

First Reformed United Church of Christ

Lexington, NC

DECEMBER 2019

The season of Advent is upon us. It's a four-week time of preparation for the coming of Christ. When the consumer-driven world around us tells us how to get ready for Christmas with buying a lot of stuff we don't really need or filling our schedules to the brim, Advent calls us to a different kind of preparation... one of spiritual preparation for the celebration of Christmas. We reflect upon and prepare our hearts and homes for the birth of one born in humble circumstances.

It is a time of anticipation and longing. In the middle of the shadows and dark of winter, we easily lose hope. We can feel as if the night will last forever. Advent is the reminder that the light always shines in the darkness. Christ will always come.

Advent calls us to look for God in the unexpected places doing unexpected things... who would have ever thought that God would be born in a barn?

With humble hearts, let us follow the Star of Bethlehem, into the unexpected places where God dwells.

~Elizabeth



SPECIAL EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Sunday, December 1

- 9:45** First Sunday Church-wide Social
- 10:00** Children/Youth Program Practice
- 11:00** First Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion & Baptism

Sunday, December 8

- 9:45** Children/Youth Program Practice
- 11:00** Children/Youth Christmas Program
- 12:00** Church Christmas Catered Luncheon

Sunday, December 15

- 9:45** Intergenerational Activities
- 11:00** Cantata

Sunday, December 22

- 9:45** Intergenerational Activities
- 11:00** Worship

Monday, December 23

Fundraiser: BBQ Pork Loin Sale

Tuesday, December 24

- 8:00** Candlelight Service & Holy Communion

Sunday, December 29

- 10:00** "Sweet & Salty" Gathering {FH}
Bring your left-over Christmas sweets & treats to share
- 11:00** Worship

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.

Lucas Bustamante Cruz was baptized



during the 11:00 worship service on November 17. What a special service this was!

Lucas is the son of Maria Cruz. His has two sisters, Jasmin and Alyson.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

FIRST REFORMED UCC

**Candlelight Service & Holy Communion
Beginning at 8:00PM**

1st UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**310 South Main Street
Two Evening Services
beginning at 5:30PM and 11:00PM**

1st PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**15 West Third Avenue
Evening Service beginning at 5:00PM**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

**201 West Third Avenue
Candlelight Service beginning at 5:00PM**

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**419 South Main Street
Evening Service at 5:00PM**

1st LUTHERAN CHURCH

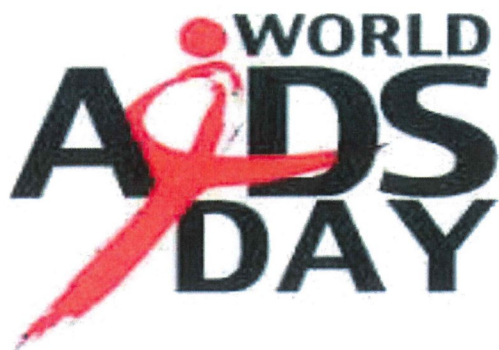
**320 South State Street
Evening Service and Holy Communion
11:00PM**

Music begins at 10:30

SECOND UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**330 North Church Street
Children's "Birthday Party for Jesus"
5:00PM**

**Candlelight Service
7:00PM**



*"KNOW
YOUR
STATUS"*

Sunday, December 1 at 3pm

First Reformed UCC, Fellowship Hall
104 E. Center Street, Lexington, NC 27292

*If I Knew Then
What I Know Now*

A collection of dramatic monologues –
stories of the impact of HIV and AIDS

Presented by

FirstFruits Drama Ministry of
Saint Matthews UMC, Greensboro, NC



Sponsored by: East Lexington Collaborative Ministries
St. Stephen UMC, Shadyside Presbyterian, 1st Reformed UCC, 2nd UCC
No Charge; Offering taken to benefit Positive Wellness Alliance



