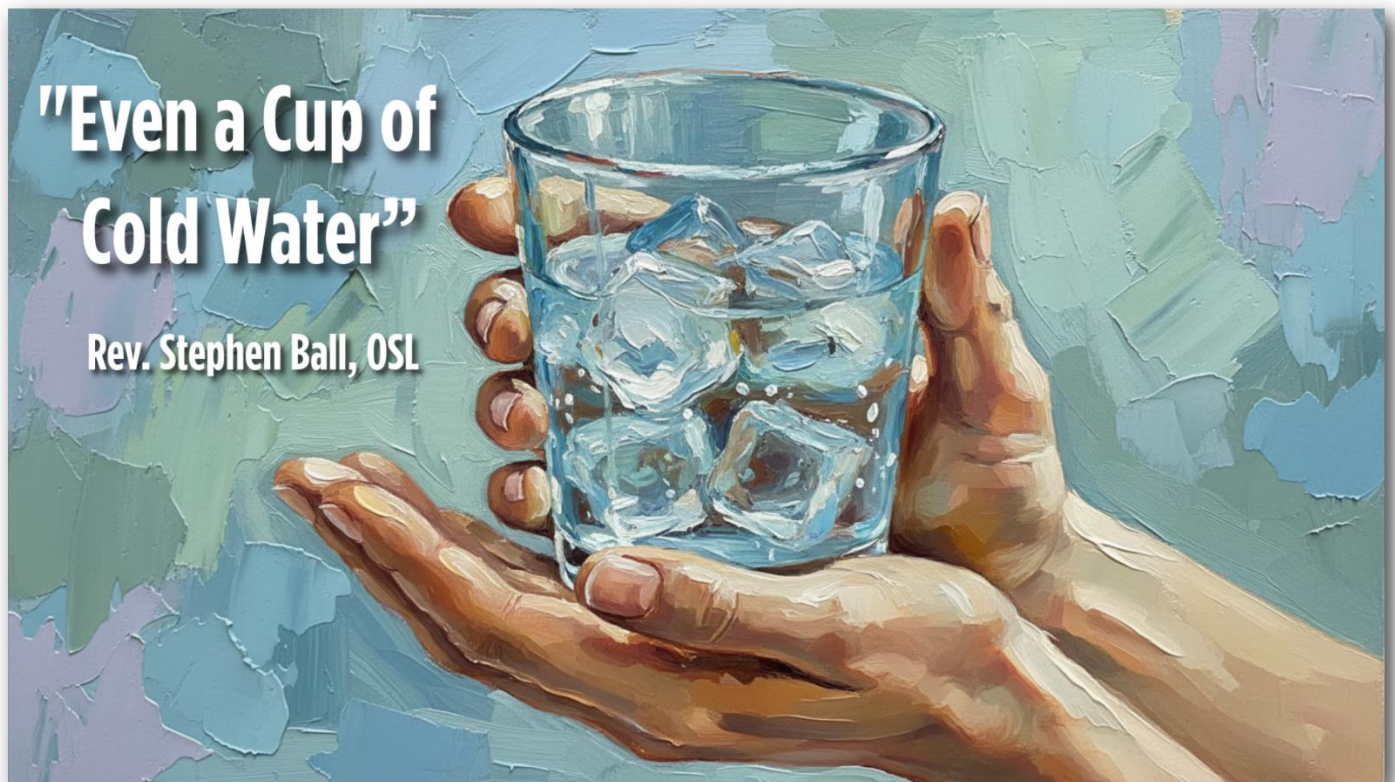


Sunday, June 28, 2026

The Fifth 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."

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 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC

June 28th, 2026 at 10:30 am

Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Whoever welcomes you welcomes the Holy.

People: And whoever welcomes the Holy welcomes the One who sent love into the world.

Leader: Even a cup of cold water given to a child is an act of sacred weight.

People: No gesture of kindness is too small; no heart is too broken to offer shelter.

Leader: Let us worship the God of the open door, the wide table, and the radical welcome.

People: Let us worship together in spirit and in truth.

**HYMN OF PRAISE: "Beautiful Jesus"*

The New Century Hymnal #44

THE ACT OF CONTRITION

Leader: It is a terrifying thing to realize how easily we close ourselves off. We build fortresses out of our comfort zone and call it security. We pass by the thirsty because we are too busy counting our own resources. But the Gospel demands a vulnerability that breaks through our armor. Let us lay down our defenses and confess the ways we have failed to be the sanctuary God calls us to be.

People: God of unmeasured hospitality, we confess that our doors are often closed and our hearts are often narrow. We want to welcome the prophet, but only if they speak words that comfort our status quo. We want to offer the cup of cold water, but we hesitate, wondering if we have enough to spare. Forgive our scarcity mindsets. Forgive the subtle ways we turn away the stranger and, in doing so, turn away you. Expand our capacity to receive others, that we might truly learn what it means to receive your grace. Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news that echoes through every closed door and guarded heart: God's grace is not a finite resource to be rationed. It is a river that refuses to be stopped. In the radical, unearned mercy of the Divine, your fears are dismantled, your missteps are forgiven, and you are restored. You are free to love deeply and welcome broadly. Believe the Gospel; you are forgiven.

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 28:5-9

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PSALM from Psalm 89

Leader: I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever, with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

People: I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Leader: You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to my servant David:

People: 'I will establish your descendants forever and build your throne for all generations.'"

Leader: Happy are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of your countenance;

People: they exult in your name all day long and extol your righteousness.

Leader: For you are the glory of their strength; by your favor our horn is exalted.

People: For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

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: Romans 6:20-23

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM *They'll Know We Are Christians*

Arr. L. Larson

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 10:40-42

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: *"Even a Cup of Cold Water"*

Rev. Stephen Ball, OS�

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD

**HYMN OF CELEBRATION: "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" vs 1-3
The New Century Hymnal #498*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Congregational Response: ... **"Hear our prayer."**

**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.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

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 COMMUNITY GOES INTO THE WORLD

**HYMN OF DEDICATION: "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" vs 4-5
The New Century Hymnal #498*

*BENEDICTION

EXTROIT

POSTLUDE

Announcements

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, June 30th
Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm

Saturday, July 4th
July 4th Holiday

Monday, July 6th
Margaret Lightbourne Meal
Olive Garden at 11:00 am
Please RSVP to Carol Fonville

Monday, July 13th
Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm

Sunday, July 26th
Christmas in July Worship Service

Tuesday, July 28th
Deacon 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

*Dalton Anthony Jones, Ensign US Navy
(Family of June & Dotti)*

Notes

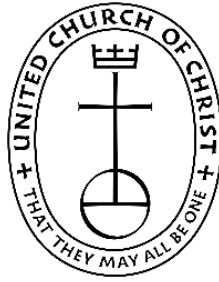
Inspired by something said in the word or sung in a song today? Take a moment to write it here to remember later.

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.

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
The Family of Susan Horne

Brenda Grogan
Rodney Paul Sr.
Holly Bent
Nanci Isley
(Friend of Sherry Massey)
Curtis Foster
Jon & Judy Kipp
Betty King & Roger King
Troy Marquardt
Blake Jones
June Sellars
Nancy Hughes
(Trish Ball's Mother)



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