

# July

## NEWSLETTER



2025



# Devotion

As I lie in bed, I remember You; all night long I think of You, because You have always been my help. In the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy. I cling to You, and Your hand keeps me safe.

Psalm 63: 6-8. [TEV]

There are many images that are used for God, for God responds toward people in so many different ways. In Psalm 63, David pictures God as a bird who uses its wings to cover and protect its young. A helpful, encouraging understanding about God is that of God seeking to care for us and protect us from danger, as a bird seeks to care for her young.

David seeks to “hold on” to God, for in “God’s hand” David understands God will keep him safe, even in times of danger. David expresses his faith in God, due to God’s goodness to him in the past, for God has always been his help.

I believe our faith is one of the most important assets we possess. Faith gives us security to live into the future as we understand God is with us.

We could easily allow ourselves to become immobilized, and afraid to even walk across the street, if we spent time considering all that might potentially happen to harm us. We trust our eyesight. We trust our ability to walk. We trust our judgment of the danger of traffic. After looking both ways and seeing the road is clear, we walk across the street.

# Devotion

We have come to trust our physical senses, and have faith to believe we can make good judgments based upon them. We often find it harder to trust our spiritual senses, for too often we have failed to develop them so that we feel secure to trust God as we live into an unknown future. It is easy to find ourselves frightened by the unknown and the unexpected that is before us, unless we have learned to trust in God's guidance and care, and as we seek to live just, righteous, compassionate lives.

As people of faith, we are to remember how God has been at work in our past, even in difficult and uncertain times, to bring us through. We are called to take shelter in God's love, and strive to determine what God would have us do in this present time as we seek to live by Jesus' teachings for us.

Our calling as people of faith is to strive to live this way each day that comes our way. In routine days, we normally feel we can use our own desires and wishes to make our decisions. Yet sometimes these end up causing us problems. We would be wiser to seek God's guidance every day as we abide by Jesus' teachings and strive to live in fellowship with God.

Often people's approach toward God is to only seek God's wisdom when their own experience and knowledge fail to offer them the help they need. Too often people only turn to God when the future looks bleak and the desire is for God to get them out of difficulties they may have brought on themselves by their habits and desires of life.

# Devotion

Wise are we, and enabled to grow in our faith in God, as we decide to be faithful to Jesus' teachings, and live each day striving to know that God is with us. God is with us to aid us – and God can help us make it – all the way into God's eternal home.

Hope for the journey,  
Jamie Fonville

# OUR CHURCH FAMILY

## Birthdays

Mary Newsome 7/1

Darla Bray 7/3

John Kipp 7/4

Norma Simons 7/10

Nancey Simmons 7/19

Lucius Wilson 7/23

## Anniversaries

Lucius Wilson & Deborah Williams 7/17

David & Nell Allred 7/19

## Those Remaining in Our Prayers

Buster Freeman

Nell Allred

Amber Massey

Joe Strickland

Ross Strange Sr.

Holly Bent (Phil's Friend)

The Family of David Allred

Ray Palok

(Matt's Step-Father)

The Family of Jerry Gertz

Lewis Fowler

John & Judy Kipp

The Family of Bettie Braxton

Tom Peterson

(Protection, deliverance & peace)

## 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

- **Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>**
  - *July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday*
- **Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>**
  - *Worship with Communion*
- **Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>**
  - *Finance Meeting at 11:00 am*
- **Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup>**
  - *Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm*
- **Tuesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>**
  - *Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm*

## John Graves Sunday School

Please note that Sunday School will not meet during the month of July.

## 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.

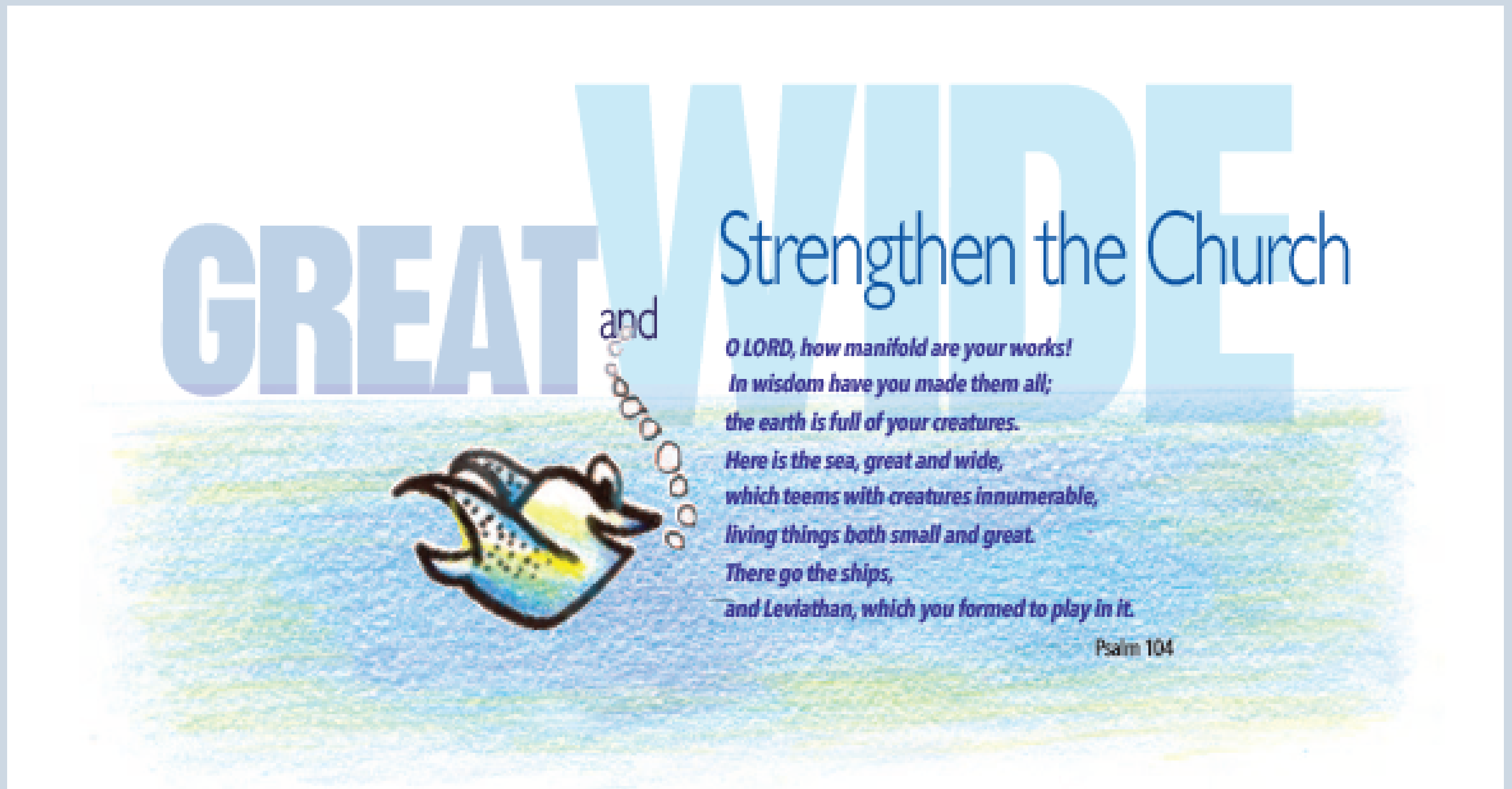
2nd Mondays from 10:30 - 1:30 pm

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

# UCC Strengthen the Church Offering

June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

As a congregation we raised **\$210.00** for the UCC Strengthen the Church Offering this past June. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to giving back!



## Hot Dog Lunch & Cake Auction

May 25th, 2025

As a congregation we raised **\$5,216.00** during the Hot Dog Lunch and Cake Auction to help brighten up our Bray Fellowship Hall flooring.

Thank you and WOW, just WOW!!!!



# CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES

## BINGO

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We thank Mary Newsome and Julie Miller for the special, eventful Bingo Night we had on Tuesday, June 17!! There were lots of special, unique prizes! Everyone won at least one prize, and some won several! Special thanks also to Phil Bray for calling out the numbers, and adding his humor to the event. We also thank all who brought the snacks and drinks for us to enjoy, and we also thank those who helped clean up and reorganize after the event. Now we can look forward to NEXT YEAR'S EVENT!

## Please Remember

We send out sympathy to the family of Mr. David Allred, Sr. who died on Saturday, June 14. His funeral service will be held at Rich and Thompson Funeral Home on Thursday, June 26. The family will receive friends from 10:00 am until the funeral service begins at 11:00 am. There will be a private committal service afterwards.



# THEMES & LITURGISTS

## Communion

Julie Miller & Ann Strange 7/6

## Greeter

Tena Barnwell

## Ushers

Benji Terrell (head)

Julie Miller, Eleanor Lovgren, Charlie Vitou

## Liturgists

July 6 - Julie Miller

July 13 - Sherry Massey

July 20 - Dotti Davis

July 27 - Nancey Simmons

## Receptions

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



# 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