



**First Reformed United Church of Christ  
Lexington, NC  
FEBRUARY 2018**



*"Look, I'll pour my spirit on you. I'll reveal my words to you."  
Wisdom speaking in Proverbs 1: 23*

Dear Beloved Community,

I continue to give thanks for your work in being peace-makers and bridge-builders in the name of Jesus.

In January, we enjoyed a lively interfaith dialogue and rich discussion with Rabbi Mark Cohn from Temple Emmanuel in Winston-Salem. We learned about differences within Orthodox and Reformed Judaism, how Jews understand who is Jesus, how Jews look at and interpret scripture. I thank the Board of Evangelism of their hard work in making this a success. The next interfaith dialogue will be **Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>** with Father Constantine Shepherd of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Winston-Salem.

I am pleased that on **January 15<sup>th</sup>** we had six FRUCCer's travel to First Baptist, Village Drive for the Community Martin Luther King, Jr. worship celebration. The sanctuary was standing room only, and Rev. Dr. Arnetta Beverly preached a powerful sermon calling us to serve one another and to be drum majors for justice and peace.

The Community Meal held on January 23<sup>rd</sup> was a wonderful outreach. Over 125 people were served and approximately \$300 was donated to Hospice.

In February, we finish up our "Risky Business" worship series. We have looked in Mark's gospel at ways that Jesus put himself in harm's way and took risks for love and justice. What are we willing to risk so that others may know the love of Jesus?

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**. The congregations of St. Stephens UMC and Second Reformed UCC will join together at **6:30pm in our sanctuary** for worship and the Imposition of Ashes. Dr. Beverly from St. Stephens will bring the message. If you cannot attend this evening service, I hope you will attend the **NOON** Community service at First Lutheran Church uptown.

During the 40 days of Lent, we seek to repent, which in

Greek literally means "turn around." In worship we will explore ways for us to "turn around" from the distractions of daily noise and focus our attention on listening in a deeper way. Writer Parker Palmer suggests we must listen "to what our *life* is telling us." In other words, to listen to the deep wisdom God gave to us as a birthright, connecting to God's purpose once again. This Lent we will quiet things down and heighten our attention to the "still, small voice" of God and our own True Self.

I hope you will participate in the weekly Lenten Bible study at FRUCC that begins **Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup>** from Noon-1pm. I look forward to our discussions with the good people at St. Stephens UMC, Shadyside Presbyterian, and Second Reformed UCC.

We are undergoing a discernment process titled "Building an Inclusive Church" (BAIC) to study what it means to be an Open and Affirming Congregation within the UCC. This process is about education, prayer, healthy discussion and graceful engagement about publicly welcoming people in the LGBT community. The BAIC process is officially recognized in several mainline denominations. Although this may be an uncomfortable discussion for some of us, **I wholeheartedly believe this congregation will emerge stronger and clearer in mission as we wrestle and discern together.** I care deeply about you, and I ask that you please let me know if you want to talk individually about your specific questions. More information on the process and upcoming schedule is found on **page 9.**

This congregation is touching the lives of so many – both on Sunday mornings and throughout the week, as well. I pray God's blessings upon each of you and on this congregation as we listen for God's direction.

With hope and peace,  
Elizabeth



~ MEMORIALS ~ JANUARY 2018 ~

GARLAND BECK

DEANNA MICHAEL  
BILL & CAROLYN ROBBINS  
EULENE SHEPHERD  
KATHERINE SKIPPER  
JERRY & AURELIA SMITH

DORIS FRYE

JOHN & VICKY GRAY  
JANE G. HILL  
JERRY & AURELIA SMITH

TOM DANZE

FRED & FRANCES SINK

ALICE SINK

MERLE & JERRY HODGES  
EULENE SHEPHERD  
ELIZABETH SINK  
JERRY & AURELIA SMITH  
MR. & MRS. STEVE SMITH

~ HONORARIUMS ~ JANUARY 2018 ~

RAEANN & CHRIS ALLRED

JACK & JOAN BRIGGS  
FRED H. MCINTYRE, JR.

**THANK YOU NOTES**

**Dear First Reformed UCC,**

Thank you for the Christmas gifts which included the large basket of fruit, the Christmas cards and the special treats from the youth. It shows, once again, that you make the homebound feel a part of the congregation, and we are grateful.

**God's peace and love,  
Rita Tussey**

**To the Consistory & Congregation,**

Thank you for your generous monetary gift at Christmas. This is a wonderful congregation which shares its gifts to so many people. Thank you!

**June Grubb**

**To the Men's Brotherhood,**

I'd like to thank all of you who helped with the meal at Crisis Ministry on January 8, 2018. Whether you helped by contributing food, preparing the food, or helping to serve, all that you did is appreciated.

**Mark Smith**

**Dear Church Family,**

On behalf of the Congregational Life Committee, I would like to thank all the volunteers that helped with set up/clean up for meals and those that provided refreshments for First Sunday Socials throughout 2017 and in January 2018. Thanks to all that agreed to be a part of this committee and the work they put in to make the life of the church a success in 2017. Another thank you goes to the committee's co-chair Lena Johnson.

