



# May

2025  
NEWSLETTER





# Devotion

Since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

I Thessalonians 5:8

I read an article where it was reported that a substitute school teacher began her work each day in a class by sharing her name and saying, “If you are nice to me, I will be nice to you. If you are not nice to me, I will still be nice to you.” What a wonderful attitude and approach to life!

I remember an e-mail that was sent to me entitled,

## “10 RULES FOR A HAPPY DAY”

Both made me think about my attitude and approach to life.

What do they say about your attitude and approach to life?

### 1. TODAY I WILL NOT STRIKE BACK:

If someone is rude, if someone is impatient, if someone is unkind...

I will not respond in a like manner.

### 2. TODAY I WILL ASK GOD TO BLESS MY “ENEMY”:

If I come across someone who treats me harshly or unfairly, I will quietly ask God to bless that individual. I understand the “enemy” could be a family member, neighbor, co-worker or stranger.

### 3. TODAY I WILL BE CAREFUL ABOUT WHAT I SAY:

I will carefully choose and guard my words,  
being certain that I do not spread gossip.

# Devotion

## 4. TODAY I WILL GO THE EXTRA MILE:

I will find ways to help share the burden of another person.

## 5. TODAY I WILL FORGIVE:

I will forgive any hurts or injuries that come my way.

## 6. TODAY I WILL DO SOMETHING NICE FOR SOMEONE, BUT I WILL DO IT SECRETLY:

I will reach out anonymously and bless the life of another.

## 7. TODAY I WILL TREAT OTHERS THE WAY I WISH TO BE TREATED:

I will practice the golden rule -

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”

- with everyone I encounter.

## 8. TODAY I WILL RAISE THE SPIRITS OF SOMEONE WHO IS DISCOURAGED:

My smile, my words, my expression of support,  
can make the difference to someone who is wrestling with life.

## 9. TODAY I WILL NURTURE MY BODY:

I will eat less; I will eat healthy foods. I will thank God for my body.

## 10. TODAY I WILL GROW SPIRITUALLY:

I will spend a little more time in prayer today. I will begin reading something  
spiritual or inspirational today. I will find a quiet place

(at some point during this day)

and listen to God's voice!!!

-- Author Unknown

# Devotion

There is so much that happens about us that we cannot control, but the one thing that we can work to control is our attitude and approach toward what happens to us.

What determines your attitude?

What is your approach to life?

What place does your Christian faith play in helping you deal with the good and the bad, the joys and the sorrows, the blessings and the stresses of each day?

Does your desire to live as an instrument for God's good to be done lead you to allow God's spirit to work in and through your life?

I find these to be challenging questions for the challenging times in which we live.

Best wishes in the journey. God is with us.  
Jamie Fonville

# OUR CHURCH FAMILY

## Birthdays

Sandra Greene 5/5

Lisa Reid 5/7

Iris Workman 5/8

Carol Fonville 5/17

Matt Rice 5/23

Gayle Watson 5/31

## Anniversaries

Spanky & Mary Newsome 5/28

## Those Remaining in Our Prayers

Buster Freeman

Nell Allred

David Allred

*(White Oak of Burlington Room 305 - C)*

Amber Massey

Joe Strickland

Ross Strange Sr.

Holly Bent (Phil's Friend)

Ray Palok

(Matt's Step-Father)

The Family of Jerry Gertz

Lewis Fowler

John & Judy Kipp

The Family of Bettie Braxton

Tom Peterson

(Protection, deliverance & peace)

## Prayers

If you need prayers or know someone that does please let us know.

You can call the office or call your Deacon.

We are here to assist in anyway that's helpful.



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **Saturday, May 3rd**
  - *Alamance StringS Recitals 2pm & 4pm*
  - *Preserve Alamance Open House at The Salvage Shop (Glencoe) from 12:00 to 2:00 pm*
- **Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**
  - *Worship with Communion*
- **Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**
  - *Margaret Lightbourne Circle at 11:00 am*
- **Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**
  - *Finance Meeting at 11:00 am*
- **Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**
  - *Mother's Day*
- **Monday, May 12th**
  - *Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm*
- **Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**
  - *Centennial Circle at 5:30 pm*
- **Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**
  - *FCUCC Open House Hosted by Preserve Burlington in the Sanctuary from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm*
- **Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**
  - *Memorial Day: Office is Closed*
- **Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>**
  - *Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm*

## Community Engagement

Blessed Sacrament Food Distribution will be moving their location to their building on our block. We have agreed to allow them to use our parking lot for their distribution lines.

