

November

NEWSLETTER

2025



Devotion



Writers are told to “write what you know.”

Right now what I know is the experience of moving into a new house in a new development out in the country. Trish and I were blessed to find a house that fits our needs which even has a nice yard for the grandchildren



to play in. One of my most nagging frustrations, however, has been that we only had a vague estimation of where our property lines are. Our lot, you see, is spacious but...odd. Visualizing the shape of our land has been complicated further because much of it has been overgrown with scrub, weeds, briars, wild grasses taller than either of us. Even if there had been marker flags, we would not have been able to see them. Enter the surveyor.

Just this week our surveyor came and left stakes at the property corners and marked out the boundaries. We cleared the brush down all of the property lines and emerged with a clear outline of our lot. We found our boundaries.

Devotion

Where do we find the lines in our spiritual life? How do we know where we can safely walk in the proper places? How do we stay in bounds? Further, how do we clear out the brush and unwanted growth that keeps us from even seeing the markers?



Let me suggest that, together, we at First Christian UCC have had our boundaries marked by Scripture and two thousand years of Christian teaching. Through worship and study, prayer and community life we clear out the spiritual brush hiding the borders of the Kingdom of God.

I have to say, whether on “the back forty” or in our Christian lives, knowing where the corners are is greatly reassuring!

O God of grace and of bounty, thank you for providing through the example of your Son a clear outline of where we belong. Help us keep away the unhelpful things in our lives that prevent us from seeing where you want us to be. In the name of Jesus, our Divine Surveyor, amen.

Pastor Stephen

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Birthdays

Sherrie Linton 11/2
Roger King 11/7
Brooke Manning 11/9

Merle Sharpe 11/12
Phil Bray 11/19
Sandy Stone 11/19
Keith Miller 11/27

Those Remaining in Our Prayers

Buster Freeman
Nell Allred
Amber Massey
Joe Strickland
Ross Strange Sr.
Trisha Shelly
John Moon
Ray Palok
Lewis Fowler
Keith Miller

Roger & Betty King
Brooke Manning
David Hodges
Brenda Grogan
Spanky Newsome
Joe Winstead
Holly Bent
Troyo Marquardt
Joy McPhail
Elizabeth Wilson
Blake Jones

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

- **Sunday, November 2nd**
 - *All Saints Day*
- **Monday, November 3rd**
 - *Margaret Lightbourne Circle at 11:00 am*
- **Wednesday, November 5th**
 - *Finance Meeting at 11:00 am*
- **Monday, November 10th**
 - *Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm*
- **Tuesday, November 11th**
 - *Centennial Circle at 5:30 pm*
- **Sunday, November 16th**
 - *Turkey Day & Cake Auction*
- **Tuesday, November 25th**
 - *Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm*
- **Tuesday, Nov. 25th - Thursday, Nov. 27th**
 - *Office is Closed - Happy Thanksgiving!!*
- **Sunday, November 30th**
 - *Hanging of the Greens*

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

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Alamance Crop Walk

Thank you to those who participated, volunteered, and/or donated to the Alamance County Crop Walk on October 4th.

We raised \$125.00!!



UCC Neighbors in Need Offering

Thank you to those who gave financially to support the UCC Neighbors in Need program on October 5th . We raised \$575. 00!!



THEMES & LITURGISTS

Communion

Mary Newsome & Judy Hodges -11/2

Greeter

Carol Fonville

Ushers

Benji Terrell (head)

Julie Miller, Eleanor Lovgren, Charlie Vitou

Liturgists

November 2nd - Carol Fonville

November 9th - Sandra Greene

November 16th - Jamie Fonville

November 23rd - Tena Barnwell

November 30th - Sherry Massey

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

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

Organist / Choir Director: Matt Rice

Custodian: Rodney Paul Sr.

Office Administrator: Debbie Norris