



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



Dear Beloved Community,

We began our Lenten journey on Valentine's Day. A day of red hearts and sweetness, only this year, it was smudged with the grayish black tint of Ash.

We gathered with sibling congregations in our sanctuary. Rev. Dr. Arnetta Beverly spoke powerfully about our need and God's ability to Wash and Cleanse us. Before he blessed the ashes, Rev. Jim Luck voiced aloud the heartbreaking news of the school shooting in Florida. He prayed for sins and brokenness of humanity, gently lifting up those families, in shock and so grief-stricken.

When it came time for we 3 ministers to impose the ashes, I stood at my spot near the piano. Shaken from the weight and genuineness of Rev. Jim's prayer, I put my thumb in the ashes to prepare to make the first cross.

As I looked up, the first face I saw coming up the aisle was the bright and shiny smile of my son, 8-year-old Parker. Now that his

bedtime was later, he was excited to attend his first Ash Wednesday service. I knelt down, lifted his chin and made the mark of the cross on his forehead, saying to my child with tears in my eyes, "You belong to God. From dust you came and to dust you shall return." His nose crinkled in confusion, he didn't understand where my tears came from, and he sure didn't know why I told him he would return to dust.

But I knew why I shed tears.

Most of the time, the ritual of the ashes is a secure buoy for us to cling to in life... reminding us of our dependence on God, that we will one day return to our Creator. But in this moment, as his mother I was terrified to think of Parker returning to God right now...

My child is not meant to be dust yet....

I was heartbroken for the families of the Parkland teenagers.... This was not the way their lives were to end.

Their children were not meant to be dust yet...

Children in schools should not be shot.

None of our children are not meant to be dust yet...

As much as Jesus blessed, advocated for, and healed the children, we have a special responsibility when children suffer.

And so, as followers of Jesus, what must we do moving forward?

May the peace of God comfort those who are suffering.

May the Spirit of God move the rest of us to action, so that the suffering ends.

Together with you in love,
Elizabeth



~ MEMORIALS ~ FEBRUARY 2018 ~

TOM DANZE

LIBBY & RICK SAMUELS

DORIS FRYE

LIBBY & RICK SAMUELS

CARROLL & CAROLYN SPIVEY

ALICE SINK

THOMAS & JOYCE PAYNE

CARROLL & CAROLYN SPIVEY

BETTY BATES

PEGGY BATES

MIKE & LYNN BROWN

CLINIC STAFF & CO-WORKERS OF
SUSAN ODOM

PATTIE EVERHART

FRUCC MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

FRUCC MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

JOHN & VICKY GRAY

GERRI HILL

MERLE & JERRY HODGES

COREY S. LINGER

MARGUERITE LEONARD

CLIFFORD & PAULA LOPP

ROSE & DON MACKAY

DEANNA MICHAEL

JOHN POTTS & JANETTE NEAL

LISA NELSON

TONY & LEE ANN PEELE

THOMAS & JOYCE PHILLIPS

BILL & CAROLYN ROBBINS

JOHN & KATHY ROLLINS

DOT SCARLETT

EULENE SHEPHERD

ELIZABETH SINK

RON & PAM SINK

KATHERINE SKIPPER

JERRY & AURELIA SMITH

JOHN & SUSIE SMITH

MR. & MRS. STEVE SMITH

GLADYS SNIDER

LIBBY & KEITH SWICEGOOD

ALLEN & MARY VALLO

CATHY & STEVE WAITMAN

GEORGE & JOHNIE WHITE

**~ HONORARIUM ~
FEBRUARY 2018**

VICKY GRAY

JAMES & ALICE GRAY

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Church Family,

I am honored to be one of the recipients of the Hinkle, Sink and Swing Scholarship. Thank you for your generosity, which has helped allow me to continue my education in getting my Master's degree. This has meant so much to me, and I am so appreciative and thankful for receiving this thoughtful gift. Thank you so much again.

Love,
Kelsey Johnson

Dear Congregation,

I am very fortunate to be part of a loving congregation. The fruit basket was enjoyed by Carroll and me plus some other relatives. The cards and notes that were sent in a stocking were most appreciated and read several times. Thank you all!

