



FIRST CHRISTIAN
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

First Christian UCC Second Quarter 2021
April, May, June 2021

BE A BLESSING

PRAY OFTEN. PRACTICE PEACE. LEAD WITH LOVE.

BE JOYFUL. BE KIND. GIVE THANKS.

DO GOOD. HAVE COURAGE. WORK FOR JUSTICE.

BE THE LIGHT. ENCOURAGE OTHERS.



SUMMER WORSHIP THEME “BE A BLESSING”

Join us this summer as we take a closer look at that it means to “Be a Blessing” in our homes, church, community, and the world. We will look at ways we can follow Jesus and become a blessing to others!

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR...

"Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup so that the outside of the cup will be clean too." ~Matthew 23:26

Happy Spring Church!

Spring is in the air! The birds are singing, flowers are growing, and pollen is everywhere! I don't know about you but I have found spring to be a great time for some spring cleaning in my house. Getting rid of the old worn out things, cleaning up, and making things fresh and organized again.

I think spring is a great time for us to think about cleaning up our relationship with God too. What hasn't been working so well for you? What can you put aside to make room for Christ? Have you made time to spend communicating with God? Or have you been too busy to take the time to build your relationship.

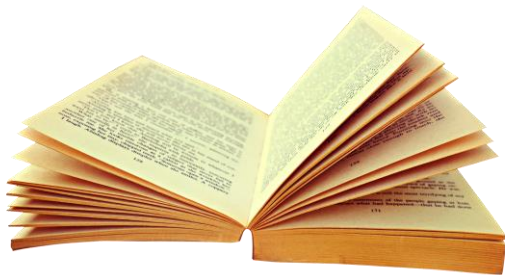
What are some ways you can "clean up" your Spirit?

Maybe it's taking more walks to experience God in creation. Or perhaps it is volunteering, serving as Christ served. Or, maybe it is dreaming... dreaming about what is next for your life, listening to the Spirit's nudging.

Whatever it is, may you find time to "clean up" your Spirit and connect with God in new and exciting ways this Spring!

Love & Light,
Michelle

SUMMER BOOK CLUB ... SAVE THE DATES!



First Christian will hold a **Book Club** Discussion this summer in July. The Book being discussed is "**Original Blessing, Putting Sin in it's Rightful Place**" by **Danielle Schroyer** and is available on Amazon.

Save these dates: **July 7th, 14th, and 21st**. All are on a Wednesday. The discussions will take place outside or in -Bray Hall at **6:30 pm**. ... watch the bulletin for more reminders/information.

LUNCH AT THE LAKE!

On Thursday, June 10th (Rain date: June 17th) join Pastor Michelle for lunch at Lake Mackintosh Marina Park (Huffman Mill Road)! Bring your own lunch! Let's talk about Creation Justice! How can we "Be a Blessing" in God's Creation?

PRAYER CHAIN

Those remaining in our Prayers

Linda Cobb, Lewis & Vonnie Fowler, Troy Johnson, Kevin May, Julie Miller, Keith Miller, Shirley Perry, Joe Strickland, Nancy Thomas, Benji Terrell, Julie Miller, Carolyn Stubblefield, And those hospitalized or in specialized care facilities and our homebound.

Rev. Michelle Funk has a new cell phone number ... please make a note of it for future reference ... (336) 505-9624

STRENGTHEN OUR CHURCH OFFERING – MAY 23RD

Dear Friends and Family,

As spring awakens is to renewed life, with the emergence of budding flowers and new blooms, I am reminded life begins long before evidence if such newness is visible. Just beneath the surface seeds are sprouting roots making ready for what shall soon appear.

In many ways your generosity through 'Strengthen the Church offerings' dies just this. Your generosity seeds the work and witness of the national setting. It is your faithful support in giving that gives root to the many signs of ever-emerging life that springs forth in the form of new ministries, platforms, and advocacy needed to impact the needs of our churches and communities of this present day. What a joy it is to co-labor with each of you as we work together toward a just world for III!

With deep gratitude and love,

Rev. Traci D. Blackman
Associate General Minister, Justice & Local Church Ministries
The United Church of Christ

FIRST SUNDAY WORSHIP AT BLAKEY HALL



Pastor Michelle began leading worship at Blakey Hall on the First Sunday of the month this past Sunday.

She is joined in leadership by our very own Ms. Glenna Lewis! Glenna has agreed to provide the music during the service.

What a blessing to be able to worship with the good folks at Blakey Hall!

FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

If you miss one of our worship services don't forget they are always posted on our website, Facebook, and First Christian's YouTube page... See links below and save for future reference! We have been successfully live streaming our worship services to Facebook! You can check it out Sundays at 10:30.

Website: www.firstchristianucc.org

Facebook: [facebook.com/firstchristianucc](https://www.facebook.com/firstchristianucc)

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnz7YuDil5ON_TQsfesXXtA

DONATION DRIVE FOR BENEVOLENCE FARMS

The Missions Committee is sponsoring a donation drive for Benevolence Farms. Benevolence Farm was built on the premise of mercy and sincere belief in second chances. Our program provides a transitional employment and living program for women leaving North Carolina prisons. We recognize that change must come from within, but can be cultivated and inspired through a supportive, natural environment. Our goal is to give our participants the time and space — figuratively and literally — to make real, lasting changes. Our residents develop skills in sustainable farming, small business practices, food preparation and presentation in an environment that fosters improved physical, spiritual and financial health. Residents actively contribute to the well-being of the farm, staking a claim in the program's — and more importantly their own — success.

