

## Thank You for Serving Our Church

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Gilbert and Ethel Barbee; given by Dan Barbee and family.

**THE BUD VASE ON THE ALTAR** today is in honor of the birth of "Baby" Gould, born April 9<sup>th</sup>. Proud parents are Tommy and Lauren Thompson Gould. He is the grandson of Myra Thompson.

**USHERS:** John Gray, John Maze, Bonita Hooper, Linda Sink

**PLATE ATTENDANT:** Dave Fulton

**YOUTH USHER:** Patrick Horton

**SOUND TECHNICIAN:** Calvin Odom

**ACOLYTE:** Parker Horton

**GREETERS:** Dave & Glenyce Fulton

**BIBLE STEWARD:** Lucas Peterson

**NURSERY (INFANTS-KINDERGARTEN):** Keri Hartle & Ashlee Snider

- ❖ A wall unit changing table is located in our handicapped restroom {through left door at the chancel.}
- ❖ A comfort area with rocking chair, monitor and speaker is available if you need to leave the sanctuary to calm or soothe a baby or young child {through left or right door at chancel.}

## Our Church at Prayer

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Remember those in the Armed Forces. To add a name to the prayer list please fill out a prayer request card located in the backs of the pews, contact Sylvia Walser at 336-225-2964 or call the church office at 336-248-2617.

**CHURCH MEMBERS:** Ruth Fritts, Margot Everhart, Carolyn Spivey, Peggy Bates

**HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:** Doris Flynt, James Everhart, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Jo Hudson, Valerie Price, Rita Tussey, Adena Wall, Marzell Crotts, Hoyle Potts

**OUR FRIENDS:** Virginia Byars (friend of Alisa Johnson), Derrick Wong (friend of Joni Walser), Ashley Anderson (Lee Ann Peele's cousin), Judy Stanley (family of Alane Holste), Danny Lloyd (Frank Callicutt's father), Lynn Mack (friend of Mary Berrier), Barbara Miller (Eddie Yates' mother), Kiana Sinz (friend of Patti Lovell), Louis Honeycutt, Eliza Paris (friend of Sylvia Walser's granddaughter), Jonelle Parker (friend of Frank Leonard), Rev. Jamie Armstrong (1<sup>st</sup> UMC) and his wife, Rev. Elizabeth Graves (Epworth UMC in Concord), Ronald Yates (Eddie Yates' dad), Nell and Ken Holmes (neighbors of Jerry and Patti Lovell), Jeffery Saunders (Amy Hedrick's son)

FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

104 EAST CENTER STREET, LEXINGTON, NC 27292

PHONE: 336-248-2617 WEBSITE: [www.frucc.org](http://www.frucc.org) FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/firstreformeducc](https://www.facebook.com/firstreformeducc)

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Pastor, Rev. Elizabeth Horton ([elizabeth@frucc.org](mailto:elizabeth@frucc.org), cell/text #336-972-8895)

Minister of Pastoral Care, Rev. June Grubb ([jgrubb3@triad.rr.com](mailto:jgrubb3@triad.rr.com))

Director of Christian Education, Cathy Waitman ([cathy@frucc.org](mailto:cathy@frucc.org))

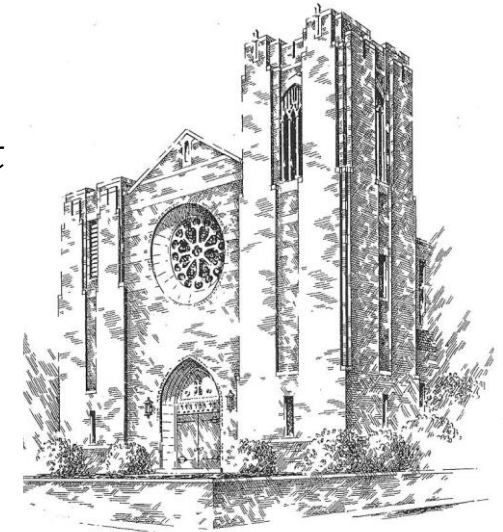
Choir Director, Ellen Peterson

Organist, Lee Ann Peele

Admin. Asst., Carolyn Robbins ([carolyn@frucc.org](mailto:carolyn@frucc.org))

Financial Secretary, Paula Lopp ([paula@frucc.org](mailto:paula@frucc.org))

## *First Reformed United Church of Christ*



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

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
God is still speaking.