Love,
Carolyn Spivey

**Acknowledgements have been received
from the following Benevolences:**

Davidson Prison Ministry
Elon Homes & Schools for Children
Hospice of Davidson County
Johns River Valley Camp
Nazareth Child & Family Connection
Salvation Army



'Come to our Table'

Tuesday, March 27

5:00pm Fellowship Hall

Free to all. Donations appreciated!

All contributions will benefit Special Olympics of Davidson County

Menu includes: spiral ham, green beans, braised potatoes, cole slaw and rolls.

MORNING GLORY CIRCLE ~submitted by Susan Miller

The Morning Glory Circle met Wednesday, February 7th in the church parlor. This would be a short time for circle business due to needing to include ONA discussion. Rita Lohr gave updates on home-bound members. We also received a Treasurer's report by Deanna Michael. Then the meeting was turned over to Elizabeth Horton for questions and answers on ONA.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB ~submitted by Cathy Waitman

Friendship Club met for a delicious catered lunch on Tuesday, February 27. Davidson County Chorus presented a wonderful program of music.

For our March meeting on Wednesday, the 21st at 12:00, we will meet at First Lutheran Church for the Community Lenten Service. The meal is "Bring Your Own Lunch." Please join us for this meeting.

WOMEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP ~submitted by Paula Lopp

Women's Life Fellowship met Tuesday, February 20th in the parlor. Paula shared a devotion coordinating with our theme for the season of Lent on being still and listening for the voice of God.

It was reported the profit from our soup sale and lunch was \$1,303. Also, Linda noted Women's Life Fellowship provided items for a light breakfast for the WNCA board meeting held here on Saturday, February 10th.

Our next project is representing First Reformed UCC by providing desserts and drinks for the Community Lenten service to be held on Wednesday, March 7th at First Lutheran Church.

On Monday, March 12th we are providing the evening meal at Crisis Ministry Homeless Shelter. Members signed up to donate menu items of: ham, corn casserole, green beans, rolls, brownies and tea.

The meeting was adjourned and delicious refreshments were provided by June Grubb.

Our meeting in March is serving the shelter. The next formal meeting will be Tuesday, April 17th at 7pm in the parlor. We welcome anyone who would like to join our group.

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD ~submitted by Clifford Lopp

The First Reformed UCC Men's Brotherhood met on Tuesday, February 6th for dinner and a meeting. Thank you to Mike Brown, John Potts, Buddy Lohr and Rich Johnson for preparing delicious oyster stew. There were several guests present who also enjoyed the meal.

The next meeting date is **Tuesday, March 13th**. All men of the church are invited for dinner and a meeting beginning at 6pm in the fellowship hall.

CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE FEBRUARY 2018 MEETING

Pastor's Report Highlights (JANUARY 2018)

- Homebound /sick visits: approximately 8
- Pastoral Contacts: approximately 18
- Hospital visits: 4 (Lexington & WFUBMC)
- East Lexington Collaborative Ministries & GLAMA
- Confirmation Class
- Scripture Forum (BAIC Process)

Average weekly offering for January 2018:

\$3904.00

Average weekly attendance for January 2018:

89

Financial Report: Denise Durham

Average weekly offering for the month of January \$3,904

Board of Christian Education: Jerry Lovell

Sunday School and sanctuary – need helpers for Kids Club; April 1 – Easter breakfast and egg hunt; Vacation Bible School at 2nd Reformed UCC with St. Stephens and Shadyside attending; Discussed background checks for advisors and teachers for VBS.

Board of Community Outreach: Mark Smith

Touching Davidson County With Love is March 24th at 8:00 at First Baptist Church; projects will be named by March 5th. If anyone knows the projects please let Mark know.

Board of Congregational Life: Eddie Yates

First Sunday Fellowship postponed due to weather; Thank you to Buddy and Rita Lohr, Dave and Glenyce Fulton and Amy Hedrick for setup and cleanup for the February 11th Congregational Meal & Meeting.

Property Committee: John Smith

Contacted Alley Plumbing to check hot water heater; Contacted T&D Musgrave for a bid for painting the sanctuary. We need 3 bids for this project; Discussed adjusting lights in pulpit area. This will be done when we are painting along with light replacements; Will be removing back row of pews in the near future; Check and have 2nd step repaired in front to the sanctuary.

Board of Worship: Sylvia Walser

Sub-committee chairpersons are in place.

