



FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lexington, NC

MARCH 2020

March brings New Beginnings!

We are excited for Robert Wilson to join us March 1st as our Interim Organist. Both the search committee and Robert decided it would be good to begin this position as Interim through 2020 with the possibility of transitioning into a settled position. Robert describes himself as a "passionate organist" and has held several positions as both full-time and supply. Robert has already joined in choir practice several times and has sung with us on Sunday mornings. I am looking forward to working with Robert and collaborating in music ministry. In the newsletter, he has written a bit more about himself. I know we will all enjoy getting to know him in the Sundays to come.

Lent 2020: Training the Body and Soul

March 1st is the first Sunday of Lent. We mark this day by gathering around the Table of Christ. We will hear the words, "*This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.*" Jesus was in a real-life flesh-and-bone body, just like ours. During Holy Communion, we remember that in the body of Jesus, the church becomes a body. This year Lent will be a time of training our own bodies as well as the Body of the Church. Lent can be like a boot camp for the soul, a restart in a focused way. Reflection and change take work, hard work. Each Sunday we will walk and train together, preparing to push ourselves past our limitations training for life in the Body

Faithfully,
Elizabeth

LENT 2020: TRAINING THE BODY AND SOUL

Sunday March 1

Decide

Genesis 2 – 3 and Matthew 4: 1-11

Sunday March 8

Reset

Genesis 12: 1-4 and John 3: 1-17

Sunday March 15

Hydrate

Exodus 17: 1-7 and John 4: 5-42

Sunday March 22

Redefine

1 Samuel 16: 1-13 and John 9: 1-41

Sunday March 29

Push Through

Ezekiel 37: 1-14 and John 11: 1-45

Sunday April 5th

Peak

Matthew 21: 1-11

SAVE THE DATE!
WORSHIP AND PICNIC
at WILDCAT MOUNTAIN
Sunday, June 28th



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.

FEBRUARY MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

~MEMORIALS~

LAUREN THOMPSON GOULD

Neal & Cathy Cunningham
James & Alice Gray
Bruce & Paula Hodak
Rich & Lena Johnson
Frank Leonard
Deanna Michael
Tony & Lee Ann Peele
John & Kathy Rollins
Elizabeth Sink
Jerry & Aurelia Smith
Carroll & Carolyn Spivey

ROLAND ELLER

(FRIEND OF CAMILLE MORGAN)
John & Vicky Gray

DON FERN

(SAUNI JOHNSON'S FATHER)
JOHN & VICKY GRAY

CONEY LEONARD

(SYLVIA WALSER'S BROTHER)
Jerry & Aurelia Smith

RITA TUSSEY

Eugenia Holste
Frank Leonard
Jerry & Aurelia Smith

~HONORARIUMS~

AMY HEDRICK'S BIRTHDAY

Mike & Lynn Brown

LEE BOUCHARD'S BIRTHDAY

Mike & Lynn Brown

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March 1:** First Sunday of Lent...Holy Communion
March 8: Second Sunday of Lent
Girl Scout Sunday
Daylight Saving Time Begins
Consistory
March 15: Third Sunday of Lent
Chili Cook-off (*details on page 10*)
March 22: Fourth Sunday of Lent
One Great Hour of Sharing

V.G.PRICE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

DUE BY MARCH 31, 2020

The scholarship is open to any member of First Reformed United Church of Christ, or student from the Lexington City or Davidson County School Systems. **The application and attachments are due MARCH 31st.** The recipient will be chosen by May 1st of his/her senior year in high school. The recipient must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA throughout his/her junior and senior years in high school, demonstrate good citizenship, and be an active member of a church. Scholarship applications are available in the church office.

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

WHEN:

12:00PM on Wednesdays through April 1

WHERE:

First United Methodist Church
A light lunch is provided. Any donations will benefit Open Hands Ministry

SERVICES PROVIDED BY:

March 4

United Churches of Christ

March 11

Methodists

March 18

Presbyterians

March 25

Clergy from the Lexington
Community Minister's Conference

April 1

Baptists and Hospice

ACCOMMODATING MEALS ON WHEELS WITH PARKING

Please be reminded that friends who help deliver meals each weekday are here from approximately 10-11:00AM. It is helpful if the parking spaces closest to the building are left vacant for these folks. If you are at the church during that time, please try to leave these spaces open for them.



DON'T FORGET TO SPRING FORWARD!

Daylight Saving Time begins again! Remember to set your clocks ahead an hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 7. Daylight Savings Time starts Sunday morning, March 8, 2020.

