

Service of Divine Worship

Second Sunday of Advent

Liturgist: Tom Danze

We Gather To Serve God In Worship

Prelude "Sheep May Safely Graze" Bach

*Chimes Sounding the Hour

*Time of Greeting

Announcements

Choral Call to Worship

Solemn Declaration - - Amen Sung

*Responsive Call to Worship

Liturgist: You who gathered here – what do you know of wilderness?

People: Wilderness is the emptiness you feel when someone you love is no longer present in your life.

Liturgist: What do you know of wilderness?

People: Wilderness is the helpless feelings of watching a child suffer.

Liturgist: What do you know of wilderness?

People: Wilderness is feeling the pressure to provide and to withstand when you are tired and your burden is heavy.

Liturgist: People of God, whatever your personal wilderness; hear the cry of John the Baptist, "God is coming!" Let us worship God who walks with us in the wilderness and leads us to communities to be refreshed and strengthened.

*Hymn "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" No. 95

Confession of Sin

*Call to Confession

*Unison Prayer for the Confession of Sin

O Lord, at this time of year you call us to do a lot of waiting. And we do. We wait at check-out counters, for parking spaces at overcrowded stores and in lines at restaurants crowded with worn-out shoppers, whose joy is as tired as their feet. We know this is not what you had in mind. Forgive us, Lord, for not waiting for you, for allowing ourselves to be filled with holiday anxiety rather than the anticipation of your advent. Our prayer is that you would restore a wide-eyed, too-excited-to-sleep-joy within us, a joy we all once knew, at the mention of your name. Come, Lord Jesus, come! Your people are preparing the way within their hearts. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Gloria Patri

We Proclaim The Word of God

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11 (Page #653 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.2) No. 88

All: **We come to you, O God, baptized with the Holy Spirit. We are prepared to clear you a path in the wilderness of our lives. We rejoice in your steadfast love and faithfulness to us. We rejoice in the forgiveness of our sins. We rejoice in the promise of your kingdom to come. We rejoice in the advent of your son, Jesus the Christ. Hallelujah! Amen.**

Let the Children Come

Anthem "Come, O Come To Us, We Pray" Carter

The Gospel Reading Mark 1:1-8 (Page #910 of Pew Bible)

Sermon "Comfort"

We Respond To The Word of God

Invitation to Give

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

*Our Response "We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise"

*The Offertory Prayer

O Lord, as you gave your life to love us and save us, so we turn our lives to you. Receive these gifts as signs of a covenant of lives willingly rendered, love freely shared to your glory. Bless them to your service. Amen.

We Go Forth to Serve God

*Hymn "Angels, From the Realms of Glory" No. 104

*Responsive Call to Dedication

Liturgist: And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

People: Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

*The Benediction

*Postlude "In Dulci Jubilo" arr. Patterson

*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: Walter Hoffman, Ann Hoffman, Dave Fulton and Doris Sink

PLATE ATTENDANT: John Potts

ACOLYTES: Laura Strenk and Ava Miller

GREETERS: Anne Fletcher and Katarina Strenk

NURSERY {BIRTH TO KINDERGARTEN}: Dawn Shaak

PRAYER CONCERNS: Annabelle Studebaker, Ronnie Durham, Sadie Bailey, Ernie Bonner, Mary Crouse, Holton Davis, Willie Ruth Leonard, Juanita Beck, Henry Kennedy, Margot Everhart, Stephen & Glory Tussey, Evelyn Smith, Ted Williams, Sterling Hedrick, Bob Biesecker, Jules Bliss, Bunny and Virginia Hill, 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.



We extend **SYMPATHY** to and share Christian hope with Henry Kennedy and family upon the death of their loved one and our friend, Ernestine Kennedy.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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
Tuesday, December 6	6:30 p.m. ---Women's Life Fellowship Christmas Party {The Tea House}
Wednesday, December 7	Noon-----United Friendship Club Covered Dish Christmas Party {FH}
	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 8	5:30 p.m. ---Yoga Class {Parlor}
Saturday, December 9	9:45 a.m. ---Choir Rehearses With Orchestra
Sunday, December 11	9:45 a.m. --- SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR EVERYONE
	11:00 a.m. --- CHRISTMAS CANTATA
	6:00 p.m. ---Consistory Meeting {Willing Workers Classroom}

11/27/11 Attendance & Income	Needed Weekly	YTD Received
118	\$5,217	\$227,089

CHURCH STAFF

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

First Reformed United Church of Christ



Second 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](https://www.facebook.com/firstreformeducc)

Sunday, December 4, 2011

Bell Ringers Needed

First Reformed UCC will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Fund at Lanier's Hardware on **Friday, December 16th**. There is a signup sheet in the narthex that is broken into hour increments between 9 am and 5 pm. **Please check the sheet and signup to assist.**



Today is the final day that our Labyrinth will be in the fellowship hall. Take a few moments following the worship service to prayerfully walk the Labyrinth.

Need a Christmas Gift Idea?



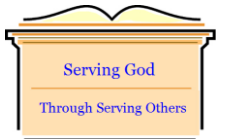
The First Reformed UCC Board of Community Outreach can help! They are offering "**Alternative Gifts**". There will be a table setup in the narthex following the worship service Sunday, December 4th and 11th. Make a donation to one of our benevolences in honor of teachers, family members, friends, co-workers, etc. We will provide an acknowledgement card and envelope for you to mail.

The First Reformed UCC Choir, with orchestral accompaniment, will present a Christmas Cantata, titled, "Born a Savior, Born a King" next **Sunday, December 11th** at the morning worship service.



Veterans of the Cross Offering

Plan to donate to the "**Veterans of the Cross**" Sunday, December 18th. This offering is an expression of love and thanks to those who have served and continue to serve the United Church of Christ. The offering helps provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees, emergency assistance to clergy families in need, and Christmas gift checks to hundreds of annuitants.



Church Christmas Party

Sunday, December 18th



The annual Christmas Party for the congregation will begin at 6 p.m. Christmas Party Sunday, December 18th with a covered dish dinner. Bring your favorite dish to share with friends. Drinks are provided.

After dinner the children will present, "Santa's Christmas Tree". This evening is a great tradition of fellowship with family and friends that is enjoyed by children of ALL ages. Remember to bring your cameras. Santa will be on hand to check his Christmas list!



The tree of "angels" is 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 fill out the form and drop it in the offering plate or contact the church office at 248-2617.

IN MEMORY OF...

BY...

IN HONOR OF...

BY...



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

The church will be aglow with candlelight at our annual Christmas Eve Service **Saturday, December 24th at 11:00 pm**. Come worship with family and friends as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.