

Service of Divine Worship

First Sunday of Advent

Liturgist: Lisa Nelson

We Gather To Serve God In Worship

Prelude

*Chimes Sounding the Hour

*Time of Greeting

Announcements

Choral Call to Worship

Solemn Declaration - - Amen Sung

*Responsive Call to Worship

Liturgist: Friends, gather in! Something new is about to happen.

People: The old is passing away, but God's words will not pass away!

Liturgist: Stay alert! You do not know what is yet to come.

People: We're awake! We're eager to see what God is doing.

All: Come, let us worship God, who makes all things new.

*Hymn "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" No. 89

Confession of Sin

*Call to Confession

*Unison Prayer for the Confession of Sin

All-knowing God, we come today as people caught by our own sense of being in charge. We revel in moments when we call the shots, and we run the company or even our own family. We want to know what's coming, and we resent when we do not know. We want the best technology, the fastest computer, the most capable communications system. Yet even then, we do not know "about that day or hour" when heaven and earth will pass away. Forgive our efforts to make ourselves the center of the universe. Hear us as we repent of the effort to find ways to be always and ever "in charge". Turn us, again, to recognize ourselves as stewards of your many graces, and door-keepers in your Realm. Accept us as we are and re-tool us in this Advent season that we might become a people prepared for the coming of your Christ, our Messiah, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Gloria Patri

We Proclaim The Word of God

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 64:1-9 (Page #680 of Pew Bible)

The Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer {we pray debts}

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (v.1) No. 88

All: **We pray to you, O God, with anticipation of the holy season which we find upon us. The memories of Christmas past fill us with pregnant expectation of more awesome deeds extending from your hand. We stand in awe of you, our Creator. Give us the strength to remain awake, that Christ finds us ready for your task. In anticipation of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Let the Children Come

Anthem "Chill of the Nightfall" Scott

The Gospel Reading Matthew 13:24-37 (Page #890 of Pew Bible)

Sermon **"The Season of Surprise"**

We Respond To The Word of God

Affirmation of Baptism: Reception of Members

Pastor: Let us ... affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Invitation to Give

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

*Our Response "We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise"

*The Offertory Prayer

God of life and hope, we offer to you these gifts in grateful appreciation of your over-arching care. Though heaven and earth may pass away, still your word will stand. May these funds and our lives serve you and your coming reign. Amen.

We Go Forth to Serve God

*Hymn "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" No. 91

*Responsive Call to Dedication

*The Benediction

*Postlude

***THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND**

WE WELCOME VISITORS who are attending our service of worship today. EVERYONE is requested to sign the attendance pad found at the end of each pew. We request visitors also to note their addresses and telephone numbers. If visitors are interested in learning more about First Reformed UCC, please contact the church office at 248-2617 or church@frucc.org.

USHERS: Mike Perry, Mike Brown, David Strenk and John Barber

PLATE ATTENDANT: Lynn Brown

ACOLYTES: Griff and Claire Smith

GREETERS: Adena Wall and Ramona Yarbrough

NURSERY {BIRTH TO KINDERGARTEN}: Keri Hartle and Ashlee Snider

PRAYER CONCERNS: Butch Bouchard, Ronnie Durham, Sadie Bailey, Ernie Bonner, Mary Crouse, Holton Davis, Willie Ruth Leonard, Juanita Beck, Ernestine & Henry Kennedy, Margot Everhart, Evelyn Smith, Ted Williams, Sterling Hedrick, Bob Biesecker, Jules Bliss, Virginia Hill, Mary John Allred, Ann Spivey, Connie Weichert, Sandra Fern, Randy Carter, and Paul Stevens. Remember our men and women serving in the Armed Forces. To add a name for prayer, contact Adena Wall at 249-1904 or the church office.



CONGRATULATIONS! The rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth of Abigail Grace Cash. Abigail is the daughter of Zachary and Emily Sink Cash and was born Tuesday, November 22, 2011. She was also welcomed by grandparents, Ron and Pam Sink and great-grandmother, Lib Sink.

We extend **SYMPATHY** to and share Christian hope with Mr. and Mrs. Tom (Rochelle) Bost, Mrs. Lynn Leonard and their families upon the death of their loved one and our friend, Don Leonard.



CHURCH STAFF

Reverend Robin Keating (Office #336-248-2617, Cell #336-250-9554)
Cathy Waitman, Director of Christian Ed
Lee Ann Peele, Organist
Paul Freeman, Choir Director
Paula Lopp, Administrative Asst

First Reformed United Church of Christ



First Sunday of Advent

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

104 East Center Street
Lexington, NC 27292
Website www.frucc.org



Office (336) 248-2617
email – church@frucc.org
facebook.com/firstreformeducc

Sunday, November 27, 2011

Poinsettia Remembrances



In Honor of - - -

J.W. and Betty Bates
Peggy Bates
Tammy, Chris, Morgan & Grayson Beck
Christie, Jeff and Jackson Perrell
Mary Berrier
Beth, Frank, Nathan and Alisa
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Briggs
Mike and Lynn Brown

Linda Swing Burkhart
Church Staff
June B. Craver
Miss Callie Decker
Denise Swing Durham
Ruth Fritts
Mike and Bonita Hooper
George and Arnedra Horner
Katie, Shane, Callie, Sarah and Matt
Henry and Rachael Koonts
Maxine Lohr
Cliff and Eloise Lopp
Jordan McCarn, Brandi & Joe Gerew
Adam and Rebecca McKerlie
Mary Lloyd, Annabell and Abbie
Our Parents
Cathy Waitman

