

First UCC Happenings



NOVEMBER 2020



Let's start off by reading Jeremiah 51:33 and 8:20. In nature everything moves towards a common harvest time. Summer leads to Autumn, the season of the year when fruit is ripe and nuts, corn, and cotton are ready to harvest.

In life youth moves to into middle age and middle age towards older age. As life progresses it becomes richer and fuller with the fruits of living. Some are good fruits while others are not, but all will be gathered together in a time of harvest.

Time is like a threshing floor to which every person must bring their life to be tried. We all go forth to sow. Some of us will come to harvest earlier than others, but all will eventually face the harvest. We cannot go back over the years to replant as farmers do. We have only one chance to sow...today!

Taker a moment to read Romans 14:12. Example: Once a mother took her children to the seed counter at the store and let each child pick a seed to plant. The little girl picked a flower because the picture on the package was so pretty. The boy liked corn on the cob so he picked corn seed. At harvest time the girl was disappointed because she had no corn and her pretty flowers had bloomed and gone away.

You see, many people choose to plant for pleasure and when gaudy looks appear, they may be disappointed when the harvest of life comes.

Be minded of what we plant in life knowing that there comes a harvest time when we reap what we sow into others, and into ourselves. I pray this season of harvest will be one you welcome, however there is still time to plant new seed.

Rev. Ed Lilley



From the Director of Music

Diane Drury

November Zoom Musical Events

Thursday, Nov. 5 at 7 pm – Zoom Evensong (gathering time 6:45 pm)

Thursday, Nov. 19 at 7 pm – Zoom Hymn Sing (gathering time 6:45 pm)

Virtual Choir Submission Deadlines

Thank you so much to those of you who are recording your voices for our Virtual Choir music for worship each week. The results are amazing! This month I am trying to work ahead in creating Virtual Choir hymns and anthems in order to be ready for Ring in the Season and Christmas Eve. Here are the November deadlines.

All due dates are on Thursdays by 4 pm

Oct. 29 – “Here I Am, Lord” and “Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”

Nov. 5 - #456 and “A Time for All Things”

Nov. 12 - #526 and “Autumn Carol”

Nov. 19 – “Gloria in excelsis Deo” Advent response, #114 and “The Apple Tree,”

AND ALSO Music for Ring in the Season: “Alleluia” and #158

Nov. 26 or 27 (it is Thanksgiving!) - #115 and “Waiting, Wandering, Wondering”

Ring in the Season Virtual Concert

The 35th Annual Ring in the Season Concert will launch on YouTube in Dec. 1, 2020. This will appear as a playlist of musical selections from our musical groups and our neighboring churches and area musicians. Traditionally this concert benefits Habitat for Humanity, and this year we would like everyone to send checks or online donations directly to Habitat of Humanity Peninsula & Greater Williamsburg, 11011 Warwick Blvd., Newport News, VA 23601. Please let them know that your gift was a result of our virtual concert.



Beloved, Love the Children.

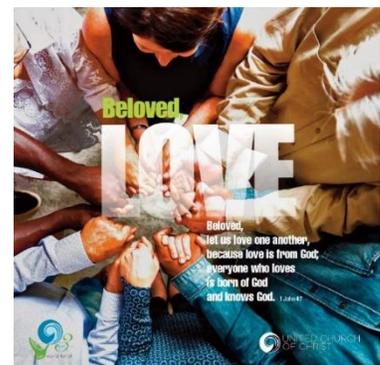
“Grown men can learn from very little children, for the hearts of the little children are pure. Therefore, the Great Spirit may show to them many things which older people miss.” – Black Elk 1863-1950

How often have I found myself amazed at the simple wisdom of children? Children have a profoundly different perspective on how they see the world – if only we could see the world through their eyes! Jesus tells us in our sacred texts that we must become like little children to enter the kin-dom of heaven. (Matthew 18.3)

In 2019, Skyland Community United Church of Christ, through their Love of Children, reached out to the broader community to create a photo exhibition. Located in the Santa Cruz mountains of California, the congregation invited children ages 4 – 11 from the community to submit photographs. Over 80 children participated in the “My World in the Santa Cruz Mountains” exhibit. People from all ages attended the exhibit reception replete with milk and cookies. Each participant was valued as an artist and encouraged to talk about their submission. All enjoyed the playful and profound perspectives of their world in the mountains through the eyes of the children.

