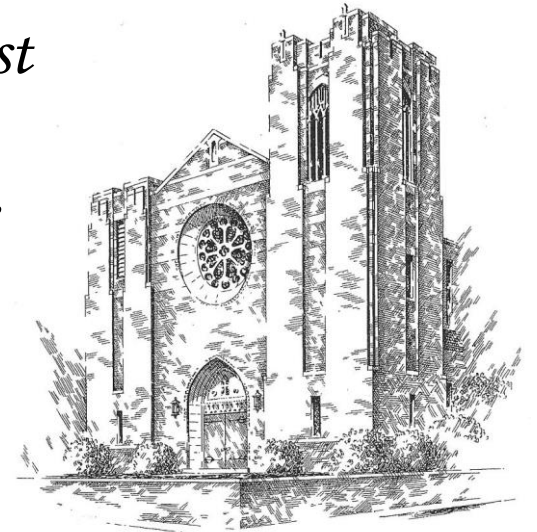


*First Reformed
United Church of Christ*

*Where People Discover...
The Love of God
The Power to Love Others
The Ability to Love Ourselves*



No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.



September 16, 2018
11:00AM

FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
104 EAST CENTER STREET, LEXINGTON, NC 27292

PHONE: 336-248-2617 **WEBSITE:** www.frucc.org **FACEBOOK:** [facebook.com/firstreformeducc](https://www.facebook.com/firstreformeducc)

Ministers: The Congregation

Pastor, Rev. Elizabeth Horton (elizabeth@frucc.org, cell/text #336-972-8895)

Minister of Pastoral Care, Rev. June Grubb (jgrubb3@triad.rr.com cell/text #336-240-2503)

Director of Christian Education, Cathy Waitman (cathy@frucc.org)

Choir Director, Ellen Peterson

Organist, Lee Ann Peele

Admin. Asst., Carolyn Robbins (carolyn@frucc.org)

Financial Secretary, Paula Lopp (paula@frucc.org)

Welcome! If you are visiting with us, please fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate when passed. Prayer Request Cards can be found on the backs of the pews if you would like to request prayer for yourself or someone else. Please place these in the offering plate when passed.

Childcare for infants through Kindergarten is offered and hearing devices are available. Please let an usher know if you need assistance.

The Worship of God

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Liturgist: Patti Lovell

Gathering

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"Sometimes not saying anything is the best answer.

You see, silence can never be misquoted"

~unknown

Prelude

*Chiming of the Hour

Welcome

Elizabeth Horton

Choral Call to Worship:

"Bind Us Together"

*Call to Worship

Patti Lovell

Leader: In the midst of a world where people hunger and thirst,

People: Let us worship a God who feeds the hungry.

Leader: In the midst of a world where people are abused and oppressed,

People: Let us worship a God who calls for compassion and justice.

Leader: In the midst of a world filled with wars and rumors of war,

People: Let us worship a God who desires nothing less than peace for the world.

Leader: In the midst of a world where love is not freely shown and forgiveness is hard to find,

People: Let us worship a God whose grace and love know no end.

Leader: Glorious is our God, who lifts high the persecuted.

People: Thanks be to our Glorious God! Amen!

*Hymn:

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Insert

*Invocation

Patti Lovell

Scripture Reading

Mark 8: 34-38

Patti Lovell

(Page #919 of Pew Bible)

Prayer of Confession

Elizabeth Horton

O God, we claim we love others, but speak bitter words to them. We think we are good and gracious people, but hurl epithets at those we do not like or those we fear. Forgive us, when we are quick to speak words of judgment

rather than words of justice and grace. We pray, Merciful God, for You to tame our tongues. Transform our shouts into whispers of peace and love. Open our ears so that we can hear all that Your Teacher, Jesus the Messiah, has to share with us in these moments and all those to come. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Elizabeth Horton

Centering

Young Disciples

Elizabeth Horton

All youth, pre-K - 5th grade, are invited to join in this worship at the front.

