alamance Chamber
Ancora Wealth Partners
Beth Schmidt Park
First Bank

First Baptist Church of Elon
Graham Public Library
Mebane Public Library
Sylvan of Burlington

This campaign is sponsored by:



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."

Summer Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday Thursday 9 am - 12 pm
(Tuesdays vary, please call the office for times)

Church Officers

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

Church Staff

Interim Minister: Vacant
Organist / Choir Director: Matt Rice
Custodian: Rodney Paul Sr.
Office Administrator: Debbie Norris