

# *Sunday Worship*

October 26th, 2025



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*

# Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC  
**10:30 am Worship Service      October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

*Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL*

## **THE COMMUNITY GATHERS**

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God moves with us through this earth and nurtures the soil,

**People: Our neighbors are awed by God's works.**

Leader: God's river flows with water, and the fields are blessed by the Spirit,

**People: Our neighbors are awed by God's gifts.**

Leader: God's wilderness fields overflow with joy.

**People: Our neighbors are awed by God's grace.**

*\*HYMN OF PRAISE: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"*

*The New Century Hymnal # 12*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: In silence, let us confess our sin against God and neighbor.

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: God of the Mountains and Canyons,

**All: The range of emotions that wash through us are often triggers for the ways we hold ourselves. At times, we seek humility, but often find ourselves believing we do not deserve your love. Other times, as we search for confidence, we believe we are your favorites and find ourselves in moments of comparison, contrast, and judgment. Are we better than our neighbors? How can we relate to siblings in Christ when their lives are not like ours and they stand out when visiting our spaces? We are misguided as we give thanks that our lives are not as chaotic and unkempt as theirs. Yet you ask us to seek humility and know that each of your children are loved equally. Help us to extend mercy to our neighbors, and fill their minds with words of encouragement. May each of us know our value in your Realm and experience your love in its fullness. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God fully shares mercy and grace no matter where we sit in our churches or what our power is in this world.

## **THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD**

SCRIPTURE: Sirach 35:12-17

### SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

### RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 84:1-7

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

**People: Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.**

Leader: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

**People: Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.**

Leader: As they go through the valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.

**People: They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.**

### GLORIA

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

### ANTHEM "People Need the Lord"

by McDonald

### READING OF SCRIPTURE: Luke 18:9-14

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel According to Luke 18:9-14

*He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."*

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

### SERMON: "No Regrets"

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

## **THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD**

*\*HYMN FOR CELEBRATION: "Breath on Me, Breath of God"*

*The New Century Hymnal #292*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

**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

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 FOR DEDICATION: "Be Thou My Vision"*

*The New Century Hymnal #451*

*\*BENEDICTION*

EXTROIT

POSTLUDE

*\*All who are able to are asked to stand;  
May we all lift our spirits into fellowship with God!*

# Announcements

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**

Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm

**Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

All Saints Day

John Graves Sunday School at 9:30

Worship Service at 10:30 am

**Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Margaret Lightbourne at 11:00 am

**Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**

Finance Meeting at 11:00 am

**Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**

Official Board at 6:00 pm

**Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**

Centennial Circle at 5:30 pm

**Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**

Turkey Day & Cake Auction

Poinsettia Forms are Due

## 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.

## 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.

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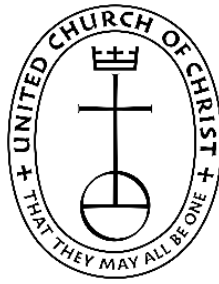
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## **Church Officers**

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