

First Christian United Church of Christ

# LIMPING PAST PENIEL

REV. STEPHEN BALL, OSL



# **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*

# Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC

**10:30 am Worship Service**

**October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

*Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL*

## **THE COMMUNITY GATHERS**

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: As the sun sets behind the hills,

**People: We celebrate hope in our Creator.**

Leader: Even as the sun strikes the earth in daytime

**People: We celebrate peace in our Creator.**

Leader: As we move about this earth from day to day

**People: We celebrate the love of our Creator.**

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

*The New Century Hymnal # 1*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: In silence, let us confess our sin against God and neighbor.

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Beloved God of All,

**People: We often feel deserted by Divine Justice and Peace, especially after absorbing the news each day. We allow ourselves to fully walk away from spreading Good News of your love and grace after feeling the lack of mercy in our world. We would rather be silent in places of comfort instead of shining your light in our pain-present reality. Our hearts can not bear knowing of any further wrongdoings. Open our souls to your healing. Embolden us to be persistent in our quest to do justice and love kindness. May we follow your light when the shadows attempt to swallow our resolve. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Our souls continue to open to the healing and hope of God. May we embrace the glow of God's grace as we seek ways to care for our neighbors.

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

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 32:22-31

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 121

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?

**People: My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

**People: He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

Leader: The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

**People: The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.**

Leader: The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

**People: The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.**

GLORIA

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

ANTHEM “In Every Land, Begin the Song”

by Patti Drennan

READING OF SCRIPTURE: Luke 18:1-8

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel According to Luke 18:1-8

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON: Limping Past Peniel

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

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

*\*HYMN FOR CELEBRATION: “Sweet Hour of Prayer”*

*The New Century Hymnal #505*

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 GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

\*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 FOR DEDICATION: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"***  
*The New Century Hymnal #472*

\*BENEDICTION

EXTROIT

POSTLUDE

*\*All who are able to are asked to stand;  
May we all lift our spirits into fellowship with God!*

# Announcements

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### **Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>**

John Graves Sunday School at 9:30  
Worship Service at 10:30 am

### **Stewardship Sunday**

*(Pledge cards were mailed out, please  
return them by October 26<sup>th</sup> to help  
prepare for the 2026 budget)*

### **Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**

Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm

### **Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

All Saints Day

### **Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Margaret Lightbourne at 11:00 am

### **Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**

Finance Meeting at 11:00 am

### **Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**

Official Board at 6:00 pm

### **Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**

Centennial Circle at 5:30 pm

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Regular Office Hours**

Monday - 9am – 12pm

Tuesday – 9am – 12pm

Wednesday - 9am – 12pm

Thursday - 9am – 12pm

Friday - closed

# 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.

## 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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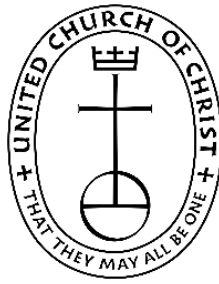
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## **Church Officers**

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: Nancey Simmons  
Hymn Leaders & Anthem: Choir  
Greeters: Benjie Terrell & David Hodges  
Ushers: Benjie Terrell, Julie Miller, Charlie Vitou, Eleanor Lovgren