Board of Evangelism: Dave Fulton

One Great Hour of Sharing is March 11th; The Girl Scout Troop 2160 will help during 11:00 worship service; Interfaith Forum #3 is March 11th at 4:00 with Father Constantine Shepherd from the Greek Orthodox Church in Winston Salem; March 18th at 3:00 the Catawba Singers will perform in the sanctuary with a reception following in the Fellowship Hall.

Old Business:

Becoming an Inclusive Church Process—Forum #1 was held with around 53 attending; Eddie Yates and Kivi Miller spoke in Sunday School and will continue discussion the following Sunday; Consistory Retreat was cancelled for February 17th but will be rescheduled at a later date

New Business:

- Sandy Walker asked to have Board of Realtors here April 16th and 17th; They will pay \$150, abide by our rules and no smoking in the building; They will make sure all doors are locked when meeting is over.
- The nursery will remain in the fellowship building with 2 adults in attendance.
- Board chairmen need to review and revise duties as listed in the current church manual.

NOTES FROM OUR CHURCH SECURITY COMMITTEE:

The Security Committee would like to advise the Congregation that it is moving forward to proactively attempt to head off any issues of concern or safety to our members. This effort will include very few actions or activities that will interfere with normal church operations but will be working behind the scenes. We will be doing things such as

- taking additional measures to safely move our kids from the Sanctuary to the Educational Building
- having ushers positioned at locations to not only greet church members entering from doors other than the front door, but to also provide a watch for possible threats
- locking the back and side doors at 11:00 and installing surveillance cameras on each door to observe any unusual activity
- insuring that doors in the Educational Building are locked when there are activities taking place
- ensuring that there is always proper adult supervision when children's activities are taking place

We will also be discussing suggested actions that the Congregation should take in the event of an incident. The work of this committee is not to alarm anyone. Our work is to acknowledge our awareness of the challenges we face in today's society and do our best to prevent harm or injury to our Congregation.

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

Volunteers are needed 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.

You can volunteer as a project manager or as a general worker. Mark Smith has placed a sign-up sheet in the Narthex 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 need more information or have questions.

MARCH WORSHIP THEMES:

- March 4:** Third Sunday in Lent
Finding a Word: Listening to the Texts
Proverbs 1: 20-23
- March 11:** Fourth Sunday in Lent
Finding Your Power: Listening for Healing
Mark 7: 24-37
- March 18:** Fifth Sunday in Lent
Finding Your Mystic: Listening Beyond the Voices
Romans 12: 2-12
- March 25:** Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday
Finding Your Purpose: Listening to Your Heart
Matthew 26: 36-46



John's River Valley Camp 2018 Traditional Summer Camp Schedule

([Registration](#) Will Begin in Early 2018)

June 24-30 Middle High Outpost/Caving (Grades 7-9)

Co-Directors: Elizabeth Schiemann and Lucy Bennett

Campers live in A-Frame units away from the main site enough to truly enjoy an experience in the woods. This week features a canoe trip, hike to waterfall and rock wall climbing. The high point of the week is a memorable caving experience. Cost is \$450.

July 1-7 Round Table Rendezvous

Directed by Phil Hardy, Jason Stump and Staff

Three age groups (see below) share the grounds and meals. This camping experience lends itself to building "big/little sister/brother" relationships. Age specific activities [apply](#) as indicated.

Junior Age (Grades 4-6)

Camping on the main site these campers will enjoy aquatics, hikes, archery, canoeing, rock climbing, [games](#), campfires and more. Cost is \$430.

Middle High (Grades 7-9)

Camping on the main site these campers will participate in three bike trips highlighted by a trip on the downhill section of the Virginia Creeper Trail in Damascus, VA. If possible they are encouraged to bring their own bikes and helmets although those will be provided on the Virginia Creeper Trail. They also will enjoy aquatics, archery, canoeing, rock climbing, games, campfires and more. Cost is \$450.

Senior High (Grades 9-12)

These campers will stay on the main site. They will explore their own gifts, build community among a diverse group of young people and discover new ways to recognize God in creation. Their experiences will include aquatics, archery, canoeing, rock climbing, games, campfires and more. The week will also include the biking trip on the Virginia Creeper Trail in Damascus. Cost is \$450.