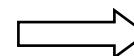
Given By

The Calvin Odom Family
Her Heart Sister

Harriette and Clifton Murphy
Her Heart Sister
Mary Jo and Lee Jessup
Janette Neal and John Potts
Matt and Sarah Watkins
Katie, Shane and Callie Decker
Jim Swing
Ann and Walter Hoffman
John and Bettie Barber
Aunt Sarah and Uncle Matt
Jim Swing
Ann and Walter Hoffman
Joyce and Valerie Price
Vicky, John, Samuel, & John E Gray
Mike and Lynn Brown
Bob and Dawn Shaak
Her Heart Sister
The Clifford Lopp Family
John and Lynn McCarn
Brian McKerlie and Mike Price
Mary Jo and Lee Jessup
Birke and Amy McNeill
Kaitlyn and Lucy McNeill

In Loving Memory of - - - Given By

Edith C. and Harris H. Barber	John and Bettie Barber
Edgar Bates	The Calvin Odom Family
Henry Junior Beck	His Wife, Juanita Beck
Henry Junior Beck	The Calvin Odom Family
Corky and Jake Briggs	Their Family
Dedra Jo Clark	Eddie & Belinda Yates and Allyson Clark
Cloys Crotts	The Calvin Odom Family
Norman Essick	Ruth Essick
Banks & Evelyn Evans and Clifton and Cathern Murphy, Sr.	Harriette and Clifton Murphy
Our Fallen Troops	Nicole and Mark Smith
Hoy Lee and Ethel Hedrick Fisher	Eulene F. and Banks Shepherd
Lori Lopp Floyd	The Clifford Lopp Family
Everette "Bud" Fritts	Ann and Walter Hoffman and Ruth Fritts
John and Dorothy Gray	Vicky, John, Samuel, and John E. Gray
William P. Grimes	Grandchildren, Children, & Great-grandchildren
Jim and Arline Grubb	June M. Grubb
Dwight B. Hinkle	Elizabeth D. Hinkle
Louise and Robert Hunter	Their Family
Gordon and Alossie Knowles	Lee Ann and Tony Peele
Foil Lohr	Janie Lohr, Phyllis Ann, and Martha
Bryce and Helen Murdock	Steve and Charles Murdock
Bertha Yarbrough Myers	Joe Yarbrough
Paul and Edna Odom	The Calvin Odom Family
Jared Allen Perrell	"Nanny" and "Pap Paw" Murphy
Betty Potts	Her Family
Betty Potts	Matt and Sarah Watkins
	Katie, Shane and Callie Decker
Patricia Frye Potts	John Potts and Janette Neal
Vernon Price, Jr.	Joyce and Valerie Price



In Loving Memory of - - -

Given By

John Robbins

His Family

Ray and Dot Shaak

Bob and Dawn Shaak

Howard D. and Pearl Sharp Shepherd

Banks and Eulene F. Shepherd

C. Boyce Sink

Elizabeth Sink

Reverend Frank Snider

Gladys Snider

Violet and E.J. Washburn

Bettie and John Barber

Johnny Williams

Employees of Lexington BBQ

Joseph Justin Yarbrough

Joe Yarbrough and Jerri Russell

H.W. "Butch" Zimmerman

Bob Shaak

If you purchased a poinsettia it can be picked up today to enjoy at home during the Advent Season.

Labyrinth



peace found through prayer.

During this busy Advent Season take some time from your hectic schedule to participate in a **Prayer Labyrinth** experience. Our Prayer Labyrinth will be in the fellowship hall Thursday, December 1st through Sunday, December 4th. Plan to take a moment to relax, reflect, and enjoy the inner

Advent Workshop & Chili Cook-off

The Chili Cook-off and Advent workshop will be held tomorrow, **Monday, November 28th at 6:00**. Vote for your favorite pot of chili with \$1.00 bills. All proceeds will be used to purchase costumes for the Christmas play. Peanut butter, jelly, bread, drinks, and cookies will be furnished for the children.



For the Advent Workshop, we will be making **"Memory Wreaths"** to hang on doors. Bring your sentimental, no longer used ornaments or decorations to glue on wreaths. Suggestions include: balls, large colored lights, angels, stars, ABC blocks, little toys, etc. We will furnish the wreaths and ribbon. This is a multi-generational event.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, November 27	9:45 a.m. ---- SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR EVERYONE
	11:00 a.m. ---- WORSHIP SERVICE (NEW MEMBERS) & CHILDREN'S CHURCH
Monday, November 28	6:00 p.m. ---- Chili Cook-off and Advent Workshop
Wednesday, November 30	6:00 p.m. ---- Children's Play Practice (FH)
	6:30 p.m. ---- Bell Choir Practice (Bell Room)
	7:15 p.m. ---- Choir Practice (Chapel Annex)
Thursday, December 1	5:30 p.m. ---- Yoga Class (Parlor)
	7:00 p.m. ---- Spiritual Practices (FH)
Sunday, December 4	9:45 a.m. ---- JOINT ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL (Lesson: Willing Workers Class)
	10:20 a.m. ---- SS SOCIAL (Hosts: Alice & James Gray and Nina & Ted Smith)
	11:00 a.m. ---- WORSHIP SERVICE WITH NOISY OFFERING

11/20/11 Attendance & Income	Needed Weekly	YTD Received
127	\$2,015	\$5,621
		\$221,872

Angel Tree



Women's Life Fellowship is sponsoring the tree of "angels" in the breezeway of the education building again this year. Make a donation (your discretion) to place an angel on the tree in honor or memory of someone. **ALL donations** will be given to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund for assistance to needy individuals/families. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

Alternative Gift Idea

Need a Christmas Gift Idea? The First Reformed UCC Board of Community Outreach can help! They are offering **"Alternative Gifts"**. Make a donation to one of our benevolences in honor of teachers, family members, friends, co-workers, etc. We will provide an acknowledgement card and envelope for you to mail. Please check with Walter Hoffman or the church office to purchase your gift.

