

2025

October

NEWSLETTER



Devotion

The master bedroom windows in our newly-built house here in Burlington face due east. I discovered this when on the first morning of our residence the sun began to spill through the un-curtained windows directly above my head, shining golden rays across my face. Trish and I were both enchanted, mesmerized by the nascent beauty literally rising before our eyes. We both walked in wonder to our back deck so that we could watch the sun rise.

As we watched the sun come over the horizon, it began to reveal our surroundings, casting the special light that only comes at sundown or dawn: Golden Hour. Photographers and painters wait eagerly for the light because of its unique glowing properties. Things just look more radiant under the light of Golden Hour.

Golden Hour, both morning and night, is the favorite time of day for us now. More days than not, one or both of us watch the sun come up, heralding a new day. I can't help but notice as the light grows steadily brighter that it reveals the back yard bit by bit. As the shadows clear, the bare dirt of recent construction is revealed. Rocks stick up out of the ground; weeds form a knee-high jungle along the banks of the small creek that runs through the property. Golden Hour gives way to the harsher light of daytime, and we wake up to the responsibilities of the day.

We love our new home. We love watching what is developing in our back yard. As excited as we are about our new place, we recognize that the beautiful light that engulfs it at the start of the day cannot change the fact that there remains lots of work before we have the paradise we envision. So, too, with our new spiritual home.

Devotion

The Golden Hour light you have shined on us with your warm reception cannot but dissolve into the reality that there is much work ahead of us. The light frames our situation, just as it does our back yard, with a sense of optimism and determination and conviction that God has led us to this place for a purpose.

Summer is ending. October is bringing with it significant opportunities for ministry. The Crop Walk, World Communion Sunday, Neighbors in Need Offering, Stewardship Commitment Sunday, even the Eastern North Carolina Association Annual Meeting — all call us into engagement with the broader community. Will you pray with me as we turn to meet these and all of the other opportunities God sends our way?

God, you have created us to be in community. We cannot survive alone. Stir within us a passion for meeting each other and the wider community around us. Inspire us with new ideas for meeting the needs around us. Reveal to us what we must do to show the glory of your love and life to every person who sees us. Amen.

Pastor Stephen



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Birthdays

Benjie Terrell 10/4

Ann Strange 10/13

Mike Smith 10/20

Joy Ballard 10/31

Those Remaining in Our Prayers

Buster Freeman

Nell Allred

Amber Massey

Joe Strickland

Ross Strange Sr.

Trisha Shelly

Roger & Betty King

David Hodges

Brenda Grogan

John Moon

Ray Palok

Lewis Fowler

Tom Peterson

(Protection, deliverance & peace)

Brooke Manning

Scott Isley

Spanky Newsome

Joe Winstead

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

- **Saturday, October 4th**
 - *CROP Walk (see page 6 for details)*
- **Sunday, October 5th**
 - *World Communion Day*
 - *UCC Neighbors in Need Offering*
- **Monday, October 6th**
 - *Margaret Lightbourne Circle at 11:00 am*
- **Wednesday, October 8th**
 - *Finance Meeting at 11:00 am*
- **Monday, October 13th**
 - *Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm*
- **Tuesday, October 14th**
 - *Centennial Circle at 5:30 pm*
- **Sunday, October 26th**
 - *Stewardship Sunday (see page 6 for details)*
- **Tuesday, October 28th**
 - *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.