July 15-21 Junior Age Classic (Grades 4-6)

Co-Directors: Rev. Randy Orwig, Rev. Sharon Wheeler and Rev. Elizabeth Horton

While camping on the main site these campers enjoy all the traditional camping activities. They will learn and grow through aquatics, hikes, archery, [crafts](#), rock climbing, games, vespers, campfires and more. Cost is \$430.

July 15-21 Beginners (Grade 3)

Director: Stephanie Hardy

These first time campers will stay on the main site and be introduced to the experiences of JRVC. Their days will be filled with aquatics, games, crafts, hikes, stories, vespers and campfires. This is a great way to get the next generation of campers started. Cost is \$240.

July 22-28 Senior High Outpost/Adventure (Grades 9-12)

Director: Kevin Russell

These campers are challenged toward growth and community building. Their high adventure activities will include white water rafting on the Nolochucky River and off-site rock climbing in Pisgah National Forest. Cost is \$500.

Follow the links below for more information:

http://jrvc.org/Summer_All_2018.htm

<https://www.facebook.com/johnsrivervalleycamp/>

Girl Scout Sunday is March 11 ~submitted by Kivi Miller

Members of Girl Scout Troop 2160 will participate in the worship service on March 11, which is National Girl Scout Sunday. We will also collect a Noisy Offering to go toward their trip to Los Angeles and the Grand Canyon in June.

Girl Scouts Accepting Yard Sale Donations All Month... Cookie Sale Ending Soon

Whether you are participating in the Declutter Challenge or not, the Girl Scouts would love your donations for their yard sale. Church members can leave donations of gently used items in the two classrooms in the Educational Building basement that have a "Girl Scouts Only" sign on the door. We are accepting donations through March, with the sale taking place on April 7.

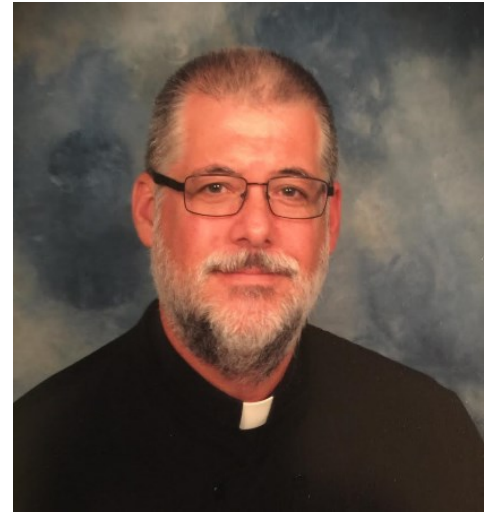


INTERFAITH FORUM SERIES

March 11, 2018 (4:00-5:30pm)

First Reformed UCC Fellowship Hall

The Board of Evangelism announces the third of its Interfaith Forum Series entitled "*Similarities and Differences - An Interfaith Conversation.*" The third forum in this series will be held at four o'clock in the afternoon of March 11, 2018 in the Fellowship Hall. After the presentation, there will be a time for questions and answers.



The Speaker for this forum will be Father Constantine (Millard) Shepherd from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Winston-Salem, NC where he serves as Assistant Priest. Fr. Shepherd is a native of Winston-Salem, NC. He is a convert to the Orthodox faith and came into the church in 1988. He is a former law enforcement officer who retired after 30 years of service. Fr. Costa has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's Degree in Applied Orthodox Christian Theology from St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology of the University of Balamand, Antiochian House of Studies. He was ordained to the Diaconate in 2010 and to the Priesthood in 2016 by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios. In addition to his work with the parish, Fr. Costa serves as one of the Directors of the Metropolis of Atlanta's St. Stephens Summer Camp. He is involved in volunteer Crisis Chaplaincy with local emergency responders, and is a member of the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) Frontline Disaster Response Team.



March 18 at 3:00pm

First Reformed

United Church of Christ



The First UCC Arts Series and the Board of Evangelism present the Catawba Singers in concert on March 18, 2018 in the Sanctuary at 3:00 pm. The Catawba Singers is a select choral ensemble open to Catawba students by audition only. The Singers are very active in performances both on and off campus. Their repertoire consists of mostly chamber literature, sacred masterworks, pop and vocal jazz.

