

Sunday, May 24, 2026

The Day of Pentecost



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*

Pentecost Sunday

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC
May 24th, 2026 at 10:30 am

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The world tells us we must all tune into the same channel, march to the exact same beat.

People: But the Spirit breaks through the static with a beautiful, chaotic diversity.

Leader: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are varieties of services, but the same Lord.

People: We are not a monolith; we are a masterpiece in the making.

Leader: The breath of God has entered the room. The fire is lit.

People: Let us switch off the distractions of the world and tune our hearts to the frequency of grace. Let us worship God!

**HYMN OF PRAISE: "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" vs 1-2*

The New Century Hymnal #286

ACT OF CONTRITION

Leader: If we are honest with ourselves, our deepest temptation isn't failure – it's envy. We look at the person next to us, or the person on our screens, and we wonder why we didn't get *their* specific spiritual gift. We look at the body of Christ and say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong." We isolate ourselves, or worse, we try to force everyone else to look exactly like us. Let us step out of our self-imposed silos and into the light of God's truth as we confess our sins together.

People: Holy and Breathing God, we confess that we are terrified of true diversity. We say we want the fire of Pentecost, but we prefer a controlled, indoor fireplace. We confess that we have looked at the gifts of others with jealousy, and we have looked at our own gifts with arrogance. We have fractured your body. We have tried to build an empire of echoes rather than a kingdom of connection. Forgive us for wanting everyone to speak our language instead of doing the hard work of listening to theirs. Blow through the locked doors of our hearts, spark something new within us, and put us back together as one. Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news: God is not running a talent competition. There are no eliminations on this stage. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead has activated *you* – exactly as you are. In the waters of baptism, you were signed, sealed, and delivered into a grace that cannot be revoked. By the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are completely forgiven. **Amen.**

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Numbers 11:24-30

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PSALM from Psalm 104

Leader: O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

People: When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

Leader: May the glory of the LORD endure forever, may the LORD rejoice in his works – who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.

People: I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

Leader: May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.

People: Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!

GLORIA PATRI (sung to #759 NCH)

**All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM *You Raise Me Up*

By Tom Fettke

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:1-21

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: “*Wind and Fire*”

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD

*HYMN OF CELEBRATION: “*Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*” vs 3-4

The New Century Hymnal #286

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Response: Leader: “Spirit of (God)...” **People: “...hear our prayer.”**

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

THE MINISTRY OF GENEROSITY

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 OF DEDICATION: “*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*”

The Hymnal #575

*BENEDICTION

EXTROIT

POSTLUDE

Announcements

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, May 25th

Memorial Day – Office is Closed

Tuesday, May 26th

Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm

Sunday, May 31st

John Graves Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship Service 10:30 am

*Celebrate Faye Strickland's
100th Birthday*

Tuesday, June 2nd

Finance Meeting at 11:00 am

Wednesday, June 3rd – Thursday June 4th

Office is Closed

Monday, June 8th

Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm

Sunday, June 21st

Father's Day

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regular Office Hours

Monday - 9am – 12pm

Tuesday – 9am – 12pm

Wednesday - 9am – 12pm

Thursday - 9am – 12pm

Friday - closed

John Graves Sunday School Note

Sunday School will be studying the New Testament book of James starting Sunday, April 26th. Please join us!

Serving in our Armed Forces

CPT Kirk Workman

James Barnwell

Dalton Anthony Jones, Ensign US Navy

(Family of June & Dotti)

Notes

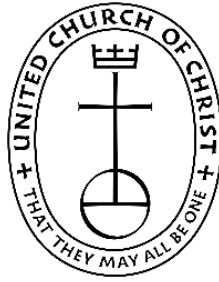
Inspired by something said in the word or sung in a song today? Take a moment to write it here to remember later.

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.

Buster Freeman
Nell Allred
Amber Massey
Joe Strickland
Ross Strange Sr.
Trisha Shelly
Ray Palyok
(Matt's Step-Father)
Lewis Fowler
Carolyn Wolley / Family
Dave Smudski / Family

Brenda Grogan
Rodney Paul Sr.
Holly Bent
Nanci Isley
(Friend of Sherry Massey)
Curtis Foster
Jon & Judy Kipp
Betty King & Roger King
Troy Marquardt
Blake Jones
June Sellars



Church Officers

President: Jamie Fonville
Vice President: Cindy Sharpe
Treasurer: Judy Kipp
Assistant Treasurer: Julie Miller
Secretary: Matt Rice

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