

Sunday, October 4, 2026

The Nineteenth Sunday after 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."

WORSHIP MATTERS

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Today, Christians around the world gather at one Table to celebrate the Lord's Supper together, regardless of language, culture, or nation. First observed in 1936 and widely embraced by the United Church of Christ and other denominations, World Communion Sunday reminds us that the bread we break and the cup we share unite us with believers everywhere — a visible sign of the unity we share in Christ, even amid our beautiful diversity. As we come to the Table this morning, let us remember our sisters and brothers in faith across the globe, giving thanks for the one Body of Christ that spans every border.

This morning we will take Communion by Intinction (dipping the bread into the cup) at the front of the Sanctuary. As always, anyone who has trouble walking can be served in their seat; simply let an usher know.

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Day

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC
October 4th, 2026 at 10:30 am

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The heavens tell the glory of God, whether we are paying attention or not.

People: Day to day pours forth speech; night to night declares knowledge.

Leader: God's law is not a cage, but a map to keep us human.

People: Revive our souls, clear our vision, and make us wise.

Leader: Let us worship the One whose truth outlasts our noise.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

**HYMN OF PRAISE: "In the Midst of New Dimensions"*

The New Century Hymnal #391

THE ACT OF CONTRITION

All: God of the vineyard, we confess our tidy hypocrisies. You planted us for justice, yet we yield the wild grapes of complacency. You gave us commandments to protect our neighbors, and we treat them as suggestions to negotiate. We want the fruit without the labor; we want the kingdom without the sacrifice. Forgive our self-righteous certainty. Prune away our greed, and teach us to bear the fruit of your mercy. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Leader: The Word of God for all people.

People: Thanks be to God!

RESONSIVE PSALM from Psalm 19

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

People: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world.

Leader: In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

People: Its rising is from the end of the heavens and its circuit to the end of them, and nothing is hid from its heat.

Leader: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

People: the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

Leader: the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever, the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

People: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Leader: Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

People: But who can detect one's own errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

Leader: Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression.

People: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

GLORIA PATRI: (#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: Philippians 3:4b-14

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Leader: The Word of God for all people.

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM *One World, One Communion*

P. Choplin

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 21:33-46

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Leader: The Word of God for all people.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS AT THE TABLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Congregational Response: ... **"Hear our prayer."**

THE MINISTRY OF GENEROSITY

DOXOLOGY

***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 COMMUNION PRAYER *(see insert)*

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

One: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

**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.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor: Come, the table is prepared.

*(The congregation, as they are able, proceeds to the table to commune by intinction.
Those who are unable to walk will be served at their seats.)*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Our Savior Jesus Christ keep and preserve you to everlasting life.

Let us pray:

**All: We thank you, God for inviting us to this table where we have known
the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen
our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your
praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THE COMMUNITY GOES INTO THE WORLD

**HYMN OF DEDICATION: "Jesus Shall Reign"*

The New Century Hymnal #300

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*A Special THANK YOU to Beth Painter
for sharing her musical talents with us this Sunday!*

Announcements

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, October 5th

Margaret Lightbourne Circle at 11:00 am
*(Guest speaker, Ann Russell on
Morrowtown Community Gardens)*

Sunday, October 11th

John Graves Sunday School at 9:30 am
(Studying the book of Mark)
All are welcome!

Worship Service at 10:30 am

Monday, October 12th

Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm

Tuesday, October 13th

Centennial Circle at 5:30 pm

Sunday, October 25th

Stewardship Sunday
Get your pledge cards in by today!
Laity Sunday

Tuesday, October 27th

Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm

Ongoing Mission Project

We will be collecting 13-gallon trash bags
to help Allied Churches.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office Hours

Monday - 9am – 12pm
Tuesday – 9am – 12pm
Wednesday - 9am – 12pm
Thursday - 9am – 12pm
Friday - closed

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

Shawn Hooks

(Matt's Nephew)

Brenda Grogan

Holly Bent

Nanci Isley

(Friend of Sherry Massey)

Jon & Judy Kipp

Betty King & Roger King

Blake Jones

June Sellars

Nancy Hughes

(Trish Ball's Mother)

Darla Bray

Eleanor Lovgren

Dana Matherly

(Terry Ragland's daughter)

The Family of Jane Pate

(Family of Jamie Fonville)

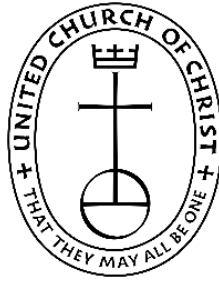
Pete Pate

Joy McPhail

Carol Fonville

The K Family

Anthony Kline



Church Officers

President: Jamie Fonville
Vice President: Cindy Sharpe
Treasurer: Vacant (*Julie M. acting Treasurer*)
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