

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

APRIL 5, 2026



HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

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 Resurrection of the Lord

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC

April 5th, 2026 at 10:30 am

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

CENTERING CHIMES

PRELUDE

INTROIT

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

Leader: He is Risen!

People: He is Risen, Indeed!

Leader: Christ is Risen!

People: Christ is Risen, Indeed!

Leader: He is Risen!

People: He is Risen, Indeed!

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**HYMN OF PRAISE: "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"*

The New Century Hymnal #233

ACT OF CONTRITION

Leader: Even on this morning of bright flowers and loud brass, we carry the grit of the road in our shoes. We confess not because we are afraid of the dark, but because the Light has shown us how much we still prefer our own "tombs" of certainty over the wild mystery of resurrection. Let us speak our truth to the One who has already overcome it. God of Unstoppable Life, ...

People: ...we confess that we are often surprised by your grace. We went to the tomb expecting to find a body, and we are unsettled to find an empty space. We admit that we sometimes prefer the "dust" of our old grudges and the "shrouds" of our familiar sins to the terrifying freedom of your new creation. Forgive us for our disbelief. Wash the sleep from our eyes and the death from our hearts. Help us to stop looking for the living among the dead, and empower us to live as people of the Resurrection. Amen.

Leader: The stone is gone. The shroud is folded. The Breath of God is moving through this room and through your very soul. Hear the Good News: Death has lost its sting, and the Grave has lost its victory. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, you are free, and you are alive forevermore. **Amen.**

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Acts 10:34-43

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

Many: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PSALM Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

People: Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Leader: The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

People: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly; the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."

Leader: I shall not die, but I shall live and recount the deeds of the LORD.

People: The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

Leader: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

People: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

Leader: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

People: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

Leader: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

People: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

GLORIA

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

ANTHEM *Agnus Dei*

SCRIPTURE: John 20:1-18

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

Many: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: "*Then the Disciples Returned to Their Homes*" Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS AT THE TABLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The prayer response is:

Leader: "Lord in your mercy,..."

People: "...Hear our prayer."

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 GREAT THANKSGIVING *(see insert)*

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor: So, come, the table is prepared.

(The congregation, as they are able, proceeds to the table to commune by intinction. Those with mobility concerns will be served at their seats.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Our Savior Jesus Christ keep and preserve you to everlasting life.

Let us pray:

All: God of the Empty Tomb, we give you thanks that you have met us in the breaking of the bread and the pouring of the wine. You have taken the “dust” of our lives and infused it with your own Risen Life. We have tasted the future you are preparing for all people. Now, send us out from this Table into the streets of Burlington. May we be the ones who unbind the heavy burdens, who offer the living water, and who refuse to let the shadows have the final word. Keep the taste of this Resurrection on our tongues until we feast with you again in the Kingdom that has no end. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY GOES INTO THE WORLD

**HYMN OF DEDICATION: “The Day of Resurrection”*

The Celebration Hymnal #245

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: He is Risen!

People: He is Risen, Indeed!

Pastor: Christ is Risen!

People: Christ is Risen, Indeed!

Pastor: He is Risen!

People: He is Risen, Indeed!

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

EXTROIT

POSTLUDE

Announcements

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, April 6th

Margaret Lightbourne Circle at 11:00 am

Wednesday, April 8th

Finance Meeting at 11:00 am

Sunday, April 12th

John Graves Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship Service 10:30 am

Monday, April 13th

Official Board at 6:00 pm

Tuesday, April 14th

Centennial Circle at 11:00 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

Notes

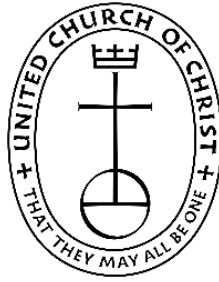
Inspired by something said in the word or sung in a song today? Take a moment to write it here to remember later.

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



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