**Sincerely,  
John Smith**

**Dear Kivi and Fellow First Reformed UCC Members,**

On behalf of Positive Wellness Alliance, I want to thank all of you for "adopting" 20 of our kids for Christmas! I hope all of you had fun taking on this project. We had 100 children of all ages that were "adopted" out this year—it was our biggest year yet for our Christmas for clients' children project!

Our mission is to provide support and services to people living with HIV and those affected by HIV through medical case management, housing, prevention and outreach. We have over 250 clients in our eight county region—Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Iredell, Rowan, Stokes, Surry and Yadkin counties.

P = We're PASSIONATE about our clients and their stories  
W = We're dedicated to treating the WHOLE person  
A = We're striving for community ACCEPTANCE

Again, from the clients and staff at Positive Wellness Alliance, we are grateful for your gifts as well as your support of our work. We look forward to working with you again!

**Bless you,  
Julie Myer, MS  
Executive Director, Positive Wellness Alliance**

**Dear Board of Trustees,**

I am honored to receive this award. This money will help into furthering my education. Thank you so much for your support!

**Megan Horton**

## THANK YOU NOTES (CONT.)

### Dear Friends:

Thank you for your gift in support of the ministry of theological education at Lancaster Seminary.

Your gift provides support for Lancaster Seminary's mission "to educate and nurture leaders to join God's redemptive and liberating work so that all creation may flourish." We seek to bring a gifted and dedicated faculty, committed and called students, and supporting churches, organizations, and friends into a vibrant community of faith.

The support you provide with your prayers and your gifts opens the doors for our students' education, opens their minds to learning, and opens their hearts to serving.

In Christ,  
Rev. Dr. Carolyne Call

### Dear Frist Reformed UCC Church Family,

On behalf of Communities in Schools of Lexington/Davidson County, we gratefully appreciated the \$100.00 benevolent gift we received to help support our programs for at-risk students. This gift will greatly impact the lives of the students we serve and make a difference in how they achieve in life. With **your help, we are able to preserve services that help generations** of children who are at risk of reaching their highest educational and social potentials in school. Your kindness is greatly appreciated, and your gift will bless many people in need. Please share our appreciation with your church family.

Sincerely,  
Vera McRae, Executive Director,  
Communities in Schools

### Dear Elizabeth,

We are grateful to FRUCC for their generous donations to Family Services of Davidson County. Please share our gratitude with your congregation. Your donation will help us to continue to provide safe housing and support to victims of domestic violence, counseling for those who have suffered trauma and guidance to youth who are struggling.

This year we celebrated 20 years of serving the people of Davidson County, it is people like you who have made sure that those in need would have support for all these years. Thank you!

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff and the thousands served each year by Family Services, thank you for your generosity. Your contributions of \$500 (December 18, 2017) and \$686 for domestic violence (December 26, 2017) are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Julia Toone, Executive Director,  
Family Services of Davidson County

### Dear Friends at First Reformed UCC,

Thank you for your gift of \$200.00 to the Blowing Rock Conference Center. Your gift enables us to refresh our buildings, and to continue to keep pace with the technological world. On behalf of our Board of Directors, thank you for your commitment to BRCC. In outdoor ministry, it is a challenge to remain relevant in a constantly changing world. As we complete one project, another need arises.

The funds raised by the Century Club in 2015 and 2016 enabled us to make some major changes in Upper Shuford. We removed the old furnaces from the roof, which enhanced the view from our facility. We also installed a sound system, added two new 60-inch televisions, and rewired, insulated, and replaced the paneling on the fireplace wall. Our plan for 2017 funds is to purchase 150 new chairs, and we hope to make some minor upgrades to our restrooms. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,  
Ted Wilson, Executive Director, BRCC

### Dear Members of First Reformed UCC,

Habitat for Humanity gratefully acknowledges receipt of the unrestricted gift of \$100 from your church. Your generosity helps make the dream of home ownership a reality for low-income families in the community.

This year we completed our 51st house in the Lexington/Davidson County area. We are pleased that our Habitat homeowner could spend Thanksgiving and Christmas in a home of their own. In 2018 we are planning to offer Veteran's Cottages to those who have served our country and need a "hand up not a hand out." Your gift helps make this a reality.

We appreciate your continued support as we work together building hope and homes!

With sincere thanks,  
Marjorie Parker, Executive Director

### Dear Christian Friends,

Your generosity shows the real meaning of Christmas. Thank you for your donation. You've made hundreds of people happier this Christmas. This holiday season I am thankful for donors like you. Your recent, generous gift of \$425 to Nazareth Child & Family Connection on 12/21/17 is not only thoughtful and kind, but it is also a significant blessing to our agency this season.

#### ***A grateful heart is a magnet for miracles.***

More than the physical gifts, we are deeply thankful for the donation of your time and efforts. In this busy Christmas season, time is most expensive. We are humbled and blessed by your generosity.

Faith makes all things possible, hope makes all things work, love makes all things beautiful, and may you have all three this Christmas. As you relish the goodies, decorate every nook and corner of your home and enjoy the get-togethers, may the joy and festivities continue to radiate in your lives, long after Christmas is gone.

Again, thank you for all you do for our kids and families. We will always remember your kindness this Christmas season and the whole year round.

Sincerely,  
Blair Trexler, Director of Development

### Dear Christian Friends,

Thank you for being a faithful supporter. Your donation helped us supply 1,308 kids this year!