The True Meaning of Christmas

**Children's Christmas Program
December 8, 2018 at 11:00am**

~~~~~

**Catered Luncheon at 12:00  
...and a Special Visitor!**



**CATERED CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON  
Sunday, December 8**

**TO HELP WITH PLANNING AND SEATING,  
PLEASE SIGN UP BY DECEMBER 4TH!**

**(Place form in offering plate or call the office  
to add your name to the list.)**

**Menu: baked ham, mac & cheese, green beans,  
buttered corn, baked apples, tea & lemonade**

**PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU ARE ABLE TO BRING  
A DESSERT TO SHARE.**

**Catered Christmas  
Luncheon  
December 8, 2019**



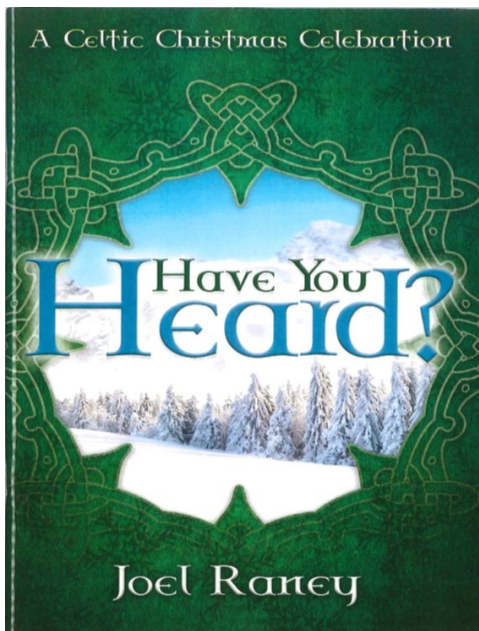
**Suggested Contribution:**

**Adults: \$8.00    Children 10 & Under: \$4.00**

**NAME \_\_\_\_\_**

**# ADULTS \_\_\_\_\_ # CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_**

**I CAN BRING A DESSERT \_\_\_\_\_**



**DECEMBER 15TH  
11:00AM WORSHIP**

## **HAVE YOU HEARD? A CELTIC CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

**Come join us in worship as the Adult  
Choir presents their annual  
Christmas Cantata.**

**"Have You Heard?"** revisits the Christmas story using captivating Celtic music. It includes many familiar Christmas carols and familiar Christmas texts set to beloved Irish and Welsh folk songs. Combined with original music and scripture narration, you'll hear a refreshing re-telling of the Christmas story.

**Come and be blessed and filled with  
the joy of this wonderful season!**

# SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER

~submitted by June Grubb

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The first two Sunday's in December (1st and 8th) our Children and Youth will be preparing for their Worship leadership for Sunday December 15th .

## ADULT EDUCATION

The Adult Education Class will meet in the Parlor on the first two Sunday's in December with Lisa Nelson leading a discussion on "Preparing for Christmas with Saint Francis of Assisi." Saint Francis, in the thirteenth century, is credited with creating the first living nativity, a reenactment of the birth of Jesus in a Bethlehem stable. We will use the life of Saint Francis as a lens to explore the beginnings and variety of nativity and Advent traditions that guide us in looking for signs of God's love in our world, personally and globally.

## A DISPLAY OF CRECHES (NATIVITY SCENES) AS TABLE DECORATIONS FOR LUNCH ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

You are invited to share your nativity scene with us as we participate in our Christmas Luncheon. Please bring your nativity set to the Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning, December 8th, before Sunday School. They will become part of the table decorations.

## INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE OTHER SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER

### Sunday, December 15th:

Our children, youth and adults will explore the Spanish tradition of Las Posadas, a visit to The Inns. This is a nine day tradition which began in villages of Mexico where children, dressed as angels, Mary or Joseph lead a procession to neighbors' homes in a search for safe shelter for the Holy Family to have their child. Each night ends at a home where there are food, songs, and scripture. The adults will be invited to write Christmas notes to loved ones or to members of our congregation who are home bound. The children will celebrate by hitting a Piñata, filled with candies!

### Sunday, December 22nd:

Our children, youth and adults will participate in an activity of decorating cookies which will be shared with friends and family.

### Sunday, December 29th:

Everyone will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 for a "Sweet and Salty Gathering." Bring your left over goodies as we greet one another after Christmas.

### Sunday, January 5th:

We will celebrate Epiphany as we all gather in the fellowship hall for a craft activity of making decorative Wise Men (Kings). We will celebrate with a King's cake for dessert.

During this Advent Season I invite you and your family to take time in your busy days to read scripture, sing songs and rejoice as you prepare your hearts and minds for the coming of the Holy One among us. A few scripture passages you might share with one another:

**Malachi 3:1-4**

**Luke 3:1-5**

**Isaiah 12:2-6**

**Micah 5:2-5a**

**Matthew 2:13-23**

**Luke 1:68-79**

**Zephaniah 3:14-20**

**Luke 3:7-18**

**Luke 139-45**

And you may wish to pray the "Peace Prayer" of Saint Francis as a way to prepare to greet the Christ child in the midst of these last weeks of busyness:

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine Master, grant that I may not so much  
seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal  
life.  
Amen.*

## ~ THANK YOU NOTES ~



Thank you for your many donations during the **SMILE DRIVE**, a project of Matt Johnson's for **America's Tooth Fairy** program. In addition to the basket filled with supplies of toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss and other items, monetary gifts totaling \$197 were also received for this project. Items collected were presented to Charles England Elementary School, as requested by Matt.

Dear First Reformed UCC,

Thank you to our members and guests for attending our Homecoming events this year. A special appreciation to everyone who brought delicious food for our lunch. Many thanks to the Congregational Meal Team for dedicating their time and hard work to make the meal a success! Thank you to the Thomason Endowment Fund for sponsoring Ken Davis, who performed special music for our Homecoming service.

Rita Lohr and the Homecoming Committee

Dear All,

Thank you so much for all the love and support in the loss of our mother, Jo Hudson. The lunch before the service was wonderful for our family. We appreciate the extra time to spend together. The service full of music filled our hearts, especially the Choir's hymn, the touching solo by Ellen Peterson and the organ/sax duet of the Lord's Prayer. Mom would have approved.

Also, thanks to Carolyn for all her time and care in making sure the flowers and the bulletin were per-

fect. And Elizabeth, your words of worship are always relative and moving. We appreciate everything you did to lift our spirits and celebrate Mom's life.

Daughters,  
Jan Hudson Raper and Jo Dee Hudson

First Reformed UCC sends a big THANK YOU to Vicky Gray for her continued efforts to make our church grounds look great. We benefit year-round from her wonderful work and her "green thumb" talents. Thank you sincerely, Vicky, for all you do!



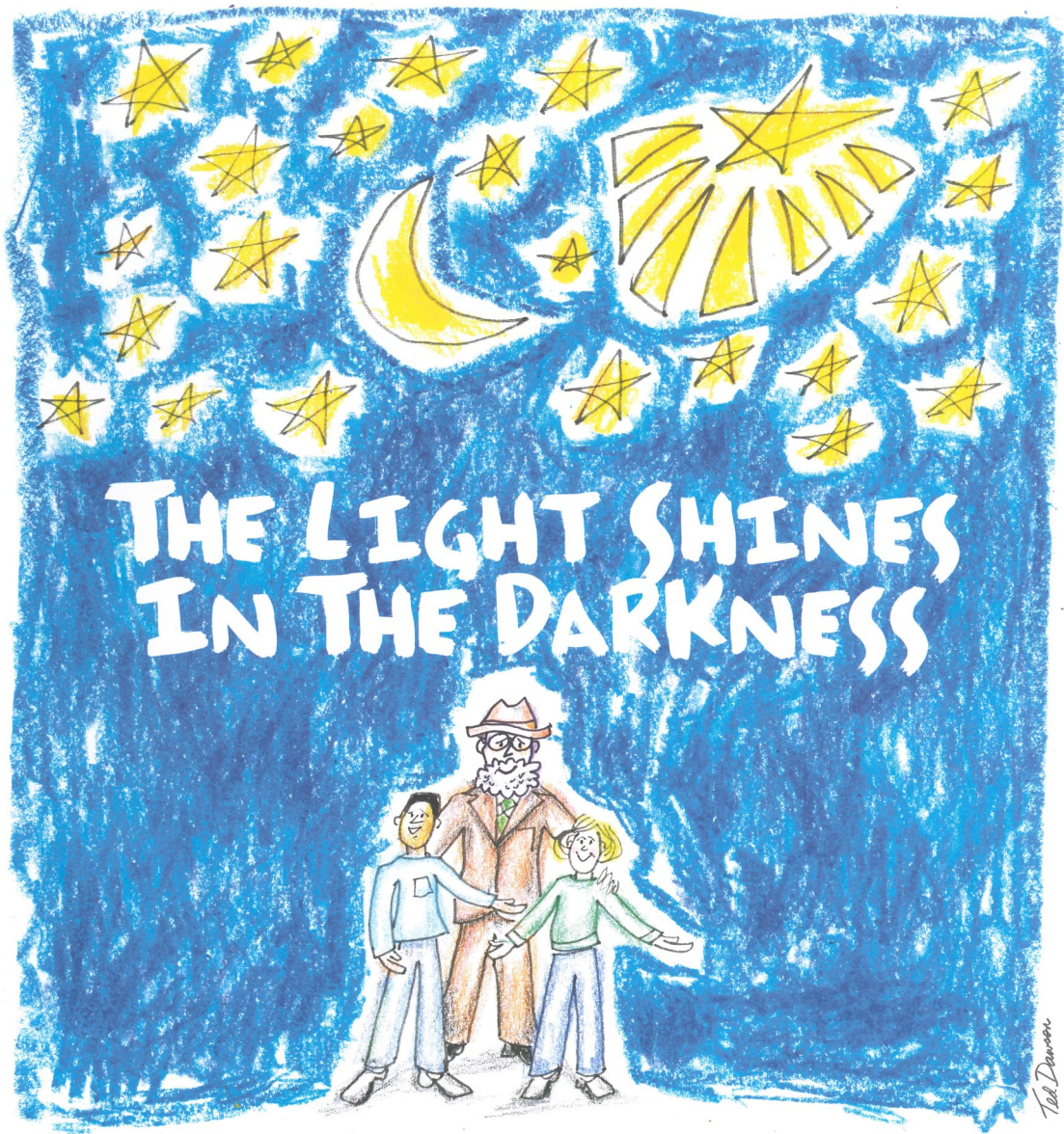
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM

**Nazareth Child & Family Connection**

*"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."*

2 Corinthians 9:11





## THE CHRISTMAS FUND

### For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a tangible expression of God's love and light in the world for over 115 years. One of the four Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ, the Christmas Fund provides UCC congregations and members an opportunity to reach out in compassion to those who have faithfully shepherded our Church and who now find themselves facing worrisome financial needs. The United Church Board of Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards, on behalf of the whole church, passes on this direct support so that these needs may be met and our support may be felt.

**Through your gifts to the Christmas Fund, you can help ensure that "The Light Shines in the Darkness" for those who have so faithfully served our church.**

On behalf of the hundreds of clergy and lay employees and their families whose lives were touched by your support of last year's Christmas Fund Offering, we offer our sincere thanks for your generosity.

**Please look for the envelopes for this year's offering in the bulletin on Sunday, December 22.**

# **CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS**

## **FROM THE NOVEMBER 10, 2019 MEETING**

### **Board of Business Management and Stewardship**

#### **Financial Report:**

- The average weekly offering for October was \$4,885; month end available funds: \$13,588.

#### **Board of Community Outreach:** Jerry Lovell reported

- Thank you to members of the congregation who cooked/served at lunch at Grace Episcopal Church in November.

#### **Board of Congregational Life:** Kivi Miller and Mike Price reported

- The last two congregational meals have used china and glass to reduce use of plastic and Styrofoam. Child-appropriate plates, bowls and cups have been ordered.
- The suggested contribution for meals was quite successful.
- Name tags are in the process of being made for all members.

#### **Board of Evangelism:** Dave Fulton and Harriette Murphy reported

- Banner in front of Education Building being replaced and will be donated by Davidson Speed Printing.
- Average attendance for the month of October was 105.
- Organ/Music recital is being planned for the Fall of 2020.

#### **Board of Spiritual Growth and Renewal:**

- Search continues for Directory of Spiritual Growth & Renewal.
- Continue to need teacher/helpers for Sunday school for children/youth
- Thank you to those who contributed to the October Food Drive for Pastor's Pantry. Nine crates of food were collected.

