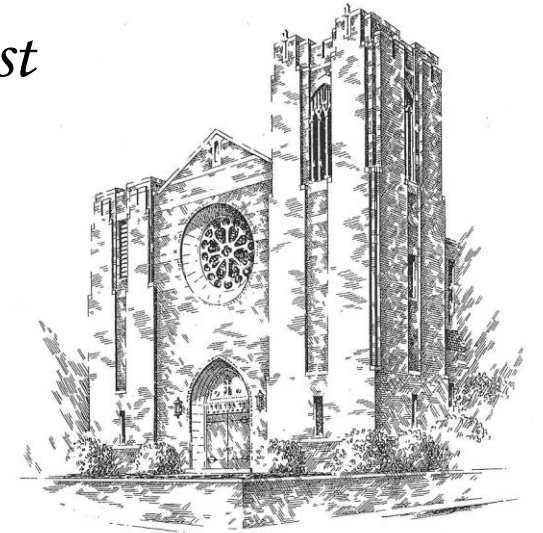


*First Reformed  
United Church of Christ*

*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.*



September 30, 2018  
11:00AM

**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: 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) cell/text #336-240-2503)

Director of Spiritual Growth and Renewal, 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))

*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

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Liturgist: Patti Lovell

## Gathering

Prelude

\*Chiming of the Hour

Welcome

Elizabeth Horton

Choral Call to Worship

*"Bind Us Together"*

\*Call to Worship

Patti Lovell

Leader: This is a place of safety. This is a time of comfort.  
Here and now the God who made the universe waits to embrace us;  
Here and now we come to feel God's healing touch again.

**People: With all that we are; parts that are whole, and parts that are broken;  
Parts that are well, and parts that are sick  
Parts that are joyful and parts that are in pain;**

Leader: With all that we are, we come to worship You, O God,

**People: For You are gracious, merciful and kind,  
And we long to find our rest in You.**

\*Hymn

*"Come and Find the Quiet Centre"*

Insert

\*Invocation

Patti Lovell

Young Disciples

*{All youth, pre-K - 5<sup>th</sup> grades, are invited to join Alice Gray and Cathy Waitman for Kids Club.}*

Scripture Reading

Mark 9: 38-50  
(Page #920 of Pew Bible)

Patti Lovell

Unison Prayer of Confession

Elizabeth Horton

*Let us open our lives to God's searching gaze*

**Dear God of Mercy and Compassion,  
We acknowledge that we are not all that we would like to be;  
We carry wounds and regrets, some of which are of our own design,  
and some of which we have received from others.  
We acknowledge our failings, our bitterness and our hatreds,  
And ask You to heal us.  
(Silence as each one makes confession.)**

Leader: Of all our sins,

**People: Forgive us, O God**

Leader: In all our weaknesses,

**People: Strengthen us, O God.**

Leader: From all our diseases,

**People: Heal us, O God. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

## Centering

Connecting in Ministry

Elizabeth Horton

Prayers for the People

Lord, Listen

**"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"**

*Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

Anthem

*"The Least of These"*

Shackley and Stewart

*The waters rise and dreams lie shattered. A nation falls; her people flee.  
A mother prays to feed her children as hunger drives them to their knees.*

*A body fails; a spirit falters. A burdened heart cries for relief,  
Forsaken in its darkest moment. Have mercy on the least of these.*

*Lives are broken all around us. A sparrow falls; the Father sees.  
But God needs hearts and arms to open in mercy for the least of these.*

*He left His Father and the angels to dwell among the poor and weak.  
He touched the outcast and forgotten, the ones we call "the least of these."*

*But on the cross, His arms were open in mercy for our spirits' need.  
He came to fill our deepest hunger, for we are all "the least of these."*

*Lives are broken all around us. A sparrow falls; the Father sees.  
But God needs hearts and arms to open in mercy for the least of these  
Lord may our hearts, redeemed in mercy, have mercy on the least of these.*

## Proclaiming

Scripture Reading

James 5:13-20  
(Page #1103 of Pew Bible)

Sermon

**"A Faith that Works: The Power of Prayer"**

## Responding

PRAISE AND INVOCATION

\*Hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" Insert

Invitation to Give Tithes and Offerings

*We are still collecting money for the Emergency Clean-up Bucket Project  
for Hurricane Florence relief.*

Offertory

\*Offering Response "The Doxology"

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

\*Prayer of Dedication Patti Lovell

## Sending

\*Responsive Call to Dedication

Liturgist: 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."**

\*Blessing of the Oil and Invitation

*All persons who desire healing for themselves or others, whether physical, emotional or  
spiritual, have an opportunity to pray one-on-one. Come to the front kneeling bench.*

