

Sunday Worship

September 28th, 2025



First Christian United Church of Christ

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*

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC
10:30 am Worship Service September 28th, 2025

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

INVOCATION

Pastor: God our Comforter and our Confronter, speak to our souls. Engage our spirits with truth and compassion. Stir our hearts with your vision of a world full of your love and hope. Inspire us through your word, meet us in the moment, and infuse us with joy and courage to pursue your way. Guide us on the journey even as you dwell in our worship so that we may honor you and be restored in you. Amen.

**HYMN OF PRAISE: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*

The New Century Hymnal # 1

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: In silence, let us confess our sin to God.

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Compassionate God...

People: ...we need to repent. We confess that too often we only care about our own suffering and discomfort and ignore the pain and troubles of our neighbor. We turn away or even contribute to the plight of others. We feast on systems that create deprivation and inequity. We enjoy the spoils of war that leave human siblings to subsistence in rubble and ruins. We accept distortions of the gospel that claim that your creation is insufficient to meet the needs of your beloved when your kingdom enables all to flourish. Meet us as we turn back to your way and your reign. Liberate us so that we may be instruments of restoration, repair, and renewal in your name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God's mercy endures and renews. The world envisioned by the Holy One is available when we believe it, commit to it, and pursue it with all our being. Receive God's grace to do a new thing, in word and in deed, so that the world may know the love of God, the hope of God, and the promise of God through what we say, how we live, what we do, and the fruit we produce.

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PALM: Psalm 146

Leader: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

People: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

Leader: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

People: who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

Leader: The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

People: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

GLORIA

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

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM "We Believe"

Arr. H. Sorenson

READING OF SCRIPTURE:

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel According to Luke 16:19-31
(*Scripture Reading*)

Pastor: The word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: "The Uncertainty of Riches"

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD

*HYMN FOR CELEBRATION: "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

The New Century Hymnal #546

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

Pastor: May our hearts be open to the generous life. The Sovereign God invites us to participate in building the kingdom through our financial resources. Let us give in gratitude and joy knowing that sharing our abundance blesses our neighbor, community, and world.

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

***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

Pastor: Holy One, receive these gifts as expressions of trust and love of You and care and love of your beloved. Magnify them for your glory and bless those who give in faithfulness and hope. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY GOES INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN FOR DEDICATION: "Faith of Our Fathers"

The New Century Hymnal #381

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: As you go, spread comfort and hope.
Notice people; Recognize their condition.
Know their worth and be comforted
That the Maker of heaven and earth notices you,
Recognizes your condition and knows your worth.
Go in hope and care (+) in the name of the Creator, Christ, and Comforter,
Amen.

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

Tuesday, September 30th

Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm

Saturday, October 4th

CROP Walk

(Trinity Worship Center at 3157 S. Church Street. Registration at 8:30 am. Walk starts at 9:30am. We have a few members walking. Feel free to register to walk or sponsor those walking.)

Sunday, October 5th

Neighbors in Need Offering

World Communion Day

John Graves Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship Service at 10:30 am

Monday, October 6th

Margaret Lightbourne Circle at 11:00am

(Ducks in a Row Program by Alamance Memorial Park – All Are Welcome!!)

Wednesday, October 8th

Finance Meeting at 11:00am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regular Office Hours

Monday - 9am – 12pm

Tuesday – 9am – 12pm

Wednesday - 9am – 12pm

Thursday - 9am – 12pm

Friday - closed

Our Love and Prayers

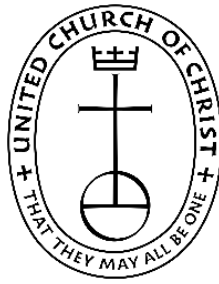
Please remember all our sick, at home members, others in need of our prayers, and those in our area hospitals in your prayers this week.

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