REMINDER: YOU CAN GIVE ON-LINE

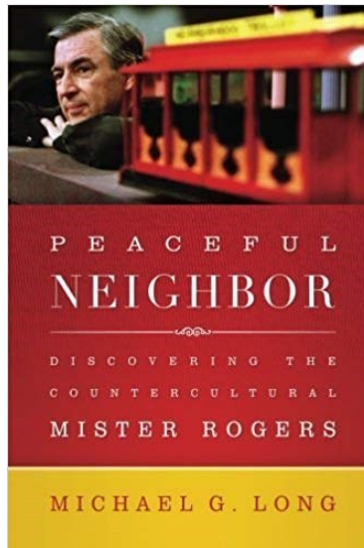
On-line giving is available through our church website. Visit <https://frucc.org/> and click on the link at the top of the page titled, "ON-LINE GIVING."

YOUTH MINISTRY GROUP

The Youth (grades 6-12) meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month from 6-7:15PM. The group is led by Rev. Susan Morris. A snack supper is provided each week. All youth in this age group are welcome to attend.

NEW ADULT BOOK STUDY TO BEGIN IN MARCH

The adult Sunday School class will focus on "Peaceful Neighbor: Discovering the Countercultural Mister Rogers" the first Sunday of March. They will begin with Part One: "War and Peace in the Neighborhood" for the Sundays in March, then continue in May with Part Two: "Peace as More than the Absence of War."



Mike Hooper, Smithie Parrish and Gennie Lou Byerly will lead discussions through the month of March.

THANK YOU RUBIES AND PEARLS VOLUNTEERS

Alice Gray and Marge Doty answered the call to help mentor 5th grade girls in the Rubies and Pearls program at Charles England Elementary School. These two women will certainly be a positive presence in the lives of the girls they meet with monthly.

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Board of Trustees and Frist Reformed UCC,

I am very honored to have been awarded a \$1000 scholarship by you. This money will help offset several college expenses, and I am very thankful to have received it. Your support and my church family's support is greatly appreciated. Thank you again!

Sincerely,
Holt Biesecker

Dear Board of Trustees,

Thank you for your generous scholarship on behalf of my education. I am so thankful to have grown up in First Reformed United Church of Christ. I will continue to work hard and make my church family proud. This money will be put to good use as I progress in my education and gain new life experiences.

With love,
Griff Smith

I'd like to give Buddy Lohr a thank you for installing the new key lock in the breezeway door.

John Smith

Dear Congregation,

"How can I say thanks for all the things you have done for me?" These words describe perfectly my feelings. My last Sunday with you was absolutely overwhelming!

Elizabeth, thank you for arranging such a meaningful service.

Lee, John and Ellen, your words brought tears to my eyes and touched my heart.

Mike Price, it is always a joy "making music" with you!

Ellen, your solo was fabulous, as always.

Choir, the anthem was amazing!

Harriette, your presentation of data was impressive and the reception was absolutely fantastic. Thank you to all who served and provided the delicious food and those who set up tables and cleaned up!

Carolyn, your decorations, corsage and poem were unbelievable!

Mike Hooper, your words and poem were very thoughtful, touching and much appreciated.

Thank you to Elizabeth, Eddie, Mike, Lib and Paula for your gracious words at the reception.

Members of the congregation, the beautiful picture, the flowers, the prayer shawl and your very generous gift were beyond words!

It has been the honor and joy of my life to have been your organist.

The refrain to the song I mentioned earlier is "To God Be the Glory" and that says it all! I am eternally thankful for each one of you!

With my love and appreciation,
Lee Ann

Dear Congregation,

So many made the worship service and reception honoring Lee Ann Peele on February 23, 2020 the success it was. There were so many volunteers who were ready to help in any way. I appreciate all members of the congregation and friends and family of Lee Ann who were present Sunday. (The names in bold are ones not part of the choir.)