\*Choral Benediction "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

\*Postlude

\* PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

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## Come and Find the Quiet Centre

1 Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,  
2 Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,  
3 In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,

find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:  
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, face to face,  
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:

clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see  
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,  
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,

all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.  
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.  
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, alt. 1989

Music: attrib. Benjamin Franklin White 1844, harm. Ronald A. Nelson 1978

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BEACH SPRING

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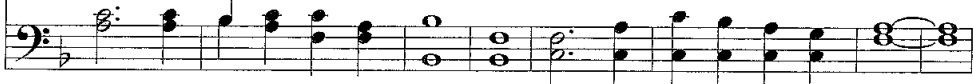
## What a Friend We Have in Jesus



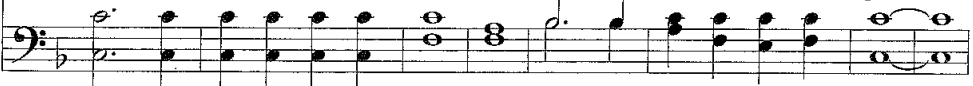
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a pri - vi - lege to car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged, take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Christ the Sav - iour is our ref - uge, take it to the Lord in prayer.



O what peace we of - ten for - feit, O what need - less pain we bear,  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?  
 Do our friends des - pise, for - sake us? Are we temp - ted to des - pair?



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer.  
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness, take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Je - sus' strength will shield our weak - ness, and we'll find new cour - age there.



Words: Joseph Medlicott Scriven ca. 1855  
 Music: Charles Crozat Converse 1868

FRIENDSHIP  
 8 7 8 7 D  
 Alt. tune: Blaenwern

## “Building an Inclusive Church” Update

Sunday, October 7, 2018, a special meeting will be held directly after worship to vote on adopting the proposed 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.

A Welcoming Statement publicly states that a congregation is willing to be an inclusive church home, which is designated in the UCC by the term, Open and Affirming (ONA). Over the summer a Welcoming Statement was created and circulated throughout the congregation for discussion and revision. Then, a congregational Exploratory Survey was taken in August, with 124 responses received. 87% were in favor of the proposed statement, and 13% against.

While this church *already* reflects inclusive values in our day-to-day life and ministry together, this statement helps us grow into our future, sending a clear message and providing assurance to those looking for an inclusive church home.

If you would like to see any of the materials used in this process over the past year, including forum handouts, congregation correspondence, or a timeline of events, they are available in the church office.



# Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**. Following worship, lunch will be served. The menu includes: Boston Butt, potato salad, baked beans, slaw, rolls and dessert. All donations appreciated!

The Finance Committee met and drafted a proposed budget for 2019. It was presented to and approved by Consistory at the September meeting. After lunch, Lindsay Sink will present the budget proposal for a congregational vote. All members are encouraged to be a part of this important process in the life of First Reformed UCC.

To assist with meal planning, please sign up below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children \_\_\_\_\_



# Family Fun Night

Women's Life Fellowship is sponsoring a family night Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm. There will be pumpkins to decorate (\$5 each). Hot dogs will be grilled by Lindsay Sink, and Women's Life will provide fixin's, chips, drinks and dessert. There is no charge for the meal, so this truly is an affordable fun time for church families to fellowship. Sign up below and drop slip in the collection plate to reserve your pumpkin now!

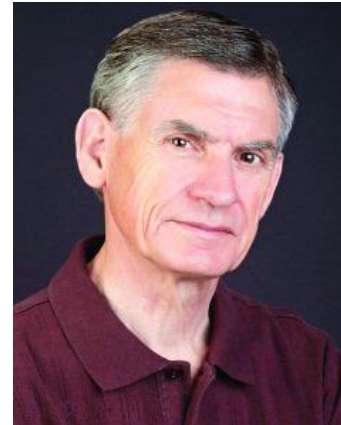
If you prefer not to decorate a pumpkin but would like to come enjoy a hot dog and fellowship, you are welcome!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Pumpkins \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5.00 each)

Number of Hotdogs \_\_\_\_\_ (free)

## REV. AL STAGGS MINISTER and PERFORMING ARTIST



**October 20-21, 2018**

**First Reformed  
United Church of Christ**

**104 East Center Street**

**Lexington, NC**

## THREE PRESENTATIONS

**Saturday Evening, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30<sup>PM</sup>**

**First Reformed UCC Fellowship Hall**

**Catered Reception and Performance**

***"Laughter for Life"***

**ADMISSION WITH TICKETS ONLY...COST \$10.00 each**

Contact the church office to reserve your ticket (336-248-2617)

**Sunday Morning, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:45<sup>AM</sup>**

**First Reformed UCC Fellowship Hall**

***"Clarence Jordan and the God Movement"***

**Sunday Morning, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00<sup>AM</sup>**

**First Reformed UCC Sanctuary**

***"A View from the Underside:  
The Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer"***

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** today are given to the glory of God and in honor of all the October birthdays in my family: Annmarie Owen, Bill Robbins, Michael R. Owen & Molly R. Robertson; given by Carolyn Robbins.

