

# Sunday, June 14, 2026

The Third Sunday after Pentecost



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First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC

*June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 10:30 am*

*Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL*

## **THE COMMUNITY GATHERS**

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

**People: We look at the world and see the fields, ripe and waiting.**

Leader: We look at our own hands and wonder if they are enough.

**People: Christ calls us anyway. Christ equips us anyway.**

Leader: He sends us out to minister *as we go*.

**People: Let us worship the One who trusts us with the harvest.**

*\*HYMN OF PRAISE: "Take Me To The Water"*

*The New Century Hymnal #322*

ACT OF CONTRITION

Leader: If we are honest with ourselves, most of our favorite cinematic heroes suffer from a profound sense of imposter syndrome. They stand before the glowing portal or the incoming alien fleet, looking over their shoulders for the actual adults in the room. We do the exact same thing with the Kingdom of God. We assume Jesus meant to call the person sitting two pews over – the one who looks like they have their spiritual life together. We confess our reluctance not because God is eager to scold us, but because masking our fear as humility keeps us from the work. Let us confess together.

**People: Gracious God, we confess that we are experts at waiting for the "perfect time." We tell ourselves we will speak up for justice after the next promotion, or give generously once the market stabilizes, or love our neighbors after we have sorted out our own chaos. We look at the vast, aching needs of Burlington and our world, and we feel entirely disqualified. We have pocketed the grace you gave us and hoarded it for a rainy day. Forgive our hesitation. Forgive our quiet belief that you made a mistake in choosing us. Heal our diseases of despair and indifference, and compel us into the fields. Amen.**

Leader: Hear the good news, beloved: Jesus does not look at the crowds and see a nuisance; he looks at them with absolute, gut-wrenching compassion. And he looks at you with that very same gaze. He knows your limitations, your late-night doubts, and your secret failures - and his response is still to hand you the keys to the Kingdom. You are forgiven. You are chosen. You are healed so that you might go and heal others.

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

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 19:2-8a

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

GLORIA PATRI: (#759 NCH)

**All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

ANTHEM *Holy Lord*

*By T. Fettke*

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 9:35-10:1, 10:7-8a

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON: "As You Go"

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

### ***THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD***

\*HYMN OF CELEBRATION: "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

*The Hymnal #249*

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

Pastor: We invite to come forward Kerney Black and Madison Byrd who wish to unite with us in this household of faith.

Pastor: Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to both celebrate and affirm the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

**People: There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.**

Pastor: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

Baptism is the sacrament through which we are united to Jesus Christ and given part in Christ's ministry of reconciliation. Baptism is the visible sign of an invisible event: the reconciliation of people to God. In baptism, God works in us the power of forgiveness and the knowledge of the call to be God's people always.

Pastor: Kerney Black and Madison Byrd, do you desire to be baptized and to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

*Candidates: I do.*

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

*Candidates: I do.*

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

*Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.*

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

*Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.*

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the true God.

Pastor: Do you believe in God?

**All: I believe in God.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**All: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**All: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in the one baptized today that he may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

Kerney Black, you are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: The Holy Spirit be upon you, Kerney, child of God, disciple of Christ, member of the Church Universal, amen.

By your baptism, Kerney, and your affirmation, Madison, you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

*Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.*

Pastor and Deacon Representatives: Let us, the members of First Christian United Church of Christ of Burlington, North Carolina, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**People: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

Pastor and Deacon Representatives: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, North Carolina, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Congregational Response: "...**Hear our prayer.**" )

**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

#### 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: "Praise to the Living God"***

*The New Century Hymnal #8*

#### \*BENEDICTION

#### EXTROIT

#### POSTLUDE

# Announcements

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**

Father's Day

**Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**

Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm

**Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>**

July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday

**Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>**

Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm

**Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas in July Worship Service

**Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>**

Deacon Meeting at 6:00 pm

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Regular Office Hours

Monday - 9am – 12pm

Tuesday – 9am – 12pm

Wednesday - 9am – 12pm

Thursday - 9am – 12pm

Friday - closed

# Serving in our Armed Forces

*CPT Kirk Workman*

*James Barnwell*

*Dalton Anthony Jones, Ensign US Navy  
(Family of June & Dotti)*

## 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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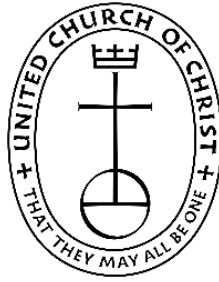
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## Our Love and Prayers

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

Brenda Grogan  
Rodney Paul Sr.  
Holly Bent  
Nanci Isley  
*(Friend of Sherry Massey)*  
Curtis Foster  
Jon & Judy Kipp  
Betty King & Roger King  
Troy Marquardt  
Blake Jones  
June Sellars  
Nancy Hughes  
*(Trish Ball's Mother)*



## **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: Beth Painter  
Hymn Leaders & Anthem: Choir  
Greeters: Benjie Terrell & David Hodges  
Ushers: Benjie Terrell, Julie Miller, Charlie Vitou, Eleanor Lovgren