



*First Christian UCC First Quarter 2021
January, February, March 2021*

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Join us for our Virtual Lenten Worship Series "Holy Vessels"

Each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of embodied love. We have been through a harrowing time since last Lent that has shattered our sense of wholeness—body, mind, and spirit—like a glass vessel fractured into pieces. In this Lenten “season of recovery” for our physical, communal, mental, intellectual, and environmental health, we will explore the healing narratives of Jesus that tell of divine solidarity with human suffering and remind us that we can begin a journey toward making something beautiful from that which is seemingly broken. Beach glass offers us a multifaceted symbol of this transformative process.

(If you do not have a piece of beach glass, you can pick one up at the church office or at our drive through Ash N Dash on Ash Wednesday.)

Date	February 28th	March 7th	March 14th	March 21
Theme	Lent 2 -Safe Keeping Community Health Black History Month	Lent 3 - Stories Mental Health	Lent 4 - Different Pictures Intellectual Health	Lent 5 - Restoration Environmental Health
Scripture	Matthew 8:5-13	Matthew 9:27-33	Matthew 9:18-26	Matthew 8:18-27
Liturgist	Cindy Sharpe & Brooke Manning	Carol Fonville	Jamie Fonville	Sandy Stone
Hymn	We Shall Overcome	Be Still, My Soul	There is a Balm in Gilead	O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

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PASTORS' COLUMN

Happy Spring Church!

Well, it might not be Spring until March 20th, as the groundhog did see a shadow so... I say we start acting like it is an early spring now even though the groundhog says 6 more weeks of winter!

I love when the weather begins to get warmer, the nights start to get shorter and the flowers begin to bloom. I especially love seeing that first daffodil with its bright yellow color shining through the bare winter soil. Which, of course, someone always posts a pic of on Facebook or Instagram.

It seems as if people just become happier when the weather changes. Some that suffer from seasonal depression finally begin to have brighter days. The kids are able to run and play in the fresh air. Some (like me) are finally able to go back to the enjoyment of simply being outside, swinging away.

There is so much for us to look forward to this Spring. We are using a worship theme from Worship Design Studio called "Holy Vessels". We will also be participating in a joint Good Friday Service with First Reformed and Life's Journey UCC. And this Easter season is sure to bring joy to our community of faith!

May this coming month put a little "Spring" in your step! Now go outside, breathe in the fresh air, and play! (even if you still need a sweater or coat!)

Love & Light!

Michelle

LENTEN MID-WEEK RECHARGE ZOOM

Join us on Wednesday nights at 6pm during Lent for a "mid-week" recharge! We will discuss wholeness & Recovery topics in further detail from the prior Sunday worship service. Feel free to enjoy a meal, snack, or your favorite beverage as we enjoy a time of discussion and fellowship together over Zoom!

Wednesday, February 24th - Physical Health

Wednesday, March 3rd - Community/Economic Health

Wednesday, March 10th - Mental Health

Wednesday, March 17th - Intellectual Health

Wednesday, March 24th - Environmental Health

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92768583670> or dial in by phone +1 (301) 715-8592 you will be prompted to enter meeting ID #993 8571 0248. Once you have entered, you will be placed in a virtual "waiting room" Please stay on the line and someone will admit you into the meeting shortly.

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HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Join us for the walk through Holy Week!

More information about Easter services will be coming in a couple weeks.

PALM SUNDAY - March 28th - Virtual worship service 11:30 am Palm Pick Up Parade in our parking lot

MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 1st - Zoom Worship Service 6:00 pm (Have bread/cracker and wine/juice/water available for communion)

GOOD FRIDAY – April 2nd - Virtual Joint Worship Service with First Reformed & Life's Journey UCC

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE – April 4th - 7:30 am (outside church office near wooden cross). Please bring your own chair, social distance, and wear your masks

EASTER WORSHIP - more exciting information to follow within a couple weeks!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – MARCH 14TH

This year's theme for One Great Hour of Sharing is "Let Love Flow." March 14th is the date we will receive this offering. The gifts you give, along with other UCC's offerings impact the work being done with local and global partners. Your support enables us to respond to a variety of global and local concerns by addressing advocacy, sustainable development, refugee and asylum issues, migration, and disasters as well as assisting those most in need and vulnerable among us.

The COVID-19 pandemic, wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes and flooding have ravaged communities in the United States and worldwide, leaving families and communities in desperate need of assistance. Some of these disasters have occurred in our hometown, or nearby communities or to friends and neighbors in countries thousands of miles away.

When you share your gifts, you "Let love Flow" and your generosity ensures that, even in the midst of uncertainty, the transforming power of God's love continues to change lives here, and around the world, as together we build a just world for all.

