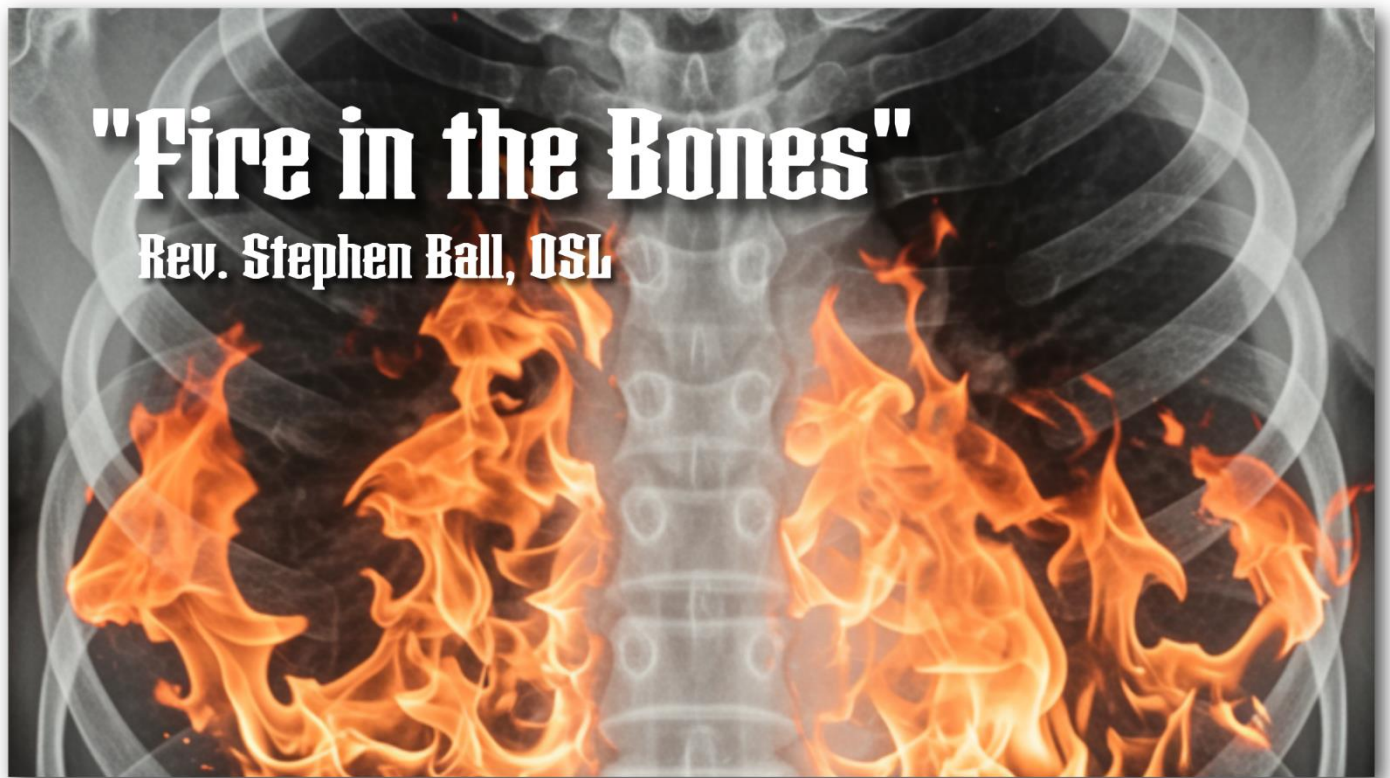


Sunday, June 21, 2026

The Fourth 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."

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*

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC

June 21st, 2026 at 10:30 am

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATION OF FATHERS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: There are mornings we wake up wishing the world would just quiet down, wishing the call on our lives was a little less...demanding.

People: We try to sit on our hands. We try to hold our breath. We try to keep our mouths shut.

Leader: We tell ourselves, "I won't mention God's name. I won't cause a scene. I'll just blend into the background."

People: But there is a restlessness here. A holy friction.

Leader: Like a fire shut up in our very bones, love demands to be expressed. Justice demands to be lived.

People: We are weary of holding it in. We cannot contain it.

Leader: Come, let us yield to the fire. Let us worship God.

**HYMN OF PRAISE: "Great is Thy Faithfulness"*

The New Century Hymnal #423

THE ACT OF CONTRITION

Leader: Let's be honest with ourselves: keeping the peace is always easier than keeping the faith. It is exhausting to care about things that matter, and it is incredibly tempting to just numb out. We are often offered the choice between the painful truth and a comfortable illusion – and a lot of Sundays, the illusion looks pretty good. We choose the quiet life over the prophetic life. Let us confess the ways we have tried to douse the holy fire within us.

People: God of the burning bush and the restless heart, we admit that we are tired. We confess that we have tried to cool down the passions you placed inside us because warm indifference is so much more socially acceptable. We see hurt in our neighborhood, and we look at our phones. We see systemic injustice, and we convince ourselves that someone else is handling it. We try to shut the fire up in our bones, opting for comfort over courage, and silence over solidarity. Forgive us for our calculated coldness. Stir the embers of our spirits, thaw our frozen imaginations, and make us dangerously alive to the needs of your world. Amen.

Leader: The thing about the divine fire is that it doesn't consume us; it refines us. God does not abandon us to our numbness. The flame is rekindled, the embers are blown into life once more, and we are made new. Hear the good news: you are forgiven, you are reclaimed, and you are fueled for the journey ahead. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 20:7-13

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PSALM from Psalm 69

Leader: But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me. With your faithful help rescue me from sinking in the mire; let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.

People: Do not let the flood sweep over me or the deep swallow me up or the Pit close its mouth over me.

Leader: Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good, according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.

People: Do not hide your face from your servant, for I am in distress – make haste to answer me. Draw near to me; redeem me; set me free because of my enemies.

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: Romans 6:1b-11

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM *Lord, I Want To Be A Christian*

Arr. M. Hogan

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 10:24-39

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: *"Fire in the Bones"*

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD

*HYMN OF CELEBRATION: *"O Savior, Let Me Walk with You"*

The New Century Hymnal #503

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

(Responding: (...**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: *"Rise Up, O Men of God"*

The Pilgrim #300

*BENEDICTION

EXTROIT

POSTLUDE

Announcements

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, June 30th
Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm

Saturday, July 4th
July 4th Holiday

Monday, July 13th
Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm

Sunday, July 26th
Christmas in July Worship Service

Tuesday, July 28th
Deacon Meeting at 6:00 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regular 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

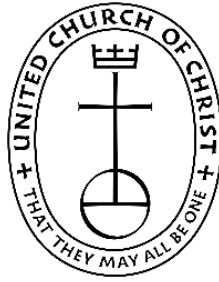
Inspired by something said in the word or sung in a song today? Take a moment to write it here to remember later.

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
Carolyn Wolley / Family
Dave Smudski / Family
Susan Horne

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