#### **Board of Worship and Sacrament:**

- Thank you to the Homecoming Committee, Rita Lohr (chair), Patti Lovell and Susie Smith for a wonderful homecoming service and also the Meal Team: Belinda & Eddie Yates (captains), Renee Walsh & Travis White, John & Susie Smith, Ann & Walter Hoffman, Cheryl Walser and Marge Doty for their help.
- Music Committee will be moving forward with the search for organist/pianist.
- The Decorating Committee, under the leadership of Jeff Hutchens, Lisa Nelson, Mike Price and Mary Jo Jessup will decorate the sanctuary and educational building on Tuesday, November 26 beginning at 6:30.

#### **Property Committee:** Eddie Yates reported

- Still reviewing options and getting quotes for keypad / entrance options for SDA Dance Studio door
- The Property Committee reviewed quotes for HVAC maintenance and recommended Central Services to the Consistory.

#### **New Business:**

**Staff Christmas Gift Letter:** The congregation was offered an opportunity to participate in donating funds to be distributed equally to the church staff for Christmas.

**Handicap Accessibility:** Continued research is needed

**Fellowship Hall Use by Open Hands Ministry:** Discussed possible ways to help Open Hands minister to homeless on nights with extremely cold temperatures. More information to come.

**Elections and Leadership:** Nominees for Elders, Deacons and Trustees were presented to the congregation. Consistory will have a called meeting December 8th after the luncheon to approve Consistory officers for 2020.

**Consistory Gathering:** Rev. Horton invited new, outgoing, current Consistory and the church staff to a gathering at the Horton's home on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Worship Time December 29<sup>th</sup>:** Consistory voted to have a coffee hour at 10am. Bring salty and sweet leftovers to share. There will not be any Sunday school. Worship is at 11am.

**Alternative Gifts:** Consistory approved adding Girl Scout Troup #2160 to the benevolent organizations on the alternative gift donation form.

**The next regularly scheduled Consistory meeting is January 12, 2020.**



**~NOVEMBER~**  
**MEMORIALS**

RUTH FRITTS

ANNE BEVAN

JAMES EVERHART

ANNE BEVAN

MARGIE EVERHART

ANNE BEVAN

THOMAS & DEBORAH HARDIN

SARAH "JO" HUDSON

J. W. BATES

ANNE BEVAN

MIKE & LYNN BROWN

FRUCC MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

FRANK LEONARD

CLIFF & PAULA LOPP

CALVIN & SUSAN ODOM

JAN HUDSON RAPER & JO DEE HUDSON

BILL & CAROLYN ROBBINS

ELIZABETH SINK

MR. & MRS. STEVE SMITH

CAROLYN SPIVEY

CAROLYN WARD

(JOHN & JAMES GRAY'S AUNT)

PEGGY BATES

MIKE & LYNN BROWN

CLIFF & PAULA LOPP

TONY & LEE ANN PEELE

BILL & CAROLYN ROBBINS

VALERIE PRICE

BRENDON & JUDITH BAILEY

J. W. BATES

ANNE BEVAN

MIKE & LYNN BROWN

JOHN & VICKY GRAY

JERRY & MERLE HODGES

FRANK LEONARD

JAMES & ELIZABETH LEONARD

CLIFF & PAULA LOPP

CALVIN & SUSAN ODOM

TONY & LEE ANN PEELE

BILL & CAROLYN ROBBINS

KATHERINE SKIPPER

JERRY & AURELIA SMITH

MR. & MRS. STEVE SMITH

STEVE & CATHY WAITMAN

CONEY LEONARD

(SYLVIA WALSER'S BROTHER)

MIKE & LYNN BROWN

JERRY & MERLE HODGES

CLIFF & PAULA LOPP

BILL & CAROLYN ROBBINS

**~NOVEMBER~**  
**HONORARIUMS**

JAMES GRAY'S BIRTHDAY

JOHN & VICKY GRAY

## MORNING GLORY CIRCLE

*~submitted by Rita Lohr*

The Morning Glory Circle met at the church on November 6 to travel to Piedmont Crossing for a visit with Mary Berrier. The visit was extended through lunch where all enjoyed lots of good conversation. The circle will meet next month on December 6th at 11:00 at Yarborough's.



## FRIENDSHIP CLUB

*~submitted by Paula Lopp*

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, the Friendship Club did not meet in November but will have a joint November/December meeting on **Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** in the church fellowship hall. The meeting is scheduled to begin at **11:30am**. Chicken casseroles will be provided. Members/guests are asked to bring side dishes and dessert. **EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND!**

## WOMEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP

*~submitted by Glenyce Fulton*

WLF joined Men's Brotherhood for dinner before beginning our meeting in the parlor. Thanks to the men who prepared delicious chicken stew and the women made wonderful desserts.

Linda Sink called our meeting to order and June Grubb shared devotions – "In All Things be Thankful".

WLF discussed upcoming events. On November 20<sup>th</sup> we will prepare and serve dinner for the youth group which is led by Susan Morris. We invite the congregation to come to the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:15 am to make a purchase at our annual bake sale. Mary Jo Jessup will have her delicious sausage biscuits available for purchase as well, so come hungry. (Coffee and juice will be available.)