Connecting in Ministry

Elizabeth Horton

Prayers for the People

Elizabeth Horton

Anthem:

"Come to Jesus"

arr. Mark Hayes

*Weak and wounded sinner, lost and left to die; O, raise your head, for Love is passing by.
Come to Jesus, come to Jesus, come to Jesus and live!*

*Now your burden's lifted and carried far away, and precious blood has washed away the stain.
So sing to Jesus, sing to Jesus, sing to Jesus and live!*

*Like a newborn baby, don't be afraid to crawl, remember when you walk sometimes you fall.
So fall on Jesus, fall on Jesus, fall on Jesus and live!*

*Sometimes the way is lonely, and steep and filled with pain, so if your sky is dark and pours like rain,
Then cry to Jesus, cry to Jesus, cry to Jesus and live!*

*O, when the love spills over, and music fills the night, and when you can't contain your joy inside,
Then dance for Jesus, dance for Jesus, dance for Jesus and live!*

*And with your final heartbeat, kiss the world good-bye, then go in peace and laugh on glory's side.
Fly to Jesus, fly to Jesus, fly to Jesus and live!
Fly to Jesus, fly to Jesus, fly to Jesus and live!*

Proclaiming

Scripture Reading

James 3:1-2
(Page #1101 of Pew Bible)

Elizabeth Horton

Sermon:

"A Faith that Works: Taming the Tongue"

Elizabeth Horton

Responding

*Hymn:

"The Gift of Love"

Insert

*Invitation to Give Tithes and Offerings

Elizabeth Horton

Offertory

*Offering Response:

"The Doxology"

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Patti Lovell

Sending

*Responsive Call to Dedication

Patti Lovell

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."

*Benediction

Elizabeth Horton

*Choral Benediction:

"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"

*Postlude

*** PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE**

You are invited to join in the Intercessory Prayer Circle at the front of the sanctuary.

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Great Is Thy Faithfulness

His compassions never fail. They are new every morning. Lam. 3:22-23

1. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther, there is no
2. Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon and
3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thy own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-nature in
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been thou for-ev-er wilt be.
man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy and love,
hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain
Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness!

Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy
hand hath pro-vid-ed— great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

The Gift of Love

... But the greatest of these is love. I Cor. 13:13

1. Though I may speak with brav-est fire, and have the
2. Though I may give all I pos-sess, and striv-ing
3. Come, Spir-it, come, our hearts con-trol, our spir-its

gift to all in-spire, and have not love:
so my love pro-fess, but not be given
long to be made whole. Let in-ward love

my words are vain; as sound-ing brass, and hope-less gain.
by love with-in, the prof-it soon turns strange-ly thin.
guide ev-ery deed; by this we wor-ship, and are freed.

WORDS: Hal Hopson, 1972; para. of 1 Corinthians 13
MUSIC: Hal Hopson, 1971; based on Traditional English melody
© 1972 Hope Publishing Company

GIFT OF LOVE
L.M.

PLANNING FOR FALL MINISTRIES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

- **What:** Parent Meeting
- **When:** Sunday, Sept 23 at 9:45
- **Where:** Parlor
- **Purpose:** Plan for Fall Ministries including Children's Sabbath and Christmas program;

RSVP to cathy@frucc.org by **Wednesday, September 19**. Bring your calendar!

6-WEEK PSALMS BIBLE STUDY

- Tuesdays from 12-1:00 through October 9th.
- First Reformed UCC Parlor
- Led by Rev. Horton and Rev. Arnetta Beverly
- Sponsored by East Lexington Collaborative Ministries
- Bring a bag lunch and join us
(Study has already started but feel free to attend anytime.)

UPCOMING INQUIRY CLASS

If you have been a guest with us and want to know more about life at First Reformed UCC, then this time is for you. **On Sunday September 30, at 9:45AM** join Rev. Horton in the Parlor to learn more about ministry at First Reformed UCC, including ways in which people can connect with one another, get involved in ministry, and join the church. This is sponsored by the Board of Evangelism. Coffee and snacks will be provided. Joining a church family is an important step, and this will provide an opportunity to ask questions and gather with others. **Please RSVP by September 23 to Rev. Horton if you are interested.** (336-972-8895 or elizabeth@frucc.org)

ARE YOU ABLE TO VISIT?

As we grow, we want to strengthen the arm of our Congregational Care Ministry. If you enjoy listening to other people and bringing a smile to their faces, then perhaps God is calling you to help. If you are willing to **make a visit once every 4-6 weeks to someone in the congregation who is homebound or hospitalized, please let Rev. June Grubb know.** (336- 240-2503 or jgrubb3@triad.rr.com)

LOOKING AHEAD...



COMMUNITY MEAL

Tuesday, September 25

5:00pm Fellowship Hall

Donations appreciated!

