

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

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC 10:30 am Worship Service September 21st, 2025

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN OF PRAISE: "There Is a Balm in Gilead"

The New Century Hymnal #553

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Beginning with a moment of silent confession let us confess our sin before God and each other.

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: God our Redeemer...

All:forgive us for defiling your holy ground. We have not cared for your creation, we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves, and we have not been faithful with the gifts you have given to us. We ask you not to clean our slate but to renew our hearts, and replace it with compassion, empathy, and accountability to our neighbor, siblings, and creation. Awaken a new life within us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Beloved, a new life is possible. The Holy One has planted compassion within our hearts. We need only allow ourselves to come alive to the hope and joy that transformation promises us. Receive the grace of God to release fear of failure in order to try and fail and try again to be all that God will empower us to be.

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Amos 8:4-7

Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the

wheat." The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PALM: Psalm 113

Leader: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.

People: Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time on and forevermore.

Leader: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised.

People: The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.

Leader: Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

People: He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people...Praise the LORD!

GLORIA

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

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all--this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM "Teach Me"

Martin & Nordmeyer

READING OF SCRIPTURE:

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel According to Luke 16:1-15

(Scripture Reading)

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

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD

*HYMN FOR CELEBRATION: "At the Name of Jesus"

King Weston's (see insert) #105

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

Pastor: Let us bring our gifts as faithful stewards so that lives may be changed, needs may be met, and the kindom of God realized. Give generously and cheerfully as an act of grateful praise.

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*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

Pastor: Abundant God, may the gifts we give along with your miraculous power be sufficient to the needs of the community and a blessing to the world that you love. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY GOES INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN FOR DEDICATION: "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee"

The Hymnal #451

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go out into the world to love and serve the Holy One

In word and in deed

In season and out of season

In trust and in stewardship

Go, faithful servant of God

Go in peace, in the name of Creator, Christ, and Comforter. Amen.

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

Sunday, September 28th

Sunday School Cancelled Worship Service at 10:30 am

Tuesday, September 30th

Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm

Saturday, October 4th

CROP Walk

(Trinity Worship Center at 3157 S. Church Street. Registration at 8:30 am. Walk starts at 9:30am. We have a few members walking. Feel free to register to walk or sponsor those walking.)

Sunday, October 5th

Neighbors in Need Offering World Communion Day

Monday, October 6th

Margaret Lightbourne Circle at 11:00am (Ducks in a Row Program)

Wednesday, October 8th

Finance Meeting at 11:00am

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.		



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