



## **FCUCC February 2022 Newsletter**



## Pastor's Letter

Beloved church,

This is not an easy letter to write, so I will get straight to the point. I have informed the Official Board, Deacons, and Staff that I will be resigning as pastor of First Christian UCC effective March 22, 2022. My last Sunday will be on Sunday March 20th. My last day in the office will be Tuesday March 22nd.

I have been in discernment for some time now and feel God calling me in a new ministry direction. This decision was not easy. I have enjoyed the time I have served as your pastor. The love of Christ shines through the people in this church. We have done some difficult, yet wonderful ministry together. However, I need to follow God's call forward.

I have a Call Sunday coming up on February 27th for a full-time ministry position. I decided to give my notice to FCUCC prior, trusting God is in the midst. I also wanted the congregation to be aware prior to our congregational coaching sessions with Scott. I feel it will be beneficial for the church to use the coaching time to talk about transition and what God is preparing for the next chapter of your ministry.

A full-time ministry call is a better fit for our family at this time. Jon and I are also excited to be moving "back home" closer to our family. As I am sure you can understand, it has been difficult for us to be so far away from our children and family. We have tried to make NC work for us, we love our house and a lot about this community, yet it has never felt like "home".

Our time in ministry together has been both challenging and a blessing. I have felt your love and support as we ministered together over the past 14 months. I cherish the relationships I have formed with all of you and pray for God's grace and love to surround all of us during this transition period. I pray the coaching process will continue to guide you forward as a faithful community of faith. I will be praying for you and for the pastor that is being led by God to serve with you in the next chapter of your ministry.

Love and Light,



Rev. Michelle Funk

If you would like to meet with Pastor Michelle for a visit prior to March 20th, give her a call to schedule.

# **Our Church Family**

## **Birthdays in February**

02/05 Lewis Fowler

02/07 Ann Marie Mull

02/12 Shirley Perry

02/17 David Allred

02/22 Linda Smith

02/26 Mary Leighton Sellars

02/26 Harvey Sharpe

## **Anniversaries in February**

02/19 Ken & Lola Pipes

02/23 Michael & Linda Smith

### **Those remaining in our Prayers**

Elsie Bolick, Sandy Chapman, Lewis & Vonnie Fowler, Mary Sue Mann, Amber Massey, Bobbye Mebane, Frances Morgan, Shirley Perry, Rachel, Randy Sellers, Harvey Sharpe, Joe Strickland, Carolyn Stubblefield, Gayle Watson. Elsie's son, Stanley & wife Glea, those hospitalized or in specialized care facilities and our homebound.

Change of address? Please let us know by contacting Tiffany in the church office via email, [office@firstchristianucc.org](mailto:office@firstchristianucc.org) or phone, 336-226-7428.

### **Pastoral Emergency Coverage - February 23- March 1**

Rev. Michelle Funk will be out of town starting February 23 to March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Rev. Sharon Wheeler will be available for Pastoral emergencies.

Please call 336-260-914

## Thank You Notes

Hello, First Christian!

I wanted to email and say thank you so much for sending me that gift box. It was such a kind gesture, and I am so grateful that I have your support through my college journey. I hope you are all doing well and cannot wait to see how beautiful the church is for Christmas. You are all in my prayers and I hope you have an amazing day.

Sincerely, Evan Russell

WITH  
GRATITUDE!

Rev. Funk,

Thank you for the opening  
prayer during our Southern  
Conference Annual Gathering

Rev. Dr. Edward Davis  
CONFERENCE MINISTER  
SOUTHERN CONFERENCE UCC

Please put this in the church  
Bulletin, or newsletter for me!

Thank you

Bobby Medane

Sunday Dec 31, 2011

Dear Friends,

Many thanks for all your cards,  
visits, flowers, and phone calls,  
and prayers!

I've been here 2 weeks, and  
slow progress with my physical  
therapy. I cannot seem to stand up  
straight yet.

Thanks for all you have done  
for me.

I miss you all, and hope to  
be back someday in the near future.