First Reformed United Church of Christ

Fellowship Hall

104 East Center Street, Lexington, NC 27292

MENU: Boston Butt, Potato Salad, Baked Beans and Slaw

Proceeds will benefit...Saving Grace KGs



“PLEASE, WONT’ YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?”

Neighbors in Need helps make “**A Just World for All**” possible. For this to occur, it needs your support. Neighbors in Need offering will be received on **Sunday, October 7**. Look for envelopes in the September 30th bulletin.

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Louis "Ike" Green and in remembrance of his September 18th birthday; given by his daughter, Marsha Green Fitzgerald.

Thank You for Serving Our Church

USHERS: Dave Fulton, Alane Holste, Calvin Odom, Joy Walser

USHER CAPTAIN: John Smith

YOUTH USHER: Jonathan Kepley

SOUND TECHNICIAN: John Gray

ACOLYTE: Ethan Lovell

GREETERS: Jerry & Aurelia Smith

BIBLE STEWARD: Lucas Peterson

NURSERY {INFANTS-KINDERGARTEN}: Vicky Gray & Rita Lohr

- ❖ A wall unit changing table is located in our handicapped restroom {through left door at the chancel.}
- ❖ A comfort area with rocking chair, monitor and speaker is available if you need to leave the sanctuary to calm or soothe a baby or young child {through left or right door at chancel.}

Our Church at Prayer



We extend sympathy to Pam Sink and family on the recent loss of her mother, June Kilby Smith. Please be in prayer for Pam and the rest of the family.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Remember those in the Armed Forces. To add a name to the prayer list please fill out a prayer request card located in the backs of the pews, contact Sylvia Walser (336-225-2964), contact Ben Hale (benjaminhale08@comcast.net or 704-772-6908) or call the church office (336-248-2617).

CHURCH MEMBERS: Melody Evans, Ruth Fritts, Brian McKerlie, Vogen Everhart, Deanna Michael, Lauren Thompson Gould, Peggy Bates (Alston Brook Nursing Home, Rm 102), Margot Everhart

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

OUR FRIENDS: David Combs (Friend of Open Hands), Noriko Shaw and the Family of Heather & Joe Surret (Friends of Mike & Lynn Brown), Clifford Beane (Neighbor of Lee & Ellen Bouchard), Brian Arensman (Keith Johnson's friend and co-worker), John Hayden (Friend of Kivi Miller), Ed Leonard (Brother of Sylvia Walser), Dan Smith (Brother of Steve and Jerry Smith), Judy Stanley (Friend of Alane Holste), Lacy Belcher (Friend of Vicky Gray), Jonelle Parker (Friend of Frank Leonard); Dr. Sidney Hood...Family of Cindy S. Bowers...Kiana Sinz (Friends of Patti & Jerry Lovell); Eddie Wray (Friend of Lisa Nelson), Lynn Younts (Friend of Susie Smith), Eliza Paris (Friend of Sylvia Walser's granddaughter), Harold Peoples (Friend of Cheryl Walser), Ashley Hutcheson (Daughter-in-law of Heidi & Ron Hutcheson)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, September 16..... SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:45AM..... Sunday School: To Be Determined

11:00AM..... WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

Intercessory Prayer Circle at the front of the sanctuary

Monday, September 17 6:30PMOpen Hands Meal {FH}

Tuesday, September 18 12:00PM Collaborative Ministries Bible Study:
Book of Psalms {P}

7:00PM.....Women's Life Fellowship {P}

Wednesday, September 19 6:30PMBell Choir {Bell Room}

7:15PMChoir Practice {ChA}

Thursday, September 20 5:30PMYoga Class {P}

7:00PM Square Dancing {FH}

Sunday, September 23..... EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:45AM Sunday School

Parent Meeting for Fall and Christmas Ministries for Youth {P}

Youth:..... To Be Determined

Adults: "UCC: Who We Are" with Dave Fulton {FH}

11:00AM..... WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

Intercessory Prayer Circle at the front of the sanctuary

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries {September 16-22}

BIRTHDAYS..... September 16.... Barbara Sink

..... Addie Walser

September 17.... Lynn Brown

..... Stephen Wall

September 19.... James Atkinson

September 20.... Glenyce Fulton

..... Matthew Johnson

ANNIVERSARIES..... September 18.... Edward & Susan Miller

September 19.... Johnny & Lynn McCarn

..... Tony & Lee Ann Peele

September 20.... Brad & Molly Robertson