



June NEWSLETTER

2025

Devotion

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.

Psalm 8:3-5 [NIV]

Who are you and I, that our lives matter on this earth that is inhabited with 8.2 billion other people? Who are you and I, that we make any difference as we live on a tiny speck, called the earth, in the vastness of God's universe?

Gregory of Nyssa, a 4th century bishop, wrote, "Know to what extent the creator has honored you above all the rest of creation. The sky is not an image of God, nor is the moon, nor the sun, nor the beauty of the stars, nor anything of what can be seen in creation. You alone have been made in the image of the reality that transcends all understanding, the likeness of imperishable beauty, the imprint of true divinity, the recipient of beatitude, the seal of the true light. When you turn to Him you become that which He is Himself... There is nothing so great among beings that it can be compared with Your greatness. God is able to measure the whole heaven with His span. The earth and the sea are enclosed in the hollow of His hand. And although He is so great and holds all creation in the palm of His hand, you are able to hold Him, He dwells in you and moves within you without constraint, for he has said, 'I will live and move among them' (II Corinthians 6:16)."

Devotion

We live in a society where the focus of life for most people is on the external, and on what we are able to obtain and possess that is material. We often judge our value by what we own. We, at times, evaluate God's love of us by what we believe God has enabled us to obtain. Many believe the way to judge God's blessings to us is based upon our material success in life.

Too easily have we been led away from grasping the true depth of God's blessings to us, and of God's hope for us, which are found through an inner awareness of God-with-us.

The true generosity of God is found in God's creating us with the ability to know of God and in God's hope that we will desire to have eternal fellowship with God.

God's generosity toward us, as we begin to become aware of the depth of God's love and hope for us, should lead us to be generous in return. Our lives are gifts that God has shared with us to help us appreciate, value, nourish, and deepen our relationship with God in this time of learning that we call life.

In response to God's generosity in creating us with the ability to know of God, and God's hope for us to mature in being aware of God, all of our ways of living should be seen as opportunities to show our appreciation for God's desire to have us be aware of God's presence with us in each day, and forever more.

Devotion

How generous are you and I in light of God's generosity to us? Our thankfulness for God's generosity should be evident in all of our ways, and in all that we do and say.

Might it be that our level of generosity is an indication of the depth of our awareness of God, and of our faith and trust in God to lead us through this time of learning into the time of eternal fellowship with God, and with those who have gone before us?

We have each been wonderfully made, and we are offered a wonderful opportunity to share in loving fellowship with our Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer. May our thanks to God lead us to be generous, as our God has been generous to us.

Peace, joy, and generosity in the journey,
Jamie Fonville

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Birthdays

Deborah Williams 6/1

Frances Morgan 6/3

Cyndi Horne 6/5

Ross Strange 6/7

Judy Kipp 6/8

Faye Strickland 6/8

Charlie Vitou 6/26

June Sellars 6/29

Anniversaries

Ross & Ann Strange 6/5

Jamie & Carol Fonville 6/8

Kathy Russell & Joy Ballard 6/20

Garry & Sherry Massey 6/21

Those Remaining in Our Prayers

Buster Freeman

Nell Allred

David Allred

Amber Massey

Joe Strickland

Ross Strange Sr.

Holly Bent (Phil's Friend)

Ray Palok

(Matt's Step-Father)

The Family of Jerry Gertz

Lewis Fowler

John & Judy Kipp

The Family of Bettie Braxton

Tom Peterson

(Protection, deliverance & peace)

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, June 1st**
 - *Worship with Communion*
- **Tuesday, June 3rd**
 - *Finance Meeting at 11:00 am*
- **Sunday, June 8th**
 - *Strengthen the Church UCC Offering*
- **Monday, June 9th**
 - *Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm*
- **Sunday, June 15th**
 - *Father's Day*
 - *It's not too late to bring in a picture of your father to be displayed in the parlor*
- **Tuesday, June 17th**
 - *BINGO at 7:00 pm in Bray Hall*
- **Tuesday, June 24th**
 - *Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm*

