

LAST DAY TO RESERVE POINSETTIAS!

Reserve a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. The cost is \$13.00 each and **deadline for orders is TODAY, November 24th!** These will be placed in the sanctuary next Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent, and can be picked up immediately following worship that day to enjoy at home during the Advent Season.

Please fill out the information form below and place it in the offering plate or call the church office.

In Memory of: _____ **By:** _____
In Memory of: _____ **By:** _____
In Honor of: _____ **By:** _____
In Honor of: _____ **By:** _____

CHRISTMAS CONGREGATIONAL MEAL

TO HELP WITH PLANNING please let us know if you will attend the catered meal on Sunday, December 8. You may complete this form and place it in the offering plate or call the church office. The menu and suggested donation for the meal will be determined soon. **The deadline to sign up is WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4.**

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU ARE WILLING TO BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE.

NAME: _____ **# ADULTS:** _____ **# CHILDREN:** _____ **I WILL BRING A DESSERT** _____

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD TO SELL SMOKED PORK LOINS AGAIN THIS YEAR!

If you'd like to order a smoked pork loin to pick up just in time for your Christmas meal, you may complete this form to place in the offering plate or contact the church office to reserve/purchase a ticket.

The pork loins will be available on **Monday, December 23rd.** You have a choice of either a **12:00 or 3:00 pick up time.** The cost is **\$40.00 each and includes a quart of BBQ dip.** **NUMBERS ARE LIMITED, so act quickly! The deadline to purchase is Monday, December 16th!**

NAME _____ **# of tickets** _____
PICK UP TIME PREFERENCE: **12:00** **3:00**

The **"TREE OF ANGELS"** will be placed in the breezeway of the Education Building again this year. Make a donation (your discretion) to place an angel on the tree in honor or memory of someone. Donations will assist with year-end benevolences. Please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or contact the church office.

In Honor of: _____ **By:** _____
In Honor of: _____ **By:** _____
In Memory of: _____ **By:** _____
In Memory of: _____ **By:** _____

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 IS PUBLIC DOMAIN.

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

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 #336-248-5668)

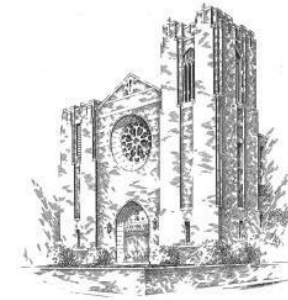
Choir Director: Ellen Peterson

Organist: Lee Ann Peele

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

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

**First Reformed
United Church of Christ**



The Worship of God

**November 24, 2019
The Sunday before Thanksgiving
11:00AM**

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

Gathering

(*)Please stand as you are able
"BOLD" indicates congregational response

Prelude
 *Chiming of the Hour
 Welcome & Announcements Elizabeth Horton
 Choral Call to Worship "There's a Spirit of Love in This Place"
 *Gathering Words Based on Psalm 100 Keri Hartle
 Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Remember that our God is the only God—
The One who made us, the One who sustains us, the One whose Spirit lives within us.
 Let us enter God's house with thanksgiving; and come into God's presence with praise.
For God is good, with unfailing love that lasts forever, and faithfulness that extends to all generations.

*Hymn "We Praise You, O God" p. 3
 *Invocation Elizabeth Horton

Centering

Scripture Reading Philippians 4: 4-9 (Page #1071 in Pew Bible) Keri Hartle
 Congregational Response "Give Thanks"
**Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One.
 Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.
 And now let the weak say, "I am strong;" let the poor say, "I am rich,"
 Because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks.**

Prayer of Confession Elizabeth Horton
**Because we live in this modern, tech-driven age, we often forget what you have done for us, God of every blessing. We pat ourselves on the back for our ability to learn new tech skills, but have forgotten that life is more than a machine. We have more than we could ever use yet, like squirrels, store up more and more. Our faith is often pushed to the back of the closet, to make room for all the fears we wear so easily.
 Forgive us. May we share with those who have so little. As we gather together during this season, may we continue to give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

Time of Silence
 Assurance of Forgiveness

*Passing the Peace "Peace of Christ be with you. And also with you."
 *Hymn "Count Your Blessings" p. 4

Young Disciples Elizabeth Horton
(All children and Youth, Pre-K through 12th Grade, are invited to join Keri Hartle for Children's Church.)

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer
Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

Anthem "God Be in My Head" Hopson
God be in my head, and in my understanding; God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking; God be in my heart, and in my thinking.
God be at my end, and at my departing.

