



February

NEWSLETTER

2025

Devotion

Love one another warmly as Christians, and be eager to show respect for one another. Be happy with those who are happy, weep with those who weep. Have the same concern for everyone.

Romans 12:10;15-16a. [TEV]

February is referred to as Love Month – as people think of romantic love as pictured by cupid with his arrow, and the celebration of Valentine’s Day.

I would like for us to consider love from a different perspective for our daily living in February, and also for each month.

Carol and I were given a book several years ago entitled A Cup of Christmas Tea by Tom Hegg. The books reminded me about possibilities for life at all times of the year, and not just at Christmas.

In the book, a man receives a letter from an elderly Great Aunt, who had a stroke the year before. She invites him to visit her at Christmas. The man thinks of all kinds of excuses to not go, but out of guilt he finally does go visit his aunt.

Despite his Great Aunt’s stroke, he finds the visit to be very enjoyable as he talks with her about the past, and as he recalls memories that touch his heart as they share a cup of Christmas tea.

Tom Hegg wrote: “But these rich, tactile memories became quite pale and thin when measured by the Christmas my Great Aunt kept deep within. Her body halved and nearly spent, but my Great Aunt was whole. I saw a Christmas miracle... the triumph of a soul.”

Devotion

Christmas, with its rush, is past, and so truthfully you and I may better have a chance to make a contact with someone. There may be someone who is dear to us, but whom we have failed to take time to visit, or contact...due to our busy schedule, or due to how we fear we will find their health, or due to the depression we are afraid we will feel when we make such a visit.

My experience is that on most occasions I discover that I leave encouraged by this person whom I visited with the desire to offer them support. I just trust that I left behind as much that lifted their soul as I took away with me!

This month of February, that we call Love Month in the cold, bleak weather of winter, is a time when we can share caring, loving concern with those about us who could benefit from our talking time to call, or better yet, to visit.

Calling, and then going by for a visit, with a person who is not as readily able to get out, or with someone who has been sick, or with someone who stays at home to care for another, are among the opportunities where we have the chance to be a messenger of God's love to those who so often hunger emotionally to be in the presence of other people.

Loneliness can lead to depression and despair as we question the value of our life to others, and also to God. God may be wanting to use your life, and mine, to let another person know they are valuable and important, not only to us, but also to God.

February – Love Month – a good time to call or visit someone and possibly share with them a cup of tea. A good time to practice friendship with others.

Yours in Christ, Jamie Fonville

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Birthdays

Lewis Fowler 2/5

David Allred 2/17

Linda Smith 2/22

Anniversaries

Mike & Linda Smith 2/23

Those Remaining in Our Prayers

Buster Freeman

Nell Allred

David Allred

(Peak Resources)

Amber Massey

Joe Strickland

The Family of Bob Price

The family of Harriet

Jolly Sowinski

Justin Smith

Stuart Stone

Lewis Fowler

Mary Newsome

Ross Strange Sr.

Joy Ballard

Sandra Greene

Pam Stone

Tony Ferrita

(Broke his hip)

Pete Pate

John Kipp

Bettie Braxton

The Family of Mary

Leighton Sellers

Betty Matekovich

(Terminal Cancer)

Benji Terrell

(Shoulder surgery)

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.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- **Sunday, February 2nd**
 - *Worship with Communion*
 - *Annual Congregational Meeting: Annual Report*
- **Monday, February 3rd**
 - *Margaret Lightbourne Circle at 11:00 am*
- **Monday, February 10th**
 - *Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm*
- **Tuesday, February 11th**
 - *Centennial Circle at 5:30 pm*
- **Monday, February 17th**
 - *President's Day - Office is closed*
- **Tuesday, February 25th**
 - *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.

During the times listed below, please park only in the parking spots directly facing S. Church Street to avoid getting blocked in.

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

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

THEMES & LITURGISTS

Communion

Julie Miller - 2/2

Greeter

Tena Barnwell

Ushers

Benji Terrell (head)

Julie Miller, Eleanor Lovgren, Charlie Vitou

Liturgists

February 2nd - Sandra Greene

February 9th - Sherry Massey

February 16th - Cindy Sharpe

February 23rd - Dotti Davis

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

Interim Minister: Deborah Suess

Organist / Choir Director: Matt Rice

Custodian: Rodney Paul Sr.

Office Administrator: Debbie Norris

