

First UCC Happenings



FEBRUARY 2021

Online Events This Month

Thurs., Feb. 4 at 7 pm - Zoom Evensong
Tues., Feb. 16 at 7 pm - Zoom Mardi Gras Celebration
Wed., Feb. 17 - Online Ash Wed. Service on YouTube
Every Wed. at 7 pm (except the 17th) – Zoom Bible Study
Every Sun. at 10:30 am – Worship on Facebook



In-person Events This Month

Wed., Feb. 17 from 11 am to 1 pm – Drive-thru Ashes
Every Sunday at 10:30 am – Worship in the Sanctuary



Beloved, Love Creation

“We may think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it’s our garden that is really nurturing us.” - Jenny Uglow

From the beginning of the creation narrative in the Bible, we learn about the design of stewardship. The beloved story of Adam and Even in the garden portray an understanding of care for creation – tending of the garden. The original Hebrew translates with the words “till” and “keep.” The word “till” implies “to be bound in service to” and the word “keep” in its original form implies “to preserve” for the future. This understanding is the foundation of stewardship in any form. Our role as stewards of creation can best be understood by our connection to creation, that it was made for our own sake. Most importantly, that by our own actions of love and care we are fed – literally physically and spiritually.

To Love creation was the call of the beloved community at St. Mary’s United Church of Christ in Maryland when their pastor reported for summer military duty, far away from his church and congregation. Tasked with maintaining the parsonage’s flower garden, the community grew flowers for the shut-in and hospitalized members.

The success of this effort inspired the development of a raised bed garden adjacent to the church, which is now tended by the entire congregation. St. Mary’s connected with a sister church in this effort. Together, their efforts provided produce for the food pantry in their community. Through this project, all generations cultivated the bounty and beautiful blessings of creation together.

As we think about stewardship, can we expand our definition of harvest? What are the needs of your broader community? And who are your partners in answering those needs? Do you provide a tangible or physical product? Or is your harvest more intangible, like an experience of community? Whatever it may be – may it be fruitful and multiply.



First UCC Weekly Offering

Dec 27	\$ 1,665.00	Jan 3	\$ 1,475.00
Jan 10	\$ 920.00	Jan 17	\$ 1,875.00
		Jan 24	\$ 1,685.00

Thank you to all who have practiced stewardship through your gifts during this challenging time. Prayerfully consider your tithing to support the ministries and staff of First UCC. Thank you!



Treasurer's Report as of 01/26/2021

General Operating Checking Account Balance	\$ 12,307.34
Breakdown:	
Bills to Be Paid Through 02/03/2021	\$ 1,302.07
Mission & Evangelism	\$ 1,230.55
General Fund	\$ 9,632.57
UCC Local Missions Grant	\$ 142.15
Reserve Fund Balance	\$ 1,007.47





**Church-Wide Prayer:
Pray with us each day at noon**

February 1-15

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you, bring the nations into your fold, pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through the same your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

February 16-28

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Wider Missions & Outreach

Lent begins on February 17-Ash Wednesday & continues to March 28th-Palm Sunday.

With the continued Pandemic & food shortages the emphasis for Lent will be the HELP food pantry. A table will be set up outside the Sanctuary doors to receive canned goods or non-perishable items. The goal is for each person to bring a food item to church each week. If you are not attending worship service, you can still donate food or money. Contact the church for items to be picked up at your door or mail a donation. Please be sure that whatever food items are donated have not expired.

We continue to pray that you are well & safe during these stressful times.

Pat Kline & Carol Diehl

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

4 Keith Lawson

5 Trevor Scherrer

5 Serena Fischer

9 Jen Abbott

9 Karen Stevens



12 Helen Speight

13 Paige Nolin

18 Nancy Cournoyer

18 Holly Cox

If you have a birthday and it's not on the list, please let us know so we can correct our records.

February Anniversaries



Troy & Kathy Rary Feb. 7th

Ray & Jennifer Highsmith
Feb. 18th

Guy & Jeanine Scherrer Feb. 29th

*If you have an anniversary in
February, March, or April,
please let us know,
so we can correct our records.

**First United
Church of Christ
1017 Todds Lane
Hampton, VA 23666-1924**

Tel: 757-826-7560

E-mail: firstuccyo@verizon.net

Website:

www.firstucchampton.org



Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/1stUCCHampton/>



TOGETHER Worshipping God
Growing Spiritually
Serving Others

**Indoor Worship Services Sundays
at 10:30am**

**Zoom Mardi Gras Celebration
Tuesday, Feb. 16th at 7pm**

**Drive-Thru Ashes
Wednesday, Feb. 17th 11am-1pm**

**Our Ash Wednesday Service will
be posted online on YouTube**