



First Christian United Church of Christ

Sunday Worship

November 16, 2025

Drawing from the Wells of Salvation

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

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*

Twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC
10:30 am Worship Service November 16th, 2025

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place, O God of hosts!

People: My soul longs, yea, faints for your courts; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

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

People: Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise. Blessed are those whose strength is in you.

**HYMN OF PRAISE: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"*

The Pilgrim Hymnal #461

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Let us in silence confess our sins against God and neighbor.

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Holy Strength

People: At the signs of conflict in our communities and world, we cower instead of running towards the needs of our neighbors. We believe the end is near, but in actuality, this is another wave of dread coming from our fellow humans. Unfortunately, we can't simply wish this conflict away. Instead you call us to walk through the fire and to use our voices. Forgive us when we want to stop instead of continuing to follow the way of Jesus. Give us grace to keep moving forward, even when betrayal and hate are raining upon us. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

Leader: Shame and despair will not overtake us. The grace of God sustains us from dawn until dusk and in the depths of the night. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 145:1-5 Great is the Lord

Leader: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

People: Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

Leader: Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

People: One generation shall extol your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.

All: They will recount the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

GLORIA

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

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 12 The Holy One In Your Midst

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM "Hymn of Grateful Praise"

Arr. by Raney

SCRIPTURE: Luke 21:5-19 Suffering for Jesus's Sake

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: "Drawing Water from the Wells of Salvation"

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD

**HYMN OF CELEBRATION: "All Beautiful the March of Days"*

The Pilgrim Hymnal #456

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: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore"***

The New Century Hymnal #4

*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

Sunday, November 23rd

John Graves Sunday School at 9:30
Worship Service at 10:30 am

Tuesday, November 25th

Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm

**Tuesday November 25th through
Thursday November 27th**

The Office will be closed

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sunday, November 30th

Hanging of the Greens
Sunday School is Cancelled

Christmas Cheer

Contributions are due by December 7th



** The Margaret Lightbourne Circle will
meet on Monday, December 8th
(not December 1st)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regular Office Hours

Monday - 9am – 12pm

Tuesday – 9am – 12pm

Wednesday - 9am – 12pm

Thursday - 9am – 12pm

Friday - closed

Our Love and Prayers

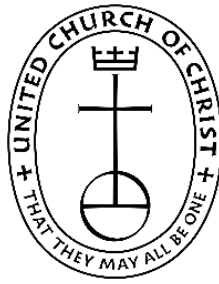
Please remember all our sick, at home members, others in need of our prayers, and those in our area hospitals in your prayers this week.

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