

Sunday Worship

First Christian United Church of Christ

October 5, 2025



World Communion Sunday

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*

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC
10:30 am Worship Service October 5th, 2025

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Gracious God, gentle in your power and strong in your tenderness,

**People: You have brought us forth from the womb of your being and
breathed into us the breath of life.**

Leader: We know that we do not live by bread alone.

People: But by every word that comes from you.

Leader: Feed our deep hungers with the living bread that you give us in Jesus Christ.

**People: May Jesus' promise, "Where two or three are gathered in my name,
there am I in the midst of them," be fulfilled in us.**

Leader: Make us a joyful company of your people so that with the faithful in every place and time,

People: We may praise and honor you, God Most High. Amen.

**HYMN OF PRAISE: "Morning Has Broken"*

The Pilgrim #38

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: In silence, let us confess our sin against God and each other...

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Sisters and brothers, in the words of the psalmist, let us ask for the forgiveness we need.

**People: ...Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us
thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a
clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Cast us not
away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us. Restore
to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Through Jesus Christ we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 10:14b-21

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PALM: Psalm 84:1-4

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

People: My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Leader: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

People: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

GLORIA

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

ANTHEM "One World, One Communion"

SERMON: "The Waffle House Gospel"

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS AT THE TABLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND INVITATION TO GIVE

Pastor: As we journey with God, we listen to God's still-speaking voice asking us to have faith in all we share. The Spirit of God asks us to live into our faith as we share our treasures, talents, and time with all of creation.

O God, the cobwebs of doubt spread as we notice divisions and injustices grow. We are uncertain of your presence and have great doubt of the ways you work through us. As we seek your presence among us, clear our minds of the distractions. As mercy blossoms, our doubts will transform to belief. Fill our souls with hope. May we know that your Realm abides around us. Amen.

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*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

Pastor: When our spirits experience dehydration, you quench our souls. When doubt creeps into our minds, you fill our hearts with your hydrating presence. Encourage us to stretch ourselves in our giving. Help us to see that we have the faith to take movements forward into the future with courage and strength. Amen.

SEE COMMUNION INSERT

THE COMMUNITY GOES INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN FOR DEDICATION: “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

The New Century Hymnal #423

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: The blessing of God Almighty: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit be with you all

All: Amen.

EXTROIT

POSTLUDE

*All who are able to are asked to stand;
May we all lift our spirits into fellowship with God!

Announcements

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, October 6th

Margaret Lightbourne Circle at 11:00am
(*Ducks in a Row Program by Alamance
Memorial Park – All Are Welcome!!*)

Wednesday, October 8th

Finance Meeting at 11:00am

Sunday, October 12th

John Graves Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship Service at 10:30 am

Monday, October 13th

Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm

Tuesday, October 14th

Centennial Circle at 5:30 pm

Sunday, October 26th

Stewardship Sunday

Tuesday, October 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

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.

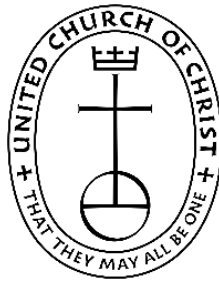
Serving in our Armed Forces

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: Mark Garrison

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