

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.

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.

The suggested donation for the meal is \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 children 10 and under.

MENU: Ham, Macaroni & Cheese, Corn, Green Beans, Baked Apples, Rolls, Tea & Lemonade

We are asking for those planning to attend to help by bringing a dessert to share. PLEASE INDICATE BELOW IF YOU WILL BRING A DESSERT.

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 Memory of: _____ **By:** _____

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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 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 #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

December 1, 2019
First Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion

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

*"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.
That shall be a better light, and safer than a known way."*

John of the Cross, 16th Century Spanish Monk



Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which helps us prepare for Christmas. While we are told, "It's the most wonderful time of the year," for many, Christmas is a time of struggle and is not always joyous for those who have experienced recent loss in their lives: the death of a loved one, loss of job, divorce, death of a dear pet, loss of health, or any of the other losses people face. We need a space to wrestle with our loss in the midst of this season.

Inside our bulletin is a paper dove. You are invited to write on the dove the name of your loved one or your specific loss or struggle. You will be invited to bring them forward before Holy Communion.

Prelude

*Chiming of the Hour

Welcome & Announcements

Elizabeth Horton

Choral Call to Worship

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope

Jeremy, Keri, Ethan & Kyndell Lovell

So we pray, Mighty God. We pray for Hope to break through all that keeps us from you. Draw us near and comfort us with your justice and mercy, your love and your peace. Let us be the example of what Hope can do. Let us prepare to celebrate the Joy and the Peace and the Love yet to come in this season, but let us never, ever give up on Hope. In your holy name we pray, Amen

Congregational Response

"Now It's Time to Light the Candle"

**Now it's time to light the candle, soon God's promise will be here.
Young and old we wait together for the Savior drawing near.
Light will overcome the darkness, see the hope the Christ Child brings.**

*Invocation

Rev. June Grubb

*Hymn

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

p. 3

Centering

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 2: 1-5
(Page #618 in Pew Bible)

Rev. June Grubb

Liturgy for Baptism of William Owen Hooper

Elizabeth Horton

Invitation

Pledges to God and to One Another

To the Parents:

Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ? Will you encourage him to renounce the powers of greed, hatred, selfishness and oppression, receiving the freedom of new life in Christ?

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to show love and justice and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with William in the Christian faith, to help him be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ?

To the Congregation:

One: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to William, about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

All: We promise to give William and his parents our support and love and care.

Blessing and Pouring of the Water

The Sacrament of Baptism

Prayer for the Baptized and the Parents

Rev. Mike Hooper

*Hymn "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters" p. 4

Young Disciples Elizabeth Horton (All children and Youth, Pre-K through 12th Grade, are invited to join Keri Hartle for Christmas program practice.)

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

Invitation to Receive Tithes and Offerings Elizabeth Horton

Offertory

*Doxology for Advent Veni Emmanuel

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Prayer of Dedication Rev. June Grubb

Proclaiming

Scripture Matthew 24: 36-44 (Page #903 in Pew Bible) Elizabeth Horton

Sermon "Getting Ready"

Responding

Invitation to Holy Communion Elizabeth Horton Please come forward to receive the bread and the cup. After you commune, place your cup in the basket.

Special Music Ellen Peterson

*Hymn "Christ Be Our Light" p. 5

OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

OUR MEMBERS:

Ellen Bouchard, Jitter Yarbrough, Charyl Clark, Bill Walser

AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

Peggy Bates, Janelle Bunn, Marzell Crofts, Ruth Essick, Margot Everhart, Vogen Everhart, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Marguerite Leonard, Bob Shaak, Lib Sink, Lindsay Sink, Katherine Skipper, 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)

*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).

WORLD AIDS DAY

This afternoon at 3:00PM all are welcome to attend the performance presented by FIRSTFRUITS Drama Ministry of Saint Matthews UMC of Greensboro. This presentation of monologues and stories shares the impact of HIV and AIDS. 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.

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.

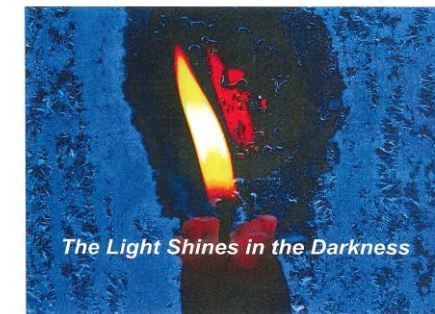
MORE CLOTHES NEEDED!

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.

FRUIT BASKETS FOR OUR MEMBERS AT HOME

If you can help deliver fruit baskets to any of our members at home, they will be available next Sunday, December 8 outside the Fellowship Hall. Please sign the sheet beside the members' names to indicate ones you can deliver.

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.

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.