Money Donations: The Choir

Fellowship Hall Set-up: **Clifford** and Paula Lopp, Harriette & Clifton Murphy, Carolyn Robbins, Cathy Waitman

Decorations & Corsage: Carolyn Robbins

Food & Drink Donations: Glenyce Fulton, Mary Jo & **Lee** Jessup, Paula Lopp, Harriette Murphy, Lisa Nelson, Mike Price, Carolyn Robbins, Cathy Waitman, **Michell Winters**

Food Preparation: Glenyce Fulton, **Rita Lohr**, Lisa Nelson, Mike Price, Carolyn Robbins, **Linda Sink**, Cathy Waitman, **Michell Winters, Belinda Yates**

Clean up and Dishwashers: Walter Hoffman, Paula & **Clifford** Lopp, Harriette & Clifton Murphy, Lisa Nelson, Ellen, **Jeremy & Lucas** Peterson, Carolyn Robbins, **Michell Winters**, Cathy Waitman, Eddie Yates

Greeters & Registry: Ellen & **Jeremy** Peterson, Lindsay Sink

Photography: **Bill Robbins**

Prayer Shawl: **Lena Johnson**

Speakers: **John Gray, Mike Hooper, Elizabeth Horton, Lee Jessup**, Ellen Peterson, Carolyn Robbins

Sincerely,
Harriette Murphy

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE
FOLLOWING BENEVOLENCES:**

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**Lancaster Theological Seminary /  
WNCA Scholarship Fund**

**The Salvation Army**

# FEBRUARY'S CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

## **Board of Community Outreach:**

Jerry Lovell reported...

- Continued supplying food items to CEES.
- "Souper" Bowl of Caring monies (\$382) will be distributed to Crisis Ministries of Davidson County
- Touching Davidson County with Love scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 2020.

## **Board of Congregational Life:**

Kivi Miller and Mike Price reported...

- Compiling a list of names for nametags, which will be done at cost, thanks to Heidi and Ron.
- Beginning the process of updating the board's responsibilities pages in the manual, which are outdated.

## **Board of Evangelism:**

Renee Walsh and Dave Fulton reported...

- Average weekly attendance in January: 115

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

### **Financial Report:**

Harriette Murphy reported...

- The average weekly offering for January was \$4,788; month-end available funds \$6,164

### **Property Committee:**

John Smith reported...

- Property Committee met to discuss Open Hands using the basement when below 20 degrees. Eddie Yates will find answers to a few questions that were brought up before finalizing plans for assistance.
- In response to a question about Open Hands using our kitchen to prepare Monday night meals, it was decided that our kitchen is not up to code to allow this.
- Items discussed and tabled until more information is gathered...
  - David Driver, Triad Security Systems, will provide quotes on the following to update the church's security...
    - a camera for the blind spot at the sanctuary entrance
    - repair the camera that is burned out in the choir loft.
    - a new monitor for the church office to watch and record the basement door, dance entrance, FH entrance, and the parking lot. (This will replace the current monitor in the church office.)
    - a safer method for the dance en-

trance that includes adding a camera and using the monitor in the dance studio He will also quote the same type of capability as the church office has for speaking and releasing the door from the dance studio.

### **Old Business:**

- Kitchen Committee and Church Parlor Updates: Areas of the kitchen will need to be addressed. Eddie volunteered to meet with the Health Department to see what is needed. Mike Price reported the Parlor Committee is still getting prices for updating the Parlor.
- Church Organist/Pianist Search: Harriette Murphy, chair of the Music Committee announced the selection of Robert Wilson as interim organist.
- February's Congregation Meeting: Consistory will showcase ministries to get people involved and look forward rather than backward. Board chairs will speak to things being planned for 2020. Also, signup sheets will be used requesting volunteers who might not have filled out a time and talent sheet. The goal is for everyone to feel welcome and they are a part of church activities.

### **New Business:**

- Consistory approved the title change for Rev. June Grubb from Minister of Pastor Care to Associate Pastor of Congregational Care.
- Consistory approved the following for Property committee...
  - installing fire alarms and smoke detectors in the basement so Open Hands can stay overnight when temperatures drop 20 degrees or lower.
  - Dusk to dawn lighting over the education building basement entrance, back entrance to the sanctuary and two to illuminate the area between the sanctuary and Nazareth building.

The next regularly scheduled Consistory meeting is **March 8th.**



# WNCA EDUCATION DAY

## Register Now: WNCA Education Day

Saturday, March 7, 9 AM - 3 PM

Abernathy Laurels, Newton NC

### Becoming WISE:

#### Understanding & Supporting Mental Health

Join colleagues and friends from across the WNCA for our annual Spring Education Day. This year's education day is focused on the UCC's WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged congregations for Mental Health) initiative. What would it mean for the WNCA to become a WISE Association?

Learn how to become WISE: A Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged faith community offering radical belonging with those living with mental health challenges, brain differences, and substance use disorders. Using a ten-step approach, we will cover the history of the WISE Congregation program, discuss the opportunities for spiritual and membership growth through WISE certification, and share practical advice on how to overcome common challenges and emerge WISE about mental health.



