

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 22, 2026



"DRY BONES"

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*

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC

10:30 am Worship Service March 22nd, 2026

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The valley is full of dry bones, and the tomb is sealed with a stone.

People: Can these bones live? Can this life begin again?

Leader: Prophecy to the breath! Call to the Spirit from the four winds!

People: Lord, unbind us and let us go.

Leader: From the dust of death to the breath of life, let us worship the Living God.

**HYMN OF PRAISE: "Lift High The Cross"*

The New Century Hymnal #198

ACT OF CONTRITION

Leader: We often live as though the story is already over. We settle into the dryness of our routines and the coldness of our hearts, convinced that some things – and some people – are beyond hope. We stand before the tombs of our own making. Let us confess our lack of faith to the One who weeps with us and then calls us forward.

People: God of Resurrection, we confess that we have grown comfortable in the valley of dry bones. We have allowed our hope to calcify and our spirits to wither. We admit that, like Martha, we sometimes tell you it is "too late" for a miracle. We have settled for the dust of what was rather than the life of what could be. Forgive us for our cynicism. Breathe your Spirit into our weary frames, rattle the cages of our fear, and speak the word that calls us out of the shadows. Amen.

Leader: Hear the promise of the Lord: "I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live." The stone has been rolled away from your heart. The breath of God has entered your lungs. You are not a collection of dry bones; you are a beloved child of the living God. You are forgiven. **Amen.**

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 37:1-14

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 130

Leader: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

People: Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Leader: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

People: But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

Leader: I wait for the LORD; my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

People: my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

Leader: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

People: It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

GLORIA

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

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:6-11

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM: Jesus, Take All Of Me

Arr. H. Sorenson

SCRIPTURE: John 11:1-45

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: *"Dry Bones"*

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD

**HYMN OF CELEBRATION: "Breathe on Me Breath of God"*

The New Century Hymnal #292

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

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: "They'll Know We Are Christians"*

The Celebration Hymnal #284

*BENEDICTION

EXTROIT

POSTLUDE

Announcements

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, March 29th

Palm Sunday

Tuesday, March 31st

Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm

Thursday, April 2nd

Maundy Thursday Program 7:00 pm

Sunday, April 5th

Easter Sunday

Flowering of the Cross Drop In 8:30 am

Breakfast and Devotions 9:00 am

(Choir Practice before Worship)

Easter Morning Worship 10:30 am

Monday, April 6th

Margaret Lightbourne Circle at 11:00 am

Wednesday, April 8th

Finance Meeting at 11:00 am

****Missions Project****

We will be collecting the following items through March 22nd. Please consider donating some items to help Allied Churches of Alamance County.

- Kitchen towels
- Bar towels
- Window cleaner
- 55 gal trash bags
- Paper towels
- Microfiber cleaning cloths

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regular Office Hours

Monday - 9am – 12pm

Tuesday – 9am – 12pm

Wednesday - 9am – 12pm

Thursday - 9am – 12pm

Friday - closed

Display of Crosses

The idea is of a Cross Display during Lent, starting Ash Wednesday. This would be on display on tables in the church parlor like we did when photos of our parents were brought in. Invite people to bring photos, pictures, crosses of various sizes for stands or holders, and jewelry which will be laid flat on the table. Request that the crosses be labeled with names of owners in order to return them. The Spiritual Life Committee wishes to bring to people's awareness the importance of the cross. A plastic bin will be in the parlor as we start collecting them.

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

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