This will be the third time the Singers have been to First Reformed. If this performance is anything like the last times, you are in for a treat. There will be a love offering taken to help cover their expenses. You are invited to join the Singers in a reception in the Fellowship Hall immediately after their performance. Come early and get a good seat!

WNCA SPRING EDUCATION GATHERING LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!

Saturday, March 3, 2018
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Abernethy Laurels, 102 Leonard Avenue, Newton, NC 28658

\$10 including lunch & refreshments

Learn more about putting your faith in action — both as an individual and as a church! Join us for the annual WNCA Education Gathering featuring one of the UCC's Three Great Loves: *Love of Neighbor!* All are welcome to this gathering, which will include lunch, worship, and a celebration of the ministry of The Rev. Jerry Rhyne, our retiring WNCA Minister for Church Affairs.

- We'll start at 9:00am with coffee, pastries and fruit
- We'll learn from short presentations & engage in roundtable discussions
- We'll share a deli sandwich lunch (vegetarian & gluten-free options available)



Walking the Labyrinth

~submitted by Rev. June Grubb

Labyrinth walking is a practice of mindfulness, a pathway to our deepest inner wisdom. This excerpt from *Beauty* by John O'Donohue gives one a sense of how walking a labyrinth may affect one's sense of being: *"Each person is the sole inhabitant of their own inner world, no one else can get in there to configure how things are seen. Seeing is not merely a physical act: the heart of vision is shaped by the state of the soul. When the soul is alive to beauty, we begin to see life in a fresh and vital way. The old habits of seeing are broken."*

To be a wiser people on a spiritual path we must explore our interior landscape, "the state of the soul," that only we can see and configure. How do we change our old habit of seeing? How do we awaken to beauty and connect to the Divine?

First Reformed UCC's Labyrinth creates a sacred space for reflection, prayer, and renewal. The Labyrinth is a powerful spiritual tool for personal transformation used for over 5000 years by cultures and religious traditions around the world. The winding path symbolizes a journey, a pilgrimage, allowing us time and place for inner reflection. Walking with a quiet receptive mind restores and energizes, inviting a sense of calm, stirring creativity, offering peace. In the silence of sacred space, away from chaos, the Labyrinth is a place to find ourselves. We sense our connection to the deeper mystery unfolding around us. The experience is different each time.

You are invited to take some time to walk our Labyrinth which will be located in the Fellowship Hall. It will be available for mediation and reflection from Maundy Thursday, March 29th, through Saturday, March 31st. Times for walking the Labyrinth are:

Maundy Thursday from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

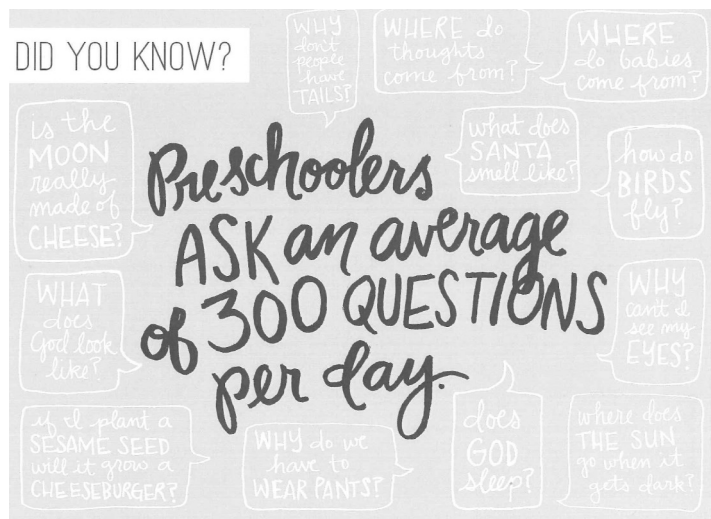
Good Friday from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MOPS

First Lutheran Church is beginning a MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) group on Monday, February 26, 2018, at 10:00 AM. They are inviting participants from your church to join them!

DID YOU KNOW?



IF YOU'RE A MOM, YOU KNOW.