Rev. Amy Petré Hill is the Minister of Mental Health and Inclusion at Mountain View United Church in Aurora, Colorado, and the first UCC minister ordained to mental health and inclusion ministry in a congregation.

She previously worked as a disability rights attorney, spiritual advisor to the Voices for Veterans Mental Health Council of Eastern Colorado, and a chaplain intern at a Colorado state psychiatric hospital. She is a certified Mental Health First Aid Instructor, NAMI Group Facilitator, Soul Shop for Congregations trainer, and currently serves on the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network Board.

#### **REGULAR REGISTRATION: \$20**

Register by March 1 for \$20 per person or \$15 per person when registering three or more from the same church

#### **LATE REGISTRATION: \$25**

**AFTER MARCH 1:** \$25 but lunch cannot be guaranteed. While registrations will be accepted after March 1 for \$25 per person, lunch cannot be assured.

Control + Click on the link below to register...

**[Register now](#)**

# INTERNATION CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM FIELD TRIP

Members from First Reformed UCC and those from surrounding churches joined together for a trip to the Civil Rights Museum in Greensboro on February 8. This trip was planned as part of the Race and Faith group that meets at noon on Tuesdays at First Reformed UCC. All are welcome to come join our conversations.



# CHURCH GROUPS

## KID'S CLUB

~by *Alice Gray*

**Kids Club** met on Sunday, February 9. Our focus was on Valentine's Day and two activities to celebrate it. First, the children made huge red Valentine people to decorate the wall in the Fellowship Hall just in time for the Congregational meal and meeting. Second, the children made a total of 16 smaller Valentine people to send to Hospice of Davidson County for their 3rd Annual Hearts for Hospice. On Valentine's Day, Hospice volunteers visited 98 hospice patients and delivered handmade cards, candy, etc. to them. We are delighted that 16 patients received these special handmade Valentine people from our children.

Special thank-you to Vicky Gray for assisting with the meeting.

## MORNING GLORY CIRCLE

~by *Rita Lohr*

The **Morning Glory Circle** met on February 5th in the church parlor. Patti Lovell shared information about serving a meal to the Youth Ministry Group. The circle members voted to serve the meal on Wednesday, May 6th. An inspirational program was given by Patti Lovell from Philippians as Paul wrote about love, friendship, and standing in the light of Christ. The next meeting will be March 4th. The circle members will travel to the home of Peggy Bates for a visit and a snack lunch.

## WOMEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP

~by *Carolyn Robbins*

**Women's Life Fellowship** met February 11th after sharing a meal with Men's Brotherhood. Carolyn shared devotions prior to discussion about preparing the meal for the Crisis Ministry Shelter on **March 9**. We also will provide a meal for the Youth Ministry meeting on **April 1st**. We will not have a regular meeting on March 9th, but anyone who would like to join Men's Brotherhood for their meal and bring a dessert to share is welcome. Our next regular meeting is **April 14**. We will join the men for supper and meet following that time of fellowship.

## UNITED FRIENDSHIP CLUB

~by *Paula Lopp*

The **United Friendship Club** met on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. We enjoyed a wonderful meal. Special thanks to Glenyce Fulton for the delicious main dish and everyone else for a wide variety of sides and desserts.

Jerry Lovell shared devotions based on I Corinthians 12. We are all part of the body of Christ and working together we can share our many talents to help others.

Following the treasurer's report, club members voted to donate \$100 to the Charles England Elementary School Book Fair for students to purchase books.

Glenyce Fulton followed up on the April 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday matinee of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" at the Meroney Theater in Salisbury. There are 15 folks signed up to attend. There was not enough interest to purchase tickets to "Cotton Patch Gospel" at the Barn Dinner Theater in August.

Please mark your calendar for our next meeting **Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**. Members decided we will attend the Community Lenten Service at noon at First United Methodist Church. There is a soup and sandwich lunch following worship.

## MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

~by *Clifford Lopp*

The **Men's Brotherhood** met Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> for dinner and a meeting. Thanks to the kitchen crew for the delicious salmon and potato soups.

Eddie Yates shared devotions.

The group voted to donate \$250, from the proceeds of the pork loin sales, to the Charles England Elementary School food pantry. Thank you to Jerry Lovell who offered to purchase the supplies since he is familiar with the needs of the school pantry.