Enclosed with this newsletter is an envelope marked "OGHS". Please prayerfully consider your gift, place it in the envelope enclosed, and mail or return it to the church office by March 14th.

Thank you for your gifts and support of the OGHS offering! Together we can make love flow!

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NEW MEMBERS GROUP FORMING!

Have you been thinking it is time to officially join the faith community of First Christian United Church of Christ? We are preparing to receive new members in worship on Sunday, April 25th.

If you are not a member and would like to join, please let Pastor Michelle know! Email: fcuccpastor@gmail.com or call her at the church office 336-226-7428. More details soon!

ZOOM SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us for Sunday school at 9:30 am via Zoom.

Here is the link for Zoom Sunday School at 9:30 am. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99385710248> or dial in by phone +1 (301) 715-8592 you will be prompted to enter meeting ID #993 8571 0248. Once you have entered, you will be placed in a virtual "waiting room" Please stay on the line and someone will admit you into the meeting shortly.

FIRST CHRISTIAN & OUR ASH N DASH MAKES THE NEWS

Check out these two articles that were written about our Ash N Dash service. One is Sojourner's Magazine (A National Christian magazine) and the other is a United Church of Christ National article. God is good!

<https://sojo.net/articles/lent-box-ash-n-dash>

<https://www.ucc.org/north-carolina-pastor-offers-ash-n-dash-services-as-lent-begins/>

ANNUAL MEETING 2021

Thank you to everyone that participated in our worshipful annual meeting! Troy Johnson – President, Elsie Bolick – Co Deacon Chairman, Ken Little – Treasurer and Matt Rice for the music. What a wonderful morning celebrating all the good God has done in the midst of a time of pandemic and uncertainty in our world.

NOTES RECEIVED ...

Thank you for your donation to Blessed Sacrament's Little Portion Food Pantry. It really makes a difference for the families experiencing food insecurity.

With your help, the pantry helped over 10,000 families in 2020.

Thank you again for your support!

Thank you for the beautiful (painted) you gave me. It has "warmed" my home and my heart. You are special. to remember me during this Christmas season.

I continue to take the oral chemotherapy and,

other than occasional "exhaustion," I feel (better) than should be expected.

With love and thanks,
Nancy Skoppa

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Dear Members,
Thank you so much for caring
your generosity helped us provide
food, clothing & gifts to the
needy in our community.
May you all be blessed
for blessing the less-fortunate.

With the warmest of
regards,
Dawn Stenal

1-14-2021

Dear First Christian United
Church of Christ,

Thank you for your
donation of \$250.00 ck# 20520

Supporters like you help
us provide Christmas for less
fortunate children and the elderly.

Thank you so much for your
donation to Christmas Cheer.

With Humble Thanks
Dawn Stenal @
Ex. Dir.

P.S.

After the first of the
year we plan to investigate
Sleep # BEDS and
put your wonderful gift
TOWARDS that.

IT will be a gift that
keeps on giving. 
Big Hugs and Merry Christmas
Deborah & Tina

Dear Deacons:

12-12-2020

We want to say a huge
thank you for that Tender and
gracious fare well party and
the incredible generous love
gift." The spoken and
written words spoken and
SHARED AT THE party continue
to bless us.

We continue to give thanks to
God for the opportunity to
Journey with you for 14 ^{wonderful} months.
With love and gratitude
Deborah and Tim

DEAR Congregation - My Family,

On Behalf of Piedmont Men of Steel,
I would like to say Thank You for the
Donation of \$225.00 from Tomvils At
Harvest Time on Oct 12. The Funds Will help
Greatly in buying Bibles for Jail Ministry which
LORD Willing will begin day 8 - It might go
to sponsor a family At Christmas Cheer or
With our WWW Walking With Widow
Project.

May GOD Richly Bless this Church and
members in the next yr. and on - I thank you
for All your Support for me first in the ALABAMA
Council of BIA and now the Ministry of
Piedmont Men of Steel. Love to All

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Year to Date through 01-31-21

	Actual	Budget
Income:	\$26,072.19 *	\$15,771.40
<u>Expense</u>	<u>\$15,464.38</u>	<u>\$15,771.40</u>
Net Balance:	\$10,607.81	.00

Balance in Checking 01-31-2021 \$13,944.87

* \$17,000 transferred from Investments.

As you can see, everyone's continued support is still greatly needed to carry on the ministry of the church. Please send in your giving today.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ken Little and Connie Collins,
Treasurer and Accounting Manager

LENTEN DAILY PRAYER

**Help us, Healer.
Show us our ability to grow and
change.**

Forgive our inaction.

**Move us to move
one step at a time toward greater
care.**

**In this silence, we sense and
acknowledge our yearning for
wholeness. *Silence*
Amen.**

