

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR today are given to the glory of God and in honor of our confirmands: Jonathan Kepley, Ava Miller and Claire Smith.

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: James Gray

ACOLYTE: Ethan Lovell

GREETERS: Rich & Lena Johnson

BIBLE STEWARD: Lucas Peterson

NURSERY {INFANTS-KINDERGARTEN}: No Volunteers

- ❖ 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).

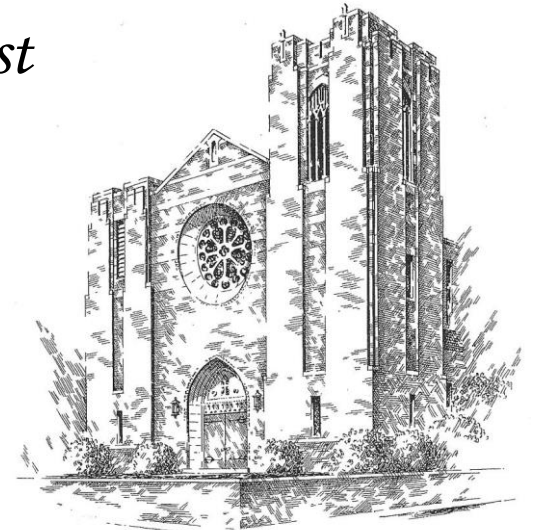
CHURCH MEMBERS: Melody Evans, Ruth Fritts, Brian McKerlie, Lee Bouchard, Vogen Everhart, Deanna Michael, Lauren Thompson Gould, Peggy Bates (Alston Brook Nursing Home, Rm 114), Margot Everhart

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

OUR FRIENDS: 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); Dr. Sidney Hood...Family of Cindy S. Bowers...Kiana Sinz (Friends of Patti & Jerry Lovell); Dennis Yocum (Son of Carolyn Yocum), 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)

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.

September 9, 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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Liturgists: Confirmands

Gathering

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"Every morning in your life the same prayer will be necessary. 'I believe, dear Lord, help my unbelief.' Today, when the Christian congregation acknowledges you as adult members of the church, it expects that you begin to understand that your faith must be your very own individual decision. The 'we believe' must now grow more and more into an 'I believe.' Faith is a decision. We cannot avoid that." ~Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Confirmation Sermon, 1938

Prelude

*Chiming of the Hour

*Welcome

Elizabeth Horton

*Call to Worship

Ava Miller

Leader: We are God's work of art--each one of us a precious gem, a marvelous melody, a potter's delight.

People: We are God's handiwork--woven together in love, shaped with infinite compassion, painted with incredible beauty.

Leader: We are the church of Jesus Christ--diverse in human qualities, but united in our call to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves.

People: We are the Body of Christ--living in truth, sharing peace, carrying hope, embodying love, in the world God loved so much.

Leader: Remind us who we are and what our lives are about.

People: Renew us and empower us to live out the miracle of who we are, by the power of God working among us.

Leader: Together let us worship the living God.

People: We open ourselves to God, who makes all things new.

*Hymn:

"God, When I Came into This Life"

Insert

*Invocation

Elizabeth Horton

Centering

Prayer of Confession

Elizabeth Horton

O Lord our God, you know us better than we know ourselves. As we come before you now, believers and doubters alike, we all share a deep need. Search us, O God, and know our hearts. Forgive us for the ways we have not loved you or our neighbor. Transform our hearts, we pray.

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: All Members of 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 cell/text #336-240-2503)

Director of Christian Education, Cathy Waitman (cathy@frucc.org)

Choir Director, Ellen Peterson Organist, Lee Ann Peele

Admin. Asst., Carolyn Robbins (carolyn@frucc.org) Financial Secretary, Paula Lopp (paula@frucc.org)

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Assurance of Forgiveness	Elizabeth Horton
Connecting in Ministry	Elizabeth Horton
Prayers for the People	Elizabeth Horton

Anthem: *"I Shall Not Be Afraid"* arr. Faye Lopez

*The Lord is my Light and my Savior, my strength, my protector, and guide.
I run to His arms when in danger and safe in His shadow I hide.*

*Whom shall I fear when God is with me? Whom shall I fear: He shields me in love!
His presence surrounds me completely, I shall not be afraid.*

*When all of earth's comforts are lacking, my Lord in His mercy sustains.
When all those I've trusted forsake me, my God in compassion remains.*

*Whom shall I fear, God stands with me? Whom shall I fear? He shields me with love.
His presence surrounds me completely, I shall not be afraid.*

*Now only one thing I am seeking, to look on His beautiful face;
To live evermore in His presence, and bask in His wonderful grace.*

*Whom shall I fear when God is with me? Whom shall I fear?
He shields me with love, He shields me with love.*

His presence surrounds me completely, I shall not be afraid. I shall not be afraid.