We also discussed some dates in January to prepare and sell our famous vegetable soup. The date will be announced later; we will take orders in advance.

No meeting of WLF in December, but we will be back on schedule to join the men in January 2020.

## KID'S CLUB

*~submitted by Alice Gray*

When Kids Club met on November 10, we created a special poster centered around this verse, "Let us come before Him with Thanksgiving." Psalm 95:2. The children constructed colorful turkeys, Indian corn, maple leaves, and pumpkins to surround the verse on the poster. It was on display in the Fellowship Hall during the month for our church members, Open Hands, and community members who were served lunch at our church on Thanksgiving Day to observe.

## MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

*~submitted by Cliff Lopp*

The Men's Brotherhood met Tuesday, November 12, with another delicious meal. Women's Life Fellowship joined them for the meal and brought desserts to share.

Everyone was reminded of tickets being sold for the BBQ Pork Loins available for pick up on Monday, December 23. The deadline for the ticket sales is December 16.

The Brotherhood will not meet in December but have plans for a get-together in January with Women's Life Fellowship, spouses included, for a special meal.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Gardeners' Conference

Sponsored by Davidson County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association

**Open to the Public**

**When:** February 6, 2020

Snow Date Feb. 13

**Where:** Center United Methodist  
Church of Welcome

(186 Center Church Road, Lexington, NC 27295)

**Time:** 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

**Cost:** \$40 (includes morning refreshments and hot lunch)

Many craft, plant and gardening supply vendors will be there too!



### Main Speakers:

Bryce Lane: "Landscapes that Save the World: The Importance of Bio-diversity in the Garden"

Ted Stephens: "New and Fascinating Plants for the Landscape"

### Concurrent Sessions:

- Encouraging Beneficial Insects in the Garden
- Edible Landscapes for the birds, bees, & your brood
- Capturing Rain in the Garden
- Gardening in Small Spaces
- Miracle in the Garden – The Importance of Lime



Registration opens Nov. 1, 2019. Limited to 200 registrants.

Registration forms available at the Davidson Co. Cooperative Extension Office (301 E Center St. in Lexington) Or print from: [go.ncsu.edu/gardenersconference2020](http://go.ncsu.edu/gardenersconference2020)

Call 336-242-2080 for more information

**NC STATE** EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Davidson County

# Puzzle!

Unscramble the Christmas-themed words below, writing each extra letter on the blank to the right. Then place those extra letters in the correct spots below to discover what we receive at Christmas.



1. TGLBEHHEME \_\_\_\_\_
2. NEAGLO \_\_\_\_\_
3. NRMEDAG \_\_\_\_\_
4. ODEKSNY \_\_\_\_\_
5. AMGYZ \_\_\_\_\_
6. OHESJIP \_\_\_\_\_
7. EFJUSS \_\_\_\_\_
8. ITEENMSW \_\_\_\_\_
9. SPHDSREEO \_\_\_\_\_
10. EMCFAL \_\_\_\_\_
11. TLSRA \_\_\_\_\_
12. CSSNUEO \_\_\_\_\_
13. HEVSPE \_\_\_\_\_
14. ENIN \_\_\_\_\_

|    |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |
|----|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5  | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9  |   |   |   | 10 |   |   |   |
| 11 |   |   |   | 12 |   |   |   |
| 13 |   |   |   | 14 |   |   |   |

## ORGANIST/PIANIST SEARCH



First Reformed United Church of Christ in Lexington, NC is seeking an Organist/Pianist effective February 2020. He/she will work collaboratively with the Choir Director and Minister to provide the music ministry for all Sunday morning regular and special church services and choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings. Salary commensurate with education and experience. FRUCC 's Sanctuary Organ is a Casavant Freres Opus 3113 Pipe Organ constructed in St. Hyacinthe, Quebec Canada and purchased in 1972. The congregation takes great pride in this fine instrument which plays to the glory of Almighty God.

First Reformed United Church of Christ is a moderately sized congregation in Uptown Lexington, NC. For more information about us, please visit our website at [www.frucc.org](http://www.frucc.org). Questions, resumes and/or additional details about the position should be directed to:

[FRUCCOrganistsearch@gmail.com](mailto:FRUCCOrganistsearch@gmail.com) or 336-731-4256.



## BOARD OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

~submitted by Jerry Lovell