April 15, 2018  
11:00am

*Welcome! If you are visiting with us, please fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate when passed. Prayer Request Cards can be found on the backs of the pews if you would like to request prayer for yourself or someone else. Please place these in the offering plate when passed.*

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

# The Worship of God

Third Sunday of Easter

Liturgist: Kalyssa Hutchens

## Gathering

Prelude

\*Chiming of the Hour

Welcome

Elizabeth Horton

Choral Call to Worship

\*Reminder of God's Grace

Kalyssa Hutchens

Leader: When fear and doubts stroll through our doors:

**People: God stands beside us, whispering of peace.**

Leader: When we toss and turn late at night:

**People: God sits by our beds, singing lullabies of love.**

Leader: When we stumble through the shadows of sin:

**People: God illuminates the paths of goodness and joy.**

\*Hymn:

“ ‘Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

Insert

\*Invocation

Elizabeth Horton

## Centering

Young Disciples

Elizabeth Horton

All youth, pre-K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade, are invited join Alice Gray, Keri Hartle and Ashlee Snider for Kids Club.

Litany of Doubt

*This prayer is based on the congregation's responses to the question:*

*What are your doubts about God, about the future, about yourself?*

**God, the questions rise within our spirit;**

Why did Thomas get to touch Jesus, when so many of us cannot?

Since You created and shaped us, why do we have so many choices?

Are our lives on earth predestined?

I have doubts about my career path, my relationship, and my future.

What if my life doesn't end up the way I really want it to be?

Will the plans I have made ever come to fruition?

I am happier than I ever dreamed... but a lot of things could destroy it.

I am never happy – peace and happiness seem ever elusive to me.

Mostly, I do not doubt You, I only doubt myself.

How can I use my time wisely in my ending years?

What about the ways in which I have failed in my past?

If God will forgive me, then why can't I forgive myself?

Sometimes it is not You I doubt, but only myself.

**God, sometimes we feel as if You are not there at all.**

They say You are here. But I cannot see You. I cannot feel You.

I go through difficult times, and it seems as if You are nowhere to be found.

Do you care, God? My life is not getting better. Do You even hear me?

**We want to believe You. Help our unbelief.**

I doubt the resurrection, heaven, and the afterlife, O God.

Is there really life after death? How can we live immortally?

Is faith really enough for salvation?

I struggle with what sexuality means in Your eyes.

I look around Your diverse and beautiful world and doubt that any one religion is the only way to Your presence.

Is Christianity the only way to You? Have we missed something?

I doubt that organized religion really understands and teaches what You want.

How do I know if I need to leave one place of worship and find a new one?

**In this, Your world, so many suffer.**

How do You allow the slaughter in Syria?

Will we ever live in a peaceful world again?

What if cancer-curing medications are available, but the love of profit prevents access to the majority?

Could humanity be that greedy and cruel?

The doctors tell me I will get better; yet I still have doubts.

## Who are we becoming?

I struggle with the lack of respect and compassion in the world.

I worry about our country.

Will our leaders ever work together to do what is best for all?

Yet, I still have hope, I continue to imagine.

How do I walk closely to the people who are less fortunate?

With all the distractions in the world, am I truly following Christ?

## Good and Gracious God,

**have mercy on us in our doubt  
and meet us in our weakness.**

Where we are skeptical, be gracious to us.

## Where our expectations are unmet, be generous to us.

Where we have unanswered questions, gently teach us.

