

The background of the entire image is a photograph of a church altar. In the foreground, a Bible is open, showing text in a Gothic script. Above the Bible, two golden vessels, possibly chalices or censers, are visible. The lighting is warm and focused on the altar.

# **The Great Settlement**

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

Do justice, love kindness  
and walk humbly  
with your God

in the padey and becomy med!

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
**February 1, 2026**

**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*

# Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC

**10:30 am Worship Service**

**February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

*Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL*

## **THE COMMUNITY GATHERS**

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are a holy tapestry of mystery and meaning,

**People: A fine garment of divine blessing and human care,**

Leader: A gentle weave of deep sighs and fervent prayers,

**People: A piece of art woven with whispers and exclamation points,**

Leader: We are God's tapestry –

**People: Touched with mystery and filled with meaning.**

Leader: With what shall we come before God and bow ourselves before God on high?

*\*HYMN OF PRAISE: "I Am The Light of the World"*

*The New Century Hymnal #584*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Let us silently confess our sin before God and neighbor...

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: When we do good, challenges are ever present. Sometimes, the challenges can be overwhelming and so we're tempted to retreat or stay silent. Help us to remember all that you do for our good so that we can go forth and do the same.**

WORDS OF GRACE

Leader: In a beginning, God looked at all that was created and called creation "good". In this moment of a new beginning, let us give thanks for the grace that enables us to be doers of good no matter the challenges we face.

## **THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD**

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:1-12

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 15

Leader: O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?  
Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right and speak the truth from  
their heart;

**People: who do not slander with their tongue and do no evil to their friends  
nor heap shame upon their neighbors;**

Leader: in whose eyes the wicked are despised but who honor those who fear the  
LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

**People: who do not lend money at interest and do not take a bribe against  
the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.**

GLORIA

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

ANTHEM: I Waited For The Lord

Solo, Matt Rice

SERMON: *"The Great Settlement"*

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

***THE COMMUNITY GATHERS AT THE TABLE***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INVITATION TO GIVE

THE MINISTRY OF GIVING

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 COMMUNION PRAYER (*see insert*)

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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

**All: 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: "Let Us Break Bread Together"*

*The New Century Hymnal #330*

## \*BENEDICTION

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

**All: Amen.**

## EXTROIT

## POSTLUDE

# Announcements

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Margaret Lightbourne Circle at 11:00 am

**Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**

Finance Committee at 11:00 am

**Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am**

John Graves Sunday School at 9:30 am

Worship Service at 10:30 am

**Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**

Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm

**Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**

Centennial Circle at 5:30 pm

**Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**

Congregational Meeting after worship

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Regular Office Hours**

Monday - 9am – 12pm

Tuesday – 9am – 12pm

Wednesday - 9am – 12pm

Thursday - 9am – 12pm

Friday - closed

### **Display of Crosses**

The idea is of a Cross Display during Lent, starting Ash Wednesday. This would be on display on tables in the church parlor like we did when photos of our parents were brought in. Invite people to bring photos, pictures, crosses of various sizes for stands or holders, and jewelry which will be laid flat on the table. Request that the crosses be labeled with names of owners in order to return them. The Spiritual Life Committee wishes to bring to people's awareness the importance of the cross. A plastic bin will be in the parlor as we start collecting them.

# 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  
John Moon  
Ray Palyok  
*(Matt's Step-Father)*  
Lewis Fowler  
Carolyn Wolley / Family  
Dave Smudski / Family  
Brooke Manning

David Hodges  
Brenda Grogan  
Spanky Newsome  
Holly Bent  
Troy Marquardt  
Joy McPhail  
Blake Jones  
Jerry Barnwell  
Chris Wysocki  
Debbie Caporoli  
Nanci Isley  
*(Friend of Sherry Massey)*  
Our Nation

## 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.

---

---

---

---

---

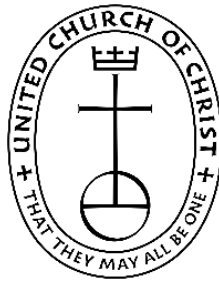
---

---

---

---

---



## **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: Carol Fonville  
Hymn Leaders & Anthem: Choir  
Greeters: Benjie Terrell & David Hodges  
Ushers: Benjie Terrell, Julie Miller, Charlie Vitou, Eleanor Lovgren