God Bless You,  
Lt. Meads, The Salvation Army

# CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

## FROM THE JANUARY 2018 MEETING

### Pastor's Report Highlights (December 2017)

- Homebound /sick visits: approximately 9
- Pastoral Contacts: approximately 10
- Hospital visits: Lexington, WFUBMC
- Helped lead Advent Vespers Worship Service at 2nd Reformed UCC on December 10th

Average weekly offering for December 2017:

**\$4101.00**

Average weekly attendance for December 2017:

**105**

### **Financial Report: Denise Durham**

Average weekly offering for the month of December : \$4,101. General fund available at the end of December: \$2,870.  
Music fund balance at the end of December: \$8,723.08. Consistory Discretionary Fund at the end of December: \$149,133.

**Board of Christian Education: Jerry Lovell** (No report)

**Board of Community Outreach: Mark Smith**...lining up committee for Touching Davidson County with Love.

**Board of Congregational Life: Eddie Yates and Lena Johnson**...Lena thanked all who helped with the Christmas meal. Suggestion made to look into having the 2018 meal catered and how to cover the expenses.

### **Board of Business Management and Stewardship: Denise Durham and Lindsay Sink**

**Finance Committee:** Denise Durham reported all 2017 bills and benevolences have been paid. Lindsay reported the 2018 budget is \$265,143 and that 62 members have pledged \$142,000.

**Property Committee: John Smith**...getting estimates for future painting needs. Reported the boiler may need to be cleaned.

**Board of Worship: Deanna Michael** (No report)

**Board of Evangelism: Dave Fulton**...Boston Butt sale raised \$1,172. Catawba Singers set for March 18, 2018.

### **Old Business:**

**Consistory Retreat** is tentatively set for February 17, 2018 at Yarbrough's Restaurant 10:00–2:00.

**Personnel Report: Lindsay Sink**...Discussed reorganizing committee to allow for more consistent transition from one year to next. Goal is to create a consistent review plan of every staff person.

### **New Business:**

**By-Law change:** Present at Congregational Meeting on February 11, 2018 to amend the By-Laws for changing the Congregational Meeting date in November (page 4, section 4) to second Sunday in November. Currently it is set for the first Sunday, but this regularly interferes with homecoming.

**Long Range Planning Committee: Lindsay Sink**...Committee was initially set up with members being Lindsay Sink, Clifton Murphy, John Gray, Walter Hoffman and Buddy Lohr, but it is open to any church member who desires to participate. Denise Durham indicated a willingness to serve. The committee will be planning a method to meet goals of the church and Pastor Horton to move into a full time position. Additional plans will include discussion about where we want to be as a Church in 2, 5 and 10 years.

**Church Security Committee: Lindsay Sink**...Committee was formed to discuss security in the Sanctuary during worship hours. Lindsay has met with Fire Dept. and Police Dept. officials and the committee will be reviewing and implementing their recommendations which include an exterior camera located outside the front door. The door will be locked at 11:10 and the back and side doors will be locked at all times during the service.

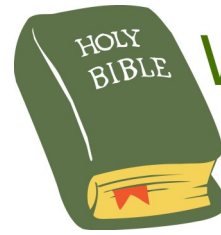
**Home Communion:** Volunteers will serve communion to the homebound.

**Committee Calendars:** Stressed to committee chairs that calendars be set February, 2018 through January 2019 to ensure continuity of working positions into the new year.

**Pew Removal:** Approved pews to be moved for handicap accessibility in sanctuary.

**The next meeting is scheduled for February 11 after the congregational meal and meeting.**

## FEBRUARY WORSHIP THEMES:



# WORSHIP THEMES

**February 4:** Risky Business: Have You Lost Your Mind?  
Mark 6: 14-29

**February 11:** Transfiguration Sunday  
Risky Business: Let Your Light Shine  
Mark 8:34-9:8

**February 14:** Beginning of Lent...Ash Wednesday: Listening Deeply  
Our church welcomes St. Stephens and Second Reformed UCC  
(Rev. Dr. Arnetta Beverly will deliver the message during this worship service)

**February 18:** First Sunday in Lent...Finding your Cave: Listening Spaces  
I Kings 19: 11-12

**February 25:** Second Sunday in Lent...Finding Your Breath: Listening to our Bodies  
Romans 8: 26-30, 38-39

## KIDS CLUB ~Submitted by Alice Gray

Kids Club met on January 14, 2018. We discussed Martin Luther King, Jr, segregation and desegregation. Harriette Murphy and I shared our experiences growing up with segregation. The children wrote Martin Luther King, Jr. quotes, which were added to a poster they made. The poster is displayed in the Fellowship Hall for all of us to read.



## Kids Club

## INTERFAITH FORUM

January's Interfaith Forum featured Rabbi Mark Cohn from Temple Emmanuel in Winston-Salem.

The next interfaith forum will be **Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>** with Father Constantine Shepherd of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Winston-Salem.



Rabbi Cohn with Joni Walser, Sylvia Walser and Anne Bevan



## COME JOIN THE CHOIR FOR MUSIC AND MORE!

We have a lot of fun...just ask Eddie and Lisa!  
(They think sending out bulletins from the choir loft would be a fun way to distribute them!)



# FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR 2018

**President:** Lindsay Sink  
**Secretary:** Doris Sink

**Vice President:** Eddie Yates  
**Treasurer:** Walter Hoffman

### ELDERS

<u>2016-17-18</u>	John Smith	Sylvia Walser
<u>2017-18-19</u>	Lena Johnson	Lindsay Sink
<u>2018-19-20</u>	Doris Sink	Eddie Yates

### DEACONS

<u>2016-17-18</u>	Janelle Bunn	Mark Smith
<u>2017-18-19</u>	Denise Durham	Dave Fulton
<u>2018-19-20</u>	Jerry Lovell	Deanna Michael

### TRUSTEES

<u>2018</u>	Jerry Smith	<u>2019</u>	Merle Hodges	<u>2020</u>	Carolyn Spivey
<u>2021</u>	Walter Hoffman	<u>2022</u>	Doug Sink		

**PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE:** Chairperson:

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Chairperson: Buddy Lohr  
Lindsay Sink

**BOARD OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE:** Chairpersons: Lena Johnson and Eddie Yates

#### Hospitality Committee Chairperson:

Anne Bevan, Lynn and Mike Brown, Glenyce and Dave Fulton, Alice and James Gray, Vicky and John Gray, June Grubb, Ben Hale, Keri and Casey Hartle, Amy Hedrick, Ann and Walter Hoffman, Alisa and Keith Johnson, Lena and Rich Johnson, Betty Link, Buddy and Rita Lohr, Paula and Clifford Lopp, John Maze, Edgar and Kivi Miller, Susan Morris, Lisa Nelson, Ellen and Jeremy Peterson, Mike Price, Carolyn and Bill Robbins, Aurelia Smith, John and Susie Smith, Nicole and Mark Smith, Cheryl and Bill Walser, Sylvia Walser, Michell Winters, Belinda and Eddie Yates

#### Church Events Photography Chairperson: Clifton Murphy

Mark Smith, Nicole Smith, Nina Smith, Myra Thompson

#### Historical Committee Chairperson: Merle Hodges

Cliff Lopp, Rita Lohr, Katherine Skipper, Carolyn Spivey

#### Bereavement Committees:

**Team #1 Captain Lynn Brown:** Raeann Allred, Vicky Gray, Amy Hedrick, Deanna Michael, Susan Miller, Janette Neal, Susan Odom, Gladys Snider, Myra Thompson, Mary Berrier

**Team #2 Co-Captains Marguerite Leonard and Doris Sink:** Anne Bevan, Pattie Everhart, Kathleen Danze, Ruth Fritts, Ann Hoffman, Heidi Hutcheson, Betty Link, Rita Lohr, Katherine Skipper, Lib Sink, Linda Sink, Sylvia Walser

**Team #3 Captain Belinda Yates:** Alice Gray, June Grubb, Gerri Hill, Mary Jo Jessup, Paula Lopp, Patti Lovell, Lisa Nelson, Lee Ann Peele, Carolyn Robbins, Aurelia Smith, Nina Smith

**Team #4 Co-Captains Harriette Murphy and Carolyn Spivey:** Glenyce Fulton, Bonita Hooper, Alisa Johnson, Lena Johnson, Lynn McCarn, Eulene Shepherd, Charlotte Smith, Nicole Smith, Cathy Waitman, Cheryl Walser

#### Homecoming Committee Chairperson: Rita Lohr

Peggy Bates, Mary Berrier, Alice Gray, Patti Lovell, Lib Sink, Susie Smith, Carolyn Spivey

## 2018 CONSISTOY COMMITTEES (CONTINUED)

**BOARD OF WORSHIP AND SACRAMENT:** Chairperson: Sylvia Walser and Deanna Michael

**Holy Communion Co-Chairpersons:** Lynn Brown  
Betty Barr, Vicky Gray, June Grubb, Belinda Yates

**Holy Communion Servers Chairperson:** John Potts

**Altar Preparation Co-Chairpersons:** Rita Lohr and Jeff Hutchens

**Music Ministry Chairperson:** Harriette Murphy  
Mary Berrier, Denise Durham, Glenyce Fulton, June Grubb, Patti Lovell, Susan Odom, Carolyn Robbins,  
Elizabeth Sink, Gladys Snider, Cathy Waitman,  
Ex-officio: Lee Ann Peele, Ellen Peterson

**Sanctuary Needs Chairperson:** Larry Link

**Ushers Chairperson:** Jeff Hutchens

**Acolyte Chairperson:** Cathy Waitman

**Greeters and Liturgists Chairperson:** Rita Lohr

**Flowers Chairperson:** Betty Link

**Flower Delivery to Homebound:** June Grubb

**Decorating Committee Co-Chairpersons:** Jeff Hutchens, Mary Jo Jessup and Lisa Nelson  
Vicky Gray, June Grubb, Lena and Rich Johnson, Buddy and Rita Lohr, Clifford and Paula Lopp, Patti  
Lovell, Clifton and Harriette Murphy, Jeremy and Ellen Peterson, Eulene Shepherd

**Sound System Co-Chairpersons:** James Gray and John Gray

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** Chairperson: Jerry Lovell