Proclaiming

Scripture Reading	James 2: 1-17 (Page #1100 of Pew Bible)	Claire Smith
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Sermon:	<i>"A Faith that Works"</i>	Elizabeth Horton
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Snapshots of Faith	Jonathan Kepley Ava Miller Claire Smith
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THE SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

Invitation

Questions of the Candidates

Confession of Faith

Pastor: Do you believe in God?

Confirmands: *We believe in God who has created and is creating.*

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

Confirmands: We believe that God has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Confirmands: We believe that God works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: We trust God. God calls us to be the Church.

Pastor: Will you promise to support this congregation with your time, talents, and prayers, participating regularly in the worship, fellowship and work of this community of faith and contributing to its life in this city and beyond?

Confirmands: *We do promise.*

Pastor: With your love, God will love.

With your hands, God will touch the city around us.

With your lives, God will bring justice and compassion to the world.

Prayer

The Rite of Confirmation

The Presentation of the Gifts

*THE CONFIRMATION COVENANT

All: We recognize you as full members of this congregation. We promise you our love and support. We covenant with God and with one another, to walk together where the Holy Spirit leads, known or yet to be discovered, whatever it should cost us. Amen.

Responding

*Hymn:	<i>"Will You Come and Follow Me"</i>	Insert
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*Invitation to Give Tithes and Offerings	Elizabeth Horton
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Offertory	<i>"I Was There to Hear Your Burning Cry"</i>	Ellen Peterson
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*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	Jonathan Kepley
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Sending

*Responsive Call to Dedication	Jonathan Kepley
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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."

*Benediction	Elizabeth Horton
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*Choral Benediction

*Postlude

*** PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE**

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

Following Worship, all are invited for lunch across the street in the Fellowship Hall.

God, When I Came into This Life

Fred Kaan, 1979

Isa. 43:1

1 God, when I came in - to this life, you
 2 You give me free - dom to be - lieve; to -
 3 With - in the cir - cle of the faith, as
 4 In all the ten - sions of my life, be -
 5 So help me in my un - be - lief and

called me by my name; To - day I come, com -
 day I make my choice, And to the wor - ship
 mem - ber of your cast, I take my place with
 tween my faith and doubt, Let your great Spir - it
 let my life be true: Feet firm - ly plant - ed

mit my - self, re - spond - ing to your claim.
 of the church I add my learn - ing voice.
 all the saints of fu - ture, pres - ent, past.
 give me hope, sus - tain me, lead me out.
 on the earth, my sights set high on you.

The musical setting for this text by contemporary poet Fred Kaan is an Appalachian folk tune of possible British origin. Annabel Morris Buchanan, an organist, music teacher, and scholar of American hymnody, collected and arranged this and other tunes in Folk Hymns of America, 1938.

Tune: LAND OF REST C.M.
 The Christian Harp, 1832
 Harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938

Will You Come and Follow Me

Unison

1 Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2 Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?
 ♦ 3 Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4 Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
 5 Christ, your sum - mons e - choes true when you but call my name.

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 ♦ Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
 ♦ Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot - steps show.

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?
 ♦ and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Words: The Iona Community 1987

Music: Scottish traditional, arr. The Iona Community 1987

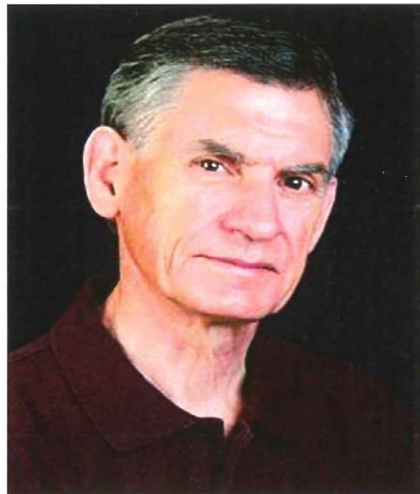
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KELVINGROVE

7 6 7 6 7 7 7 6

Alt. setting: 96

REV. AL STAGGS
MINISTER and PERFORMING ARTIST



September 15-16, 2018

First Reformed
United Church of Christ
104 East Center Street
Lexington, NC

THREE PRESENTATIONS

Saturday Evening, September 15th at 6:30PM
First Reformed UCC Fellowship Hall
Reception and Performance
“Laughter for Life”

ADMISSION WITH TICKETS ONLY...COST \$10.00 each
For sale in Narthex after Worship. See Dave Fulton.

