

September

NEWSLETTER 2026



"Quilted in Time Through the Years"
HOMECOMING 9.13.26

Devotion

It was just over a year ago that Trish and I began the process of moving to Burlington from Winston-Salem. Many of you are familiar with the process — most, I would guess, find it as painful as I do.

Never mind the careful search for the property that perfectly fits your needs. The real pain comes from moving! And most of that pain comes from packing. We decided that we would downsize with our new floor plan, so we had some decisions to make: What do we do with all of this stuff? What do we hang on to? What do we let go?

I found myself forced to employ the organizing principle made famous by Marie Kondo: Does this thing spark joy? If not, it goes into the donate pile. (I also made use of the principle that says if it's still untouched in the box you packed it in 10 years ago, you're probably not going to need it in Burlington! I try not to move a box twice!)

We were forced to make choices. A lot of choices. Each choice told a little bit about what we valued. It told about what we prioritize.

This year's Stewardship Campaign reminds us of Jesus' words, "...where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." What we prioritize shows our heart. What we value demonstrates who we are.

This is about way more than giving money, though Duke Energy does insist on payment. This is about who we are, both as individuals and as a church. Let's take a really good look at what is important to us, and examine how much we value our life together as the Body of Christ.

Devotion



The logical extension of this idea is “where your heart is, there you put your treasure.” I challenge us all to invest our treasure of money, time, talents, and self in the life of First Christian United Church of Christ. You see, the thing we treasure in our heart shapes us. As we live our lives in the way of Christ, let’s aim to mold ourselves into the shape of Christ.

Pastor Stephen

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Birthdays

Jamie Fonville 9/2
Kitty Linens 9/2
Ron Davis 9/8
Carol Johnson 9/10

Mack Painter 9/18
David Hodges 9/26
Julie Miller 9/27

Anniversaries

Ron & Dotti Davis 9/17
Kerney Black & Madison Byrd 9/27

Those Remaining in Our Prayers

Buster Freeman
Nell Allred
Amber Massey
Joe Strickland
Ross Strange Sr.
Trisha Shelly
Ray Palyok
Lewis Fowler
Patty Howey

Brenda Grogan
Holly Bent
Nanci Isley
Jon & Judy Kipp
Betty & Roger King
Blake Jones
June Sellars
Nancy Hughes
Eleanor Lovgren
Shawn Hooks

Prayers

If you need prayers or know someone that does please let us know.
You can call the office or call your Deacon.
We are here to assist in anyway that's helpful.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **Wednesday, September 2nd**
 - *Finance Meeting at 11:00 am*
- **Sunday, September 6th**
 - *Worship with Communion*
- **Monday, September 7th**
 - *Labor Day: Office is Closed*
- **Tuesday, September 8th**
 - *Centennial Circle at 5:30 pm*
- **Sunday, September 13th**
 - *HOMECOMING*
- **Monday, September 14th**
 - *Official Board at 6:00 pm*
- **Tuesday, September 15th**
 - *Margaret Lightbourne Circle at 11:00 am*
- **Tuesday, September 29th**
 - *Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm*

Community Engagement

Blessed Sacrament Food Distribution will be moving their location to their building on our block. We have agreed to allow them to use our parking lot for their distribution lines.

2nd Mondays from 10:30 - 1:30 pm

4th Mondays from 1:30 - 3:30 pm

(Exceptions are May and Decembe

THEMES & LITURGISTS

Communion

Jamie Fonville & Phil Bray 9/6

Greeter

Merle Sharpe

Ushers

Benji Terrell (head)

Julie Miller, Eleanor Lovgren, Charlie Vitou

Liturgists

September 6th - Beth Painter

September 13th - Kerney Black

September 20th - Tena Barnwell

September 27th - Judy Kipp

Receptions

Please join us in the parlor for fellowship and light refreshments after
Worship on Sundays.

CHURCH INFORMATION

Mission Statement

(Revised 2/4/24)

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."

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am - 12 pm

Church Officers

President: Jamie Fonville

Vice President: Cindy Sharpe

Treasurer: Vacant (Julie Miller acting Treasurer)

Assistant Treasurer: Julie Miller

Secretary: Matt Rice

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

Organist / Choir Director: Matt Rice

Custodian: Rodney Paul Sr.

Office Administrator: Debbie Norris