The Brotherhood will provide the evening meal for the FRUCC Youth Group at their **March 4<sup>th</sup>** meeting. The next dinner meeting of the Brotherhood is Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited!



# HONORING LEE ANN PEELE

On Sunday, February 23 we honored Lee Ann Peele during the 11:00 Worship Service and with an afternoon reception in the Fellowship Hall as her retirement approached. She served as our church organist for almost 29 years. We will miss her dedicated service and her years of beautiful music that graced our sanctuary during worship services, weddings, memorial services, Christmas Cantatas and Easter celebrations.





## WELCOME TO OUR NEW ORGANIST

We'd like to welcome Robert Wilson as First Reformed UCC's new organist. He visited with us during church a couple of times and sang with the choir. He has joined the choir several times during practice. He is adjusting well to the choir's... uniqueness! Below is information that Robert would like to share with the congregation...



*"I am delighted to begin this journey with you as interim organist. My prayer is that I can offer the best of my ability to the glory of God and to the edification of his people here at First Reformed. My story as an organist began many years ago. In fact, 31 years ago sitting beside Mrs. Francis – the church organist from my childhood. I was always fascinated with the organ, so Mrs. Francis would put me on the bench beside her at the end of the service, and she would teach me about the organ. Those small "seeds" that she planted when I was five years old have transpired into the organist I am today.*

*"As I grew, I continued my deep love of playing the organ – including playing for a number of churches. These experiences have shaped me both as an organist and as an individual. I give thanks to God and deep appreciation to those who have helped me along the way, and I try to continue to maintain a spirit of learning and growth no matter what I am doing for God and the people of God.*

*"In addition to playing the organ, I am also an English Professor at Sandhills Community College. I enjoy teaching, and it has been a rewarding career. I have taught at schools across North and South Carolina, but I relocated to the area to be closer to my brother, who was stationed at Ft. Bragg, in the hopes of getting to see him and his wife more – as they are having their first baby in March. When I am not teaching or in church, I can be found antiquing, gardening, or baking. In the coming weeks, I hope to learn more about each of you, as you will surely learn more about me.*

*"As we enter this season of discernment, I pray that my gift and service of music at the organ will be one that First Reformed can use for ministry and service in this community. I am excited to start this journey alongside you as interim organist. May we all feel the presence of Christ and the Holy Spirit as we continue forward."*

*Blessings,  
Robert*

In the coming weeks, please introduce yourself to Robert whenever you see him, so he can begin to learn all of us that make up the congregation of First Reformed United Church of Christ.

# FAITH FORMATION

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

~by Rev. June Grubb

The ADULT MINISTRY TEAM met and reflected on how the current Adult Sunday School book study on "Trouble I've Seen" is going. The feedback was very positive. Attendance has been good and they've had great conversations. Stacy Sosebee-West and Bonita Hooper have provided wonderful leadership throughout this study. The current study concluded at the end of February.

The next book study for the month of March will focus on "Peaceful Neighbor: Discovering the Countercultural Mister Rogers" by Michael G. Long. This study will be led by Gennie Lou Byerly, Mike Hooper and Smithie Parrish. Part One: *War and Peace in the Neighborhood* will last for the five Sundays in March.

Beginning in April the adults will focus on Palm Sunday, Easter and Earth Day. We will join with the children and youth for an intergenerational experience on the Labyrinth with stations planned by children, youth and adults. Following Easter, Edgar Miller will lead two Sundays on Environmental Issues in observance of Earth Day on April 19.

We will return to our book study with five more sessions on "Peaceful Neighbor" In May, focusing on Part Two: *Peace as More than the Absence of War*. A decision will be made later about summer Sunday School.

## YOUTH & CHILDREN FAITH FORMATION

~by Rev. Susan Morris

Youth and Children Faith Formation in March and May will parallel with the Adult book study on Mister Rogers. Their focus will be on "Justice and Peace" with a video and discussion.

Sundays in April will include intergenerational activities with the adults on the Prayer Labyrinth and Earth Day. Easter Sunday there will not be any classes, but we will enjoy a church-wide Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall and the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

The Youth have plans for several service projects such as helping in the Community Garden, another Tomato Sandwich Give-away, a Crisis Ministry meal and volunteering at the animal shelter.

Wednesday Night Youth Ministry is focusing on a Youth Emmaus Study.

The Children will continue with Children's Church on March 15 with the focus on learning about the church year...symbols, holy days, etc.

We are also considering ideas for Sunday School space and toured the education building for some ideas. This discussion will continue at our next meeting in March.