WE KNOW HOW YOU FEEL AND MOPS IS JUST WHAT YOU NEED.
VISIT MOPS.ORG

LOCATION First Evangelical Lutheran Church Nursery

TIME 10:00 am

DATE Monday, February 26th

CONTACT Amanda Hathcock (flicexcongregationlife@gmail.com)

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH: REFLECTIONS ~submitted by Elizabeth Horton

On the afternoon of Sunday, February 18th, about 50 of us gathered in the Fellowship Hall for the second Forum in the *Building an Inclusive Church Process* to help answer questions such as why First Reformed UCC should create an intentional welcome at this point in time for people who are LGBT and their families.

I listened as several people from our congregation shared deeply personal stories about obstacles they and their loved ones faced in local churches and in our own community of Davidson County.

My first response is deep gratitude to those who spoke. You modeled what it means to show courage and authenticity in a way that we rarely show in church. To me, your words were heartfelt and Spirit led. You put yourselves in a place of vulnerability and trusted us. Thank you for your candor.

As I listened to these brave and faithful people, I felt shame, anger, and sorrow for the ways in which the wider Church has treated them and their families because of their orientation. I suppose I live

in a bit of a religious bubble at times... believing that when a church says, "Welcome," it always means it. Together, I pray we can move obstacles out of the way so that no one else is shunned or scarred by the Church.

Recap from the Welcoming Task Force:
Met on February 25th at 5pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Reviewed questions collected in the bulletin on February 4th and 11th. These questions were compiled and handed out for discussion at the February 18th Forum.

Began the process of compiling phrases to draft a Welcoming Statement. This statement will be distributed throughout the congregation for study and discussion. Please be on the lookout for this and for opportunities for conversation.

Handouts from previous meetings and documents about the discernment process will be in the narthex and outside the office.

Discussed inviting clergy and/or laypersons from nearby UCC churches who have gone through this process to share their experiences with us.

From Cathy Waitman - Director of Christian Education

March is here! I can hardly wait to see the trees bud, the flowers bloom, and feel the warming temperatures. Our spring calendar is filling up quickly. Some of the Sunday activities include:

March 4

JAM with Ellen at 9:45
Children's Church with Cathy at 11:00

March 11

Girl Scout Sunday and Kids' Club
with Alice at 11:00

March 25

Families First Service Project with
Cathy during Sunday School
Palm Sunday – youth march into church
waving palms at 11:00

April 1

Easter Breakfast
at 9:30
(prepared by Jerry Lovell)
Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00
Easter Worship at 11:00



We began Lent with an Ash Wednesday service which included St. Stephen's, Second Reformed UCC, and Memorial churches. The service included Parker Horton providing special music on his guitar, the choir's beautiful anthem, "Take My Life," the Rev. Dr. Arnetta Beverly's inspiring message, "Wash Day," and the marking of our foreheads with ashes in the sign of the cross. The confirmands burned palm branches from last year to make the ashes. On Tuesdays, we are having a Lenten Lunch and Learn study of Mark 16 –18. Bring your lunch and join these sessions led by the Rev. Dr. Arnetta Byerly.

I would like to thank all of you who contributed to our "Souper" Bowl pots. We donated \$291.00 to Open Hands to assist with their ministries to our community. Our total contributions since 2003 are \$3628.00.

Two noisy offerings in February provided the funds to buy food items to pack in students' backpacks during spring break. On March 25, Families First youth and their parents will pack

60 bags of pasta, fruit, cereal, ramen noodles, and rice krispy treats that will be donated to South Lexington School. Thank you for giving generously to make sure these children will have food to eat while school is on break.

Backpacks for Easter



Families First had a covered dish luncheon on Feb.25. We discussed future activities for youth and their parents and some activities for all of our church members and friends. Watch bulletins and newsletters for more information.

On March 18, we will have Children's Church during the worship service. Once each month, children will study the seasons of the church year, the elements of our worship services, and different kinds of prayer. Through the lessons, the children will develop a closer relationship with God and understand the importance of worshipping with a loving church family.

HELP NEEDED:

Plans are being made to join Second Reformed FUCF for VBS on June 17 – 21. Shady Side and St. Stephen's church will also participate.

The theme is "Ship Wrecked." Linda Sink has volunteered to be our contact person. We will still need other volunteers to be teachers and helpers. Please let me know before Linda's meeting in April if you would like to volunteer.



We are in need of more people to staff our church nursery. Volunteers will need to be background checked (which a lot of you already are) and are asked to be in the nursery by 10:50. If no children have come by ten minutes after the service starts, volunteers can come across to the worship service.

