

SUNDAY WORSHIP

January 18, 2026



"Come and See"

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

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*

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC
10:30 am Worship Service January 18th, 2026

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Listen to me, O Coastlands; pay attention, you people from far away!

People: God called us before we were born; we were named by God while in our mother's womb.

Leader: God made our mouths like sharp swords; in the shadow of God's hand, we were hidden.

People: God made us a polished arrow; in God's quiver, we were hidden away.

Leader: I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

People: Kings shall see and stand up; princess shall prostrate themselves, because of God, who is faithful, the Holy One has chosen you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE: "Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove"

The New Century Hymnal #281

CALL TO CONFESSION

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

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: God of mercy and grace,

People: we confess that we have not trusted you with our whole selves.

We have not seen ourselves as your claimed and beloved people.

We have not seen others as your claimed and beloved people.

We have separated ourselves from our neighbors.

We have focused on our differences instead of our shared humanity.

We have boasted in our own importance and abilities.

Forgive us, we pray, for the ways we have failed to be your church in the world.

Knit us together once more with the same mind and purpose that is in Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear the good news: Christ Jesus became for us wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption so that our faith would rest in the power of God. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 40:1-11

Leader: I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

People: He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

Leader: He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God, Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.

People: Happy are those who make the LORD their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.

Leader: You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

People: Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.

Leader: Then I said, "Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

People: I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD.

Leader: I have not hidden your saving help within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

People: Do not, O LORD, withhold your mercy from me; let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.

GLORIA

All: Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and blessed; One God, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM: Here I Stand

SERMON: "Come and See"

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD

*HYMN OF CELEBRATION: "Just as I Am"

The New Century Hymnal #207

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

CHORAL RESPONSE

INVITATION TO GIVE

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 OF DEDICATION: "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

The New Century Hymnal #76

*BENEDICTION

EXTROIT

POSTLUDE

Announcements

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, January 18th

The Office is Closed
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Sunday, January 25th at 10:30 am

John Graves Sunday School at 9:30 am
Worship Service at 10:30 am

Tuesday, January 27th

Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm

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.

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

David Hodges
Brenda Grogan
Spanky Newsome
Holly Bent
Troy Marquardt
Joy McPhail
Blake Jones
Jerry Barnwell
Chris Wysocki
Debbie Caporoli
Nanci Isley
(Friend of Sherry Massey)
Our Nation

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