We are hoping for lots of help and plenty of chili contributions for the Chili Cook-off on March 15th. (see below)

# 2020 CHILI COOK-OFF & FUNDRAISER

Come support our youth in this Johns River Valley Camp Fundraiser. Voting for the **BEST CHILI** will be measured in monetary donations. The pot that receives the most money wins a prize and title for "**FIRST REFORMED UCC'S CHILI CHAMPION!**" Please help as you are able. Complete the list on the right, and return it to the office **by Sunday, March 8.**

**You can also complete the form online at...**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1YhFOsfe5uMCukrQ0Hpg2Arn6a5lbvydnhgvECITAHsE/edit?ts=5e4049d2>

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ # ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_

- (Please check all that apply.) I can help by
- \_\_\_\_\_ making a **pot of Chili** for the contest  
(Please bring in a Slow-cooker to keep warm)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ helping with **set up**
  - \_\_\_\_\_ helping with **clean up**
  - \_\_\_\_\_ bringing a **dessert**
  - \_\_\_\_\_ **attending** the fundraiser
  - \_\_\_\_\_ bringing **Cornbread** or **Crackers**
  - \_\_\_\_\_ bringing **Cheese**
  - \_\_\_\_\_ bringing **Sour Cream**

# BOARD OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

~Jerry Lovell

## **ON-GOING COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

Please continue to support two ongoing Community Outreach programs. We continue to serve those in need with our **Clothes Closet**. You have been so generous in the past with your donations. Please continue to bring items to the table outside the church office or contact Jerry for larger donations.

First UCC's **Partnership with Charles England Elementary School** continues, as well. By providing food for their Backpack Program, students in need have food over the weekends. We also help students purchase books at the Book Fair and by sending volunteers for their Rubies and Pearls program. Our dedication to the partnership includes teachers and staff by honoring them with an appreciation breakfast and at other times during the school year. When other needs arise, our congregation is always willing to help out. Your generosity is appreciated!

## **TOUCHING DAVIDSON COUNTY WITH LOVE**

TDCWL is set for Saturday, April 4, 2020 and there is much planning to be done. A variety of projects will be scheduled that will suit different skill sets and ability levels.

- Delivering prepared food and groceries
- Visiting/singing at rest homes
- Making quilts
- Building ramps
- Making home repairs
- Doing yardwork

The final projects have not yet been decided. If you know of a project that you would like to be considered, please let me know as soon as possible. Please note that projects connected to rentals will not be considered. If you have a project you'd like to be considered or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Jerry Lovell as soon as possible.

(336-746-6493 or 336-309-9302 or  
plovell53@yahoo.com)

# NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

~by Edgar Miller

## **SPRING PLANTING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER IN THE COMMUNITY GARDEN**

As the First Reformed UCC Community Garden celebrates its 10th anniversary, we want to express our appreciation for the volunteers who helped construct the garden in May of 2011 and the many volunteers, church youth and financial supporters who have made the garden ministry possible. In addition, we want to thank the dedicated workers from Open Hands Ministry of Davidson County, who have put countless hours into keeping the garden weed free, planting and harvesting crops and tending to the compost piles and soil. We have been blessed to be able to pay them a living wage for their work.

To continue the garden ministry in 2020 and beyond, we need your help again. We are working with the Davidson County Local Food Network and others to continue to expanding community gardens here in Lexington and across the county. We will continue to highlight our garden as a shining example of what can be

achieved when people come together for a common purpose. We also plan to host the Great Tomato Sandwich Give-away again this summer, as well as other spiritual and educational events in the garden.

To help us be successful this year, we need your support to continue to help us feed insecure people in our community. Please take a moment to plant a seed of your own by making a gift to the First Reformed Community Garden Fund. You can designate the Community Garden Fund on your weekly offering or make a special contribution through the church office.

We also need volunteers to assist the Open Hands workers. If you are interested in volunteering, please let garden coordinator, Edgar Miller, know, and he will make sure you are made aware of volunteer opportunities as they arise. As you may have read, gardening does wonders for the mind, body and spirit.

We look forward to growing together again in 2020.



