

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** today are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Glenyce's September birthday and our September anniversary, given by Dave Fulton.

*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:** Buddy and Rita Lohr

**BIBLE STEWARD:** Lucas Peterson

**NURSERY {INFANTS-KINDERGARTEN}:** Aurelia Smith and Sylvia Walser

- ❖ 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*

**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:** Carolyn Robbins, Ruth Fritts, Vogen Everhart, Deanna Michael, Lauren Thompson Gould, Peggy Bates, Margot Everhart

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

**OUR FRIENDS:** Eugenia Holste (Alane Holste's Mother), David Combs (Friend of Open Hands), Noriko Shaw and the Family of Heather & Joe Surrett (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); Family of Boyd Shirley (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)

*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 23, 2018  
11:00AM

*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

*Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Liturgist: Patti Lovell*

## Gathering

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

*“Do you want to be counted wise, to build a reputation for wisdom? Here’s what you do:  
Live well, live wisely, live humbly. It’s the way you live, not the way you talk, that counts.”*

≈James 3:13-14, The Message

Prelude

\*Chiming of the Hour

Welcome

Elizabeth Horton

Choral Call to Worship

*“Bind Us Together”*

\*Call to Worship

Patti Lovell

Leader: The God who answers in a day of trouble is among us,

**People: And, behold, it is very good!**

Leader: The God who lights a candle during the night is here,

**People: And, behold, it is very good!**

**All: Hearts, rejoice! For peace has triumphed over trouble, and morning has broken eternal night!**

\*Hymn:

*“Morning Has Broken”*

Insert

\*Invocation

Patti Lovell

Young Disciples *{All youth, pre-K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade, are invited to Children’s Church}*

Scripture Reading

Psalm 1  
(Page #479 of Pew Bible)

Patti Lovell

Unison Prayer of Confession

Elizabeth Horton

**God of favor, we have not been true to you. You have chosen the poor in the world, but we have dishonored them. You plead the cause of the afflicted, but we crush them.**

**We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have favored the rich and despised the poor. We have dismissed the needy with empty words. Soften our hearts and make straight our ways. Heal our unbelief and turn us back to you. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

## Centering

\*Hymn

*“Make Me a Servant”*

Insert

Connecting in Ministry  
Prayers for the People

Elizabeth Horton

Anthem

*“Peace”*

arr. Richard A. Nichols

*Oh, Lord, through the strife bring your peace. Where worry prevails, give release.*

*As the shadows linger all around, to our troubled minds and broken land.*

*Let there be peace. Let there be peace.*

*Oh, Lord, through the dark shine your light. Where truth seems unclear, help our sight.*

*Lift the veil that covers blinded eyes; Give a vision of you, only wise.*

*Let your light shine. Let your light shine.*

*Lord of all mercy and grace, rain down your love in this place.*

*In a world where hatred seems so strong, may your grace right the wrong.*

*Oh, Lord, through the strife bring your peace. Where worry prevails, give release.*

*As the shadows linger all around, to our troubled minds and broken land.*

*Let there be peace. Let there be peace.*

## Proclaiming

Scripture Reading

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8  
(Page #1102 of Pew Bible)

Sermon

***“A Faith that Works: Living the Good Life”***

## Responding

\*Hymn

*“Just a Closer Walk With Thee”*

Insert

Invitation to Give Tithes and Offerings

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

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

\*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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### FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

104 EAST CENTER STREET, LEXINGTON, NC 27292

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

Ministers: The Congregation

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

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

Director of Spiritual Growth and Renewal, Cathy Waitman ([cathy@frucc.org](mailto:cathy@frucc.org))

Choir Director, Ellen Peterson

Organist, Lee Ann Peele

Admin. Asst., Carolyn Robbins ([carolyn@frucc.org](mailto:carolyn@frucc.org))

Financial Secretary, Paula Lopp ([paula@frucc.org](mailto:paula@frucc.org))

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

409

### Morning Has Broken

1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,  
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en,  
 3 Ours is the sun - light! Ours is the morn - ing

black - bird has spo - ken like the first bird.  
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass.  
 born of the one light E - den saw play!

