



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 and Announcements

Rev. June Grubb

*Gathering Words

Dave Fulton

Although the beckoning star heeded by wise travelers long ago no longer leads the way,

The manger-born Christ is still to be found and followed.

We are not brought to our knees in surprise as were those journeyers of old,

Yet our desire to worship can be as deep as theirs.

And though we do not bear gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh,

We offer ourselves and what we have.

The story continues. The good news abounds. There is a living Christ to discover and worship and serve.

Let us rejoice and be glad!

*Hymn

"Arise, Your Light Is Come"

p. 3

*Invocation

Dave Fulton

Centering

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 60: 1-6
(Page #676 in Pew Bible)

Dave Fulton

Prayer of Confession

Rev. June Grubb

God of perfect light, lead us as we proceed through life. Forgive us when, like Herod, selfish ambition makes us willing to hurt others. Forgive us when, like the magi, we refuse to follow the light you give us. Shine in our lives through the light of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

*Passing the Peace

*Hymn

"Brightest and Best"

p. 4

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

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. June Grubb

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

Special Music

"When the Angels' Song Is Silent"

Ellen Peterson & Carolyn Robbins

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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

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)

Proclaiming

Scripture

Matthew 2: 1-12
(Page #877 in Pew Bible)

Rev. June Grubb

Meditation

"They Went Home by Another Way"

Responding

Invitation to Receive Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

*Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God above ye heavenly hosts, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

O Praise God. O Praise God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication

Dave Fulton

*Hymn

"Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread"

p. 5

Service of Holy Communion

Invitation

Communion Prayer

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

God of darkness and light, from the beginning of time when you created evening and morning and declared them to be good, you have been with your people in all times and places. In dreams and visions, in words and stories ancient and new, you speak to us your promise that is timeless, of a love that knows no boundaries.....And so with your people everywhere we proclaim with joy:

Holy, Holy, Holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying.....Consecrate, therefore by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ, and with one another and we may continue faithful in all things.

In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, eternal God, and give thanks that you have called us to serve you. Amen.

Sharing the Elements

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

*Congregational Response

Chorus: "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.

Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

Sending

*Call to Dedication

Dave Fulton

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

Rev. June Grubb

*Postlude

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

Arise, Your Light Is Come

Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21

Ruth Duck, 1973

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!

Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!
 Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
 Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

This hymn was first published by the Ecumenical Women's Center of Chicago in the 1974 collection of hymn adaptations, Because We Are One People. Ruth Duck later included it in her own collection, Dancing in the Universe.

Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M.
William Walter, 1872

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Brightest and Best

Reginald Heber, 1811; alt.

Matt. 2:9-11; Luke 2:10-14

1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2 Cold on the cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing,
 3 Shall we not of - fer our cost - ly de - vo - tion,
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,

dawn on our mid - night and lend us your aid.
 God's ho - ly Child with the beasts of the stall;
 fra - grance of E - dom and of - ferings di - vine,
 vain - ly with gifts would we fa - vor se - cure;

Star of the East the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
 An - gels a - dore while this ba - by lies sleep - ing,
 Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
 Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,

guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
 Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.
 myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.

An Anglican priest, Reginald Heber became bishop of Calcutta (including all of India), where he died of exhaustion at age forty-three. His Hymns (1827) was the first modern English hymnal arranged according to the church year.

Tune: MORNING STAR 11.10.11.10.
 James P. Harding, 1892
 The New Psalms and Hymns, Richmond, Va., 1901
 Alternate setting: WALKER

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

James Montgomery, 1825; alt.

Luke 24:30-31, 35

1 Be known to us in break-ing bread, but do not then de - part;
 2 Here share with us in love di - vine, your bod - y and your blood;

O Sav - ior, stay with us and spread your ta - ble in our heart.
 That liv - ing bread, that heaven-ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

This hymn is sometimes found as the second and third stanzas of an American hymn, "Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless." Montgomery—Moravian poet, journalist, humanitarian, and author of more than 400 hymns—titled this hymn "The Family Table."

