Sunday, November 1, 2026

The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost



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."

WORSHIP MATTERS

Why all the candles?

Candles became a symbol of remembrance because several older meanings of light came together.

1. Light as life and presence Across many cultures, flame stands for life, warmth, and the soul. A burning candle suggests that the person's life still matters and that something of them continues. A flame is also fragile and finite, so it works as an image of a human life.

2. Light in darkness Death and grief are often described as darkness. A candle is a small, steady answer to that darkness. It stands for hope, comfort, and the belief that loss does not have the last word.

3. Christian roots Early Christians gathered in catacombs, where lamps and candles were practical necessities. They also took on theological meaning: Christ as "the light of the world" (John 8:12)

The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints Day

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC
November 1st, 2026 at 10:30 am

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Who are these, gathered in this sanctuary, and where have they come from?

People: We are pilgrims who walk the paths of earth, seeking the dwelling place of God.

Leader: Who are those who have gone before us, robed in mercy and crowned with light?

People: They are our ancestors in faith, whose songs endure in our remembrance.

Leader: Blessed are the poor in spirit, the peacemakers, and the merciful.

People: Blessed be the communion of saints, gathered as one body in Christ.

Leader: Come, let us worship the Living God.

THE ACT OF CONTRITION

People: Holy and Gracious God, we remember the saints who witnessed to Your justice, yet we confess how quickly we falter. We seek comfort over righteousness. We silence our voices when peace demands our speech. We cling to our anxieties rather than Your promises, and we forget the great cloud of witnesses that surrounds our daily walk. Cleanse our hearts, forgive our shortcomings, and wash our spirits anew, that we may walk faithfully in the light of Your communion. Amen.

**HYMN OF PRAISE: "For All The Saints" vs 1-3 The Pilgrim Hymnal #306*

THE COMMUNITY REMEMBERS AND CELEBRATES

Let us join together in corporate response and prayer.
(see insert)

**HYMN OF CELEBRATION: "For All The Saints" vs 4-5 The Pilgrim Hymnal #306*

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 7:9-17

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Leader: The Word of God for all people. **People: Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSIVE PSALM: 34:1-10, 22

Leader: I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

People: O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

Leader: I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

People: Look to him, and be radiant, so your faces shall never be ashamed.

Leader: This poor soul cried and was heard by the LORD and was saved from every trouble.

People: The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him and delivers them.

Leader: O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

People: O fear the LORD, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want.

Leader: The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

People: The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

GLORIA PATRI: (#759 NCH)

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE:1 John 3:1-3

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Leader: The Word of God for all people. **People: Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM *People Need The Lord* *by M. McDonald*

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:1-12

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Leader: The Word of God for all people. **People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON: "Who are these, robed in white?" Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS AT THE TABLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Congregational Response: Leader: Lord, in your mercy…**People: Hear our prayer.**

THE MINISTRY OF GENEROSITY

DOXOLOGY

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

All: God of all generations, bless these offerings given in gratitude and hope. May these tithes and gifts strengthen our communal life, alleviate hunger, promote justice, and extend the table of Christ to every weary traveler. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

THE COMMUNION PRAYER *(see insert)*

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

One: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor: Come, the table is prepared.

(The congregation, as they are able, proceeds to the table to commune by intinction. Those who are unable to walk 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: We thank you, God for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY GOES INTO THE WORLD

**HYMN OF DEDICATION: "I Come with Joy" The New Century Hymnal #349*

*BENEDICTION

Leader: Go forth into the world with courage. Honor the memory of the faithful by walking in their footsteps: comfort the brokenhearted, defend the vulnerable, and speak truth with love. The cloud of witnesses goes with you.

(+) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit rest upon you, illuminate your path, and grant you peace, this day and forevermore.

EXTROIT

POSTLUDE

Announcements

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, November 2nd
Margaret Lightbourne Circle at 11:00 am

Wednesday, November 4th
Finance Meeting at 11:00 am

Sunday, November 8th
John Graves Sunday School at 9:30 am
(Studying the book of Mark)
All are welcome!

Worship Service at 10:30 am
UCC Offering Neighbors in Need

Monday, November 9th
Official Board at 6:00 pm

Tuesday, November 10th
Centennial Circle at 5:30 pm

Sunday, November 15th
John Graves Sunday School at 9:30 am
(Studying the book of Mark)
All are welcome!

Worship Service at 10:30 am
Turkey Day

Ongoing Mission Project

We will be collecting 13-gallon trash bags to help Allied Churches.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office Hours
Monday - 9am – 12pm
Tuesday – 9am – 12pm
Wednesday - 9am – 12pm
Thursday - 9am – 12pm
Friday - closed

Morrowtown Community Group Gala
Gala to support the Morrowtown Mission
November 7th at 5:30 pm
First Baptist Church of Burlington
$55 per ticket
Includes entertainment, full meal by Lola's, Silent Auction, 50/50 Drawing, and Mayor Beth Kennett as speaker.
(For questions, ask Carol Fonville)

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.

The Family of Buster Freeman
Nell Allred
Amber Massey
Joe Strickland
Ross Strange Sr.
Trisha Shelly
Ray Palyok
(Matt's Step-Father)
Lewis Fowler
Shawn Hooks
(Matt's Nephew)
Brenda Grogan
Holly Bent
Nanci Isley
(Friend of Sherry Massey)
Jon & Judy Kipp
Darlene Watson
(Nancey Simmon's Sister)

June Sellars
Nancy Hughes
(Trish Ball's Mother)
Darla Bray
Dana Matherly
(Terry Ragland's daughter)
The Family of Jane Pate
(Family of Jamie Fonville)
Pete Pate
Joy McPhail
Jerry Barnwell
The K Family
Ken & Helen Little
David Hodges
David Hodges
Rodney Paul Sr.
Blake Jones

Church Officers

President: Jamie Fonville
Vice President: Cindy Sharpe
Treasurer: Vacant *(Julie M. acting Treasurer)*
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: Julie Miller
Hymn Leaders & Anthem: Choir
Greeters: Benjie Terrell & David Hodges
Ushers: Benjie Terrell, Julie Miller, Charlie Vitou, Eleanor Lovgren