

First UCC Happenings



OCTOBER 2020



Beloved First UCC Family,

When John penned these words, "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." (1 John 4:7), he places it between a narrative reminding us that we come from God and closes this chapter reminding us how to love and imitate Christ by loving as He did.

Martin Luther King once called love "the most durable power in the world." As he explained, "Hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease of fear; only love can do that. Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it."

In the United Church of Christ, we hear God calling us to **Three Great Loves**. Love of Neighbor. Love of Children. Love of Creation.

Love becomes trite when we quote it but don't work for its realization in our lives. But in the United Church of Christ we give ourselves to answering God's call to love.

We have expressed the love of Christ and First UCC in the past through ministries like:

- Drive through breakfast
- Hampton Public School partnerships
- Spiritual growth through worship experiences, choir, Sunday school and other ministries of the church

As we look to the future our methodology to communicate God's love may look different, but the message is the same.

The annual stewardship campaign, which begins in October, provides the resources our congregation and the wider United Church of Christ need to answer God's call to love. Over the next four weeks, we will talk about the ways God calls us to love children, our neighbor, and creation. Generosity to the annual campaign assures that our congregation can continue to faithfully answer God's call to love.

I hope you will join me in supporting First UCC in the coming year. Your pledge makes this way of being church possible as we "bear, believe, hope and endure all things" together.

This lover offering, this ministry, has made a difference in my life and continues to make a difference for so many others in our community and abroad. Thus, I hope you will join me in making a pledge or gift towards this excellent way to share through giving at First UCC throughout the month of October. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rev. Ed Lilley
Pastor



From the Director of Music

Diane Drury

YouTube Evensong

On Thursday, Oct. 1, I will be sending out an e-mail with the words, as well as a YouTube link to this month's Evensong Service. You will just click on the link and it will take you to a YouTube playlist with the three short videos. They should play one after the other. This month I was able to record Carol Diehl reading the scriptures and add her voice to the service.

Zoom Hymn Sing

This month I will be doing the Zoom Hymn Sing from 7 – 7:30 pm (social time starts at 6:45 pm) on Thursday, Oct. 15. Anyone with requests, please email me at toccatagirl@aol.com by 4 pm on Wed., Oct. 14.

Virtual Choir Rehearsals and Recordings

October videos will be posted to YouTube in order to prepare Virtual Choir members for some of the upcoming music we will record. Be on the look out for the emails with those links, as well as the emails with the music and click tracks.

35th Annual Virtual Ring in the Season Concert to Launch Dec. 1

The YouTube 35th Ring in the Season Concert will launch on Tues., Dec. 1. I will send out e-mails to everyone to share with family and friends (and to the participating churches as well), for people to enjoy. I will ask folks to send donations directly to Habitat so that we do not have to handle any collection of funds. I hope to be creating several videos from our groups to add to this concert.



STEWARDSHIP 2020-21

Stewardship Theme: "Beloved, Love"

Based on scripture "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

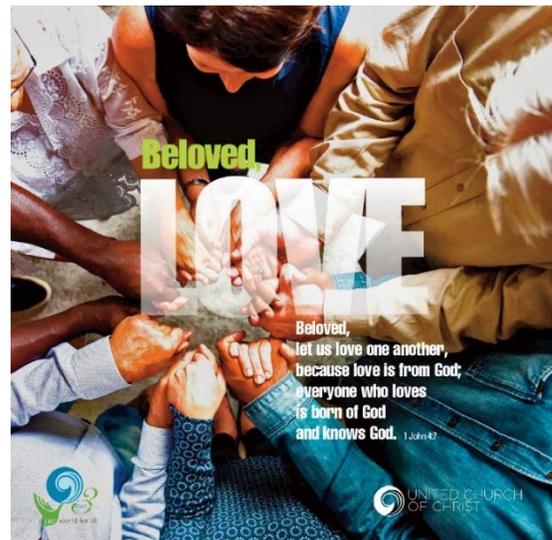
- 1 John 4:7

The 2020-2021 Stewardship Campaign at First UCC will begin Sunday, October 4th and continue through Stewardship Sunday on October 25th. Our theme-based lesson topics will be used by the pastor for the worship services during our Stewardship celebration.

For our mission project: Groceries for 4 community families. A \$50 Food Lion gift card will be given to each. We are asking a \$10 pledge from each member to meet the cost.

