

October

NEWSLETTER 2026



Devotion



On our recent vacation to Washington, D.C., my wife and I visited some pretty memorable sites. One of the really special experiences was a visit to the Lincoln Memorial. The sheer gravitas of that massive figure of Abraham Lincoln gazing calmly out across the National Mall was enough to make us pause in silence for a few minutes before exploring the words of his most famous speeches carved into the walls.

Everywhere you look there is marble, limestone, or granite. The monument is designed to have an emotional and spiritual weight. Even the negative space inside felt heavy with a sense of reverence.

With the weight of all that history and stone it is a wonder that the whole place doesn't sink into the swampland that the nation's capitol was built over! That's where the second part of the exhibit comes in: The Undercroft.

There is a chamber beneath the monument containing great columns of concrete and stone which bear the weight of the structure above. These pillars are sunk into the bedrock to keep the whole thing from falling into a great pile of rock and rubble.



Devotion

No matter how impressive or grand a construction is, if there is nothing solid holding it up it cannot stand.

Our lives are like that. If we don't have a solid foundation underneath us, no matter how much we look like we have it all together the sheer weight of our accumulated experience in life will have us sinking into the squishy ground underfoot.

Just as the Lincoln Memorial isn't held up by a single column, neither are our lives. We need more than just the foundation of our individual faith, we need each other. That is a crucial function of First Christian United Church of Christ: mutual support. I am grateful that the people who make up this congregation know and practice this without hesitation!

I urge you to continue to bear each other's burdens with a Christ-like love. Let our relationship with God and with each other be the network of care and support that undergirds our life as a church.

O God, the Master Builder, grant that we, resting in the sure foundation of Jesus Christ, our Lord, might be sources of strength and support for each other and for our community. In the name of Jesus, our rock, we pray.

Amen.

Pastor Stephen



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Birthdays

Benjie Terrell 10/4

Ann Strange 10/13

Mike Smith 10/20

Those Remaining in Our Prayers

Buster Freeman

Nell Allred

Amber Massey

Joe Strickland

Ross Strange Sr.

Trisha Shelly

Ray Palyok

Lewis Fowler

Darla Bray

Dana Matherly

Joy McPhail

Brenda Grogan

Holly Bent

Nanci Isley

Jon & Judy Kipp

Betty & Roger King

Blake Jones

June Sellars

Nancy Hughs

Eleanor Lovgren

Shawn Hooks

The Family of Jane Pate

Pete Pate

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.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **Saturday, October 3rd**
 - *Alamance County CROP Walk at 9:00 am*
 - *Registration is at 8:30 am at Trinity Worship Center*
- **Monday, October 5th**
 - *Margaret Lightbourne Circle at 11:00 am*
 - *Guest speaker Ann Russell: The Morrowtown Gardens*
- **Wednesday, October 7th**
 - *Finance Meeting Cancelled*
- **Monday, October 12th**
 - *Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm*
- **Tuesday, October 13th**
 - *Centennial Circle at 5:30 pm*
- **Sunday, October 25th**
 - *Stewardship Sunday: Get your pledge cards in!!*
- **Tuesday, October 27th**
 - *Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm*

Sunday School

The John Graves Sunday School meets every Sunday at 9:30 am in the library. They are currently studying the Book of Mark.

All are welcome to join!

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.

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

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

(Exceptions are May and December)

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

October 25th

2026 Income vs Expenses



Let's narrow the gap!

Average deficeit per month is \$7,436



THEMES & LITURGISTS

Communion

Dotti Davis 10/4

Greeter

Eleanor Lovgren

Ushers

Benji Terrell (head)

Julie Miller, Eleanor Lovgren, Charlie Vitou

Liturgists

October 4th - Tena Barnwell

October 11th - Mark Garrison

October 18th - Sherry Massey

October 25th - Judy Hodges

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: Vacant (Julie Miller acting Treasurer)

Assistant Treasurer: Julie Miller

Secretary: Matt Rice

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

Organist / Choir Director: Matt Rice

Custodian: Rodney Paul Sr.

Office Administrator: Debbie Norris

