

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

90th Birthday

CELEBRATION HONORING

Geraldine Hill

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018
FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
104 EAST CENTER STREET
LEXINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

PLEASE JOIN US TO WISH MOM
A HAPPY BIRTHDAY

TRACY & DIANNE HILL
BELINDA & EDDIE YATES
BARBARA HILL

No gifts please, but cards would be nice!

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

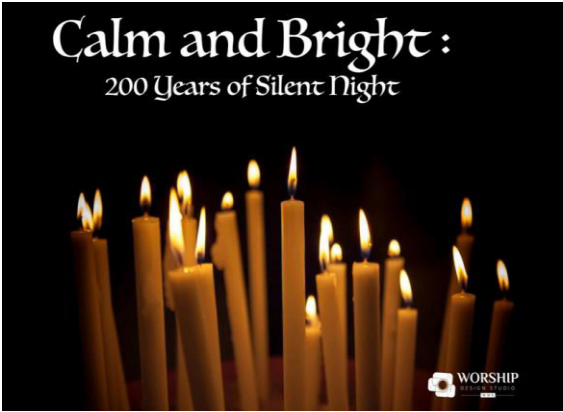
Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Horton (elizabeth@frucc.org, cell/text #336-972-8895)

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

Director of Spiritual Growth and Renewal: 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)



Calm and Bright :
200 Years of Silent Night

*First Reformed
United Church of Christ*

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

**December 23, 2018
11:00AM**

*We are an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ.
No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

Welcome! If you are visiting with us, please fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate when passed. If you would like to request prayer for yourself or someone else, Prayer Request Cards can be found on the backs of the pews, as well. Childcare for infants through Kindergarten is offered. Hearing devices are available. Please let an usher know if you need assistance.

* PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

The Worship of God
Fourth Sunday of Advent - HOPE

Gather

Prelude	
Welcome and Announcements	Elizabeth Horton
Choral Call to Worship	<i>"Calm and Bright"</i>
*Hymn	<i>"O Come, All Ye Faithful"</i>
*Opening Prayer	Insert June Grubb

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6 with refrain

John Francis Wade (c. 1740–1743)
Trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841

John Francis Wade (c. 1740–1743)
Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing,
*3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
Je - sus, to Thee - be all glo - ry given;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!

Come, and be - hold Him, Born the King of an - gels!
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est!

Refrain
O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -

dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Lighting the Advent Candle of HOPE

June Grubb

**People: Fill us with your joy and light.
Make the world so calm and bright.**

Presenting the Symbol "The Manger"

**People: As we celebrate, we praise you, O God,
for the humble way your amazing love comes into the world.
May we share your love with others.**

Prayers of the People

Elizabeth Horton

Congregational Response

"Christ, Be Our Light"

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to You.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

**Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

Invitation to Give Our Tithes and Offerings

Elizabeth Horton

Offertory

*Doxology

VENI EMMANUEL

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

*Prayer of Dedication

June Grubb

Proclaim

Scripture

Luke 1: 26-38
Luke 1: 39-46

Elizabeth Horton
June Grubb

Youth Nativity Program

"Christ the Savior Is Born"

Insert

Respond

*Call to Discipleship

June Grubb

Liturgist: And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Who will go for us and bring hope into the world?"

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

*Benediction

Elizabeth Horton

*Taking the Light into the World

*Choral Benediction

"We Need a Silent Night in Here"

*Passing the Peace

{Please greet those around you with a sign of God's Peace}

*Postlude

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

TREE OF ANGELS

Donations for The **Tree of "Angels"** in the breezeway of the Education Building can still be made. To place an angel on the tree in honor or memory of someone, please contact the church office. Donations will assist with year-end benevolences. (carolyn@frucc.org or 336-248-2617)

ATTENTION...

CURRENT COLLEGE STUDENTS!

It is time to apply for the Hinkle, Sink, Swing Scholarship. Applications are available in the church office or can be emailed by contacting paula@frucc.org. Applications should be completed and back in the office by **DECEMBER 31, 2018.**

WILLING WEAVERS TO BEGIN AGAIN!

Gennie Lou Byerly and Glenyce Fulton are beginning a new group of weavers on January 8, 2019. They make mats out of plastic grocery bags to donate to the homeless shelters. This group is open to EVERYONE!

Regular meetings will be held on Tuesday mornings at 10:00AM in the classroom beside the nursery in the Education Building. If you are unable to help weave at the church, there are things that can be done at home to prepare bags to be woven into mats.