**Stewardship Sunday
Outdoor Celebration
October 25, 2020
10:00 AM**

- ✚ Light Continental Pastry Breakfast
- ✚ Budget Presentation
- ✚ Morning Devotion / Homily
- ✚ Offering and Dedication of Pledges





First UCC Weekly Offering

Aug 30	\$ 451.00	Sept 6	\$ 1,942.00
Sept 13	\$ 1,590.00	Sept 20	\$ 3,115.50

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 09/24/2020

General Operating Checking Account Balance	\$ 12,068.96
Breakdown:	
Bills to Be Paid Through 10/04/2020	\$ 2,903.54
Mission & Evangelism	\$ 2,947.35
General Fund	\$ 4,582.41
Youth Fund	\$ 0.00
UCC Local Missions Grant	\$ 342.15
Reserve Fund Balance	\$ 1,007.47



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

October 1-15

Heavenly Father, I pray that Your Word will continue to remind us that our gifts and abilities are attributed to us so that they can be used to serve others. I pray that You touch my heart so that I may serve honestly. Help me to be a good steward of Your grace. Let the work that I do be a reflection of You and I pray that I will use my gift according to Your will and purpose, in Jesus Name I pray, Amen.

October 16-31

Heavenly Father, I thank You for who You are. I am grateful that everything that is good comes from You, the Father of light. I ask that You help me to do good deeds for Your people and for all that has been entrusted to me for Your Kingdom as this is what stewardship is all about. I pray that as a steward, I will take seriously the task I have been called to. Lord, help me to be a true reflection of You at all times, Amen.

Wider Missions & Outreach

Our congregation is very generous to missions.

We have \$50 each month that is donated to Local Missions. The Missions Ministry has decided to use this money for the food we usually collect on Thanksgiving & Christmas. We will work with the Forest Elementary social worker & volunteer coordinator to find families who will need extra help. They are doing the same for the money being solicited by the Stewardship Ministry for October. We will do Food Lion gift cards.

We will again have a mitten tree this year to help folks in Southwest VA. They have always been so thankful for our contribution. Hoping we can collect in just 3 weeks. The tree will be up in the back of the Sanctuary to collect on November 1, 8 & 15. Hoping to collect & mail by Nov. 17.

We have Grant money that was given by Neighbors in Need when we were doing the summer enrichment program for Forest students. This is unused money that NIN wants us to use locally. This \$300+ money will be used to buy books for gifts for students. We gave books to the students at Summer Enrichment, so this continues that ministry.

Please continue to remember our Lenten project of Hygiene Kits for Church World Service. (items were listed in previous newsletters)

One of the special offering of the United Church of Christ in which we participate is being collected on October 4th. The Neighbors In Need offering helps local ministries of the UCC churches, as it did for us in the Enrichment program.

Pat Kline & Carol Diehl, Chairs.



Dear Friends at First United Church of Christ,

Our school and staff would like to thank you for the school supplies that you donated to Forrest to make for a successful 2020-2021 school year. These school supplies really help all of our students and teachers. They ensure that every child is able to perform at their very best. We know this school year looks quite different with virtual learning, which is why it was also great to have the select items we requested. It's people like you who lighten the load of some of our families by helping them with these items.

Your service of serving people in our community is not unnoticed. Thank you for choosing our school to partner and share your generosity with! A special thank you to Ms. Pat Kline and Ms. Carol Diehl for always being the best communication link. Ladies, you make our hearts smile! We thank you for your support and love that you give our students and school. Together we will make a difference for: "Every Child, Every Day, Whatever It Takes!"

Sincerely,

Val Wolfe
Family Engagement Specialist



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



9 Lois Gates

10 Shirley Highsmith

19 Troy Rary

21 Lary Diehl

26 Jane Smith

26 Lisa Griffin

31 Bobbie Hook

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

October Anniversaries



10/15 John & Margaret
Richmond

10/20 Joshua & Amanda
Bryant

*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



Like us on Facebook

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



TOGETHER Worshipping God
Growing Spiritually
Serving Others

Indoor worship services

Sundays at 10:30am

October is Stewardship Month!

**Sunday, Oct. 25th at 10:30am
will be our outdoor
Stewardship celebration!**