# MARCH STEWARDSHIP

# OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

## THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN MARCH

|                                  |                                                       |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Liturgist:</b>                | Rev. June Grubb                                       |
| <b>Youth Liturgist (March 8)</b> | Girl Scouts                                           |
| <b>Usher Chairperson:</b>        | Jeff Hutchens                                         |
| <b>Usher Captain:</b>            | Steve Smith                                           |
| <b>Ushers:</b>                   | Ted Smith, Vicky Gray,<br>Brian McKerlie, Amy Hedrick |
| <b>Youth Usher:</b>              | Claire Smith                                          |
| <b>Plate Attendant:</b>          | John Smith                                            |
| <b>Sound Tech:</b>               | John Gray                                             |
| <b>Acolyte:</b>                  | Ethan Lovell                                          |
| <b>Bible Steward:</b>            | Lucas Peterson                                        |

## FIRST SUNDAY

### CHURCH-WIDE SOCIAL:

Rev. June Grubb, Lisa Nelson  
& Michell Winters

## MARCH VOLUNTEERS

### Greeters:

|       |                       |
|-------|-----------------------|
| 1st:  | Irvin & Doris Sink    |
| 8th:  | John & Susie Smith    |
| 15th: | Eddie & Belinda Yates |
| 22nd: | Carolyn Yocum         |
| 29th: | Buddy & Rita Lohr     |

## CONGREGATIONAL MEAL: CHILI COOK-OFF on MARCH 15

We extend Sympathy to and share in Christian Hope with...

*Joe Kiser and family on the death of his mother, Sarah Baker, this past week.*

*Jill Cole and family on the death of her mother, Patricia Celender, on January 30.*

*Sauni Johnson and family on the death of her Father, Don Fern, on January 30, 2020.*

### OUR MEMBERS:

\*Hoyle Potts (Hinkle Hospice House), Susan Miller, 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

Piedmont Crossing: Mary Berrier, Doris Flynt

### OUR FRIENDS:

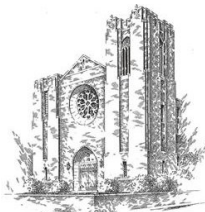
\*Ken Halik (friend of Michell Winters), Bob Sheehan (Eddie Yates' brother-in law), Gina Decelle (friend of Renee Walsh), Jack Frank (friend of John Potts & Janette Neal), Bobby Conrad (friend of John & Susie Smith), Bonnie & Jerry Broh-Khan (Marge Doty's sister and brother-in-law)

**\*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).

# MARCH 2020 CALENDAR

| SUN                                                                                                                                                                                 | MON                                                                                                            | TUE                                                                                                                                                        | WED                                                                                                                                                                                  | THU                                                 |           |                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>9:45 Sunday School<br>10:30 1st Sunday Social<br>11:00 <b>Worship</b><br>1st Sunday of Lent<br>Holy Communion                                                           | <b>2</b><br>5:30 Clothes Closet<br>6:30 Open Hands Ministry Meal                                               | <b>3</b><br>10:45 Willing Weavers<br>12:00 Race & Faith {FH}<br>6:30 Children's Ministry Team Meeting                                                      | <b>4</b><br>11:00 Morning Glory Circle<br>12:00 UMC Lenten Service<br>6:00 Youth Ministry {FH}<br>6:30 Bd. of Evangelism                                                             | <b>5</b><br>5:15 Yoga Class<br>7:00 Square Dancing  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b><br>WNCA Education Day<br><br>Turn clocks ahead before bedtime |
| <b>10</b> Daylight Saving Time begins<br>9:45 Sunday School<br>11:00 <b>Worship</b><br>2nd Sunday of Lent<br>Girl Scout Sunday<br><b>Following Worship:</b><br>Consistory           | <b>9</b><br>5:30 Clothes Closet<br>6:00 Shelter Meal: Women's Life Fellowship<br>6:30 Open Hands Ministry Meal | <b>10</b><br>10:45 Willing Weavers<br>12:00 Race & Faith {FH}<br>6:00 Men's Brotherhood & Women's Life Fellowship {FH}<br>7:00 Youth Ministry Team Meeting | <b>11</b><br>8:30 Staff Meeting<br>12:00 UMC Lenten Service<br>6:30 Bell Choir {Bell Room}<br>7:15 Choir {Chapel Annex}                                                              | <b>12</b><br>5:15 Yoga Class<br>7:00 Square Dancing | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b>                                                              |
| <b>15</b><br>9:45 Sunday School<br>11:00 <b>Worship</b><br>3rd Sunday of Lent<br>Children's Church<br><b>Following Worship:</b><br>Chili Cook-Off                                   | <b>16</b><br>5:30 Clothes Closet<br>6:30 Open Hands Ministry Meal                                              | <b>17</b><br>10:45 Willing Weavers<br>12:00 Race & Faith {FH}                                                                                              | <b>18</b><br>12:00 UMC Lenten Service<br>6:00 Youth Ministry<br>6:30 Bell Choir {Bell Room}<br>7:15 Choir {Chapel Annex}                                                             | <b>19</b><br>5:15 Yoga Class<br>7:00 Square Dancing | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b>                                                              |
| <b>22</b><br>9:45 Sunday School<br>11:00 <b>Worship</b><br>4th Sunday of Lent<br>SDA Dancers<br>One Great Hour of Sharing<br><b>Following Worship:</b><br>Open Hands Reception {FH} | <b>23</b><br>5:30 Clothes Closet<br>6:30 Open Hands Ministry Meal                                              | <b>24</b><br>10:45 Willing Weavers                                                                                                                         | <b>25</b><br>April articles due for Newsletter<br>12:00 UMC Lenten Service<br>12:00 Friendship Club (UMC Lenten service)<br>6:30 Bell Choir {Bell Room}<br>7:15 Choir {Chapel Annex} | <b>26</b><br>5:15 Yoga Class<br>7:00 Square Dancing | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b>                                                              |
| <b>29</b><br>9:45 Sunday School<br>11:00 <b>Worship</b><br>5th Sunday of Lent<br>Kids Club                                                                                          | <b>30</b><br>5:30 Clothes Closet<br>6:30 Open Hands Ministry Meal                                              | <b>31</b><br>10:45 Willing Weavers                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                     |           |                                                                        |