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

ELW # 715 Christ Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



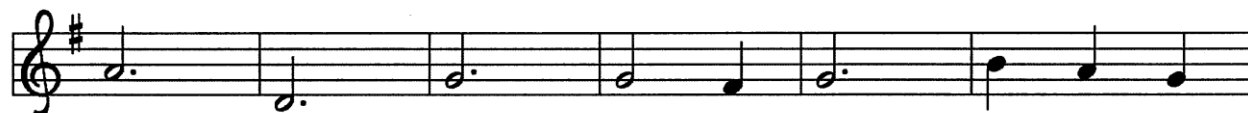
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



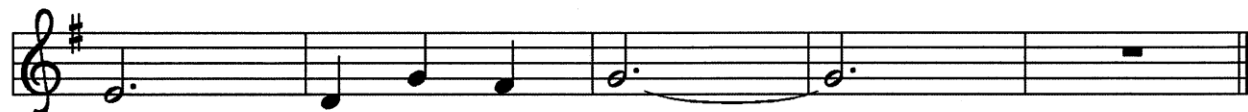
your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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Sending

Rev. June Grubb

*Call to Dedication

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

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

*Postlude

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

WE WELCOME Wilson and Kate Hooper this morning for the baptism of their son, William Owen Hooper. Grandparents are Mike and Bonita Hooper and Curt & Jeri Tucker.

THE ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY is written by Brian McKerlie.

THE LARGE POINSETTIA ON THE ALTAR is given by Cliff and Paula Lopp to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Lori Lopp Floyd.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING

LITURGIST: June Grubb	PLATE ATTENDANT: Mike Brown	NURSERY: Lynn Brown & Belinda Yates
USHER CHAIRPERSON: Jeff Hutchens	SOUND TECHNICIAN: Jeremy Peterson	GREETERS: Mike & Lynn Brown
ACOLYTE: Abbie Callicutt	BIBLE STEWARD: Elliott Smith	YOUTH USHER: Annabell Callicutt
USHERS: Rich Johnson (Captain), Frank Callicutt, Doris Sink, Ron Hutcheson		

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 1

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"

9:45AM Children & Teens:
 Christmas Program Practice

11:00AM Worship in the Sanctuary
 1st Sunday of Advent
 Holy Communion
 Baptism: William Owen Hooper

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

Monday December 2

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

Tuesday, December 3

6:00PM Bd. of Evangelism {P}
 Bd. of Spiritual Growth & Renewal
 {FH}

Wednesday, December 4

11:00AM Morning Glory Circle at Yarborough's
6:00PM Youth Ministry {FH}
6:30PM Hand Bells {Bell Room}
7:15PM Choir {Chapel Annex}

Thursday, December 5

5:15PM Yoga Class {Dance Studio}

Friday, December 6

6:15PM Consistory & Staff Gathering
 at the Hortons
 (bring an appetizer or finger food to share)

Sunday, December 8

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

9:45AM Children & Teens:
 Christmas Program Practice

11:00AM Worship in the Sanctuary
 2nd Sunday of Advent
 Children & Youth lead worship with their
 program "The True Meaning of Christmas"

Following Worship: Congregational Luncheon
 Please help us deliver fruit baskets to our members
 at home. The will be a sheet to sign for delivery.

Following lunch: Called consistory meeting to elect
 officers for 2020

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

1st: Ann Johnson Crandell...Buddy Lohr...Jerry Smith
 2nd: Beverly Sandifer
 3rd: Brandi McCarn Gerew...Keri Lovell
 7th: Ruth Essick

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

The promise which was made ... God hath fulfilled — Acts 13:32-33 KJV

1. Come, Thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy
 2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child, and

peo - ple free; From our fears and sins re - lease us;
 yet a King, Born to reign in us for - ev - er,

Let us find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -
 Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear de - sire of
 spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone; By Thine all - suf -

ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 fi - cient mer - it, Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
 MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

HYFRYDOL
 8.7.8.7.D.

This tune in a higher key, No. 185.

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

1 Wash, O God, our sons and daugh - ters, where your
 2 We who bring them long for nur - ture, by your
 3 O how deep your ho - ly wis - dom! Un - im -

cleans - ing wa - ters flow. Num - ber them a - mong your
 milk may we be fed. Let us join your feast, par -
 ag - ined, all your ways! To your name be glo - ry,

peo - ple, bless as Christ blessed long a - go. Weave them
 tak - ing cup of bless - ing, liv - ing bread. God, re -
 hon - our! With our lives we wor - ship, praise! We your

gar - ments bright and spar - kling; com - pass
 new us, guide our foot - steps; free from
 peo - ple stand be - fore you, wa - ter -

them with love and light. Fill, a - noint them, send your
 sin and all its snares, one with Christ in liv - ing,
 washed and Spir - it - born. By your grace, our lives we

Spir - it, ho - ly dove and heart's de - light.
 dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs.
 of - fer. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

Words: Ruth Duck 1986
 Music: attrib. Benjamin Franklin White 1844, harm. Ronald A. Nelson 1978
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BEACH SPRING
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