**Director of Christian Education:** Cathy Waitman  
Alice Gray, Vicky Gray, June Grubb, Lena Johnson, Carolyn Robbins

**BOARD OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH:** Chairperson: Mark Smith  
Ann Hoffman, Walter Hoffman, Aurelia Smith, Sylvia Walser

**BOARD OF EVANGELISM:** Co-Chairpersons: Dave Fulton and Janelle Bunn  
Ben Hale, Bonita Hooper, John Maze, Patti Lovell, Camille Morgan, Clifton Murphy, Harriette Murphy,  
Michell Winters

**Prayer Chain Chairperson:** Sylvia Walser

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Harriette Murphy

**BOARD OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & STEWARDSHIP:** Co-Chairpersons: Denise Durham and Lindsay Sink

**Finance & Budget:** Chair: Denise Durham  
John Gray, Buddy Lohr, Lisa Nelson, Lindsay Sink  
Ex officio: Walter Hoffman and Paula Lopp

**Property Chairperson:** John Smith  
J.W. Bates, Mike Brown, Jeff Hutchens, Rich Johnson, Buddy Lohr,  
Lisa Nelson, John Potts, Lindsay Sink, Mark Smith

**Security Committee:** Lindsay Sink, Mark Smith, Mike Brown Jeff Hutchens

**Insurance:** Property Committee Chairperson

**Endowments:** Trustees

**Memorial Garden Chairperson:** John Smith  
Peggy Bates, Carolyn Spivey

**Special Gifts Chairperson:** John Smith  
Merle Hodges, Mark Smith, and Carolyn Spivey

**LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE:** Chairperson: Lindsay Sink  
John Gray, Walter Hoffman, Clifton Murphy, Buddy Lohr

♥♥♥♥♥ TOUCHING DAVIDSON COUNTY WITH LOVE ♥♥♥♥♥

Mark Smith is soliciting volunteers for Touching Davidson County with Love which is Saturday, March 24, 2018. This event helps many elderly folks in the community who are in need, as well as children and youth. Projects involve various skills levels for almost everyone to be able to help out in some way.

Mark will have a sign-up sheet in the Narthex soon where volunteers can sign up for three different categories of projects...

**SOFT PROJECTS:** such as making blankets, etc.

**MEDIUM DUTY PROJECTS:** such as yard work and landscaping, etc.

**HARD PROJECTS:** such as wheelchair ramp repair and light carpentry, etc.

You may contact Mark by email (msmith@gwsmithlbr.com) or by phone (336-337-9666) if you have questions.

Touching Davidson County with Love is also looking for more projects to consider. If you know of someone in need of help, please contact Mark **before February 5, 2018** so he can submit the project **to be considered**. **All projects must be reviewed and approved.**

**Order Your Lenten Devotional Booklets Today!**

Orders due February 4th! Cost: \$1.50 each

Sign-ups in Sunday School Classrooms and in the Narthex

*Finding Peace in Lent:* Reflections on the St. Francis Peace Prayer

*Practicing Love:* Family Devotions

*Draw me Unto Thee:* Daily Prayers for Lent

**LENTEN "LUNCH & LEARN" SERIES**

The East Lexington Collaborative Ministry Group (First Reformed UCC, Second Reformed UCC, Shady Side Presbyterian, and St. Stephen UMC) will be holding a "Lunch & Learn Series" beginning Tuesday, February 20th in our church Fellowship Hall from 12:00-1:00pm. The meetings will continue each Tuesday through March 27th.

Each meeting will begin with lunch...**BRING YOUR OWN BAG LUNCH**...and will be led by Rev. Elizabeth Horton and Rev. Dr. Arnetta Beverly, pastor of St. Stephens UMC. The bible study will be based on the book ***Jesus: Understanding His Death and Resurrection-A study of Mark 14-16***. The books may be purchased in advance by contacting the church office or completing the order form below to return to the office or place in the offering plate. The cost is \$5.00.

**Please sign up by February 4th so that we may have time to order literature.**

Lenten "Lunch & Learn" Series

Name \_\_\_\_\_


Number of copies \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00 each Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

40 MINUTE BIBLE STUDIES

A 6-WEEK, NO-HOMEWORK BIBLE STUDY  
MORE THAN ONE MILLION SOLD IN THE SERIES

Jesus:  
Understanding  
His Death and  
Resurrection

A Study of Mark 14-16



Kay Arthur & David Arthur

PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL 40 minute BIBLE STUDIES

Jesus: Understanding His Death and Resurrection



# BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH

## Schedule of Events:

### **January 28th 4-5:30pm Forum #1 {Fellowship Hall}**

“What the Bible says about Homosexuality”

This will be a panel discussion featuring Rev. Dr. Lee Jessup, Rev. Mike Hooper and Rev. Elizabeth Horton. This is the first in a series of educational forums as we explore what it means to be an inclusive congregation.

### **February 4th 9:45am Sunday School Discussions {Fellowship Hall}**

Come to your Sunday School class with your thoughts and questions about the Jan. 28th forum. If you are not a regular member of a Sunday School class, you are welcome to come anyway! Currently there are 3 adult classes.

### **February 18th 4-5:30pm Forum #2 {Fellowship Hall}**

A Parent's Perspective. Belinda Yates & Betty Barr will share their personal stories.