We also need volunteers to be the second adult with JAM, Kids' Club, Children's Church, Confirmation classes, and children's Sunday school. In compliance with Safe Church policy two adults (background checked) are needed for each activity involving our children. The helpers do not have to plan lessons or activities. We just need another adult to help out in case of emergencies.

BIG PLANS IN 2018 FOR THE COMMUNITY GARDEN ~submitted by Edgar Miller

2018 marks the eighth year for the First Reformed UCC Community Garden. Thanks to a \$1,000 grant from the Lexington Garden Club, volunteers will be able to add several raised beds and a pollinator garden this year. Volunteers will continue to work with Open Hand Ministry clients to help in the garden.

We will hold the first garden work days on March 3 and 10 from 10 AM to 12 PM, weather permitting. We will be installing a bird house made by church member Buddy Lohr, in the garden, appropriately in the design of a church. Spring planting of potatoes and other early vegetables will begin in mid-March.

Community-wide the garden is one of at least five gardens in the city of Lexington and several more across the county that will be part of a local food assessment and inventory to be conducted by the Davidson County Local Food Network (DCLFN). The Network recently received a \$4,000 micro-grant from Community Food Strategies and a \$1,000 grant from the Davidson County Health Department to determine the role community gardens play in addressing food insecurity issues.

In addition to the local food assessment, the grant will be used to support a local foods farm tour in June and to help organize the DCLFN. The garden volunteers' long-term goal is to raise additional funding to hire a part time community garden coordinator to not only manage our community garden, but also to assist w/ community gardens across the city.

Please contact Edgar Miller if you would like to get involved with the garden at edgarmiller@gmail.com.



Pictures of the birdhouse Buddy Lohr designed and constructed for our Community Garden. What a work of art!

The picture on the left shows the front of the birdhouse.

The picture on the right shows the back.

Make sure you visit the garden to get a close up view of all the tiny details that are difficult to see in these pictures.

Thank you again, Buddy, for your fine craftsman's skills!



Thank You MARCH 2018 Stewards!

Liturgist: Rev. June Grubb

Youth Liturgist: Girl Scouts, March 11th

Ushers: **Chairperson:** Jeff Hutchens
Steve Smith (Captain), Ted Smith,
Vicky Gray, Mike Perry, Amy Hedrick

Youth Usher: Griff Smith

Plate Attendant: John Smith

Acolyte: Ethan Lovell

Bible Steward: Claire Smith

Sound Technician: John Gray

First Sunday Social: Lisa Nelson &
Michell Winters

GREETERS:

March 4 Gladys Snider & Deanna Michael

March 11 James & Alice Gray

March 18 Irvin & Doris Sink

March 25 Walter & Ann Hoffman

NURSERY:

March 4 John Smith & Joy Walser

March 11 Nina Smith & Nicole Smith

March 18 Anne Bevan & Cheryl Walser

March 25 Lynn Brown & Patti Lovell



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: Ruth Essick, J.W. Bates, Carolyn Spivey, Peggy Bates, Ruth Fritts, Margot Everhart,

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

OUR FRIENDS: Greg Nifong (Lib Sink's nephew), Danny Lloyd (Frank Callicutt's father), Russ Maze (John Maze's father), Albert Evans (Harriette Murphy's brother), Lynn Mack (friend of Mary Berrier), Julia Clodfelter (Deanna Michael's sister and Mary Berrier's sister-in-law), Doris Brown (Mike & Lynn Brown's sister-in-law), Ronald Yates, (Eddie Yates' dad), Nell and Ken Holmes (neighbors of Jerry and Patti Lovell), Jeffery Saunders (Amy Hedrick's son), Debra Craver (friend of Alisa Johnson), Sharon Ward (friend of Alisa Johnson), Eric Varnadore (Carol Varnadore's son), Ashley Anderson (Lee Ann Peele's cousin), Nancy Barr (Betty Barr's mother-in-law), Judy Stanley (family of Alane Holste)