Contact Gennie Lou (336-475-7785) or Glenyce (336-250-8739) if you are interested in being a part of the Willing Weavers ministry. Also, start saving those plastic bags to be used in making the new mats!



Our Christmas Eve Offering will go to **The Christmas Fund of the UCC, formerly known as Veterans of the Cross.** This fund provides direct financial support to retired and current clergy and their families who face financial hardships by supplementing retirement accounts and health insurance premiums and providing Emergency grants and Christmas "Thank You" gifts.

There is a growing number of retired clergy whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. Many UCC clergy serve small congregations with few financial resources. This fund helps ministers, who have served and shepherded faithfully, to weather the storms of unexpected disaster, illness, or other unforeseen circumstances that create financial need. Please give as you are able to this ministry of compassion and care. **Special Envelopes will be available Christmas Eve. If you'd like to donate earlier, write "The Christmas Fund" on the memo line of your check.**

HYMNS USED IN THE BULLETIN ARE REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION UNDER ONELICENSE.NET (LICENSE #A-720854) AND/OR FROM THE NEW CENTURY HYMNAL, COPYRIGHT © 1995 THE PILGRIM PRESS. PERMISSION IS GRANTED FOR THIS ONE-TIME USE OR COPYRIGHT © 1990 WESTMINSTER/JOHN KNOX PRESS THE PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL: HYMNS, PSALMS, AND SPIRITUAL SONGS, OR ARE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Thank You for Serving Our Church

LITURGIST: June Grubb

PLATE ATTENDANT: John Potts

SOUND TECHNICIAN: Jeremy Peterson

USHER CHAIRPERSON: Jeff Hutchens

USHER CAPTAIN: Rich Johnson

USHERS: Frank Callicutt, Ron Hutcheson,
Doris Sink

YOUTH USHER: Mary Lloyd Callicutt

ACOLYTE: Abbie Callicutt

BIBLE STEWARD: Annabelle Callicutt

GREETERS: The Lovells

Jeremy, Keri, Ethan & Kyndell

**NURSERY {INFANTS-KINDERGARTEN}:
NO NURSERY THIS WEEK**

- ❖ 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 Ben Hale (benjaminhale08@comcast.net or 704-772-6908) or call the church office (336-248-2617).

CHURCH MEMBERS: Denise Durham, Tammy Rhodes, Bill Walser, Janelle Bunn, Vogen Everhart, Peggy Bates, Margot Everhart, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Marzell Crofts, Jo Hudson, Valerie Price, Ruth Fritts, Rita Tussey, Hoyle Potts, Doris Flynt, James Everhart

OUR FRIENDS: Cheri Yates (Eddie Yates' step-mother), Eric Cole (son of visitor, Jill Cole, in training for Border Patrol in New Mexico), Charm Ketner, Harold Holste (Alane Holste's father), Boyd & Bonnie Perry (Friends of Frankie Hedrick), Kathe Everhart (Frankie Hedrick's sister-in-law), Jeanette Ingle (Friend of Bill & Cheryl Walser), Chris Greene (Michell Winter's step-brother), Virginia Hill (Cathy Waitman's mother), Laura Williams (Carolyn Robbins' 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 Haydon (Friend of Kivi Miller), Dan Smith (Brother of Steve and Jerry Smith), Eddie Wray (Friend of Lisa Nelson), Lynn Younts (Friend of Susie Smith), Eliza Paris (Friend of Sylvia Walser's granddaughter)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 23

9:45AM – YOUTH: NATIVITY PROGRAM PRACTICE

{SANCTUARY}

ADULTS: STUDYING ROMANS WITH

DOUG SINK {PARLOR}

11:00AM – WORSHIP: 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Youth Nativity Program:

“CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR IS BORN”

Monday, December 24

8:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION SERVICE {SANCTUARY}

CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING

Tuesday, December 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Church Office Is Closed

Wednesday, December 26

Church Office Is Closed

Thursday, December 27

5:30PM Yoga {Parlor}

7:00PM Square Dancing {FH}

Sunday, December 30

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

11:00AM – WORSHIP: FIRST SUNDAY

AFTER CHRISTMAS

IN THE PULPIT: REV. MIKE HOOPER

BAPTISM OF WILLIAM HOOPER

FOLLOWING WORSHIP...