### **February 25th 5:00pm Welcoming Task Force meeting at church {Parlor}**

Open to anyone. The purpose is to help assist with the process; suggest or plan small group discussions, gatherings, and/or educational forums.

The Welcoming Task Force includes, Ben Hale, Alisa Johnson, John Maze, Kivi Miller, Lisa Nelson, Doug Sink, Michell Winters, Eddie and Belinda Yates. The mission is to implement and help direct the process of the ONA conversation. At the Task Force meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 16 people attended. The Welcoming Task Force meetings are open to anyone.

On February 4th and 11th in the worship bulletin, you will have a slip of paper on which to write any of your questions about this process. The questions will be collected by the Welcoming Task Force with the mission of arranging small groups or other ways to accommodate the questions. Your voice is important.

## **Take the “40 Bags in 40 Days” Declutter Challenge and Support Our Girl Scouts!**

*(submitted by Kivi Miller)*

To raise additional funds for their California/Grand Canyon trip this summer, our Girl Scout Troop will be hosting a community-wide “40 Bags in 40 Days” Declutter Challenge, coinciding with Lent.

Every day of Lent (February 14 – March 29, with one day off per week), you will fill a bag of any size (Ziploc to trash bag) with stuff you want to get rid of. Tackle a different location each day by taking one drawer or shelf at a time! Or tackle it by item: books one day, dishes the next, clothes the day after that. Imagine how organized, streamlined, and clean your house will be at the end of the Challenge!

Some bags you will need to throw away in the trash or recycling bin. But the good stuff? Donate that to the Girl Scouts for a huge yard sale!

The girls will be collecting donated items during the Declutter Challenge in the art room in the basement of the Educational Building. Church members, feel free to drop off your items there anytime. The girls will be holding specific drop-off days for the public during the Challenge, so invite your friends to participate too!

The troop will hold the sale on Saturday, April 7 in the grassy lot, with the Fellowship Hall as the rain backup.

Do we have any yard sale pros in our membership? Let us know! The Girl Scouts would love your help organizing and pricing as donations come in and selling on April 7.

You can sign-up to take the Declutter Challenge at [facebook.com/girlscouts2160](https://facebook.com/girlscouts2160) or [instagram.com/girlscouts2160](https://instagram.com/girlscouts2160) or by letting Kivi Miller know you plan to participate.



# From Cathy Waitman - Director of Christian Education

February, the month of LOVE has arrived! We look forward to sharing our love for God, our families, friends, pets, and neighbors on Valentine's Day.



Watch out for Cupid's arrows!

Some of the upcoming events this month are **"Souper" Bowl**

**Sunday**, a congregational lunch, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, and a series of Lenten studies and lunch, along with our regular activities.

**"Souper" Bowl Sunday** will be February 4. Youth will be



stationed at all church exits holding pots for your donations.

Our gifts will go to Open Hands to help them with the meals they provide on Monday nights. Last year we donated **\$160** and our grand total for the past **14** years is **\$3337**. I hope we can top last year's response! Fill those pots!

On February 11, we will have a congregational luncheon and Board Reports telling about our accomplishments during 2017. Come enjoy yummy vegetable beef soup prepared by the Women's Life Fellowship and other women of the church.

Although we do not have a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday, February 13, other churches around town do.

• A S H •  
Wednesday



Our family has made it a tradition to eat pancakes and sausage each year in preparation for Lent. The next day, Wednesday February 14, we will have an Ash Wednesday

service in our sanctuary at 6:30.

On Tuesday, Feb 20, our church, along with Shady Side, St. Stephens and Second Reformed will begin a six-week "Lunch and Learn" Lenten Bible Study. Bring a bag lunch at 12:00. After eating we will use the book "Jesus: Understanding His Death and Resurrection" to study chapters 14 - 16 of Mark. The Rev. Dr. Arnetta Beverly from St. Stephen's and our own Rev. Elizabeth Horton will lead the group. **The cost of the book is \$5.00. If you wish to purchase a book, please let me know by Sunday, February 4.**

This year Lent begins on Valentine's Day, so I



thought about doing little acts of love throughout Lent in addition to giving up something. Some ideas are sending a card, calling someone, getting a buggy for a shopper, carrying in groceries for a neighbor, visiting a homebound member, and taking food to someone. The list goes on and on. There are many people in need and these little acts of love might ease or brighten their day. Just think of what we could accomplish right here in Lexington if each one of us did a kindness for someone daily. Some of you already do many acts of kindness all the time. Thank you for helping others in our church and community. A special thank you to those of you who help me all the time with the work of the board of Christian Education. I appreciate all you do and thank God for such a loving church family!

### **FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

Friendship Club met in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, January 24. Everyone enjoyed delicious "stone soup" prepared by June Grubb from the ingredients members furnished. The recipe from *Southern Living Magazine* was called "Harry Young's Burgoo!" After lunch Deanna led us in an entertaining game of L, R, C or Left, Right, Center.

Next month, on Tuesday, February 27, The Davidson County Senior Chorus will provide music for our group. Instead of a covered dish luncheon, On Time Catering will provide a catered lunch of chicken pie, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, slaw, rolls, chocolate cake, carrot cake, and tea. The cost of the meal will be \$10.00. We will collect at the meal.

