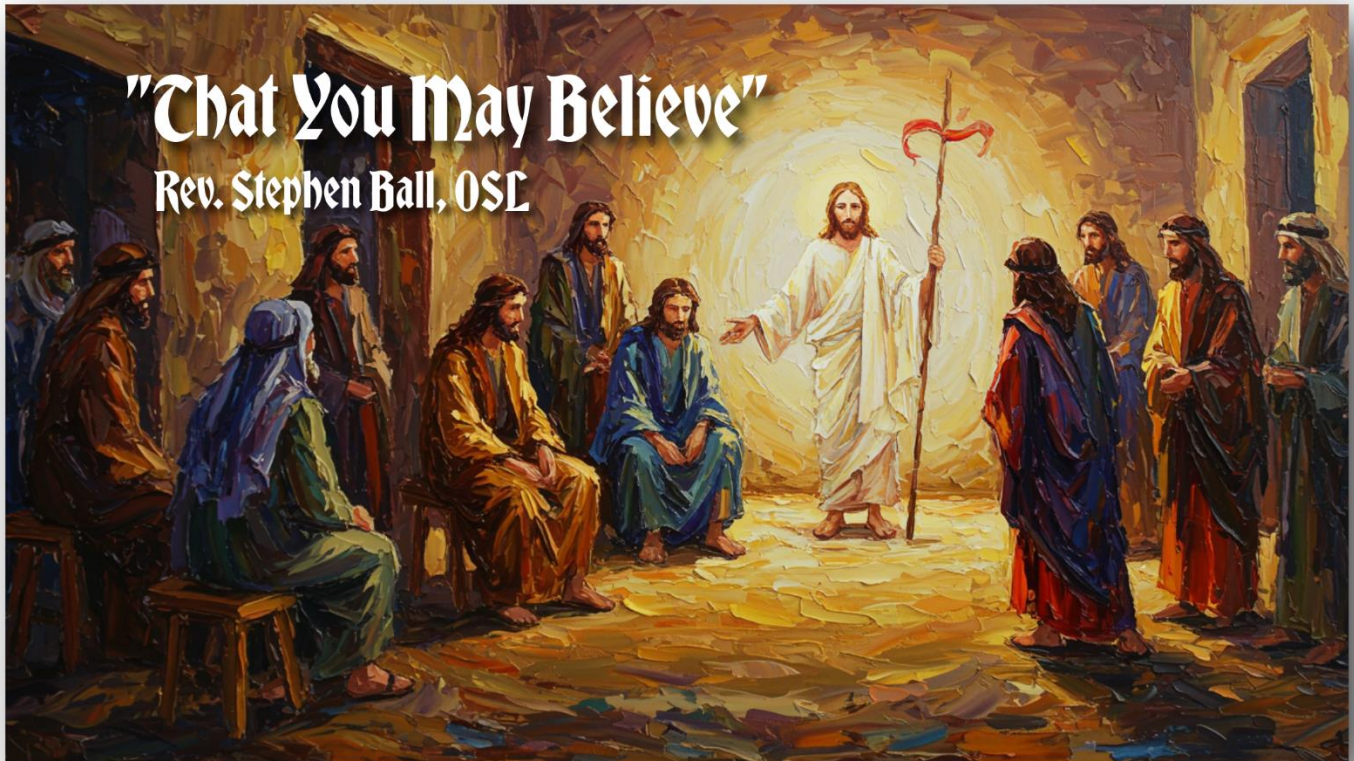


Sunday, April 12, 2026

The Second Sunday in Easter



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*

The Second Sunday of Easter

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC

April 12th, 2026 at 10:30 am

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

CENTERING CHIMES

PRELUDE

INTROIT

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

Leader: Christ is Risen!

People: Christ is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The doors are locked, and the room is heavy with the scent of yesterday's grief.

People: But the walls have begun to breathe with a secret they cannot contain.

Leader: We come looking for the preserved memory of a teacher, a martyr, a friend.

People: But we find instead a cosmic rupture – a tomb that forgot how to stay closed.

Leader: Death tightened its grip, certain of its victory.

People: But the Author of Life simply shook it off like a winter coat in the spring.

Leader: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**HYMN OF PRAISE: "Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day"*

The New Century Hymnal #241

ACT OF CONTRITION

Leader: We often prefer the locked room. It is safe, it is predictable, and it demands very little of us. We wrap ourselves in the bandages of our old regrets and sit in the dark, convinced that our mistakes are final and our grief is permanent. But the Spirit of God is a restless wind that refuses to leave us to our own devices. Let us step out of the shadows and speak the truth about our lives, trusting in the One for whom no lock is too sturdy and no heart is too hard.

People: God of the Morning, we confess that we are often still living in the dark of Friday night. We have allowed our fears to dictate our movements and our cynicism to silence our songs. We confess that we have trusted more in the power of death to end things than in Your power to begin them. We have ignored the cracks in the pavement where Your grace is breaking through, preferring the smooth, cold

surface of our own control. Forgive us for staying in the tomb when the stone has already been moved. Release us from the agony of our self-doubt and the chains of our apathy. Remind us that because of You, a new way is not only possible – it is inevitable. Amen.

Leader: The shackles have fallen. The verdict of death has been overturned by the highest court of Heaven. In the name of Jesus Christ, the one who could not be held by the power of the grave, you are forgiven, you are freed, and you are called into a life that knows no end.

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:14a, 22-24

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

Many: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PSALM from Psalm 16

Leader: Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

People: I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”

Leader: The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

People: The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

Leader: I bless the LORD, who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

People: I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Leader: Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices.

People: You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

GLORIA

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

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:3-9

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

Many: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM *Canticle for Easter*

SCRIPTURE: John 20:19-31

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

Many: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: “*That You May Believe*” Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD

**HYMN OF CELEBRATION: "I Come to the Garden Alone"*

The New Century Hymnal #237

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Prayer response: "Pastor: Lord, in your mercy, **People: hear our prayer.**

**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

THE MINISTRY OF GENEROSITY

DOXOLOGY

***ALL: 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 OF DEDICATION: "Christ Arose"*

The Hymnal #216

*BENEDICTION

EXTROIT

POSTLUDE

Announcements

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, April 13th
Official Board at 6:00 pm

Tuesday, April 14th
Centennial Circle at 11:00 am

Sunday, April 19th
John Graves Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship Service 10:30 am

Tuesday, April 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

Serving in our Armed Forces

CPT Kirk Workman

James Barnwell

*Dalton Anthony Jones, Ensign US Navy
(Family of June & Dotti)*

Notes

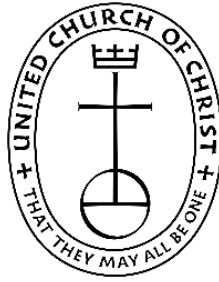
Inspired by something said in the word or sung in a song today? Take a moment to write it here to remember later.

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.

Buster Freeman
Nell Allred
Amber Massey
Joe Strickland
Ross Strange Sr.
Trisha Shelly
Ray Palyok
(Matt's Step-Father)
Lewis Fowler
Carolyn Wolley / Family
Dave Smudski / Family
David Hodges

Brenda Grogan
Spanky Newsome
Holly Bent
Troy Marquardt
Blake Jones
June Sellars
Nanci Isley
(Friend of Sherry Massey)
Curtis Foster
Jon & Judy Kipp
Mike Smith
Betty King
The Family of John Garrison
Kay Casey



Church Officers

President: Jamie Fonville
Vice President: Cindy Sharpe
Treasurer: Judy Kipp
Assistant Treasurer: Julie Miller
Secretary: Matt Rice

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