Proclaiming

Scripture John 6: 25-35 Elizabeth Horton
(Page #972 in Pew Bible)
Sermon "Food for the Journey"

Responding

*Hymn "Come, You Thankful People, Come" p. 5
Invitation to Receive Tithes and Offerings Elizabeth Horton
Offertory

*Doxology Old Hundredth
**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 Keri Hartle

Sending

*Call to Dedication Keri Hartle
And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?"
Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

*Benediction Elizabeth Horton
*Choral Benediction "Pass the Love"
*Postlude

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

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

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given by Bill & Cheryl Walser to the Glory of God and in loving memory of John T. Walser, Jr.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING

LITURGIST: Keri Hartle	PLATE ATTENDANT: Buddy Lohr	NURSERY: Nicole Smith & Nina Smith
USHER CHAIRPERSON: Jeff Hutchens	SOUND TECHNICIAN: Dave Fulton	GREETER: Raeann Allred
ACOLYTE: Elliott Smith	BIBLE STEWARD: Emory Smith	YOUTH USHER: Haylee Hutcheson
USHERS: Mike Brown (Captain), Mark Smith, Ramona Yarbrough, Heidi Hutcheson		

We Praise You, O God

Julia C. Cory, 1902; alt.

1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship you, God of our moth - ers and fa - thers;
3 With voi - ces u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer,

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
through life's storm and tem - pest our guide you have been.
and glad - ly our song of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you, we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ils o'er - take us, you nev - er will for - sake us,
Our sins now con - fess - ing, we pray for your bless - ing;

we bless your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
and with your help, O God, in life's strug - gles we win.
to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Julia Bulkley Cady Cory wrote this hymn for Thanksgiving in 1902 at the invitation of the organist of New York's Brick Presbyterian Church who felt that the familiar words to Kremser contained too much militaristic imagery.

Tune: KREMSER 12.11.12.11.
Valerius, Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck, 1626

Count Your Blessings

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love — Psalm 107:31 NIV

1. When up-on life's bil-lows you are tem-pest tossed, When you are dis-
 2. Are you ev-er bur-den-ed with a load of care? Does the cross seem
 3. When you look at oth-ers with their lands and gold, Think that Christ has
 4. So, a-mid the con-flict, wheth-er great or small, Do not be dis-

cour-aged, think-ing all is lost, Count your man-y bless-ings, name them
 heav-y you are called to bear? Count your man-y bless-ings, ev-'ry
 prom-ised you His wealth un-told; Count your man-y bless-ings, mon-ey
 cour-aged, God is o-ver all; Count your man-y bless-ings, an-gels

one by one, And it will sur-prise you what the Lord hath done.
 doubt will fly, And you will be sing-ing as the days go by.
 can-not buy Your re-ward in heav-en, nor your home on high.
 will at-tend, Help and com-fort give you to your jour-ney's end.

Count your bless-ings, name them one by one; Count your
 Count your man-y bless-ings, name them one by one; Count your man-y

bless-ings, see what God hath done; Count your bless-ings,
 bless-ings, see what God hath done; Count your man-y bless-ings,

name them one by one; Count your man-y bless-ings, see what God hath done.

Come, You Thankful People, Come

1 Come, you thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest-home!
 2 All the world is God's own field, har-vests for God's praise to yield,
 3 For our God, one day, shall come, and shall take this har-vest home,
 4 E-ven so, God, quick-ly come to your fi-nal har-vest-home!

All is safe-ly gath-ered in, safe be-fore the storms be-gin;
 wheat and weeds to- geth-er sown, here for joy or sor-row grown;
 from the field shall in that day all of-fen-ces purge a-way;
 Ga-ther all your peo-ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin;

God, our mak-er, does pro-vide for our needs to be sup-plied:
 first the blade, and then the ear 'hen the full corn shall ap-pear:
 giv-ing an-gels charge at last ⁵ in the fire the weeds to cast;
 there for ev-er pu-ri-fied, in your pres-ence to a-bide:

come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest-home!
 Har-vest-giv-er, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit-ful ears to store in the gar-ner ev-er-more.
 come, with all your an-gels, come, raise the glo-rious har-vest-home.

Words: Henry Alford 1844, alt.
 Music: George Job Elvey 1858

ST GEORGE'S, WINDSOR
 7777D

WELCOME TO FIRST REFORMED UCC

If you are visiting with us, please fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate when passed.

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.

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

The Decorating Committee, under the leadership of Lisa Nelson, Mike Price and Mary Jo Jessup, will decorate the sanctuary and educational building on Tuesday, November 26 beginning at 6:30. **If you would like to help, please meet in the sanctuary.**

WORLD AIDS DAY

Next Sunday, December 1 at 3:00PM a collection of dramatic monologues and stories of the impact of HIV and AIDS will be presented in our Fellowship Hall by *FIRSTFRUITS* Drama Ministry of Saint Matthews UMC of Greensboro. This is sponsored by the East Lexington Collaborative Ministries. There is no charge for the performance, but an offering will be collected to benefit Positive Wellness Alliance. All are welcome!