*~submitted by Cathy Waitman*

### **WOMEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP**

Women's Life Fellowship met Tuesday, January 16th. Bonita Hooper lead us in devotions and Myra Thompson served refreshments. Plans were finalized for our soup sale and the meal for the Congregational Meeting on February 11th. So far, we have pre-orders for 86 quarts and 24 pints. We will complete our plans for the shelter meal on March 12th at our February meeting. Our next meeting will be February 20th, and we'd like to invite anyone interested in joining our group.

*~Glenyce Fulton*

### **MORNING GLORY CIRCLE**

The Morning Glory Circle met Wednesday, January 2, 2018. Rita Lohr opened the meeting with a report on shut ins. Peggy Bates, Myra Thompson, and Betty Bates were mentioned and prayers were given for them. The treasurer, Deanna Michael, gave her report. The decision was made to use some of the funds as donation to the Life Center. Betty Bates goes there, and this was to honor her birthday. Patty Lovell had the program. Charles Schultz's philosophy on life was used. He said, "The people who make a difference in our lives are not the rich and famous but those who care the most." We were tested on what we knew about famous people and the same for our family and friends. All knew more about the people in our lives who have given us love, support, or advice. We closed in prayer.

*~Respectfully submitted, Susan Miller*

### **MEN'S BROTHERHOOD**

On Monday, January 8th several members of the Men's Brotherhood provided food and served 68 people at the Crisis Ministry Adult Homeless Shelter. Everyone was very appreciative for the Boston butt, buns, slaw, baked beans, chips and oatmeal cakes.

On Tuesday, January 9th twenty five members and guests enjoyed a delicious dinner and great fellowship at Yarborough's Restaurant for the Christmas/New Year's party.

**Please mark your calendar!** The Brotherhood is changing their meeting date in February from the second Tuesday to the first **Tuesday, February 6th**. The second Tuesday in February is Shrove Tuesday and some families have traditions they share.

## Thank You FEBRUARY 2018 Stewards!

**Liturgist:** Patti Lovell      Youth Liturgist: Claire Smith, February 11th  
**Ushers:**      **Chairperson:** Jeff Hutchens  
James Gray (Captain), Henry Crouse, John Smith, Raeann Allred, Michell Winters,  
Jonathan Kepley (Youth Usher)  
**Plate Attendant:**  
**Acolyte:** Parker Horton      **Bible Steward:** Patrick Horton  
**Sound Technician:** Jeremy Peterson      **First Sunday Social:** John & Susie Smith

### GREETERS:

February 4 — Johnny & Lynn McCarn

February 11 — Doug & Barbara Sink

February 18 — Buddy & Rita Lohr

February 25 — Keith & Alisa Johnson

### NURSERY:

February 4 — Aurelia Smith & Sylvia Walser

February 11 — Heidi Hutcheson & Kivi Miller

February 18 — Patti Lovell & Rita Lohr

February 25 — (Open for volunteers)

**Prayer Concerns:** Remember those in the Armed Forces. To add a name to the prayer list please contact Sylvia Walser at 336-225-2964 or the church office.

**CHURCH MEMBERS:** Amy Hedrick, Holt Biesecker, Ruth Fritts (Alston Brook, Room, 115), Margot Everhart, Margie & Vogen Everhart, Mary Berrier, Ruth Essick, Carolyn Spivey, J.W. Bates (at home), Betty Bates (Abbotts Creek, Room 109), Merle Hodges, Peggy Bates

**HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:** Jo Hudson, Valerie Price, Joyce Price, Rita Tussey, Adena Wall, Marzell Crotts, Hoyle Potts, Doris Flynt, James Everhart, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle

**OUR FRIENDS:** Zane Winters (Michell Winters' dad), Sharon Ward (Friend of Alisa Johnson), Delores Martin (Sylvia Walser's sister), Martha Moore (Frank Leonard's friend), Eric Vernadore (Carol Vernadore's son), Ashley Anderson (Lee Ann Peele's cousin), Nancy Barr (mother-in-law of Betty Barr), Judy Stanley (family of Alane Holste), Nell and Ken Holmes (Neighbors of Jerry and Patti Lovell), Jeffery Saunders (Amy Hedrick's Son), Sandra Isaacs (Mike Hooper's sister), Geraldine Westmoreland (Frank Westmoreland's mother), Randy Carter (son-in-law of the late Wanda Daye)

### Souper Bowl Sunday



**“SOUPER” BOWL SUNDAY:  
FEBRUARY 4, 2018  
Bring your dollars and  
change to fill the soup pots at  
the sanctuary exits!**

**All donations will go to  
Open Hands!**

### NOISY OFFERING!



On **February 18th and 25th** the Youth of our church will collect a **NOISY OFFERING** that will be used for their Youth Service Project on March 25th. Their goal is to collect **\$400** to pack 60 bags for the **Back Pack Program for Easter Break**. Start saving those coins to drop in the cans and make some noise. (Crinkly noises made with folding money are great too!)

