

“What's the WORD?”



FIRST CHRISTIAN
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Weekly Updates & Musings

Beloved Church,

It is a busy time of the year for all. There are presents to buy, wrapping to be done, cookies to bake, family to see (even if it is on FaceTime or Zoom) and this year perhaps you are in the midst of planning virtual Christmas dinners or parties.

This Christmas will not look or feel the same,
Yet we can continue to be filled with joy.

Even though this year looks quite different, the wonderful story of Christmas remains a constant. Mary & Joseph will still travel to Bethlehem, the Inn will remain full, the Shepherds & wisemen continue the journey and the Angels continue their song.

And the manger... will still hold the Christ Child, the Light of the World.

May you find joy, knowing that our God is a constant in our lives. God's comfort and peace remain with us even through the darkness, even when life seems to turn upside down. Thanks be to God!

Love & Light,

Michelle

I

joy noun

 Save Word

\ˈjɔɪ\ 

Definition of joy (Entry 1 of 2)

- 1 **a** : the emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires : [DELIGHT](#)
- b** : the expression or exhibition of such emotion : [GAJETTY](#)
- 2 : a state of happiness or felicity : [BLISS](#)
- 3 : a source or cause of delight

Do you have a pastoral concern, joy or announcement or just want to check in? Feel free to contact me:

Call or text: 610-390-9624

Email: fcuccpastor@gmail.com

*please note Friday & Saturday are my Sabbath days.
(with the exception of scheduled events.)

I am available for emergencies only those days

Outdoor Devotional Services

Our afternoon outdoor gatherings have ended for the time being due to the cold late fall/winter weather.

Prayer Concerns

Please keep these individuals/families in your prayers...

Benji Terrell - having chronic headaches and more testing is being done

Julie Miller - One more Chemo treatment!

Joe Strickland - (Faye Strickland's son) squamous cell carcinoma he will begin treatments within the next couple weeks

Deborah & Tim - as they travel to Chicago to be with their Brother In Law who is recovering from a stroke

Harvey Sharpe - Cataract surgery on Wednesday Dec 16th

Prayers of Gratitude & joy

Giving God thanks for....

Helen Little - the neurologist she saw on Dec 1 said that the tumor located high up on her temple is both benign and small. It is believed there will be no need for treatment.

Our Interim Pastors Deborah & Tim - For helping this transition go smoothly and for loving and caring for this congregation for the past 14 months!



December Birthdays

December 5 - Ken Little

December 8 - Elijah Johnson

December 21 - Elsie Bolick

December 27 - Eleanor Lovgren

December 30 - Barbara Mebane



December Anniversaries

December 31 - Robert & Barbara Johnson

CHRISTMAS CHEER!

Thank you to everyone that contributed! We have raised \$1600! \$500 for gift cards for the elderly, the remainder for toys for Children~ Thank you for your generous support of this ministry outreach!

ZOOM SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are continuing with our virtual Zoom Sunday School which is held each Sunday at 9:30 am. *This Sunday our teacher is Troy Johnson, Lesson Matthew 2:7-15.* Here is the link for Zoom Sunday School at 9:30 am. Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/99385710248>

*This link may redirect you to a second link. Follow that. It will then take a few moments for the "zoom" host to admit you.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please send Matt Rice **one** photo that represents your holiday this year. It can be a photo of your tree, decorations, family, pets, whatever brings you joy this Advent/Christmas season. He will be including them in upcoming worship videos. Please have photos emailed to Matt (msrice23@gmail.com) by no later than Monday, December 21st at noon.

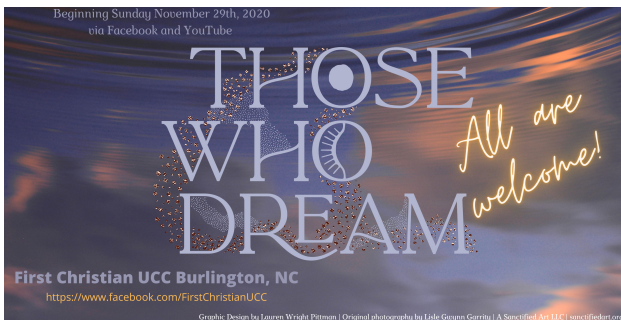
Upcoming Events, Mark Your Calendars!



“Roll into Christmas”

Community Christmas Drive Thru Event! All from the comfort of your car!

Saturday December 19th beginning at 11:00 am
Invite your entire family & friends to our “Roll into Christmas” Drive In “Christmas-In-A-Bag” pick up! Socially distanced and safely prepared “at home” Christmas activities for the whole family! HO! HO! HO! A little elf gave us some news! Santa may even be joining us! Bring your cameras and tell your grandchildren, great grandchildren, your neighbors and friends! Help us spread the word, Christmas is almost here! It is almost time to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child!



Sunday, December 20th - The Fourth Sunday in Advent

“Advent Notes” Musical Worship

“those who dream... are not alone (love)”

Liturgist - Peggy Johnson

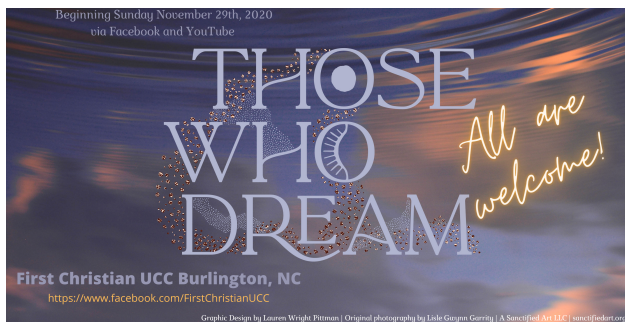
Advent Wreath Lighters - Mack and Beth Painter

*All worship services will be pre-recorded and will be posted on Facebook and Youtube

This week, we recognize what preceded Mary’s song of praise: news that was disorienting and bewildering, possibly threatening her life. Together, Mary and Elizabeth find courage and comfort in spite of their unusual circumstances. We, too, are called to carry, support, and encourage one another’s dreams.
~ Luke 1:26-45

CHRISTMAS EVE at 5:00 PM *OUTDOOR BRIEF CHRISTMAS SERVICE*

Join us on Christmas Eve in the parking lot for a very brief service including a Christmas prayer, candlelit singing of Silent Night (battery operated) and Blessing
***Weather permitting



*All worship services will be pre-recorded and will be posted on Facebook and Youtube

Liturgist: Nancey Simmons

Advent wreath lighters:

Darla Jo Bray & Phil Bray

Thursday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Virtual Worship ***"this night, we are those who dream"***

The Christmas story reminds us that we are all dreamers. Like those gathered around the manger, we come to this night each year with awe, wonder, and holy imagination for what is possible. Like Mary, we treasure God's dream in our hearts and commit to keeping it alive. Like the holy family, we believe and trust in a God who comes to us in the vulnerability of a child. ~ Luke 2:1-20