Below you will find a list of some of the most used items the women could use:

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Paper plates
- Mr. Clean multipurpose cleaner
- Large trash bags
- Advil
- Tylenol
- Tide with Febreze
- Downey fabric softener (sheets or liquid)
- Snuggle fabric softener
- Tampax Pearl Tampons
 - Super, Regular, & Lite are used
- Windex
- Dawn dish soap
- Bathroom cleaner
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Pine Sol
- Swiffer wet pads
- Swiffer dry pads
- Hand soap
- Clorox bleach
- Kitchen sponges
- SOS pads
- Furniture polish
- Dog treats (no rawhide)

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Judy & John Kipp

Hi First Christian, we are John and Judy Kipp. We have moved to Mebane from Up-state New York to be near our 3 daughters and their families and to enjoy beautiful North Carolina. We have both retired from the Post Office. We're so glad to have found a church home at First Christian.

627 Retriever Lane, Mebane, N.C., 27302

607-427-6594

Birth Date: John – 07-04-43

Judy – 06-08-47

Kipps958@gmail.com



Cindy Sharpe & Brooke Manning

Cindy and Brooke have been together since 2010 and have lived in Burlington their whole lives. They love traveling, spending time with their families and doting on their 2 precious dogs, Cooper and Roxy.

2908 Blanche Dr., Burlington, N.C., 27215

Cindy- 336-337-5076

Birth Date: 03-03-70

Cindy.c23sharpe@gmail.com

Brooke – 336-639-2695

Birth Date: 11-09-78

Stephbmanning@aol.com



M. Katherine Russell & Joy B. Ballard

Kathy, daughter of Mary Newsome, grew up at First Christian, and joined the church when she was 12, later transferring her membership to a church that no longer exists. Kathy has worked at the Motor License Plate Agency for 29 years as manager. She lives in Gibsonville and has two boys ... Evan and Drew. Joy grew up in Raleigh and has two children ... Ashley and Spencer. She is a stay-at-home Mom and her favorite pastime is going to the beach with her family. 107 Mica Drive. Gibsonville, N.C., 27249
Kathy – 336-693-8386
Birth Date: 01-09-72
Joy – 336-693-8385
Birth Date: 10-31-74
Katjoy1972@gmail.com



Evan Chandler Russell

Evan, son of Kathy Russell and grandson of Mary Newsome is a Senior at Western Alamance High School. He has been accepted to UNC Wilmington in the fall. Evan presently works at Starbucks. He enjoys gymnastics, cheering, acting and singing
107 Mica Dr., Gibsonville, N.C., 27249
Birth Date: 08-21-03
Cell – 336-380-4559



Mark Garrison

Mark grew up in Alamance County. He moved back to his family's home place in 2015 with Matt Rice whom he has known since 2003. Currently he is a full time stay at home dad to two adorable dogs, Emily and Jake. He enjoys spending time with them along with friends and family, and traveling when time permits. 1526 Stoney Creek Church Road, Burlington, N.C., 27217
919-608-1763
Birth Date: 01-06-1970
mrhgarrison@yahoo.com



NOTES RECEIVED ...

FCUCC Family -

I want to thank all of you for your thoughtfulness and kind gift. I am a true believer that things happen for reasons and I was called to be part of this amazing family. I cannot express my thanks and gratitude for each and every one of you as you support me spiritually, musically, and professionally.

Blessings to you all!

~Matt Rice

Dear FCUCC,

Thank you for your donation to the Little Portion Food Pantry sponsored by Blessed Sacrament. We appreciate your generosity! It really makes a difference for the families experiencing food insecurity.

Thanks – Blessed Sacrament

Hello Friends!

I would like to take a moment to say thank you. Thank you to everyone that helped to make my installation as your pastor & teacher this past Sunday so special. Thank you to Rev Eddie Weathers, Rev Sharon Wheeler, and Deborah and Tim for joining us, for your words and your encouragement. Thank you to Helen & Ken for representing the congregation! Thank you to the Deacons and the congregation for the beautiful flowers and card! I can't believe you were able to pass that card around and have everyone sign it without Jon or I noticing! Your words were so meaningful and touching, thank you!

*Love & Light,
Michelle*

WOULD YOU LIKE A PASTORAL VISIT?

Please remember Pastor Michelle may have some gifts, however, being a mind reader is not one of them! If you haven't heard from her in a while and you want to connect, please feel

free to call, text, or email her!

Pastor Michelle:

Call or text: 336-505-9624

Email: fcuccpastor@gmail.com

*please note Friday & Saturday are her Sabbath days. (with the exception of scheduled events.) She is available for emergencies only those days

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Year to Date through 04-30-21

	Actual	Budget
Income:	\$64,571.57	\$63,085.66
<u>Expense</u>	<u>\$60,692.54</u>	<u>\$63,085.66</u>
Net Balance:	\$10,607.81	.00
Balance in Checking 04-30-21		\$4,738.53

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