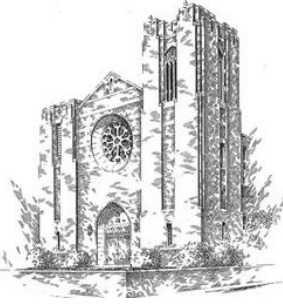
MARCH 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 5:30 Yoga {P} 7:00 Square Dancing {FH}	2	3 10-12:00 Garden Workday 9-2:00 WNCA Gathering at Abernethy Laurels
4 9:45 JAM & Sunday School 10:30 First Sunday Social 11:00 Worship *Children's Church* with Cathy	5 5:00 Tutoring {D} 6:30 Open Hands Meal {FH}	6 10:00 Weaving Women 12-1:00 Lenten Lunch & Learn {P} 6:30 Bd. of Christian Ed. Meeting {Ch. A} Bd. of Evangelism Meeting {P}	7 11:00 Morning Glory Circle {P} 12:00 Lenten Service at 1st Lutheran 6:30 Hand Bell Choir {Bell Room} 7:15 Choir {ChA}	8 5:30 Yoga {P} 7:00 Square Dancing {FH}	9	10 Don't forget to turn your clocks AHEAD ONE HOUR before you go to bed tonight!
11 OGHS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship *Kids Club with Alice* *Girl Scout Sunday* Noisy Offering 12:15 Consistory 4-5:30 Interfaith Forum #3 Father Constantine Shepherd {FH}	12 5:00 Tutoring 5:30 Confirmation Class 5:00 Crisis Ministry Shelter Meal (WLF) 6:30 Open Hands Meal {FH}	13 10:00 Weaving Women 12-1:00 Lenten Lunch & Learn {P} 6:00 Men's Brotherhood {FH}	14 12:00 Lenten Service at 1st Lutheran 6:30 Hand Bell Choir {Bell Room} 7:15 Choir {ChA}	15 5:30 Yoga {P} 7:00 Square Dancing {FH}	16	17 Half-way Collection Day for Girl Scout Yard Sale
18 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 3:00 Catawba Singers {S} & reception {FH}	19 11:00 Office Staff Meeting 5:00 Tutoring 6:30 Open Hands Meal {FH}	20 10:00 Weaving Women 12:00 Lenten Lunch & Learn {P}	21 12:00 Friendship Club 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 TDCWL Half-way Collection Day for Girl Scout Yard Sale
25 Palm Sunday 9:45 Family Service Project Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 *WORSHIP AT THE SQUARE* 5:00 Welcoming Task Force {P}	26 5:00 Tutoring 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30 Open Hands Meal {FH}	27 10:00 Weaving Women 12:00 Lenten Lunch & Learn {P} 5-7:00 Community Meal {FH}	28 10-1:00 Set up Labyrinth 12:00 Lenten Service at 1st Lutheran 6:30 Bell Choir {BR} 7:15 Choir {ChA}	29 Maundy Thursday 10-1:00 & 5-6:00 Labyrinth 6:30 Maundy Thursday service	30 Good Friday *Office Closed* 10-1:00 Labyrinth	31 10-1:00 Labyrinth

**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

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

BEGINS

**SUNDAY,
MARCH 11th**

Don't forget to set
your clocks
AHEAD one hour!



Time to
Spring Ahead



Join Us on Facebook:
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

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Ann Kirkman | 20 Ted Smith |
| 2 Vicky Gray | 23 Margie Everhart |
| 3 Corinne Gray | Mike Perry |
| 5 Charyl Clark | Josh Sink |
| Tony Peele | 27 Jonathan Kepley |
| 11 Ron & Heidi Hutcheson | Mark & Karla Loper |
| 12 Adam McKerlie | Clifford & Paula Lopp |
| 16 Alane Holste | Steve & Cathy Waitman |
| Ron Sink | 28 Elizabeth Horton |
| 17 Dan Horton | 29 Doris Flynt |
| Keith & Alisa Johnson | 31 Kivi Miller |



Help us Sound the Alarm about fire safety.

Every day 7 people die in home fires. You can help change that.

This spring, the American Red Cross will team up with fire departments, volunteers, and partners to *Sound the Alarm* with home fire safety and smoke alarm installation events. Join us as we install 100,000 free smoke alarms in more than 100 at-risk communities across the country.

Together we can help prevent these needless tragedies in the Piedmont Triad...

Thurs., May 10, 2018, Winston-Salem, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Fri., May 11, 2018, Greensboro, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat., May 12, 2018, Lexington, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Please register to volunteer at SoundTheAlarm.org/WNC.