### Grace Episcopal Church

John Maze and Susie Smith took lead roles in food preparation and cooking for this shared community ministry. They have already prepared two meals in November, and they plan to do more in the coming months. Girl Scouts Troop #2160, who meet at our church, have recently served the meal, as have about thirty other volunteers from First. You're welcome and encouraged to help with this mission. Contact John Maze, Susie Smith, or Jerry Lovell (336-746-6493) to get more information and to sign up.

### Charles England Elementary School

We are continuing to support the Backpack Food Program at CEES. Your response has been wonderful and we thank you! There will be an even bigger need in the weeks ahead because of the two-week Christmas break. Your continued support with both food donations and financial assistance is greatly appreciated.

### Clothing Closet

The Clothes Closet has surpassed any of our expectations! We have been open for four weeks on Monday evenings prior to the Open Hands Meal. During this short time, we have given out about 1000 pieces of clothing (pants, shirts, dresses, hats, sweaters, sweat-shirts, scarves, coats, etc.) We also received some gently used toys and children's books that brought smiles to children's faces.

We are still open, but the inventory is getting low. Please help as you can. It's going to get colder!

### *Clothing Closet*



### Salvation Army Bell Ringers

Volunteers from First have signed up to ring the bell and man the Red Kettle at the back entrance to Lanier Hardware on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. All the time slots have been filled. Please refer to the lists on the next page for your day and time.

### Alternative Gifts

On Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, the Alternative Gift Project was kicked off. There will be someone from the Community Outreach Committee in the Narthex each Sunday until Christmas to accept donations. These donations will go to budgeted benevolences/organizations of the donor's choice. A list of suggestions and cards to send to the recipients for acknowledgements will be available.

### Touching Davidson County With Love

The date for TDCWL has been set for Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Details will be coming.



Touching DC  
With Love



## BELL RINGERS FOR SALVATION ARMY

**LOCATION: LANIER'S ACE HARDWARE...SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7**

|             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| 10:00-11:00 | Mark Smith & Family |
| 11:00-12:00 | John & Vicky Gray   |
| 12:00-1:00  | John & Vicky Gray   |
| 1:00-2:00   | Steve Smith         |
| 2:00-3:00   | Lena Johnson        |
| 3:00-4:00   | Susan Morris        |
| 4:00-5:00   | Clifford Lopp       |
| 5:00-6:00   | Clifton Murphy      |

**LOCATION: LANIER'S ACE HARDWARE...TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10**

|             |                            |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 10:00-11:00 | Alisa Johnson              |
| 11:00-12:00 | Mike Hooper                |
| 12:00-1:00  | James & Alice Gray         |
| 1:00-2:00   | James & Alice Gray         |
| 2:00-3:00   | Dave & Glenyce Fulton      |
| 3:00-4:00   | Dave & Glenyce Fulton      |
| 4:00-5:00   | Travis White & Renee Walsh |
| 5:00-6:00   | Travis White & Renee Walsh |

# Community Garden Wraps Up Another Successful Year

~submitted by Edgar Miller

The last harvests of sweet potatoes and butter-nut squash are done and most of the garden beds have been planted with clover and rye cover crops for the winter, save for few beds of winter collards, cabbage and greens. This completes the 9<sup>th</sup> year of the First Reformed Community Garden and our second year in partnership with Open Hands Ministry (OHM) of Davidson County, whose clients tend to the garden working with church volunteer supervision.

This year the garden produced more than 600 pounds of fresh produce for Pastors Pantry and OHM, as well as more than 20 pounds of sweet potatoes donated to Grace Episcopal for their Sunday lunches. The Garden also hosted the first ever "Great Tomato Sandwich Give-away" on July 27, where we gave away tomato sandwiches to more than 50 community residents. On September 15, fourteen church youth harvested 25 pounds of okra, tomatoes, eggplants, peppers and butternut squash.



The Garden ministry and its continuation would not be possible without the financial support of church members and others in



the community, like the Lexington Garden Club, who gave the Garden a \$1,000 grant this year. This funding, and other donations allow us to pay a living wage to the OHM garden workers who maintain the garden beds, keep the garden free of weeds, plant seeds and plants and harvest and deliver the produce.