## We will need Your patience

## and all the loving kindness You can muster to make up for our lack.

If there is any language we can understand,

## Surely it is Love.

If there is any small spark our eyes can see,

## Surely it is Love.

## Amen

## *Proclaiming*

Response in Song

*“Open Our Eyes, Lord”*

***Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,***

***To reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him.***

***Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen,***

***Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.***

Gospel Reading

Luke 24: 13-32

Elizabeth Horton

*(Pew Bible page 964)*

Special Music

Mike Price, saxophone

Sermon

“Life Resurrected: Raised from Hopelessness”

Elizabeth Horton

## *Responding*

\*Hymn:

*“Peace I Leave with You, My Friend”*

Insert

Pastoral Prayer

Elizabeth Horton

Connecting in Ministry

Elizabeth Horton

Invitation to Receive Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

\*Easter Doxology

Tune: *“Old Hundredth”* Text: Ruth Duck

***Praise God the Source of life and birth. Praise God the Word, who came to earth.***

***Praise God the Spirit, holy flame. All glory, honor, to God’s name. Amen.***

\*Prayer of Dedication

Kalyssa Hutchens

## *Sending*

\*Responsive Call to Dedication

Kalyssa Hutchens

Leader: And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”

**People: Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”**

\*Benediction

Elizabeth Horton

\*Congregational Response

**Peace I leave with you, my friends, shalom, my peace, in all you do.**

**Peace I leave with you, my friends. I give to you so you can give to others, too.**

Postlude

**\*THOSE WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND**

# 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

"Trust in God; trust also in me." Jn. 14:1

1. 'Tis so sweet to trust in Je - sus, just to take him at his word,  
 2. O how sweet to trust in Je - sus, just to trust his cleans-ing blood,  
 3. Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Je - sus, just from sin and self to cease,  
 4. I'm so glad I learned to trust thee, pre-cious Je - sus, Sav - ior, Friend,

just to rest up - on his prom-ise, just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."  
 just in sim - ple faith to plunge me 'neath the heal - ing, cleans-ing flood!  
 just from Je - sus sim - ply tak - ing life and rest, and joy and peace.  
 and I know that thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end.

*Refrain*

Je - sus, Je - sus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!

Je - sus, Je - sus, pre - cious Je - sus! O for grace to trust him more!

WORDS: Louisa M. R. Stead, 1882  
 MUSIC: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1882

TRUST IN JESUS  
 8.7.8.7.Ref.

# Peace I Leave with You, My Friends

John 14:18-29

Ray Repp, 1967

*Refrain*

Peace I leave with you, my friends, sha-lom, my peace, in

all you do. Peace I leave with you, my friends. I give to

you so you can give to oth - ers, too.

1 To share God's love is why I came,  
 2 Take my hand and be at peace;  
 3 With this love now all will know

to show God's kind - ness with - out end.  
 the spir - it of our love I send.  
 that lone - li - ness is at an end.

Songwriter Ray Repp has composed and recorded numerous albums of liturgical songs since 1965, when he introduced guitar into worship with his "Mass for Young Americans."

Tune: PEACE, MY FRIENDS Irr. with refrain  
 Ray Repp, 1967  
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

D Em G D

Go now, my friends, and do the same,  
 And with this love you will be free,  
 Re-joice, my friends, al-though I go,

F#m G A7 *to Refrain*

un-til I come a - gain.  
 un-til I come a - gain.  
 for I will come a - gain.

## Upcoming Events

**ATTENTION ALL CRAFTERS!** There will be a Prayer Shawl Blessing on Sunday, April 29. Please contact Harriette Murphy or the church office if you will have shawls for this blessing.



### **INTERFAITH FORUM #4: COME LEARN ABOUT ISLAM**

**April 22 from 4:00-5:30pm**

Guest Speaker: Najila Faizi

Program Director for Muslim Life at Wake Forest University

**FAMILIES FIRST** will gather on Saturday, April 28 5-7:00pm at the home of Joy, Vance and Addie Walser. Bring a snack or appetizer to share. **RSVP deadline is TODAY** so the Walsers will know how many to expect.

**DAVIDSON-FORSYTH DISTRICT FIFTH SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP** will be held Sunday, April 29 at 4:00pm at Piedmont Crossing. The worship leader will be Rev. Dr. R. J. Hronek of Heidelberg UCC in Thomasville.

**“UCC: WHO WE ARE”** is a new video-led class scheduled for May 2 through June 3. All who are interested in learning about the United Church of Christ are invited to attend. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall, so there will be plenty of room!

