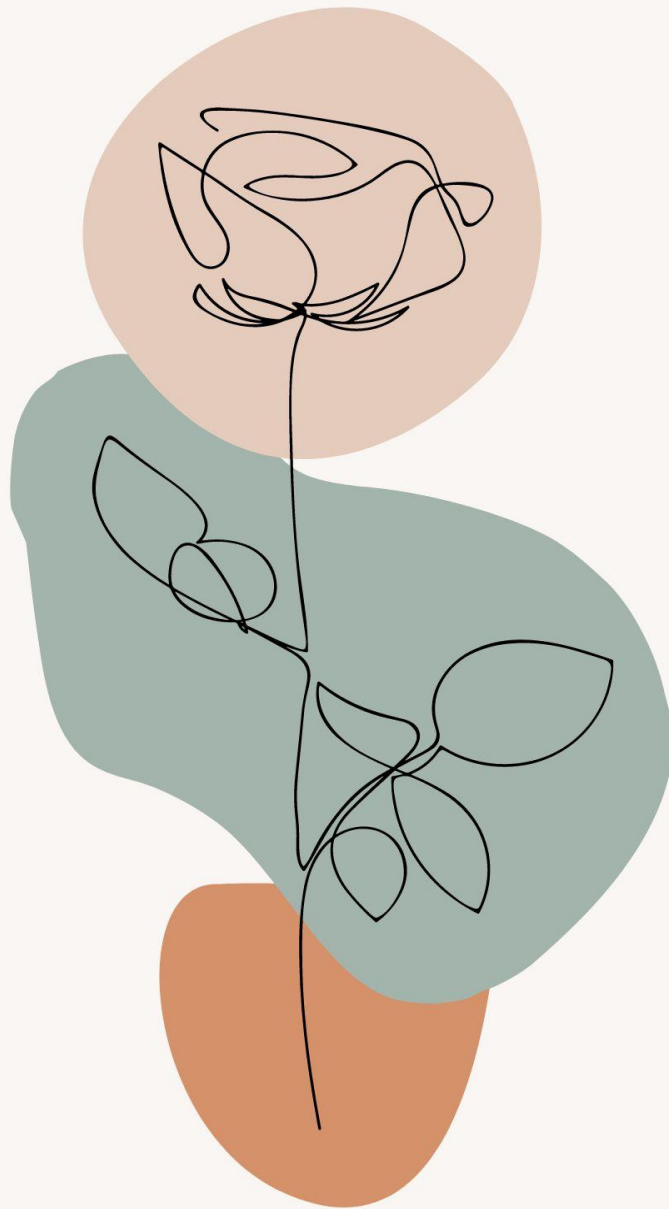


September Newsletter

First Christian United Church of Christ



Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.

-James 1:19

PASTOR'S PONDERING

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.

James 1:19

In my home, we work with the kids often at mealtimes on communication. We want them to grow up with skills for good listening and learn to be vulnerable with each other. In order to learn and practice the skills we play a game we call "Rose, Bud, Thorn and Stem." That is Rose (What beautiful thing(s) have you seen in your day), Bud(s) (What are you looking forward to next...what's blooming), Thorn(s) (What pricked you today and upset you), and Stem (What stretched you or what you want to learn to handle or do better in your day the next time.)

Sometimes, our roses and buds go on forever – which we love, but the thorns and stems are great talking points. Sometimes, the thorn and /or stem is a situation that happened with the sibling that could have been handled differently and it is often then that we ask the kids to share how they "felt" in the given situation. At those times, we even have a wheel of emotions we can refer them to because it's hard to use feeling words!!

Ah Communication: it is not always easy and if you were like me, you were not brought up learning to communicate like this. And, at the table, we spoke only when spoken to! But, oh, what a beautiful gift God has given us! This wonderful gift was given to bring Him glory and to help us live in communication with God and with one another. Now, friends, we must learn to use it!

Just how do we glorify God in our communication? What does it take for us to communicate in a good way in everyday life? According to scripture, it takes two people: one to be quick to listen and another to be slow to speak. But are we quick to listen? Are we

slow to speak? Just how is our communication in our marriages, in our families, and in the communion of saints/church members? Is it healthy and wholesome? Does it show a good level of Christian maturity?