What might we learn about one another, our communities, and especially our church if we were to see them through the eyes of a child? Do they feel heard... seen...valued? How do they know they are ‘beloved’?

As you reflect on stewardship in our church, think about these things. How do your actions express your love of children? Are children engaged in ways that also inspire us? What do they teach us about love? Nelson Mandela reminded us, “Our children are our greatest treasure. They are our future.” Beloved, Love the children.





First UCC Weekly Offering

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|---------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| Sept 27 | \$ 2,814.00 | Oct 5 | \$ 2,960.00 |
| Oct 18 | \$ 3,225.00 | | |

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 10/18/2020

| | |
|--|--------------|
| General Operating Checking Account Balance | \$ 10,731.54 |
| Breakdown: | |
| Bills to Be Paid Through 11/03/2020 | \$ 2,161.73 |
| Mission & Evangelism | \$ 3,421.35 |
| General Fund | \$ 4,806.31 |
| Youth Fund | \$ 0.00 |
| UCC Local Missions Grant | \$ 342.15 |
| Reserve Fund Balance | \$ 1,007.45 |

Pastoral 
Installation

On Sunday, November 8th, during worship, there will be a brief installation service for Rev. Ed, to take place outdoors, weather permitting.



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

November 1-15

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5, NIV

Lord our God, rule over us in strength, and grant us your light. Let your Spirit be with us to confirm what has already taken place in our hearts, so that we have joy and trust even under all the strain and stress of this life. Shine into the darkness of the world. Shine for all people. May we be shown more and more clearly what we have been created for. Strengthen our faith for the future, our faith in everything good, for however hidden the good may be, it must at last come to the light. May we and all the world bring praise and honor to you. Amen.

November 16-30

Lord, my strength and my fortress, my refuge in time of distress, to you the nations will come from the ends of the earth and say, "Our ancestors possessed nothing but false gods, worthless idols that did them no good." Jeremiah 16:19, NIV

Lord our God, we come to you burdened and driven by every kind of need and oppression, but you will bring light into every situation; in your great goodness and faithfulness you will continue to help. We come to you because you are our help. We want to draw strength from your Word so that we can remain steadfast in these times, awaiting your help and already finding joy and certainty in our expectation. For your kingdom is coming, and your will is being done on earth as in heaven. Amen.

Wider Missions & Outreach

Thank you to all who donated to the purchase of Food Lion gift cards for the month of October. Our Forrest families are very grateful.

On November 1st, the mitten tree will be ready to collect scarves, hats & mittens/gloves to send to The Appalachian Project in Southwest VA. It has been a mission that the Project has been looking forward to.

The Local Missions Fund has money that will be used for Food Lion gift cards for a family for Thanksgiving food. This money will be used to purchase any turkeys that are needed.

Pat Kline & Carol Diehl, Chairs.

El Roi Daycare's Fall Pumpkin Patch!



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 2 Linda Ann Cournoyer
- 4 Jessica Gates
- 6 Jennifer Highsmith
- 6 Justin Smith
- 7 Tony Nelson
- 10 Shelby Blevins
- 14 Dot Bratton
- 15 Joe Harris
- 17 Charley Bocket
- 19 Lindsay Elledge
- 20 Arron Macneil
- 21 Gene Hook
- 24 Ryan Drischler
- 27 Jared Smith

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

November Anniversaries



11/29 Lary & Carol Diehl

*If you have an anniversary in October, November, or December, 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



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TOGETHER Worshipping God
Growing Spiritually
Serving Others

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

**Outdoor Worship Service and
Installation of Rev. Ed
Sunday, Nov. 8th at 10:30am**