

# THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 8, 2026



**"LIVING WATER"**

**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*

# Third Sunday in Lent

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC

10:30 am Worship Service

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL*

## **THE COMMUNITY GATHERS**

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The midday sun is hot, and the ground beneath us is parched.

**People: We come to the well with our empty jars.**

Leader: Jesus says, "If you knew the gift of God, you would ask of him."

**People: Sir, give us his living water, so that we may never be thirsty again.**

Leader: Let us worship the One who knows our story and loves us still.

*\*HYMN OF PRAISE: "Crashing Waters at Creation"*

*The New Century Hymnal #326*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: We often spend our lives digging cisterns that cannot hold water. We chase after things that leave us dry, dusty, and tired. But at this well, there is no need for pretense. The One who knows everything we have ever done is the same One who offers us a drink. Let us confess our need.

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Holy God,...

**People: ...we confess that we are thirsty. We try to fill the dry places of our souls with status, with busyness, and with the judgement of others. Like the woman at the well. We sometimes hide in plain sight, hoping no one sees our brokenness. Forgive us for settling for stagnant pools when you offer us a spring gushing up to eternal life. Wash the dust from our eyes and the weariness from our hearts. Grant us the courage to leave our jars behind and follow you. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The water that Jesus gives becomes in us a spring of water gushing up to eternal life. The dry ground of your soul is being made new. Believe the good news: through the grace of Jesus Christ, you are seen, you are known, and you are forgiven. **Amen.**

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

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 17:1-7

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 95:1-7a

Leader: O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**People: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

Leader: For the LORD is a great God and a great King above all gods.

**People: In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**

Leader: The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

**People: O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

Leader: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

GLORIA

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

SCRIPTURE: Romans 5:1-8

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM: My Shepherd Will Supply My Needs

Thompson & Watts

SCRIPTURE: John 4:5-30, 39-42

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON: *"Living Water"*

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

**THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD**

*\*HYMN OF CELEBRATION: "Amazing Grace"*

*The New Century Hymnal #547*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

INVITATION TO GIVE

THE MINISTRY OF GENEROSITY

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: "God of Grace and God of Glory"*

*The New Century Hymnal #436*

\*BENEDICTION

EXTROIT

POSTLUDE

# Announcements

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**

Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm

**Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**

Margaret Lightbourne at 11:00 am  
*(Program on plants and flowers by Nancy Simmons. Bring a sandwich to enjoy)*

Centennial Circle at 5:30 pm

**Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**

John Graves Sunday School 9:30 am  
Worship Service at 10:30 am  
UCC Offering  
One Great Hour of Sharing

### **\*\*Missions Project\*\***

We will be collecting the following items through March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please consider donating some items to help Allied Churches of Alamance County.

- Kitchen towels
- Bar towels
- Window cleaner
- 55 gal trash bags
- Paper towels
- Microfiber cleaning cloths

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Regular Office Hours**

Monday - 9am – 12pm

Tuesday – 9am – 12pm

Wednesday - 9am – 12pm

Thursday - 9am – 12pm

Friday - closed

### **Display of Crosses**

The idea is of a Cross Display during Lent, starting Ash Wednesday. This would be on display on tables in the church parlor like we did when photos of our parents were brought in. Invite people to bring photos, pictures, crosses of various sizes for stands or holders, and jewelry which will be laid flat on the table. Request that the crosses be labeled with names of owners in order to return them. The Spiritual Life Committee wishes to bring to people's awareness the importance of the cross. A plastic bin will be in the parlor as we start collecting them.

# 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  
Carolyn Wolley / Family  
Dave Smudski / Family  
David Hodges

Brenda Grogan  
Spanky Newsome  
Holly Bent  
Troy Marquardt  
Blake Jones  
June Sellars  
Nanci Isley  
*(Friend of Sherry Massey)*  
Curtis Foster  
Jon & Judy Kipp  
Mike Smith  
Betty King

## 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.

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## **Church Officers**

President: Jamie Fonville  
Vice President: Cindy Sharpe  
Treasurer: Judy Kipp  
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: Cindy Sharpe  
Hymn Leaders & Anthem: Choir  
Greeters: Benjie Terrell & David Hodges  
Ushers: Benjie Terrell, Julie Miller, Charlie Vitou, Eleanor Lovgren