MORE CLOTHES NEEDED!

The Clothes Closet is open now every Monday evening at 5:30, before the Open Hands Ministry Meal. **Men's clothing inventory is dwindling quickly and there is a special need for coats for all in all sizes.** Please continue to bring donations to the table across from the office or contact Jerry Lovell (336-746-6493). If you'd like to volunteer to help out in the Clothes Closet, please contact Jerry.

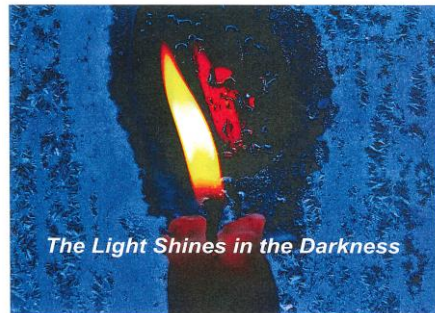
THANKSGIVING DINNER

In remembrance of Mr. & Mrs. James Ross another "Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself" Thanksgiving Dinner will be held in our Fellowship Hall on Thursday, November 28 from 1-3:00PM. Volunteers are needed to help serve. Please come by 12:00 if you are willing to help.

RADA CUTLERY SALE

The ladies in the Morning Glory Circle are selling Rada Cutlery as a fundraiser again this year! **If you are interested in looking at a catalog or making a purchase, please contact Rita Lohr at 336-346-7607.**

★
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. 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.

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

2019 ADVENT & EPIPHANY DEVOTIONALS

If you are interested in purchasing the devotional for the 2019 Advent/Epiphany season titled "A New Earth," we have **a limited number available to be sold on a first-come basis.** You may call the church office to reserve a copy or come by to purchase one. The cost is \$1.00 each.

BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

First Reformed UCC needs volunteer bell ringers in December for the Salvation Army. Volunteers will fill 1- or 2-hour time slots. If you are interested in helping, please contact **Jerry Lovell** at 336-746-6493.

SAVE YOUR PLASTIC BAGS!

The Willing Weavers are running very low on grocery bags for their sleeping mat construction. Please bring all you can to church and leave them on the table outside the office.

CHARLES ENGLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BACKPACK PROGRAM

Requested food items for student backpacks are listed below. Please bring items to the large box labeled **CEES** in the Narthex. This community outreach is an on-going program for our church.

Juice Boxes Spaghetti-Os
Breakfast Bars Ramen Noodles
Applesauce Cups Cheese Crackers
Canned Vegetables
Chicken Noodle Soup

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, November 24

Grace Episcopal Church Meal Ministry:

Serving: Buddy & Rita Lohr, Doris Sink, Alisha Johnson, Jerry & Patti Lovell

Women's Life Fellowship Bake Sale

~Before Sunday school
~After Sunday school
~After Worship

Alternative Gift Cards Available Today

9:45AM Faith Formation (Education Building)
Adults: Bible Study: Ecclesiastes 7-12

10:00AM Children & Teens:
Christmas Program Practice

11:00AM Worship in the Sanctuary
Thanksgiving Sunday
Children's Church: Program Practice

Following Worship: Congregational Meeting to vote on nominations for Deacons, Elders and Trustees

Monday, November 25

12:00PM DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ITEMS

5:30PM Clothes Closet Open {Basement}
6:30PM Open Hands Ministry {FH}

Tuesday, November 26

10:45AM WILLING WEAVERS WILL NOT MEET.
SCHEDULE TO RESUME JANUARY 7, 2020

6:30PM DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

If you'd like to help, please meet in the sanctuary.

Wednesday, November 27

NO HAND BELLS OR CHOIR TONIGHT

Thursday, November 28 THANKSGIVING

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED

1-3:00PM COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING MEAL

If you'd like to help served, please be at the church by 12:00.

Friday, November 29

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED

Sunday, December 1 1st Sunday of Advent

9:30AM Church-wide First Sunday Social {FH}
Hosts: The Miller Family

9:45AM Faith Formation (Education Building)
Adults: "A Living Nativity:
Preparing for Christmas with Saint Francis of Assisi"

10:00AM Children & Teens:
Christmas Program Practice

11:00AM Worship in the Sanctuary
Holy Communion
Baptism: William Owen Hooper

3:00PM World Aids Day Service {FH}
"If I Knew Then What I Know Now"

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. Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks. 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).*

November

Birthdays

24th

John Maze

25th

Webb Fulton

27th

James Gray
Ava Miller
Cathy Waitman

30th

Irvin Sink

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, 2019.**