Tune: ST. FLAVIAN C.M.
 Day, The Whole Booke of Psalms, 1562

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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, January 5 Epiphany
9:45AM Intergenerational Sunday School: Wise Men models and Kings Cake {Ed. Building}
10:30AM Church-wide First Sunday Social {FH} Hosts: Chery & Bill Walser, Janette Neal & John Potts
11:00AM Worship in the Sanctuary Holy Communion
 In the Pulpit: Rev. June Grubb

Monday, January 6
5:30PM Clothing Closet {Basement}
6:30PM Open Hands Meal {FH}

Tuesday, January 7
10:45AM Willing Weavers
6:30PM Board of Evangelism {P}

Wednesday, January 8
11:00AM Morning Glory Circle {P}
6:30PM Bell Choir {Bell Room}
7:15PM Choir {Chapel Annex}

Thursday, January 9
5:15PM Yoga Class {Dance Studio}
7:00PM Square Dancing {FH}

Sunday, January 12
9:45AM Adult Sunday School: "Letter from Birmingham Jail" {Ed. Building}
11:00AM Worship in the Sanctuary
 Installation of new Consistory Members

Following Worship: Consistory Meeting

OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

OUR MEMBERS:
 Rita Tussey, Tony Peele, Ellen Bouchard, Bill Walser

AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:
 Peggy Bates, Janelle Bunn, Marzell Crotts, 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

OUR FRIENDS:
 *Beverly Ward (Ron Link's Sister-in-law), Robert Yates (Eddie Yates' uncle), The family of Alan Bagby (friend of Johnny & Lynn McCarn)

**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).*

~JANUARY~

BIRTHDAYS

6th
 Gennie Lou Byerly

10th
 Deanna Michael
 Harriette Murphy

11th
 Camille Morgan

THANK YOU FOR SERVING

LITURGIST: Dave Fulton **PLATE ATTENDANT:** Doris Sink **SOUND TECHNICIAN:** James Gray
USHER CHAIRPERSON: Jeff Hutchens **ACOLYTE:** Emma Hartle **BIBLE STEWARD:** Jacob Hartle
USHERS: Mark Smith (Captain), Jeremy Peterson, Kivi Miller, Denise Durham, Susan Miller, Ava Miller (Youth Usher)
GREETERS: Tammy Rhodes & Jeff Hutchens

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Beginning January 12, the adults will read Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "**Letter from Birmingham Jail.**" You may obtain a copy from the church office for preparation. Then on January 19, a 6-week book study on "**Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism**" by Drew G. I. Hart. This study will build upon the former "**Race and Faith**" discussions that were offered by the Collaborative Ministry team in the fall. Stacy Sosebee-West and Bonita Hooper will facilitate. Please contact the church office if you need help obtaining a book.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Another NEW MEMBER SUNDAY is planned for **January 26th**. If you are interested in becoming a member of our church, please let the church office know. **(336-248-2617)**

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD & WOMEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP HOLIDAY GATHERING

The next meeting of Men's Brotherhood and Women's Life Fellowship is the Christmas/Holiday gathering scheduled for **Tuesday, January 14 at 6:00PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Spouses and guests are invited. On Time Catering is serving salad, beef tenderloin, marinated chicken breast, scalloped potatoes, green beans, rolls, and dessert. The cost is **\$20 per person** or **\$40 per couple**. **You must sign-up by January 13th** by emailing or contacting, Paula Lopp (#336-250-3343 or paula@frucc.org).

CONGREGATIONAL MEAL AND MEETING

Our next congregational meal and meeting is February 9, 2020. This will be a catered meal. (More information to come at a later date.) The meeting will focus on a review of last year with Board Summaries from 2019 Consistory members

NAME TAGS FOR ALL!

The Board of Congregational Life will be ordering name tags for our congregation, age kindergarten and above, in an effort to help long-time members learn the names of newer members and vice-versa. It will also help our growing list of children learn the names of their adult church family. Many of our church members already have name tags because they serve as ushers. These will be ordered in mid-January. **If you want your name different from what is printed in the membership directory, please let Kivi Miller (kivi@nonprofitmarketingguide.com or 336-870-0251) or the office know your preference no later than Sunday, January 19.**

ON-GOING COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS

- CLOTHES CLOSET**
 Please continue to bring donations to the table across from the office or contact Jerry Lovell (336-309-9302). **Quilts and blankets are also needed for the inventory.** If you'd like to volunteer to help out in the Clothes Closet, please contact Jerry.
- IMMEDIATE NEED FOR FOOD ITEMS FOR CEES BACKPACK PROGRAM:**
 The list for requested food items for student backpacks for Charles England Elementary School has been revised. Please place items in the large box in the Narthex or on the table outside the church office. Thank you for your generous and continued support of this Community Outreach project.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Juice Boxes | Spaghetti-Os |
| Breakfast Bars | Ramen Noodles |
| Applesauce Cups | Cheese Crackers |
| Canned Vegetables | Canned Soup |
| Beanie Weenies | Vienna Sausages |
| Canned Tuna | Gallon Ziploc Bags |