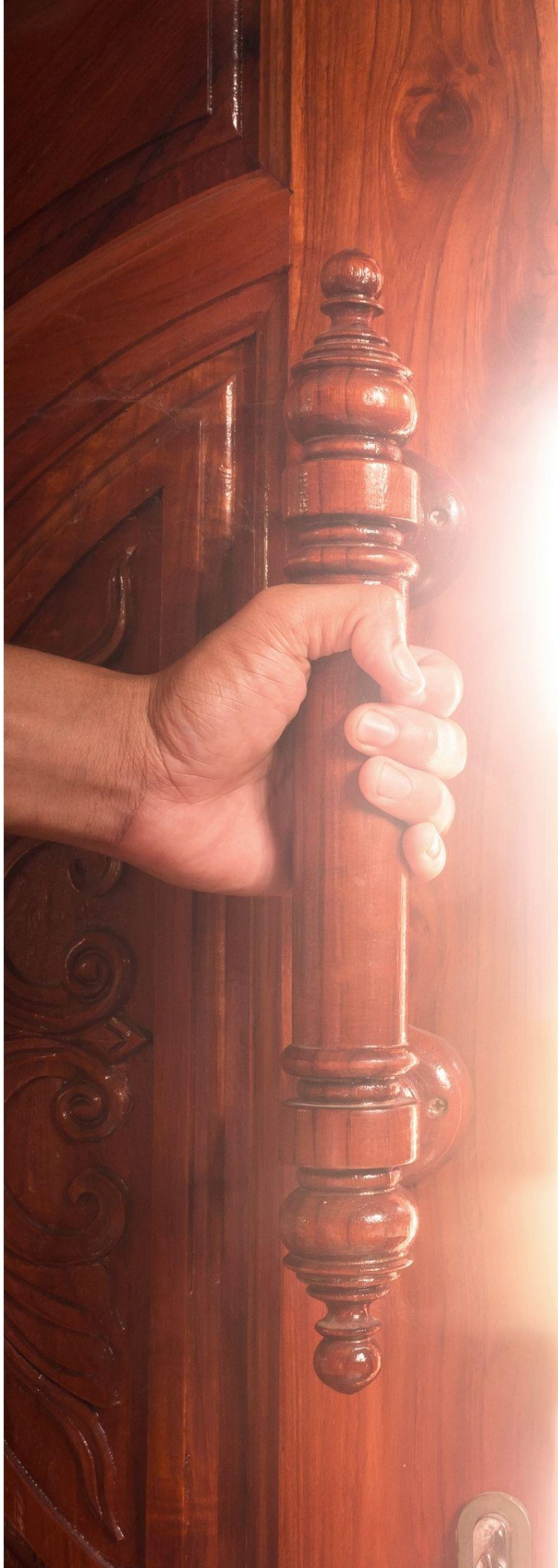


A close-up photograph of a hand gripping a large, ornate wooden door handle. The handle is made of dark-stained wood with several rounded, decorative sections. The hand is positioned on the left side of the handle, with fingers wrapped around it. The background is the wooden door, which has a visible grain and some decorative carvings. The lighting is warm, creating a soft glow around the handle and hand.

Sunday Worship

October 12th, 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*

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC
10:30 am Worship Service October 12th, 2025

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We celebrate the Holy One who eases our souls.

People: Come and see what God has done!

Leader: We celebrate the Holy One who keeps us from slipping.

People: Come and see what God has done!

Leader: We celebrate the Holy One whose steadfast love sustains us.

People: Come and see what God has done!

**HYMN OF PRAISE: "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"*

The New Century Hymnal #400

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: In silence, let us confess our sin against God and each other.

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Holy One, Creator of All,

People: As your Spirit nudges people from all experiences and lands into our lives, we often turn the sign from "Come In! We're Open!" to "Sorry, We're Closed." It's easier for us to draw the curtains and remain in the shadows than open ourselves up to the light, to healing, and all the possibilities that God sends our way. May your Spirit swing open our souls to all possibilities of newness. May our unlocked minds notice the ways your presence fills our hearts with expanding love and hope. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: In each season of our lives, God's grace continuously transforms our hearts. May we return our gratitude and celebrate the glory of God.

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PALM: Psalm 66:1-12

Leader: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of God's name; give to God glorious praise.

People: Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.

Leader: All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name."

People: Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.

Leader: God turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There we rejoiced in him.

People: God rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations – let the rebellious not exalt themselves.

Leader: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of God's praise be heard, who has kept us among the living and has not let our feet slip.

People: For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

Leader: You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;

People: you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

GLORIA

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

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM "Jesus Calls Us O'er The Tumult"

by Tucker

READING OF SCRIPTURE: Luke 17:11-19

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: "Planting Life"

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD

**HYMN FOR CELEBRATION: "O Jesus, I Have Promised"*

The New Century Hymnal #493

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

ALL: 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

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*

THE COMMUNITY GOES INTO THE WORLD

**HYMN FOR DEDICATION: "Beautiful Jesus"*

The New Century Hymnal #44

**BENEDICTION*

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

Monday, October 13th

Official Board Meeting is Cancelled

Tuesday, October 14th

Centennial Circle at 5:30 pm

Sunday, October 19th

Sunday School is Cancelled

Worship Service at 10:30 am

Sunday, October 26th

John Graves Sunday School at 9:30

Worship Service at 10:30 am

Stewardship Sunday

(Pledge cards will be mailed out this week, please return them by October 26th to help prepare for the 2026 budget)

Tuesday, October 28th

Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm

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.

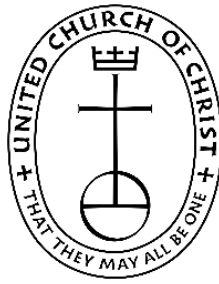
Serving in our Armed Forces

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