2nd Mondays from 10:30 - 1:30 pm

4th Mondays from 1:30 - 3:30 pm

PRESERVATION  
**BURLINGTON**



Preserve. Educate. Involve.

Save The Date!  
Preservation Month Celebration

Join us on May 3rd, 12:00–2:00 pm at The Salvage Shop for a Preservation Month Celebration — featuring a free cookout, live music by Mebanesville Band, and an exciting announcement you won't want to miss! (The Salvage Shop will be open from 9:00 am–2:00 pm for May Open Day — come early and explore!)

To help us plan, please let us know you're coming by clicking the button below and RSVP'ing on our Facebook event page.

RSVP-I'm coming! on facebook  
(<https://www.facebook.com/presburlingtonnc>)

## March Canned Food Drive

The food drive for canned vegetables and dried beans was a remarkable success! We filled multiple large boxes with canned tomatoes, green beans, peas, carrots, and many bags of dried beans, along with a variety of other items. All of these donations were taken to the Allied Churches of Alamance County, where they were greatly appreciated. It's inspiring to see how much our First Christian UCC family cares about helping others!

## One Great Hour of Sharing

As a congregation we raised \$450.00 for the UCC One Great Hour of Sharing Offering this past March. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to giving back!



## Picture Display

Please bring in framed pictures of your Mother and/or Father labeled with their names under each picture. These pictures are an important way to share these memories with our church. These can be brought to the Parlor to be displayed by the committee and others to see. A basket will be in the parlor to place them in until displayed.



# **MAY MISSION PROJECT FOR FIRST CHRISTIAN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

The Board of Deacons has voted to have our May Mission project to be financial support for Benevolence Farms, which is located in the southern part of Alamance County. We are doing this in conjunction with Life's Journey UCC, who is sponsoring an outdoor event on Saturday, June 14, 2025 in their church yard in behalf of Benevolence Farms. See additional information below about this event.

The quote below is from the Benevolence Farm website, as they seek to help women who have been in prison to readjust to society.

“At Benevolence Farm, we believe that we are more than our worst mistakes. We all have the right to safety, housing, food, healing, and connection rooted in dignity and self-autonomy.”

“Our flagship program — transitional housing and employment — provides a space for women and gender expansive people returning home from prison and jail to process, heal, and prepare for what's next in a rural setting surrounded by nature. Benevolence Farms is one of the few places across the state that accepts people of all criminal convictions. After each person's arrival, they set their own goals and staff works alongside them to identify the right resources to succeed. Because each resident leads the way in their reentry, we see about 15% of our alumni return to incarceration within two years, and almost all who are reincarcerated are for a technical violation regarding their probation or parole. Ultimately, we hope to measure the extent to which our alumni thrive in — and with — their communities of choice.”

First Christian's Mission Project in May is for monetary donations to be made to help these women become positive contributors to society. Checks can be made out to First Christian UCC and designated for Benevolence Farms. They should be turned in by the first of June.

Thank you!

**RESISTANCE FEST**

**RESIST HATE RECLAIM LOVE**

**A FUNDRAISER FOR BENEVOLENCE FARM**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025 FROM 3 TO 8 PM**

**LAWN AT LIFE'S JOURNEY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**TICKETS: \$20 IN ADVANCE FROM THE CHURCH \$25 AT THE DOOR**

**FOOD TRUCKS ON SITE**

**LIVE MUSIC BY: RISSI PALMER, JENNIFER KNAPP, ABIGAIL DOWD,  
JESS KLEIN, JANE KRAMER, MAIA KAMIL**





# Spring Solo Recital

# ALAMANCE STRINGS

First Christian United Church of Christ

May 3, 2025 2:00 pm & 4:00 pm





# THEMES & LITURGISTS

## Communion

Judy Hodges & Phil Bray 5/2

## Greeter

Eleanor Lovgren

## Ushers

Benji Terrell (head)

Julie Miller, Eleanor Lovgren, Charlie Vitou

## Liturgists

May 4 - Dotti Davis

May 11 - Judy Hodges

May 18 - Nancey Simmons

May 25 - Jamie Fonville

## Receptions

Please join us in the parlor for fellowship and light refreshments after  
Worship on Sundays.



# CHURCH INFORMATION

## Mission Statement

*(Revised 2/4/24)*

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."

## Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am - 12 pm

## Church Officers

President: Jamie Fonville

Vice President: Cindy Sharpe

Treasurer: Judy Kipp

Assistant Treasurer: Julie Miller

Secretary: Mark Garrison

## Church Staff

Interim Minister: Deborah Suess

Organist / Choir Director: Matt Rice

Custodian: Rodney Paul Sr.

Office Administrator: Debbie Norris