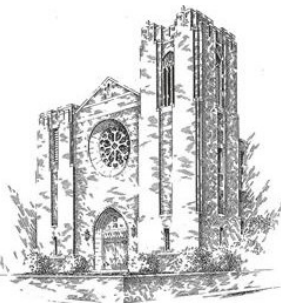
# February 2018



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 5:30 Yoga {P} 7:00 Square Dancing {FH}	2	3
4 "SOUPER" BOWL SUNDAY  9:45 JAM & Sunday School 10:30 First Sunday Social 11:00 Worship	5 5:00 Tutoring {D} 6:30 Open Hands Meal {FH}	6 10:00 Weaving Women Collaborative Ministries {P} 6:00 Men's Brotherhood {FH} 6:30 Bd. of Christian Ed. Meeting {Ch. A} Bd. of Evangelism Meeting {P}	7 11:00 Morning Glory Circle {P} 6:30 Hand Bell Choir {Bell Room} 7:15 Choir {ChA}	8 5:30 Yoga {P} 7:00 Square Dancing {FH}	9	10 8:30—3:30 Western NC Board Meeting {FH}
11 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship {Kids' Club} 12:15 Congregational Meal {WLF serves soup} and Meeting {vote to change by-laws}  Consistory meets after meal and congregational meeting	12 11:00 Office Staff Meeting 5:00 Tutoring 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30 Open Hands Meal {FH}	13 SHROVE TUESDAY  10:00 Weaving Women	14 ASH WEDNESDAY Girl Scouts "40 Day Clutter Challenge" begins  12:00 Lenten Service at 1st Lutheran 6:30 Ash Wednesday Service {Sanctuary} 7:30 Choir {Sanctuary}	15 5:30 Yoga {P} 7:00 Square Dancing {FH}	16	17 10-2:00 Consistory Retreat at Yarborough's
18 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship - Holy Communion "NOISY OFFERING" 4:00 BAIC Parent Forum: A Parent's Perspective	19 5:00 Tutoring {D} 6:30 Open Hands Meal {FH}	20 10:00 Weaving Women 12:00 Lenten Lunch & Learn Bible Series {FH} 7:00 Women's Life Fellowship {P}	21 12:00 Lenten Service at 1st Lutheran 6:30 Bell Choir {BR} 7:15 Choir {ChA}	22 5:30 Yoga {P} 7:00 Square Dancing {FH}	23	24
25 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT 9:45 Youth Service Project Sunday School 11:00 Worship "NOISY OFFERING" 5:00 Welcoming Task Force {P}	26 5:00 Tutoring {D} 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30 Open Hands Meal {FH}	27 10:00 Weaving Women 12:00 Friendship Club Catered Lunch & Davidson County Senior Chorus {FH} 12:00 Lenten Lunch & Learn Bible Series	28 12:00 Lenten Service at 1st Lutheran 6:30 Bell Choir {BR} 7:15 Choir {ChA}			

**First Reformed  
United Church of  
Christ**

104 East Center Street  
Lexington, NC 27292  
(336)248-2617  
email: church@frucc.org  
website: www.frucc.org



**All Are Welcome Here!**  
**Where People Discover...**  
*The Love of God*  
*The Power to Love Others*  
*The Ability to Love Ourselves*

## COMMUNITY MEAL

**'Come to our Table'**

**Tuesday, March 27**

**5:00pm Fellowship Hall**

*Free to all. Donations appreciated!*



Join Us on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/firstreformeducc](https://facebook.com/firstreformeducc)

### Church Staff

**Pastor:** Rev. Elizabeth Horton  
(email: elizabeth@frucc.org) (cell: 336-972-8895)

### Minister of Pastoral Care

Rev. June Grubb (home: 336-248-5668)

### Director Christian Ed.

Cathy Waitman

### Admin. Assistant

Carolyn Robbins

### Choir Director

Ellen Peterson

### Organist

Lee Ann Peele

### Financial Administrator

Paula Lopp

### Sunday Services

Bible Study 9:45am  
Worship 11:00am

### Church Office Hours:

Monday—Friday  
8:30am to 12:30pm

# FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

- |    |                      |    |                       |
|----|----------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1  | Bonita Hooper        | 18 | Kalyssa Hutchens      |
|    | Cameron Sink         | 19 | Susan Morris          |
|    | Ted & Nina Smith     | 20 | Frank Callicutt       |
| 7  | Haylee Hutcheson     |    | Janette Neal          |
| 9  | Mike & Lynn Brown    |    | Larry & Betty Link    |
| 10 | Mike & Bonita Hooper | 23 | Susie Smith           |
| 12 | Ann Hoffman          | 24 | Megan Horton          |
| 15 | Abbie Callicutt      | 26 | Clifford Lopp         |
| 16 | J.W. & Betty Bates   | 28 | Jerry & Aurelia Smith |
| 17 | Lee Bouchard         |    |                       |
|    | Amy Hedrick          |    |                       |



## COMMUNITY *Lenten Lunch Services*

**WHEN:** Beginning Wednesday, February 14  
at Noon and all the following  
Wednesdays throughout Lent

**WHERE:** First Lutheran Church  
320 State Street, Lexington

**WHAT:** Bring your own bag lunch  
Drinks and Dessert will be provided

### Hosting denominations vary each week:

February 14 Lutheran  
February 21: Presbyterian  
February 28: Hospice Chaplains/Community Action  
March 7: UCC  
March 14 Baptist  
March 21: Methodist  
**(All meetings will be held at First Lutheran)**