**NEW MEMBER SUNDAY IS MAY 20** In anticipation of New Member Sunday, anyone interested in becoming a part of our congregation or learning more about the church should plan to attend the new video-led series titled ***“UCC: WHO WE ARE”*** on May 6 and May 13. Please let the church office know (carolyn@frucc.org) if you are planning to attend.

**SAVE THE DATE: ORGAN RECITAL on SUNDAY, MAY 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm** in the church sanctuary. Performances will include various organists from local churches, instrumentalists on piano, harp and saxophone and vocal performances. A Love Offering will be collected to benefit Pastor’s Pantry. **Look for more information soon!**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**WINSTON SALEM DASH GAME SUNDAY, JUNE 3 at 2:00pm.** The deadline to sign up is **SUNDAY, MAY 6.** The cost is \$13 per person. We will be sitting in a covered area near home plate. If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the Education Building or let Cathy know.

**GRADUATION SUNDAY** is scheduled for Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. We would like to honor all milestones in education. If your child is graduating from kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, high school or college please advise the church office **by Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.**

### **SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN & TEENS:**

**JOHN'S RIVER VALLEY CAMP** 2018 registration has already begun for exciting summer opportunities at John's River Valley Camp. The 2018 Traditional Summer Camp Schedule includes opportunities for various age and grade levels. Please look for more information on the weekly email or contact the church office.

**ATTENTION MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLERS: BE A PART OF DISCOVER PROGRAM AT NO COST DISCOVER** is a program that challenges middle and high school youth with theological and moral reflection prior to college life. Students have opportunities to **discover** God in new ways; **discover** who they are as children of God; **discover** how to live out their faith; and **discover** what they are called to do vocationally. Please look for more information on the weekly email or contact the church office.

**25th GREATER PIEDMONT OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT** hosted by The Davidson-Forsyth Churchmen Fellowship will be Saturday, May 12 at Lexington Golf Club. This is a **Captain's Choice, Best Ball** tournament. It will begin with a 2:00 "shot gun" start. The cost is \$55.00 per person or \$220.00 per team. There will be FOUR hole-in-one prizes. All golfers will receive a goody bag and a door prize. Money raised goes toward scholarships, local charities, and local projects. Everyone is welcome to play: women, youth, and individuals. For information contact Danny Thompson (336 479 1556).

### **Sunday, April 15**

### **Third Sunday of Easter...Kids Club**

- 9:45am Children – "Knowing Jesus in a New Way" with Cathy Waitman and Alice Gray  
New Way – studying Romans with Dave Fulton  
Willing Workers – studying Genesis with Doug Sink  
Still Speaking Class –Rob Bell's "Nooma" video series with Elizabeth Horton {P}  
11:00am Worship in the Sanctuary...Kids Club with Alice Gray, Keri Hartle & Ashlee Snider

### **Monday, April 16**

- 1-5:00pm Board of Realtors Meeting {DS}  
5:00pm Tutoring  
6:30pm Open Hands Ministry {FH}

### **Tuesday, April 17**

- 8:30-5:30 Board of Realtors Meeting {DS}  
7:00pm Women's Life Fellowship {P}

### **Wednesday, April 18**

- 6:30pm Bell Choir {practice in the Sanctuary}  
7:15pm Choir {Ch A}

### **Thursday, April 19**

- 5:30pm YOGA Class {P}

### **Sunday, April 22**

### **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

- 9:45am Children – "Knowing Jesus in a New Way" with Cathy Waitman and Rita Lohr  
New Way – studying Romans with Dave Fulton  
Willing Workers – studying Genesis with Doug Sink  
Still Speaking Class –Rob Bell's "Nooma" video series with Elizabeth Horton {P}  
11:00am Worship in the Sanctuary  
12:30pm Choir Luncheon  
4:00pm **Interfaith Forum #4: Naijla Faizi {FH}**

### **Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries (April 15-21)**

<b>Birthdays</b>	April 15	Chris Fulton Rita Tussey
<b>Anniversaries</b>	April 17	Mike & Laura Perry
	April 21	Casey & Keri Hartle