**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

**WORSHIP HOURS**

**9:45 SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**11:00 WORSHIP**

**Church Office Hours:**

**Monday—Friday**

**8:30am to 12:30pm**



Join Us on Facebook:

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**Rev. June Grubb**

336-248-5668

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Paula Lopp

[paula@frucc.org](mailto:paula@frucc.org)

**Choir Director**

Ellen Peterson

**Organist**

Robert Wilson

**MARCH  
BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 **Ann Kirkman**
- 2 **Vicky Gray**
- 3 **Corinne Gray**
- 4 **Emma West**
- 5 **Charyl Clark  
Tony Peele**
- 6 **Rylee Grzech**
- 12 **Adam McKerlie**
- 16 **Alane Holste  
Ron Sink**
- 17 **Dan Horton**
- 20 **Ted Smith**
- 23 **Margie Everhart  
Mike Perry  
Kiaya Plummer  
Josh Sink  
Billy West**
- 27 **Jonathan Kepley**
- 28 **Elizabeth Horton**
- 29 **Doris Flynt**
- 31 **Kivi Miller**

**MARCH  
ANNIVERSARIES**

- 11  
**Ron & Heidi Hutcheson**
- 17  
**Keith & Alisa Johnson**
- 27  
**Mark & Karla Loper  
Clifford & Paula Lopp  
Steve & Cathy Waitman**



**LOOKING AHEAD  
TO APRIL**

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UMC Lenten Service</li> <li>• Youth Ministry</li> </ul>                                                                                                               |
| 4  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Touching Davidson County with Love</li> </ul>                                                                                                                         |
| 5  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intergenerational Sunday School: Prayer Labyrinth</li> <li>• Church-wide First Sunday Social</li> <li>• Worship: Palm Sunday</li> <li>• Walk to Courthouse</li> </ul> |
| 7  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board of Evangelism</li> <li>• Children's Ministry Team Meeting</li> </ul>                                                                                            |
| 9  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maundy Thursday</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                            |
| 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good Friday</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                |
| 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easter Breakfast &amp; Egg Hunt</li> </ul>                                                                                                                            |
| 13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easter Monday</li> <li>• HOLIDAY...OFFICE CLOSED</li> </ul>                                                                                                           |
| 14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborative Ministries</li> <li>• Men's Brotherhood &amp; Women's Life Fellowship</li> <li>• Youth Ministry Team Meeting</li> </ul>                                 |
| 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Ministry</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                             |
| 19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intergenerational Sunday School: Earth Day and the Environment with Edgar Miller</li> <li>• Consistory</li> </ul>                                                     |
| 22 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United Friendship Club</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                     |
| 24 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May Newsletter Articles due by Noon</li> </ul>                                                                                                                        |
| 26 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intergenerational Sunday School: Earth Day and the Environment with Edgar Miller</li> <li>• Earth Sunday</li> </ul>                                                   |

**Don't forget, turn your clocks ahead on Saturday, March 7th...**



SET YOUR CLOCKS  
**Ahead!**

**before you go to bed!**