

Sunday, May 31, 2026

Trinity Sunday



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*

Trinity Sunday

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC

May 31st, 2026 at 10:30 am

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the beginning, God creates – splashing galaxies across the dark, sculpting the Blue Ridge and the Piedmont, breathing life into clay, and calling it “very good.”

People: We come to praise the Creator, who holds the cosmos in love.

Leader: In the fullness of time, Christ walked among us – healing the broken, challenging the empires, and showing us that love is louder than the grave.

People: We come to follow the Redeemer, who meets us in the dirt of the earth.

Leader: Here and now, the Holy Spirit moves – rustling like the wind through the pines, igniting our hearts, and binding us to one another and to the soil beneath our feet.

People: We come to breathe with the Sustainer, who renews the face of the earth.

Leader: Holy, Holy, Holy is the Triune God, the divine community of love.

People: Let us worship God together.

**HYMN OF PRAISE: “Holy, Holy, Holy”*

The New Century Hymnal #277

ACT OF CONTRITION

Leader: There is a recurring motif in our cultural imagination – think of every post-apocalyptic film or dystopian series filling our screens right now – where humanity looks at a dying, scarred world and asks, “How did we let it get this bad?”

The truth is, we don’t need a Hollywood budget to see the fractures. We see them in our own mirrors, in our broken relationships, and in our reckless disregard for this fragile island home we share with the rest of creation. We treat the earth like a disposable stage prop rather than a sacred sanctuary built by a loving Trinity.

But our God does not walk away when the world gets messy. God invites us into the truth. Let us confess our sins, together, before the One who fashioned us.

People: Holy God, Three-in-One and One-in-Three, you exist in a perfect relationship of love, and you invited us into that dance. But we have broken step. We confess that we have isolated ourselves from you, from our neighbors, and from the earth itself. We have acted as rulers of creation rather than its caretakers. We have paved over your wonders, poisoned your waters, and ignored the groaning of the earth. Forgive us for our profound shortsightedness. Forgive us for living as though we are the only characters that matter in your grand story. Realign us with your communal heart. Teach us to live interconnectedly, tenderly, and justly, so that our lives might reflect the harmony of your divine being. Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news, church: The Trinity is not a closed circle. It is an open, expanding embrace. God the Creator has not abandoned the work of human hands; Christ the Redeemer has stitched himself into the very fabric of our flesh and our earth; and the Holy Spirit refuses to stop breathing life into our tired lungs.

By the grace of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, you are renewed, and you are sent out to heal the world.

Amen.

THE RECOGNITION OF FAYE STRICKLAND

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PSALM from Psalm 8

Leader: O GOD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

People: Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

Leader: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

People: what are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

Leader: Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor.

People: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,

Leader: all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

People: O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

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: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM *We Believe*

Arr. H. Sorenson

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28: 16-20

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: *“And So It Begins”*

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD

**HYMN OF CELEBRATION: “Trust and Obey”*

The Hymnal #349

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Congregational Response: ... “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: “Joyful, Joyful”*

The New Century Hymnal #4

*BENEDICTION

EXTROIT

POSTLUDE

Announcements

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, June 1st

Margaret Lightbourne will meet for fun,
food, and fellowship.

Carver's Restaurant at 11:00 am.

Please RSVP to Carol Fonville.

Tuesday, June 2nd

Finance Meeting at 11:00 am

Wednesday, June 3rd – Thursday June 4th

Office is Closed

Sunday, June 7th

John Graves Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship Service 10:30 am

Monday, June 8th

Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm

Sunday, June 21st

Father's Day

Tuesday, June 30th

Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm

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

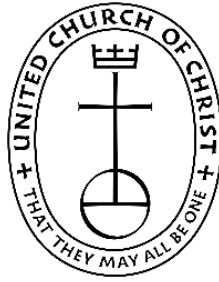
Inspired by something said in the word or sung in a song today? Take a moment to write it here to remember later.

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
Nancy Hughes
(Trish Ball's Mother)



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