The Church garden volunteers, garden workers and recipients of the fresh produce very much appreciate those individuals and organizations supporting the Garden ministry. As we prepare to celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year, we are grateful for First Reformed UCC's and the larger community's support for this ongoing mission to serve those less fortunate in our community.



## THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN DECEMBER

### Liturgists:

Rev June Grubb and Brian McKerlie

### Usher Chairperson

Jeff Hutchens

### Usher Captain:

Rich Johnson

### Ushers:

Frank Callicutt, Doris Sink

Ron Hutcheson

### Youth Usher:

Annabell Callicutt

### Plate Attendant:

John Potts

### Sound Tech:

Jeremy Peterson

### Acolyte:

Abbie Callicutt

### Bible Steward:

Elliott Smith

## FIRST SUNDAY CHURCH-WIDE SOCIAL:

The Miller Family

## DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

### Greeters:

1st: Mike & Lynn Brown

8th: Mike & Bonita Hooper

15th: Edgar & Kivi Miller

22nd: Kathleen Danze

29th: Buddy & Rita Lohr

### Nursery:

1st: Lynn Brown & Belinda Yates

8th: (No Nursery)

15th: (No Nursery)

22nd: Keri Hartle & Ashlee Snider

29th: Dave Fulton & John Smith

## OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

### OUR MEMBERS:

Ellen Bouchard, Jitter Yarbrough, Janette Neal, Charyl Clark, Lib Sink, Peggy Bates, Vogen Everhart, Katherine Skipper, Marguerite Leonard, Lindsay Sink, Bill Walser

### AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

Janelle Bunn, Marzell Crofts, Ruth Essick, Margot Everhart, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Carolyn Spivey, Adena Wall

Brookdale: Hoyle Potts

Piedmont Crossing: Mary Berrier, Doris Flynt, Rita Tussey

### OUR FRIENDS:

Barbara Miller (Eddie Yates' mother), Dr. Fred Mock (friend of Janette Neal and John Potts), The family of Joan Craven (friend of Eulene Shepherd), Jerry Crowell (Cynthia Crowell's uncle), Patricia Medlin (friend of Cynthia Crowell), Keith Sink (Lisa Nelson's neighbor), Ed Leonard and Dolores L. Martin (Sylvia Walser's brother and sister), Mason Monk (friend of Johnny & Lynn McCarn), Sara MacMillan (friend of Frankie Hedrick), Boyd Perry (friend of Frankie Hedrick), Landon Yocum (Carolyn Yocum's granddaughter)

**\*Indicates newly added.** To add a name to the prayer list please fill out a prayer request card located on the backs of the pews OR call the church office (336-248-2617).



## ATTENTION!

If you receive DVDs from the church or borrow any to view for Sundays you may be absent, please remember to return them to the office. These can be used to record more services and help control costs for this ministry.

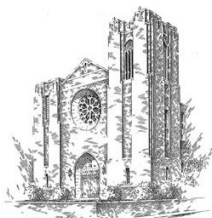


# 2019



| SUN                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | MON                                                                                                                                                                                  | TUE                                                                                                  | WED                                                                                                                                                                                     | THU                                                                                     | FRI                                                                 | SAT                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> 9:30<br>First Sunday Social<br><b>9:45</b><br>Sunday School<br><b>11:00</b><br>Worship<br>First Sunday of Advent<br>Holy Communion<br>Baptism:<br>William Owen Hooper<br><b>3:00</b><br>World Aids Day Service<br>{FH} | <b>2</b> 5:30<br>Clothes<br>Closet Open<br><b>6:30</b><br>Open Hands<br>Ministry Meal {FH}                                                                                           | <b>3</b> 6:30<br>Bd. of Evangelism<br>{P}<br><br>Bd. of Spiritual<br>Growth {Office}                 | <b>4</b> 11:00<br>Morning Glory<br>Circle<br>{Yarborough's}<br><b>6:00</b><br>Youth Ministry {FH}<br><b>6:30</b><br>Bell Choir<br>{Bell Room}<br><b>7:15</b><br>Choir<br>{Chapel Annex} | <b>5</b> 5:15<br>Yoga Class<br>{Dance Studio}                                           | <b>6</b> 6:15<br>Consistory &<br>Staff Gathering at<br>the Horton's | <b>7</b>                                         |
| <b>8</b> 9:45<br>Sunday School<br><b>11:00</b><br>Children/Youth Program:<br>"The True Meaning of<br>Christmas"<br><b>12:00</b><br>Church Christmas<br>Luncheon {FH}<br>Short Consistory Meeting<br>following lunch             | <b>9</b> 5:30<br>Clothes<br>Closet Open<br><b>6:30</b><br>Open Hands<br>Ministry Meal {FH}                                                                                           | <b>10</b> 10:00<br>Collaborative<br>Ministries {P}                                                   | <b>11</b> 11:30<br>Friendship Club<br>Covered Dish<br>Lunch {FH}<br>6:30<br>Bell Choir<br>{Bell Room}<br><b>7:15</b><br>Choir<br>{Chapel Annex}                                         | <b>12</b> 5:15<br>Yoga Class<br>{Dance Studio}<br><b>7:00</b><br>Square Dancing<br>{FH} | <b>13</b><br>Health<br>Department<br>Christmas Meal                 | <b>14</b> 10:00<br>Choir Practice<br>{Sanctuary} |