Community Engagement

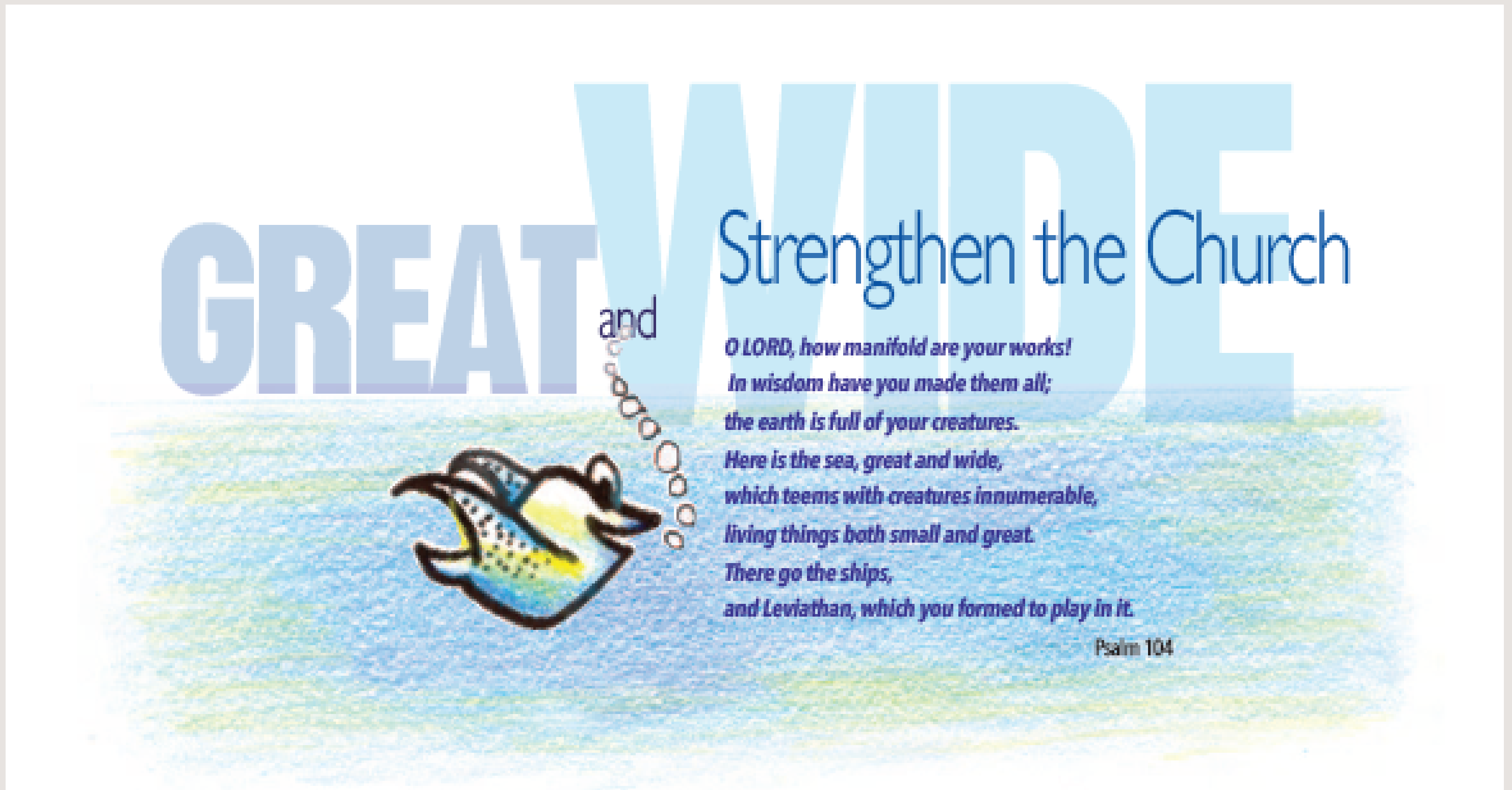
Blessed Sacrament Food Distribution will be moving their location to their building on our block. We have agreed to allow them to use our parking lot for their distribution lines.

2nd Mondays from 10:30 - 1:30 pm

4th Mondays from 1:30 - 3:30 pm

UCC Strengthen the Church Offering

June 8th, 2025



Father's Day

Father's Day is June 15th. Members of the Church Family are invited to bring a picture of their fathers to be displayed in the Parlor. Please label the father's name, and who the child is who is a part of our Church Family. It is not too late to bring a picture of your mother, or of both parents, as we desire to leave pictures up of our mothers and fathers in the parlor through June in honor of our parents. Please label the pictures so we may learn who your parents were, and from whom you are a descendent.

MAY MISSION PROJECT FOR FIRST CHRISTIAN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Board of Deacons has voted to have our May Mission project to be financial support for Benevolence Farms, which is located in the southern part of Alamance County. We are doing this in conjunction with Life's Journey UCC, who is sponsoring an outdoor event on Saturday, June 14, 2025 in their church yard in behalf of Benevolence Farms. See additional information below about this event.

The quote below is from the Benevolence Farm website, as they seek to help women who have been in prison to readjust to society.

“At Benevolence Farm, we believe that we are more than our worst mistakes. We all have the right to safety, housing, food, healing, and connection rooted in dignity and self-autonomy.”

“Our flagship program — transitional housing and employment — provides a space for women and gender expansive people returning home from prison and jail to process, heal, and prepare for what's next in a rural setting surrounded by nature. Benevolence Farms is one of the few places across the state that accepts people of all criminal convictions. After each person's arrival, they set their own goals and staff works alongside them to identify the right resources to succeed. Because each resident leads the way in their reentry, we see about 15% of our alumni return to incarceration within two years, and almost all who are reincarcerated are for a technical violation regarding their probation or parole. Ultimately, we hope to measure the extent to which our alumni thrive in — and with — their communities of choice.”

First Christian's Mission Project in May is for monetary donations to be made to help these women become positive contributors to society. Checks can be made out to First Christian UCC and designated for Benevolence Farms. They should be turned in by the first of June.

Thank you!

RESISTANCE FEST

RESIST HATE RECLAIM LOVE

A FUNDRAISER FOR BENEVOLENCE FARM

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025 FROM 3 TO 8 PM

LAWN AT LIFE'S JOURNEY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

TICKETS: \$20 IN ADVANCE FROM THE CHURCH \$25 AT THE DOOR

FOOD TRUCKS ON SITE

**LIVE MUSIC BY: RISSI PALMER, JENNIFER KNAPP, ABIGAIL DOWD,
JESS KLEIN, JANE KRAMER, MAIA KAMIL**

THEMES & LITURGISTS

Communion

Dotti Davis 6/1

Greeter

Carol Fonville

Ushers

Benji Terrell (head)

Julie Miller, Eleanor Lovgren, Charlie Vitou

Liturgists

June 1 - Carol Fonville

June 8 - Julie Miller

June 15 - Sandra Greene

June 22 - Sherry Massey

June 29 - Cindy Sharpe

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

Interim Minister: Vacant

Organist / Choir Director: Matt Rice

Custodian: Rodney Paul Sr.

Office Administrator: Debbie Norris