As long as we are living in this world, we may well never experience perfect communication. Yet, as believers in Jesus Christ, our Lord we must strive by the power of the Spirit to improve our communication with one another. For godly communication shows our thankful love to God.

How different would our lives be if when we were hurt, scared, or confused we offered our vulnerable truth/an authentic feeling word and shared that instead of lashing back at someone? A modern-day speaker on vulnerability and communication who I enjoy is Brene Brown. She said, “Authenticity is not something some people magically have while others don’t. It’s a practice and you choose it every day – sometimes every hour of every day.”

In our scripture, James wrote to people riveted with conflict. His advice was simple but profound: “Be quick to listen and slow to speak.” With these words of God in scripture, may we be encouraged to listen and to speak in His way, bringing Him the glory and serving for one another’s well-being. In the power of the Holy Spirit may we communicate in a godly way, making for wholesome and mature communion among the saints. Being authentic and vulnerable isn’t easy but it can come with practice!! Try out rose, bud, thorn, and don’t forget the stem!! We must never stop stretching, learning, and growing in Christ.

In Christ’s Love, *Pastor Joy*

CHURCH BUSINESS GUIDELINES

When I first arrived at FCUCC, I realized meetings were being recorded and I advised that it be announced at the beginning of each meeting for full transparency. This has been done. After discussion with the Chair of the official board, I am publishing guidelines for future audio/visual recording of meetings. As you know, especially since the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic, virtual and recorded (audio and/or visual) meetings became not just common but the new norm. However, going forward, let's abide by these guidelines as a church.

Guidelines for recording meetings through the use of audio or video devices for FCUCC

1. The meeting host or member recording shall announce the recording of the meeting.
2. The purpose of the recording will be announced and other members who are recording must announce their purpose and desire to record at that time.
3. Any objections to any recording or reason for recording must be brought up at the time of the announcement(s). No objection or discussion will mean that any interested parties in recording the meeting may continue to do so.
4. If there is an objection, it will be the board/chair of the committee's decision to allow or not allow the recording(s).
5. The audio/video recording must **not** be published in any manner.
6. The audio/video recording must **not** be shared with anyone outside the official board or committee or the pastor.
7. The audio/video recording must **never** be used in a malicious way.
8. Acceptable reasons for recording are for member and/or secretarial note taking and to share with an official member or pastor who is absent.

Legaltranscriptionservice.com noted, "The recorded notes are circulated among officials and are kept for future reference. It prevents misunderstandings and inter-office conflicts from crippling productivity." However, for the purpose of church use, I recommend that all audio/visual recordings be destroyed 7 days after the meeting or once the secretary has transcribed the notes. However, each committee or board is free to determine at their next meeting the length of time an audio or visual recording shall be kept.

Also, if you are interested, www.kirkkirklaw.com says they are often asked about NC law regarding recording. The general rule in North Carolina is that an individual who has the consent of one of the parties to either an in-person conversation or electronic

communication can lawfully record it or disclose its contents. This assumes that both parties to the conversation are in North Carolina at the time of the recording.

In a digital age, we as Christians, must be prepared for recordings and always present in a Christ like manner, even when not at church. In no way do I believe anyone at FCUCC would purposely do otherwise or record for any malicious intent. It is simply good practice to have procedures in place and know the laws.

Additionally, I would like to request that all chairpersons have official agendas going forward. This really is a huge help in note taking and it also means, if you want to discuss an issue, you should ask the chair to put you on the agenda prior to the meeting. If you wait too long to request a place on the agenda, they may fill up. Time constraints would give the chair a reason to delay your spot on the agenda until the next meeting.

Agendas, help the flow of the meeting and help estimate the time needed to conduct a thorough and efficient meeting.

I am further requesting that no meetings other than Christian educational (Sunday School) be held **prior** to worship on Sunday mornings. Please try to be centered on worshiping God on Sunday mornings and conduct the business of the church after worship if at all possible.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Those remaining in our Prayers...

