

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. We welcome you to First Reformed United Church of Christ.

CLOTHES CLOSET OPEN WEEKLY

The Clothes Closet is open every Monday evening at 5:30, before the Open Hands Ministry Meal. Please continue to bring donations to the table across from the office or contact Jerry Lovell (336-309-9302). **Plastic clothes hangers are also needed for the inventory.** If you'd like to volunteer to help out in the Clothes Closet, please contact Jerry.

Sweet & Salty Christmas Gathering

Remember to bring leftover Christmas snacks and sweets **NEXT SUNDAY, December 29 at 10:00AM**, to share and join together in fellowship {FH}

CHARLES ENGLAND 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

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.**

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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 22, 2019
4th Sunday of Advent

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

Anthem

"When Will the Little King Come?"

When will the little King come? When will we see God's Son?

We will sing and shout for joy, greet the precious baby boy,

When our Emmanuel come. When will the little King come?

Will He come like a breath of spring while the flowers are blossoming?

Will he come on a summer day while the children are at play?

Will he come when the air grows cold while the leaves turn to red and gold?

Will He come on a winter night while the stars are shining bright?

When will the little King come? When will we see God's son?

Will we sing and shout for joy, greet the precious baby boy, when our Emmanuel comes.

When will the little King come?

Elizabeth Horton

Ruth Elaine Schram

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Rev. June Grubb

(Page #623 in Pew Bible)

Lighting the Advent Candle of Love

Robert Danze and Maria, Jasmin, Alyson & Lucas Cruz

Shine on us, O God of Peace;

Come to us, O Christ the Light;

Guide our path through gloom of night;

Bear within us Wisdom's glory;

Let us be like Jesus and show us the Joy of the world that can be.

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; Shining love in Jesus' name.

When all people join together Earth will never be the same.

Light will overcome the darkness, be the love the Christ Child brings.

*Invocation

Rev. June Grubb

*Hymn

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Insert

Centering

Prayer of Confession

Elizabeth Horton

O God, you have called us to be apostles of your grace, but we have been judgmental instead of gracious. We condemn in others what is also, in us. We dismiss the feelings of others and we refuse to listen to others' pain. Yet you come to us Emmanuel, and we want to repent. You reach out to us, and our hearts melt. Help us embrace this new life, we pray.

Assurance of Pardon

*Passing the Peace

*Hymn

Young Disciples

“Once in Royal David's City”

Insert

Elizabeth Horton

(All children, Pre-K through 5th Grade, are invited to join in this worship at the front.)

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

Proclaiming

Scripture

Matthew 1: 18-25
(Page #877 in Pew Bible)

Elizabeth Horton

Meditation

“When God Makes a Way”

Responding

Special Music

“Joseph's Song”

Walter Hoffman

How could it be, this baby in my arms sleeping now, so peacefully?

The Son of God, the angel said. How could it be?

Lord, I know He's not my own; Not of my flesh, not of my bone.

Still Father let this baby be the son of my love

Father show me where I fit into this plan of yours

How can a man be father to the Son of God? Lord for all my life I've been a simple carpenter

How can I raise a king? He looks so small, His face and hands so fair.

And when He cries the sun just seems to disappear but when He laughs it shines again

How could it be?

*Invitation to Receive Tithes and Offerings

Elizabeth Horton

Christmas Fund Offering collected today.

Offertory

“Lo, How a Rose / The Rose”
Arr. Craig Hella Johnson

Ellen Peterson & Carolyn Robbins

*Doxology for Advent

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.

Veni Emmanuel

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. June Grubb

Sending

*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.”

Rev. June Grubb

*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.

You are invited to our Christmas Eve Holy Communion and Candlelight Service

December 24th at 8:00PM

THE ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY is written by Brian McKerlie.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING

LITURGIST: June Grubb

PLATE ATTENDANT: John Potts

NURSERY: Keri Hartle & Ashlee Snider

USHER CHAIRPERSON: Jeff Hutchens

SOUND TECHNICIAN: Jeremy Peterson

GREETER: Kathleen Danze

USHERS: Rich Johnson (Captain), Doris Sink, Ron Hutcherson

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 22

10:00AM Intergenerational Sunday School:
Decorating Cookies {Ed. Building}

11:00AM **Worship in the Sanctuary**

4th Sunday of Advent

Christmas Fund Offering

Monday, December 23

12:00 & 3:00 BBQ Pork Loin Pick-up times {FH}

5:30PM Clothing Closet {Basement}

6:30PM Open Hands Meal {FH}

Tuesday, December 24

HOLIDAY: CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

8:00PM Christmas Eve Candlelight and
Holy Communion Service

Wednesday, December 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, December 26

5:15PM Yoga Class {Dance Studio}

Sunday, December 29

10:00AM **Sweet and Salty Gathering**

Bring leftover Christmas snacks and
sweets to share and join together in
fellowship {FH}

11:00AM **Worship in the Sanctuary**

First Sunday after Christmas

Monday, December 30

5:30PM Clothing Closet {Basement}

6:30PM Open Hands Meal {FH}

Tuesday, December 31

HOLIDAY: CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, January 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR (and NEW DECADE)!

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, January 2

5:15PM Yoga {Dance Studio}

7:00PM Square Dancing {FH}

Sunday, January 5

9:30AM **First Sunday Social** {FH}

10:00AM Intergenerational Sunday School:
Wise Men models and Kings Cake
{Ed. Building}

11:00AM **Worship in the Sanctuary**

Holy Communion

In the Pulpit: Rev. June Grubb

OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

OUR MEMBERS:

*Tony Peele, Ellen Bouchard, 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, Katherine Skipper, Carolyn Spivey,
Adena Wall

Brookdale: Hoyle Potts

Piedmont Crossing: Mary Berrier, Doris Flynt, Rita
Tussey

OUR FRIENDS:

*Alan Bagby (friend of Johnny & Lynn McCam),
Barbara Knowles (Lee Ann Peele's sister-in-law),
Barbara Miller (Eddie Yates' mother), *Dr. Fred
Mock (friend of Janette Neal and John Potts)

**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).*

~DECEMBER~

BIRTHDAYS

23rd

Parker Horton

24th

Bryson Gentry

Isabella Gentry

Tim Potts

27th

Renee Walsh

28th

Walter Hoffman

Susan Miller