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!  
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,  
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
 sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.  
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Words: Eleanor Farjeon 1934

Music: Gaelic melody, harm. Alec Wyton

Words used by permission of David Higham Associates. Harmony from The Hymnal 1982 © The Church Pension Fund.

BUNESSAN

5 5 5 4 D

Alt. setting: 484

# Make Me a Servant

75

Words and Music by  
KELLY WILLARD

♩ = ca. 104

Chords: F, A<sup>m7</sup> D<sup>m7</sup>, C<sup>7sus</sup> G, C<sup>7sus</sup> C<sup>7</sup>, C<sup>7sus</sup> G

Make me a ser- vant, hum- ble and meek; Lord, let me

Chords: B<sup>b</sup> C<sup>7</sup>, B<sup>b</sup> F, F G<sup>m</sup> F, F A<sup>7</sup> D<sup>m</sup>, D<sup>m</sup> C

lift up those who are weak. And may the prayer of my

Chords: D<sup>m</sup> B, B<sup>b</sup>m<sup>6</sup>, E A, C<sup>7sus</sup> G, C<sup>7</sup> G, F A

heart al- ways be- Make me a ser- vant, make me a

Chords: C<sup>7sus</sup> B<sup>b</sup>, Intro E C, C<sup>7sus</sup>, B<sup>b</sup> F, F<sup>m7</sup> B<sup>b</sup> F, F

ser- vant, Make me a ser- vant to- day.

# Just a Closer Walk with Thee 380

*I can do everything through Him who gives me strength. Phil. 4:13*

1. I am weak but Thou art strong; Je- sus, keep me from all wrong;  
 2. Thro' this world of toil and snares, If I fal- ter, Lord, who cares?  
 3. When my fee- ble life is o'er, Time for me will be no more;  
 Refrain: Just a clos-er walk with Thee, Grant it, Je- sus, is my plea,

I'll be sat- is- fied as long As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.  
 Who with me my bur- den shares? None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.  
 Guide me gent- ly, safe- ly o'er To Thy king- dom shore, to Thy shore.  
 Dai- ly, walk- ing close to Thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

*D.C. for Refrain*

TEXT and MUSIC: Traditional Folk song

CLOSER WALK  
Irregular meter

## Looking Ahead...

### UPCOMING INQUIRY CLASS

Come learn about life at First Reformed UCC. **On Sunday September 30, at 9:45am** join Rev. Horton in the Parlor. We'll discuss ways in which people can connect with one another, get involved in ministry, and join the church. 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](mailto:elizabeth@frucc.org))



## Community Meal

**Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm**

First Reformed United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall  
104 East Center Street, Lexington, NC 27292

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

*Donations Appreciated!* Proceeds will benefit...Saving Grace K9s

## United Friendship Club

The Friendship Club is meeting this Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at noon at Yarborough's Restaurant. The program will be presented by Saving Grace K-9 Veteran and Service Dog organization.

## Neighbors in Need

Help 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<sup>th</sup>**. Look for envelopes in the September 30<sup>th</sup> bulletin.

## Al Staggs Performances Rescheduled!

Rev. Al Staggs has been rescheduled for the weekend of October 20-21. We will continue to sell tickets for the Saturday evening reception and performance until October 17<sup>th</sup>. Previously purchased tickets will be honored. Look for more specific information in future bulletins and in the October newsletter.