*Elsie Bolick
Troy Johnson
Amber Massey
Rachel
Buster Freeman
Bobbie Mebane
Randy Sellars*

*Lewis & Vonnie Fowler
Marci Nanny
Joe Strickland
Frances Morgan
Ken & Lola Pipes
Penelope Strange*

Change of Address

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

Birthdays

Jamie Fonville 9/2
Kitty Linens 9/2
Ron Davis 9/8
Carole Johnson 9/10
Jim Horne 9/11
Mack Painter 9/18
Bettie Braxton 9/23
Julie Miller 9/27

Anniversaries

Ron & Dotti Davis 9/17

TENTATIVE THEMES & LITURGISTS

Date	Liturgist	Scripture	Theme	Extra Info
9/4/22	TBD	Jeremiah 18:1-11	Man in the hands of God	Rev. Joy Allridge
9/11/22	Beth Painter	Exodus 32:7- 14	God in the hands of man	Rev. Joy Allridge
9/18/22	Sandra Greene	1 Corinthians 1:18-24	Foolishness	Rev. Joy Allridge
9/25/22	Kathy Russel	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Cost of Riches	Rev. Joy Allridge

CHURCH UPDATES

- The buildings and property remain on the market and have peaked interest. It will continue to be shown periodically.
- The roof was repaired.
- A new lock box was placed on the outside of the Bray Hall door as the old one was not functioning.
- Appreciation to all of you who have worked diligently cleaning up and out our decades of “stuff!” Troy, Peggy, Helen, Ken, Dotti, Brooke and many more have worked hard separating trash from sell items. Please feel free to continue onward with the cleanup for an eventual yard sale fundraiser event.
- Also, a special thanks for those of you who volunteered at the office (Joy B., Brooke, Dotti....)
- We NEED 34 people total to reserve spots for pictures in order to claim free directories. Please ask your friends, neighbors, and family if they would like a “free photo” to come and sit for a picture in October. Contact: Brooke Manning.
- Thank you to all who helped set up, clean up and plan the shower to celebrate Jeri Ann and Casey! It was a success!
- Homecoming will be September 18!
- The ice cream social on 8/16 was a great success! Thank you to all those who helped with this! EACH flavor was pastor approved and stamped as YUMMY.
- Special thanks to all of those who have shared or will share their summertime stories.
- Pastor Appreciation is October 9.

If you have hearts of gratitude about your church members or functions, please be sure to call the office and get your gratitude note in the next newsletter!

CHURCH EVENTS

Women's Circle Meetings

Margaret Lightborne Circle and Centennial Circle meetings are back on regular schedule.

Margaret Lightborne Circle will meet in Bray Hall on September 12th at 11am in due to Labor Day. Bring a sandwich and join in fellowship following the meeting.

Centennial Circle meets 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm at the cutting board.

Adult Faith Formation Class

John Graves Adult Sunday School meets weekly on Sundays at 9:30 am in the John Graves Classroom.

NEW Sunday School: Discussions for Modern Christians meets weekly on Sundays at 9am in Bray Hall. Pastor Joy will share Nooma discussions with us.

All are welcome to join in!

Visioning Meeting

Tuesday 8/23 at 6pm in Bray Hall will be the next meeting

CELEBRATE!

One Solitary Life

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The Most Famous
Man
who ever lived*

***ELECTRIFYING!
ENTERTAINING!
LIFE CHANGING!***

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Art . Music . History . Drama . Dance*

**The Paramount Theater
Burlington, NC
September 8, 9, 7pm
September 10, 2 pm & 7 pm 2022
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\$13-Students**

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HAVE FUN WITH WORDS

Here's a great puzzle for anyone who's trying to learn the books of the New Testament. Find the capitalized words from the word list in the Bible word search grid. Words may appear in any direction. Here's a twist: Can you also find the name of the man who wrote much of the New Testament?



JUDE	ROMANS	COLOSSIANS	MATTHEW
MARK	TITUS	PHILEMON	REVELATION
LUKE	GALATIANS	HEBREWS	(I, II, & III) LETTER OF JOHN
JOHN	EPHESIANS	JAMES	(I & II) THESSALONIANS
ACTS	PHILIPPIANS	(I & II) PETER	(I & II) TIMOTHY
(I & II) CORINTHIANS			

CHURCH INFORMATION

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

Interim Pastor: Rev. Joy Allridge
Minister of Music: Mr. Matt Rice
Office Administrator: Debbie Norris