| <b>15</b> 9:45<br>Intergenerational Activities<br><b>11:00</b><br>Worship: Cantata<br>"Have You Heard?"                                                                                                                         | <b>16</b> 5:30<br>Clothes<br>Closet Open<br><b>6:30</b><br>Open Hands<br>Ministry Meal {FH}<br><div>DEADLINE FOR<br/>PORK LOIN SALE</div>                                            | <b>17</b>                                                                                            | <b>18</b> 5:30<br>Youth Ministry<br>Progressive Dinner<br>with Parents<br><b>6:30</b><br>Bell Choir<br>{Bell Room}<br><b>7:15</b><br>Choir<br>{Chapel Annex}                            | <b>19</b> 5:15<br>Yoga Class<br>{Dance Studio}<br><b>7:00</b><br>Square Dancing<br>{FH} | <b>20</b>                                                           | <b>21</b>                                        |
| <b>22</b> 9:45<br>Intergenerational Activities<br><b>11:00</b><br>Worship<br>Christmas Fund Offering                                                                                                                            | <b>23</b><br><div>NEWSLETTER<br/>ARTICLES DUE TODAY!</div> <b>BBQ Pork<br/>Loin Sale</b><br><b>5:30</b><br>Clothes<br>Closet Open<br><b>6:30</b><br>Open Hands<br>Ministry Meal {FH} | <b>24</b><br>~HOLIDAY~<br>Office Closed<br><b>8:00</b><br>Candlelight<br>Service & Holy<br>Communion | <b>25</b><br>~HOLIDAY~<br>Office Closed<br>                                                                                                                                             | <b>26</b> 5:15<br>Yoga Class<br>{Dance Studio}                                          | <b>27</b>                                                           | <b>28</b>                                        |
| <b>29</b> 10:00<br>"Sweet & Salty Gathering"<br>(bring leftover Christmas<br>Treats & Sweets to share)<br>{FH}<br><b>11:00</b><br>Worship                                                                                       | <b>30</b> 5:30<br>Clothes<br>Closet Open<br><b>6:30</b><br>Open Hands<br>Ministry Meal {FH}                                                                                          | <b>31</b><br>~HOLIDAY~<br>Office Closed                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                         |                                                                     |                                                  |

**First Reformed  
United Church  
of Christ**



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

**104 East Center Street**  
**Lexington, NC 2729**  
**(336) 248-2617**  
email: church@frucc.org  
website: www.frucc.org



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## WORSHIP HOURS

**9:45 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**10:00 CHILDREN & YOUTH**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**11:00 WORSHIP**

### Church Staff

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

### Minister of Pastoral Care

**Rev. June Grubb**  
336-248-5668

### Admin. Assistant

Carolyn Robbins  
carolyn@frucc.org

### Financial Administrator

Paula Lopp  
paula@frucc.org

### Choir Director

Ellen Peterson

### Organist

Lee Ann Peele

### Church Office Hours:

Monday—Friday  
8:30am to 12:30pm



- 1 Ann Johnson Crandell**  
**Buddy Lohr**  
**Jerry Smith**
- 2 Beverly Sandifer**
- 3 Brandi McCarn Gerew**  
**Keri Lovell**
- 7 Ruth Essick**
- 12 Donna Coe**
- 14 Merle Hodges**
- 15 Janelle Bunn**
- 23 Parker Horton**
- 24 Bryson Gentry**  
**Isabella Gentry**  
**Tim Potts**
- 27 Renee Walsh**
- 28 Walter Hoffman**  
**Susan Miller**
- 30 Keith Johnson**  
**Belinda Yates**
- 31 Camill Freeman**  
**Myrtle Latimer**



- 18**  
**Doug & Barbara Sink**
- 19**  
**Lee & Mary Jo Jessup**



## JANUARY

- 5th** First Sunday Social  
Intergenerational  
Activities  
Worship & Holy  
Communion
- 7th** Bd. of Evangelism  
Bd. of Spiritual Growth
- 8th** Morning Glory Circle
- 12th** Sunday School  
Worship  
Consistory
- 13th** Crisis Ministry Shelter  
Meal
- 14th** Collaborative  
Ministries  
Men's Brotherhood &  
WLF Meal
- 15th** Youth Ministry
- 19th** Sunday School  
Worship
- 20th** Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Holiday
- 22nd** Friendship Club
- 26th** Sunday School  
Worship