Love, Barbara

December, 2021

Dear Pastor Michelle,

Your message "captured" Millie!  
Thank you for taking the 'snippets' of her  
life and weaving them into a beautiful  
service of remembrance.

We pray God's richest blessings on you  
and your family as we celebrate the birth of  
our Savior!

In His love,  
John & Jane Fraser

### **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

### **FCUCC Annual Meeting Reminder**

**February 6<sup>th</sup>**- Our annual meeting will begin immediately following worship  
How to obtain an annual report? They are in the church's main entrance on  
the white shelving, and in the church office.

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. A separate Lenten Season flyer will be e-mailed and mailed to those without access in a couple weeks as we continue to work out the details regarding our services through the season.

## 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.

## How Did First Christian Do?

DECEMBER

Blessed Sacrament Food Ministry - \$100

Christmas Cheer - \$400

Christmas Fund - \$545

Thank you everyone for contributing to these mission/outreach endeavor, what a blessing!

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Year to Date through 12-31-2021

Actual	Budget
Income: \$197,175.56	\$189,257.00
<u>Expense \$171,209.22</u>	<u>\$189,257.00</u>
Net Balance: \$25,966.34	\$0.00

Balance in Checking 12-31-2021 \$73,618.76

Everyone's continued support is greatly appreciated to carry on the ministry of the church. Please send in your giving today.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Little and Tiffany Callicutt

Treasurer and Office Administrator

## Worship Services for February 2022

Date	Liturgist	Scripture	Theme	Extra Info
2/6/22	Dotti Davis	1 Corinthians 13:1-13		Holy Communion Annual Meeting
2/13/22	Sandra Workman Greene	Luke 5:1-11		
2/20/22	Mark Garrison	Luke 6:27-38		
2/27/22	Ken Little	TBD		Guest Preacher TBD

### **Congregational Coaching – First Christian United Church of Christ**

Greetings Friends,

My name is Scott Wagoner and I have the pleasure of working with you over the next few months as your Congregational Coach. Congregational Coaching might be something new to you so allow me to offer a simple explanation – *as a Congregational Coach it's my job and role to come alongside of you, as a congregation, and facilitate a conversation where you are able to discern God's call for your congregation and the "next steps" to move you forward into the future. I don't come with predetermined recommendations. Rather, I come to you with the intention of holding a sacred space where questions can be asked, conversations can be held, dialogue can be encouraged, and practical outcomes / next steps can be discerned.* I, myself, am a Quaker pastor in High Point, NC (High Point Friends Meeting) and have been in pastoral ministry for over 35 years. I

have been coaching individuals and congregations for over 10 years through an organization I started called “Growing Edge Resources”. Part of my mission in life is to help people and organizations / congregations discover their growing edge.

I have already met with the staff and will be meeting with the Board on Saturday, January 22. We have two All Congregational Gatherings scheduled for **Saturday, February 12 from 9AM – 12 Noon and Saturday, April 1, from 9AM – 12 Noon**. I very much want this to be an open and transparent process so if you want to reach out to me with questions or for a conversation, I can be reached at [scottwagoner62@gmail.com](mailto:scottwagoner62@gmail.com) or 336-989-1971.

My encouragement to you, as a congregation is twofold: 1) Prayer – be in prayer for our time together. Pray for clear discernment as well as open hearts; 2) Participation – your participation is welcome *and* encouraged. You can’t have a voice if your voice is not offered. Please consider participating so that your voice can be heard.

In Hope and Confidence!  
Scott Wagoner  
Congregational Coach

### **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 - 1 pm  
Office is closed on Fridays

## **CHURCH OFFICERS**

President: To be elected at next Board Meeting  
Acting President: Mr. Troy Johnson  
Vice President: To be elected at next Board Meeting  
Acting Vice President: Mrs. Helen Little  
Treasurer: Mr. Ken Little  
Church Secretary: Ms. Nancey Simmons

## **FIRST CHRISTIAN UCC STAFF**

Senior Pastor: Rev. Michelle Funk  
Minister of Music: Mr. Matt Rice  
Office Administrator: Ms. Tiffany Callicutt  
Custodian: Mr. Rodney Paul