## "Building An Inclusive Church" Update

**Sunday, October 7, 2018**, a special meeting will be held directly after worship to vote on adopting the proposed Welcoming Statement:

**If you are searching for a place to experience God's wondrous and inclusive love, we invite you to join us at First Reformed United Church of Christ in Lexington, NC.**

**Following the example of Jesus, we believe that God's love, Christ's church, and the power of the Holy Spirit are for all people. We believe our unity as one body in Christ transcends worldly differences. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.**

**First Reformed United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming congregation. This means we welcome into the full life and ministry of the church all people, regardless of ability, age, education, ethnicity, family or marital status, gender identity or expression, income, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, or any other distinction. At the baptismal font and at the communion table, from the nursery cribs to the church leadership, whether you were raised in a church or have never before attended one, you are welcome here.**

**We affirm and celebrate the diversity of God's children as a blessing. We welcome you to First Reformed United Church of Christ.**

A Welcoming Statement publicly states that a congregation is willing to be an inclusive church home, which is designated in the UCC by the term, Open and Affirming (ONA). Over the summer a Welcoming Statement was created and circulated throughout the congregation for discussion and revision. Then, a congregational Exploratory Survey was taken in August, with 124 responses received. 87% were in favor of the proposed statement, and 13% against.

While this church *already* reflects inclusive values in our day-to-day life and ministry together, this statement helps us grow into our future, sending a clear message and providing assurance to those looking for an inclusive church home.

If you would like to see any of the materials used in this process over the past year, including forum handouts, congregation correspondence, or a timeline of events, they are available in the church office.

# Congregational Meeting



Congregational Meal

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**. Following worship a catered lunch will be served.



The Finance Committee met and drafted a proposed budget for 2019. It was presented to and approved by Consistory at the September meeting. After lunch, Lindsay Sink will present the budget proposal for a congregational vote. All members are encouraged to be a part of this important process in the life of First Reformed UCC.

To assist with meal planning, please sign up below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children \_\_\_\_\_



# Family Fun Night

Women's Life Fellowship is sponsoring a family night Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm. There will be pumpkins to decorate (\$5 each). Hot dogs will be grilled by Lindsay Sink, and Women's Life will provide fixin's, chips, drinks and dessert. There is no charge for the meal so this truly is an affordable fun time for church families to fellowship. Signup below and drop in the collection plate to reserve your pumpkin now!

If you prefer not to decorate a pumpkin but would like to come enjoy a hot dog and fellowship, you are welcome!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Pumpkins \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5.00 each)

Number of Hotdogs \_\_\_\_\_ (free)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, Sept. 23

**Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

**9:45AM..... SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Parent meeting for Fall and Christmas Ministries for Youth {Parlor}

Youth (Lesson on Noah)

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

**11:00AM..... WORSHIP SERVICE IN SANCTUARY**

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

*Intercessory Prayer Circle at front of Sanctuary*

Monday, Sept. 24

6:30pm .... Open Hands Ministry Meal {FH}

Tuesday, Sept. 25

Noon..... Collaborative Ministries Bible Study; Book of Psalms {Parlor}

5-7pm ..... Community Meal {Fellowship Hall}

Wednesday, Sept. 26

Noon..... Friendship Club {Yarborough's Restaurant}

6:30pm .... Bell Choir Practice {Bell Room}

7:15pm .... Choir Practice {Chapel Annex}

Thursday, Sept. 27

5:30pm .... YOGA Class {Parlor}

7:00pm .... Square Dance {Fellowship Hall}

Sunday, Sept. 30

**Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

**9:45AM..... SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Inquiry Class with Rev. Horton {Parlor}

Youth -- Children's Sabbath Practice {DS}

Adults -- "UCC: Who We Are" {FH}

**11:00AM..... WORSHIP SERVICE IN SANCTUARY**

**KIDS' CLUB WITH ALICE GRAY AND CATHY WAITMAN**

*Intercessory Prayer Circle at front of Sanctuary*

## **Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries {Sept. 23-29}**

**BIRTHDAYS.....** September 24..... Alice Gray

Jordan McCarn

September 26..... Mark Smith

September 27..... Rita Lohr

September 28..... Elliott Smith

September 29..... Marzell Crotts

**ANNIVERSARIES.....** NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK