



SUNDAY WORSHIP

November 9, 2025

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*

Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC

10:30 am Worship Service

November 9th, 2025

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God is waiting for us

People: With a tender heart and a searching question.

Leader: God is ready for us

People: With truth and wisdom from a deep well.

Leader: God is blessing us

People: With springs of living water.

Leader: God is sending us

People: To sing, pray and witness every day.

Leader: God is here.

People: Let the conversation begin.

**HYMN OF PRAISE: "Sing Praise to God, Our Highest God"*

The New Century Hymnal #6

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Let us in silence confess our sins against God and neighbor.

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: God of the Heavenly Winds are Earthy Air,

All: So often, we concern ourselves about the afterlife. We wonder who will be there, what we need to believe, and more. Yet, on this side of heaven, in your earthly Realm, there are many still hurting from the pains accumulated in this life. From illnesses to poverty, and from the lack of kindness to the overwhelming injustices, we overlook the needs of our siblings. Open our hearts to the gaps happening in our world. Allow us to be more compassionate and less judgmental about our neighbors who need additional help. Help us to set aside our worries about the afterlife as we know you will care for us there and then. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Even when we are overwhelmed by our thoughts of life after death, God shares hope. May God's grace transform us here in this world as we build the Realm of God here on earth. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Job 19:23-27a

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 98

Leader: O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

People The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

Leader: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

People: Make a joyful noise of the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Leader: Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

People: Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it.

Leader: Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth.

People: He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

GLORIA

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

SCRIPTURE: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM "A Celtic Thanksgiving"

By Williams & Martin

READING OF SCRIPTURE: Luke 20: 27-38

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel According to Luke 20:27-38
(scripture reading)

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

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: "Not What You Expect...Better!"

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD

**HYMN OF CELEBRATION: "Not My Brother, nor My Sister"*

The New Century Hymnal #519

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

All: 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

Pastor: We have our minds set to our time after this life. Yet God is calling us to care for our communities and churches here on this side of Heaven. May we name the ways we can create Heaven on earth for our neighbors. By using our talents, treasures, and time, may we seek to build safety and sanctuary for all of God's children.

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: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*

The Pilgrim Hymnal #15

**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, November 16th

John Graves Sunday School at 9:30
Worship Service at 10:30 am
followed by
Turkey Day & Cake Auction

Monday, November 10th

Official Board at 6:00 pm

Tuesday, November 11th

Centennial Circle at 5:30 pm

Sunday, November 16th

Turkey Day & Cake Auction
Poinsettia Forms are Due



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.

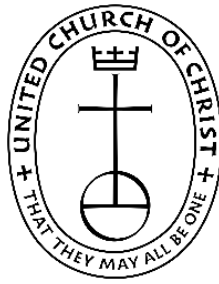
Serving in our Armed Forces

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.



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