90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR GERRI HILL

IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Tuesday, January 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Church Office Is Closed

2019 Offering Envelopes are available for pickup in the Narthex

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AND HOLY COMMUNION

Our annual Candlelight and Holy Communion service will be held at 8:00PM on Monday, December 24th.

HOLIDAYS FOR THE CHURCH OFFICE

The church office will be closed on Tuesday, December 25th and Wednesday, December 26th.

REV. HORTON ON VACATION

Rev. Horton will be on vacation December 26-January 2. Rev. June Grubb (336-248-5668) will be on call in case of emergencies. You may also contact the church office.

REV. MIKE HOOPER will be in the pulpit on December 30. His grandson, William, will be baptized during the 11:00 worship service.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES {DECEMBER 23-29}

BIRTHDAYS

December 23	Parker Horton
December 24	Tim Potts
December 28	Walter Hoffman
	Susan Miller

ANNIVERSARIES

(NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK)

Youth Nativity Program

Solo "Breath of Heaven" Ellen Peterson

Scripture Luke 2: 1-20 Jonathan Kepley

Scripture Matthew 2: 1-2, 9-11 Kalyssa Hutchens

"Christ the Savior Is Born" by Tim Wesemann
Claire Smith, Reader

*The stars danced and twinkled in Bethlehem's sky,
Awaiting good news from the angels nearby.*

Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

***O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.***

*Young Mary, with Joseph, felt time drawing near.
Both knew God the Father was leading them here.
They searched the whole town for a safe place to stay,
But all that they found was a stable with hay.
Although all alone and most likely afraid,
They clung to God's plan as they trusted and prayed.*

*At just the right time and in God's chosen place,
A newborn soon cried in his parents' embrace.*

*As bright stars shone down from the dark sky above,
Christ Jesus was born - He's the Gift of God's love.
Then Mary wrapped Jesus all snugly and tight,
While angels in heaven rejoiced at the sight.*

Hymn

"The First Noel"

***The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, noel, noel, noel, born is the King of Israel.***

*God wanted the whole world to hear His good news.
But how should He tell them? And whom should He choose?
He could have told kings, or the rich or the smart.
Instead He picked shepherds - the lowly of heart.*

*The Lord sent His angels to dark fields that night.
The shepherds fell down at the bright, holy sight!*

*The angels announced, "Do not fear! This is true:
Good news of great joy straight from heaven to you!"*

*"Christ the Savior is born! Jesus the King!
Christ the Savior is born! Praises we sing!"
They glorified God and gave praise to His name,
While shepherds on earth joined in all the acclaim.*

Hymn

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

***It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
Peace on the earth, goodwill to men from Heav'n's all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.***

*The shepherds found Jesus, as angels had said,
All swaddled and loved and with hay for a bed.*

*They knelt down to worship, right there in that place,
Then left to tell all of God's wonderful grace.
And all were amazed at the news they were told
By these joyful shepherds, a story so bold.*

Hymn

“Away in a Manger”

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle ‘til morning is nigh.*

*O morning stars, together proclaim the Holy Birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.*

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sins and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell,
O come to us, abide with us; Our Lord Emmanuel!*

Solo

“Joseph’s Song”

Walter Hoffman

*Then out of the East, Wise Men came from afar.
They followed a big, bright and beautiful star.
Gold, incense, and myrrh - at His feet they laid down
Their gifts for the King born in Bethlehem town.*

*They looked one last time at the Christ Child’s sweet face
And saw there for certain the God of all grace.*

Prayer

Elizabeth Horton

Cast:

Mary
Jianna Miller

Joseph
Bryson Gentry

Shepherds
Jacob Hartle, Parker Horton, Patrick Horton

Angels
**Isabella Gentry, Emma Hartle, Kyndell Lovell,
Emory Smith, Caroline White**

Wise Men
Ethan Lovell, Lucas Peterson, Elliott Smith

Readers
Kalyssa Hutcheson, Jonathan Kepley, Claire Smith

Soloists
Walter Hoffman, Ellen Peterson

Pianist
Lee Ann Peele

Helpers
Alice Gray, Lena Johnson, Carolyn Robbins

Hymn

We Three Kings

*We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

*They left then for home on a bright, starry night.
Perhaps they heard songs of God’s angels in flight!*

*Christ the Savior is born! Jesus the King!
Christ the Savior is born! Praises we sing!*

Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*For Christ is born of Mary; And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep and angels keep their watch of wondering love.*