

FCUCC April 2022 Newsletter



FIRST CHRISTIAN
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



Coaches Corner

Greetings Friends,

First, I want to thank you for the time you took to be part of the conversation the other night. Sorry for my delay in getting back to you but other matters of ministry took over but I'm able to turn my attention to your process this week.

I don't know who would be sending out the reminders to the congregation or making sure items are in the weekly email and worship bulletin, but I would suggest this for the next congregational gathering:

*"The next congregational gathering for the Congregational Coaching Journey will be **Saturday, April 2, from 9AM - 12 Noon**. This will be an important time together as discern concrete "next steps" for you as First Christian Church UCC of Burlington. This is a time of transition and as unknown at the future might feel, it is possible to begin taking steps in a defined direction. As you live in this direction, the future will often unfold, and deeper clarity is possible. Your presence, voice, and input are important."*

I am still in discernment mode around how to design the day but here is a draft of a suggested format. Please offer your feedback and thoughts:

9AM- Gather Together / Worship / Review Agenda for the Day

9:15AM - Check In / Review my Summary from first gathering and see if there is any conversation around it or questions.

9:45AM - Vision Committee Meeting - I'll be glad to share that we met and that these areas were the majority of the discussion:

- Financial future of the congregation
- Whether to sell or not sell the building
- A renewed vision for growth and outreach - *are those who remain committed to that?*
- Next steps for Interim process

10:00AM - BREAK

10:15AM - Use the practice of silence to listen to the Holy Spirit and see what arises for folks based on the discussion already that morning and the areas I reviewed. In other words, from this point on, we'll go with the energy in the room and see what folks are feeling led to focus on.

Please let me know your thoughts.

Thanks!

Scott

Our Church Family

Birthdays in April

04/01 Betty King
04/04 Morgan Linton
04/04 Sharon Wheeler
04/15 Bryce Massey
04/28 Mary Menefee
04/28 Spanky Newsome

Anniversaries in April

04/09 Betty and Roger King

Change of Address

Bobbye Mebane
Home Place of Burlington Rm206
118 Alamance Rd
Burlington, NC 27215

Those remaining in our Prayers
Sandy Chapman, Elsie Bolick, Lewis & Vonnie Fowler, Troy
Johnson, Henry "Hank" Manning & parents Patrick &
Rebecca, Amber Massey, Bobbye Mebane, Shirley Perry,
Rachel, Randy Sellars, Harvey Sharpe, Joe Strickland, Marci
Nanny, Buster Freeman and those hospitalized or in
specialized care facilities and our homebound.

Change of address? Please let us know by contacting the church
office via email, office@firstchristianucc.org or phone, 336-226-
7428.

Women's Circle Meeting

Margaret Lightborne Circle meets on the first Monday of every
month at 11:00am in the Bray Hall

Centennial Circle meets on the second Tuesday
at 5:30 pm at The Cutting Board

Lenten Season

Lent is the season in the church that begins on Ash Wednesday and helps us prepare for the celebration of Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday traditionally has been a day set aside for reflection and confession. As a result, it is also a day of healing. Lent runs for 40 days, ending on Easter Sunday. The 40 days do not include Sundays, as each Sunday is considered its own "mini" Easter. For some people, Lent is a time to **give up** something that takes away from your relationship with God. For others, it is a time to **add** something that may bring you closer to the divine. This year, our Lenten journey will begin with Ash Wednesday on March 2nd, 2022.

Adult Faith Formation Class

Lila B Sellers Adult Sunday School meets weekly on Sundays at 9:30 am. The classroom is located in the Christian Education building, just over the breezeway from the sanctuary. All are welcome to join in.

Worship Services for April 2022

Date	Liturgist	Scripture	Theme	Extra Info
4/3/22	Carol Fonville	John 12:1-8	The Alabaster Jar	Rev. Joy Allridge Guest Preacher
4/10/22	Julie Miller	TBD		Rev. Jamie Fonville
4/17	Brooke Manning	TBD		Rev. Jamie Fonville
4/24	Dotti Davis	TBD		TBD

Upcoming News and Events

APRIL 3rd: Lent 5 Guest Preacher Joy Allridge "We are fragile" (John 12:1-8)
We welcome the Rev. Joy Allridge or "Pastor Joy" who is the founding pastor of PRISM UCC in Wake Forest, NC. Pastor Joy received her Master's of Divinity at United Theological Seminary in Trotwood, Ohio. She also has a degree in Social Work from East Carolina University. In order to pursue more ministry work Joy took an early retirement from NC DHHS as a federal regulator for healthcare facilities. Among her many skills and talents, she is in the editing stages of publishing her FIRST book! Joy is currently serving as Vice President of their ENCA Board and has served on this board for many years.

Please stop in the parlor after the service to introduce yourself and get to know Joy!

APRIL 4th: 11am - Margaret Lightbourne Circle at Bray Hall will be filling Easter Baskets for shut ins. All women are welcome to join us! *(bring a sandwich for lunch and fellowship afterwards)*

APRIL 6th, 11th, 20th, and 27th: 7pm - Choir practice

APRIL 9th: 10am to 11:30am - ENC Church Women of the Southern Conference Annual Zoom Meeting *(Matt Rice will come to the church to setup the meeting)*

APRIL 10th: Palm Sunday Guest Preacher, Rev. Jamie Fonville
9:30am - John Graves Sunday School Class

APRIL 14th: 6pm - Enactment Program in Bray Hall

APRIL 17th: Easter Sunday Guest Preacher, Rev. Jamie Fonville
7:30am - Sunrise Service & Breakfast
9:30am - John Graves Sunday School Class

APRIL 24th: Second Sunday of Easter Guest Preacher, TBD
9:30am - John Graves Sunday School Class

We will be collecting money for One Great Hour of Sharing

(through April 10th)

First Christian UCC Mission Statement

We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ and in the Church that he has calling into being which, by his grace and mercy, welcomes all. We encourage all who join us and confess Jesus Christ - regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, social, economic, physical or mental condition - to share fully in all aspects of our church life and leadership. We believe relationships between individuals, groups, and nations must be based on love, justice, commitment, and mutual respect; and we strive toward such relationships in our church, homes, and community.

~Approved by FCUCC congregation 2011

OUR MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAM

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9 am - 12 pm

Office is closed on Fridays

CHURCH OFFICERS

President: Mr. Troy Johnson

Vice President: Mr. Jamie Fonville

Treasurer: Mr. Ken Little

Church Secretary: Ms. Nancey Simmons

Acting Church Secretary: Peggy Johnson

FIRST CHRISTIAN UCC STAFF

Senior Pastor: Vacant

Minister of Music: Mr. Matt Rice

Office Administrator: Debbie Norris

Custodian: Mr. Rodney Paul

Thank you for all the cards, kind words, lunch dates, and generosity as I take leave from First Christian UCC. Continued prayers and blessings for your ministry!

- Rev. Michelle Funk