

The Installation of Rev. Stephen B. Ball, OSL as Settled Pastor

Sunday, January 11, 2026 3:00 p.m.



**FIRST
CHRISTIAN**

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

January 11, 2026. 3:00 p.m.
First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC
The Installation of Rev. Stephen B. Ball, OSL as Settled Pastor

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME

Jamie Fonville

PRELUDE

Matt Rice, Organist, FCUCC

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Grace to you and peace from God our Creator.

People: For now and always, God's grace flows to us like quiet waters, like ocean waves.

Leader: Grace to you and peace from Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

People: A grace which is amazing and a peace which is filled with tender compassion.

Leader: Grace to you and peace from Jesus our Companion and Guide.

People: Awesome gifts, undeserved love meant for us, the saints on earth following the way of truth.

Leader: Grace to you and peace from God, who places love in our hearts and a melody on our lips.

**HYMN OF PRAISE: #6 Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good*

The New Century Hymnal

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith (Adapted)

All: We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:

God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God.

Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Our prayer of confession is an opportunity to seek God's grace and mercy to forgive us so we are more worthy to know of God's presence with us. I invite each of us to silently confess our sins and then join in our prayer of confession as we seek to better be aware of our God who gathers with us.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONESSION

People: As God's people, we know God calls us into the Church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship. Yet we do not want to give up those aspects of our lives that may cost us friends, money, prestige, or power. We do not like the idea of being servants to those in need around us. We are hesitant to proclaim the gospel to all the world. We have difficulty confronting the powers of evil. Gracious God, forgive us as we only want the joys that come through our discipleship, rather than risking to live in ways that further your will being done on earth through our lives.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: We are forgiven so we may be God's messengers through how we live our lives.

People: Thanks be to God for God's great mercy, love, and hope for us!

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD

VIDEO ANTHEM: "Here I Am, Lord"

Eric Tom

SERMON: "*Called*" (Isaiah 6:1-8)

Rev. Jamie Fonville

THE INSTALLATION OF PASTOR STEPHEN BALL, OSL

GREETING

The Rev. Dr. Dannie T. Williams

The Eastern North Carolina Association of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ greets you in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

People: Let us look to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

PRESENTATION

Dotti Davis, Deacon Chair

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, North Carolina, under the guidance of the holy Spirit, has called Rev. Stephen B. Ball, OSL as its pastor and teacher and respectfully requests that the Eastern North Carolina Association install him in this ministry among us, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Dr. Dannie T. Williams: The Eastern North Carolina Association has reviewed the request of First Christian United Church of Christ. We have carefully examined Bro. Ball, and we are pleased to install him as your pastor and teacher.

Brother Stephen Ball, servant of God, we invite you to come forward as a sign of your acceptance of the call to this office.

Installation is the action of an association of the United Church of Christ in cooperation with a local church. Installation confirms and celebrates the covenantal relationship among a local church, its pastor and teacher, and the United Church of Christ. Installation is a sign that these covenantal partners committed to share mutually in the mission of the United Church of Christ and of the ecumenical church.

EXHORATION

The Rev. Dr. Dannie T. Williams

Hear these words from the Apostle Paul: We beg you, our brothers and sisters, to pay proper respect to those who work among you, who guide and instruct you in the Christian life. Treat them with the greatest respect and love because of the work they do. Be at peace among yourselves.

We urge you, our brother, warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all.

See that no one pays back wrong for wrong, but at all times make it your aim to do good to one another and to all people. Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants of you, in your life in Christ Jesus. Amen.

COVENANT

The Rev. Dr. Dannie T. Williams

Dear friends, First Christian United Church of Christ has declared that, having gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it has called Stephen Ball to minister in this place as pastor and teacher and that it now received him as appointment by God for this ministry.

The Eastern North Carolina Association of the United Church of Christ has declared that he has met all the necessary conditions for installation to this office.

Stephen Ball, seeing that you are called to ordained ministry by the grace of God and that First Christian United Church of Christ has been led to call you as pastor and teacher, are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ with us in the Eastern North Carolina Association?

Stephen Ball: I am willing, and I promise to serve this church faithfully, preaching and teaching the word of God, administering the sacraments, and fulfilling the pastoral office, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Dr. Dannie T. Williams: Members of First Christian United Church of Christ, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with your pastor and teacher?

FCUCC Members: We, the members of First Christian United Church of Christ, receive Stephen Ball as our pastor and teacher, promising to labor with him in the ministry of the gospel and to give him due honor and support. We gather with him and with the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Rev. Dr. Dannie T. Williams: Members of the Eastern North Carolina Association, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with First Christian United Church of Christ and its pastor and teacher?

Eastern NC Association Members: We the members of the Eastern North Carolina Association of the United Church of Christ, gather with you, the people and the pastor and teacher of First Christian United Church of Christ, as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION

The Rev. Dr. Dannie T. Williams

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have called your servants to make promises before you; now enable us to keep our vows that we may remain steadfast in faith and fruitful in every good work. Bless, we pray, your servant Stephen to whom the care of your people in this church is now committed. Pour out your Holy Spirit on him, on the people of First Christian United Church of Christ, and all the churches of the Eastern North Carolina Association that our mutual ministry may be served with all faithfulness, diligence, and courage. Grant us the spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind. Make our ministry a means of awakening the careless, strengthening the faithful, comforting the afflicted, building up your church, and converting sinners to you. Guard us against the snares of temptation that we may be kept pure in heart, fervent in spirit, and valiant against evil. And at the last, by your grace, receive us in your eternal home, where, with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ reigns in glory, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

DECLARATION

The Rev. Dr. Dannie T. Williams

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Eastern North Carolina Association of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare

you duly installed as pastor and teacher of First Christian United Church of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God!

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

The Rev. Belinda B. Sledge

CHARGES AND GREETINGS

Rev. Jamie Fonville, Dotti Davis and Others

THE COMMUNITY MEETS CHRIST AT HIS TABLE

**HYMN OF DEDICATION: #459 Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*

The New Century Hymnal

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Stephen Ball, Presiding

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.

It is right, and it is our greatest joy, to give you thanks, God of Covenants and Callings. You spoke light into the void and order into chaos. You formed us from the dust – a humble beginning for a people you would eventually entrust with your very image.

Through the prophets, you called us back when we wandered. And when words were not enough, you gave us the Word made flesh. Jesus came to dwell among us, to eat with sinners, to heal the broken, and to prove that your love is not a guarded fortress, but an open door.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We remember the drama of that holy night. It was the moment history held its breath. Jesus, knowing his time was short and the shadows were long, took bread.

He gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples – those imperfect, stumbling friends – and said: “Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup. He gave thanks and gave it to them, saying: “Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this bread and this cup. Let them be for us the body and blood of Christ.

And pour out your Spirit on this gathered community and this new covenant between pastor and people. We are distinct ingredients – flour, water, yeast-brought together by your hand. Bake us into one loaf, one body, united in ministry. Give us the strength to be your hands and feet in a world that is starving for grace.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Pastor: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

All: 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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor: Come, the table is prepared.

*(The congregation, as they are able, proceeds to the table to commune by intinction.
Those who are unable to walk will be served at their seats.)*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Our Savior Jesus Christ keep and preserve you to everlasting life.

Let us pray:

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: #495 Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

The New Century Hymnal

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: The blessing of God Almighty: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE

Matt Rice

(It is customary at FCUCC to be seated to hear the Postlude)



Eastern North Carolina Association,
Southern Conference,
United Church of Christ