*Thank You for Serving Our Church*

**USHERS:** Dave Fulton, Alane Holste, Calvin Odom, Joy Walser

**USHER CAPTAIN:** John Smith

**YOUTH USHER:** Jonathan Kepley

**SOUND TECHNICIAN:** John Gray

**ACOLYTE:** Ethan Lovell

**GREETER:** Rev. June Grubb

**BIBLE STEWARD:** Lucas Peterson

**NURSERY {INFANTS-KINDERGARTEN}:** John Smith & Joy Walser

- ❖ 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 (336-225-2964), contact Ben Hale (benjaminhale08@comcast.net or 704-772-6908) or call the church office (336-248-2617).

**CHURCH MEMBERS:** Ruth Fritts, Vogen Everhart, Deanna Michael, Lauren Thompson Gould, Peggy Bates, Margot Everhart

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

**OUR FRIENDS:** Eugenia Holste (Alane Holste's Mother), David Combs (Friend of Open Hands), Noriko Shaw and the Family of Heather & Joe Surrett (Friends of Mike & Lynn Brown), Clifford Beane (Neighbor of Lee & Ellen Bouchard), Brian Arensman (Keith Johnson's friend and co-worker), John Hayden (Friend of Kivi Miller), Ed Leonard (Brother of Sylvia Walser), Dan Smith (Brother of Steve and Jerry Smith), Judy Stanley (Friend of Alane Holste), Lacy Belcher (Friend of Vicky Gray), Jonelle Parker (Friend of Frank Leonard); Family of Boyd Shirley (Friends of Patti & Jerry Lovell); Eddie Wray (Friend of Lisa Nelson), Lynn Younts (Friend of Susie Smith), Eliza Paris (Friend of Sylvia Walser's granddaughter), Harold Peoples (Friend of Cheryl Walser), Ashley Hutcheson (Daughter-in-law of Heidi & Ron Hutcheson)

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Sunday, Sept. 30**

**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**9:45AM..... SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Inquiry Class with Rev. Horton and Dave Fulton *{Parlor}*

Youth -- Children's Sabbath Practice *{Downstairs}*

Adults -- "UCC: Who We Are" with Jerry Lovell *{FH}*

**11:00AM..... WORSHIP SERVICE IN SANCTUARY**

**Kids Club with Alice Gray and Cathy Waitman**

Monday, Oct. 1

6:30pm .... Open Hands Ministry Meal *{Fellowship Hall}*

Tuesday, Oct. 2

Noon ..... Collaborative Ministries Bible Study;  
Book of Psalms *{Parlor}*

6:30pm .... Bd. of Evangelism *{Parlor}*

..... Bd. of Spiritual Growth & Evangelism

Wednesday, Oct. 3

11:00am .... Morning Glory Circle *{Parlor}*

6:30pm .... Bell Choir Practice *{Bell Room}*

7:15pm .... Choir Practice *{Chapel Annex}*

Thursday, Oct. 4

5:30pm .... YOGA Class *{Parlor}*

7:00pm .... Square Dance *{Fellowship Hall}*

Saturday, Oct. 6

10-Noon..... Garden Work Day with Edgar Miller - harvest sweet potatoes

**WNCA Annual Gathering**

Abernathy Laurels Retirement Community, Newton, NC

**Sunday, Oct. 7**

**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

**9:45AM..... SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Youth -- Children's Sabbath Practice *{Downstairs}*

Adults -- "UCC: Who We Are" Lesson 8 *{FH}*

**10:30AM..... First Sunday Social: Edgar & Kivi Miller**

**11:00AM..... WORSHIP SERVICE IN SANCTUARY**

**WORLD WIDE COMMUNION...NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING**

**SPECIAL MEETING FOR CONGREGATIONAL VOTE**

**Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries {Sept. 30-Oct. 6}**

**BIRTHDAYS**..... September 30..... Kelly Greathouse

October 2..... Adena Wall

October 6..... Joy Walser

**ANNIVERSARIES** ..... October 1 ..... John & Susie Smith