



SUNDAY WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

"LISTEN TO HIM"

BY REV. STEPHEN BAIL, 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*

Transfiguration Sunday

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC
10:30 am Worship Service February 15th, 2026

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, people of God, to the mountaintop of wonder!

People: We come seeking the light that transforms our darkness.

Leader: Christ calls us to witness glory beyond our understanding,

People: To see the holy breaking through the ordinary.

Leader: Here, heaven touches earth with radiant grace,

People: Here, the beloved Child of God is revealed.

Leader: Let us worship the One who shines with divine light,

People: let us listen to the voice that speaks from the cloud.

All: We gather in awe and wonder, ready to be transformed by God's presence!

**HYMN OF PRAISE: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*

The New Century Hymnal # 1

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Beloved community, on the mountain of transfiguration, Peter wanted to build shelters to contain and control the holy moment. How often we, too, try to box in the divine, to make God fit our expectations and comfort zones. In this sacred space, let us honestly confess the ways we have limited God's transforming work in our lives and in our world.

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Radiant God...

People: ...we confess that like Peter, James, and John, we often fail to understand your glory. We want to build structures to contain you rather than letting your light transform us. We fall asleep when you call us to watch and pray. We are afraid when you reveal yourself in unexpected ways.

We confess that we prefer the familiar valley to the challenging mountaintop. We resist change, even when it comes from you. We silence voices that speak your truth when it makes us uncomfortable. We choose comfort over transformation, safety over sacred encounter.

Forgive us, Transforming God. Open our eyes to see your glory in all people. Open our ears to hear your voice calling us beloved. Open our hearts to the change you bring. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news! The same voice that spoke from the cloud saying "This is my beloved" speaks to us today: You are beloved. You are forgiven. You are being transformed by divine grace. Rise up and do not be afraid.

People: Thanks be to God! We are forgiven and free!

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 24:12-18 *Moses Enters the Cloud of God's Glory*

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 99 *Worship upon God's Holy Hill*

Leader: The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

People: The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

Leader: Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

People: Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!

Leader: Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the LORD, and he answered them.

People: He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees and the statues that he gave them.

Leader: O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

People: Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy.

GLORIA

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

SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 1:16-21 *Shining with the Glory of God*

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM: Seek Ye First

READING OF SCRIPTURE: Matthew 17:1-9

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: *"Listen to HIM"*

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD

**HYMN OF CELEBRATION: "Abide With Me"*

The New Century Hymnal #99

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

Pastor: Transforming God, we offer these gifts as signs of our desire to be changed by your love. We release our need to control and contain your work. Instead, we trust you to use these offerings to bring light to dark places, hope to despairing hearts, and justice to oppressed communities.

People: May these gifts help us move from the mountaintop of worship into the valley of service. Transform our giving into gospel living, that your glory might be revealed through acts of love, justice, and compassion. In the name of Christ, who shows us the way. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY GOES INTO THE WORLD

**HYMN OF DEDICATION: "We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"*

The New Century Hymnal #183

*BENEDICTION

EXTROIT

POSTLUDE

Announcements

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, February 18th

Ash Wednesday Service at 6:00 pm

Display of Crosses Begins

Sunday, February 22nd

John Graves Sunday School at 9:30 am

Worship Service at 10:30 am

Tuesday, February 24th

Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm

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
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
June Sellars
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 / 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: Tena Barnwell
Hymn Leaders & Anthem: Choir
Greeters: Benjie Terrell & David Hodges
Ushers: Benjie Terrell, Julie Miller, Charlie Vitou, Eleanor Lovgren