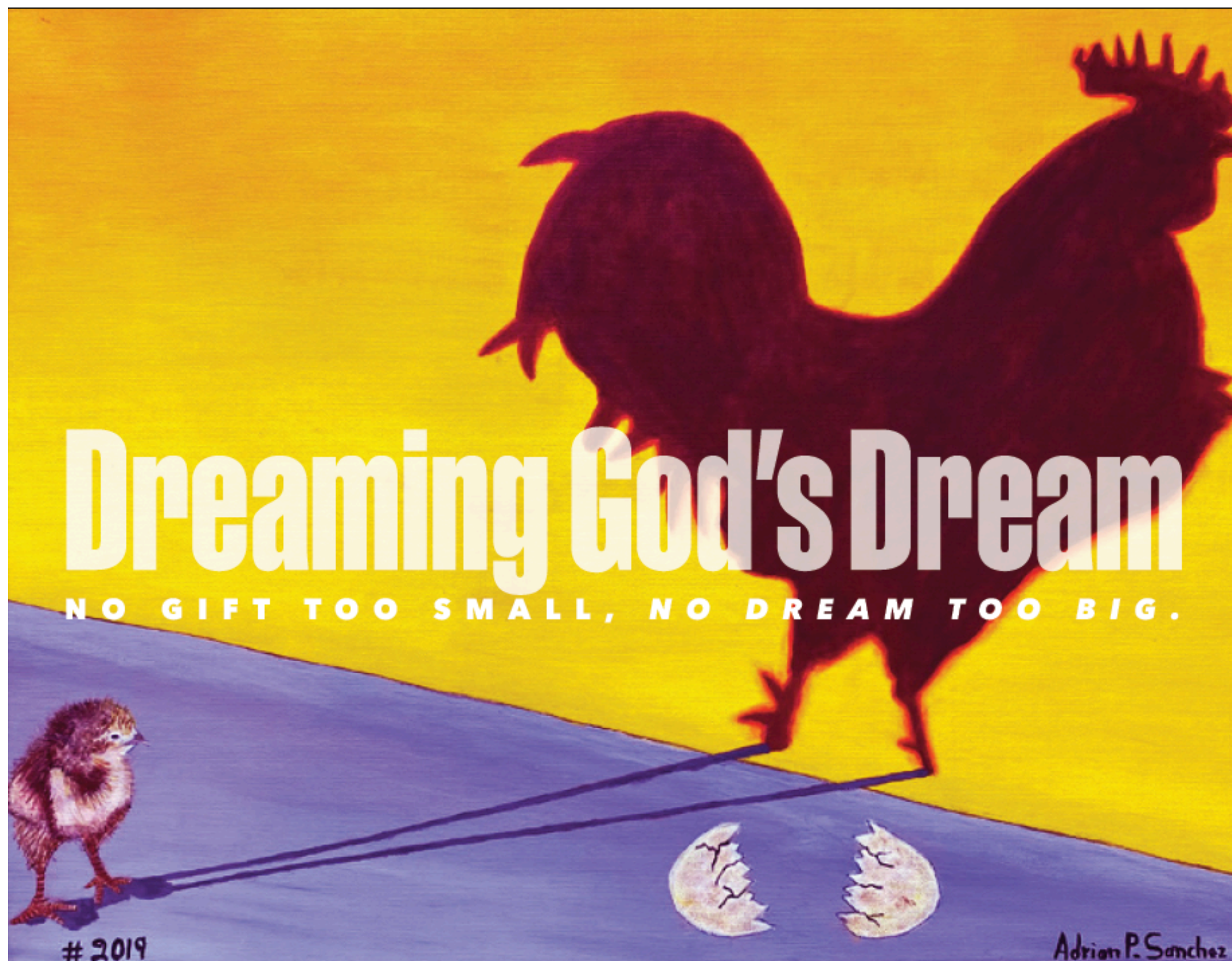
2nd Mondays from 10:30 - 1:30 pm

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

Stewardship Sunday

October 26th

Pledge cards will be mailed out the first two weeks of October and extras will be in the office.



Alamance **CROP Walk**

at Trinity Worship Center
3157 South Church Street

October 4th

Registration at 8:30a

Walk Starts at 9:30a

THEMES & LITURGISTS

Communion

Matt Rice & Dotti Davis 10/5

Greeter

Eleanor Lovgren

Ushers

Benji Terrell (head)

Julie Miller, Eleanor Lovgren, Charlie Vitou

Liturgists

October 5th - Dotti Davis

October 12th - Judy Hodges

October 19th - Nancey Simmons

October 26th - Julie Miller

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: Judy Kipp

Assistant Treasurer: Julie Miller

Secretary: Mark Garrison

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

Organist / Choir Director: Matt Rice

Custodian: Rodney Paul Sr.

Office Administrator: Debbie Norris