Sunday Morning, September 16th at 9:45AM
First Reformed UCC Fellowship Hall
“Clarence Jordan and the God Movement”

Sunday Morning, September 16th at 11:00AM
First Reformed UCC Sanctuary
***“A View from the Underside:
The Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer”***

Clarence Jordan was a farmer, Baptist minister and biblical scholar who, in 1942, founded the interracial community of Koinonia in south Georgia. His perspective of Christian discipleship, particularly in regard to the issues of racial equality, war and greed, made him a highly controversial figure in his hometown of Americus and Sumter County, Georgia. Jordan's life and theology were a radical embodiment of the teachings of Jesus, especially those from the Sermon on the Mount. In 1968 he and Millard Fuller founded Fund for Humanity, which later became Habitat for Humanity International.



51st ANNUAL GATHERING
OF THE WESTERN NC ASSOCIATION

First Reformed will be well-represented at the Western NC Association meeting. Our clergy will be in attendance, and Patti Lovell is a WNCA Board member, but, we would love to have **YOU** also attend and learn more about our engagement with the Wider Church of the UCC. One spot is still available for the two lay delegates our church can send. If you are able to attend the entire day and/or serve as a voting delegate let Carolyn know by **TOMORROW, SEPTEMBER 10.**

“The Future of the Local Church- Following Christ in a Changing World”

Saturday, October 6 from 9:00AM - 3:00AM
Abernathy Laurels Retirement Community in Newton, NC

10:00AM PROGRAM & INTERWOVEN WORSHIP

- * Sustainability: What does a sustainable church look like?
- * Rethinking Worship: Three Churches Doing New Things
- * Innovative Ministry: The Church as Community Servant

12:00PM WORKING LUNCH BREAKOUTS

- * The 24/7 Church Property - The Rev. Sara Wilcox
- * ONA & the Small Church - The Rev. Colleen Samson
- * Author Talk: The View from Here - The Rev. Lynne Hinton

SECOND REFORMED UCC SPAGHETTI LOVE FEAST

On Saturday, September 15 from 4:30-7:30PM Second Reformed UCC will serve a spaghetti dinner. Profits from this dinner will go into a love offering for Mark Leonard, son of Peggy Leonard and the late Rev. Billy Joe Leonard, and Vickie Weaver, wife of Mark Weaver and Josh's mom. Both of these people are battling cancer. There will be a bake shop filled with goodies made by the ladies of the church and a raffle for gift baskets and other items. If you are unable to attend, please consider a donation toward the love offering or contributing an item for the raffle. All donations may be made to Second Reformed UCC, 330 North Church Street, Lexington, NC 27292. You may contact their church office if you have questions. (336-248-2107)

6-WEEK PSALMS BIBLE STUDY

- Tuesdays from 12-1:00 through October 9th.
- First Reformed UCC Parlor
- Led by Rev. Horton and Rev. Arnetta Beverly
- Sponsored by East Lexington Collaborative Ministries
- Bring a bag lunch and join us
(Study started last week but feel free to attend.)

UPCOMING INQUIRY CLASS

If you have been a guest with us and want to know more about life at First Reformed UCC, then this time is for you. **On Sunday September 30, at 9:45AM** join Rev. Horton in the Parlor to learn more about ministry at First Reformed UCC, including ways in which people can connect with one another, get involved in ministry, and join the church. This is sponsored by the Board of Evangelism. Coffee and snacks will be provided. Joining a church family is an important step, and this will provide an opportunity to ask questions and gather with others. **Please RSVP by September 23 to Rev. Horton if you are interested.** (336-972-8895 or elizabeth@frucc.org)

ARE YOU ABLE TO VISIT?

As we grow, we want to strengthen the arm of our Congregational Care Ministry. One of our most faithful “visitors to the homebound” was Gladys Snider who passed away in August. She visited many in this congregation who had trouble getting out of the house or who just needed someone to talk with. She set a wonderful example for us, and her absence has left a void. If you enjoy listening to other people and bringing a smile to their faces, then perhaps God is calling you to help. If you are willing **to make a visit once every 4-6 weeks to someone in the congregation who is homebound or hospitalized, please let Rev. June Grubb know.** (336– 240-2503 or jgrubb3@triad.rr.com)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, September 9.....**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

RALLY DAY & CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

9:45AM..... Sunday School

Youth & Adult Rally Day Program {Ch}

11:00AM ... WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY & CONFIRMATION

Intercessory Prayer Circle at the front of the sanctuary

12:00PM .. SALAD & POTATO BAR LUNCHEON {FH}

FOLLOWING LUNCH: CONSISTORY MEETING

Monday, September 10

11:00AMStaff Meeting {P}

5:00PM.....Crisis Ministry Adult Shelter Meal (Families First)

6:30PM.....Open Hands Meal {FH}

Tuesday, September 11

12:00PM.... Collaborative Ministries Bible Study: Book of Psalms

Wednesday, September 12

6:30PMBell Choir {Bell Room}

7:15PMChoir Practice {ChA}

Thursday, September 13

5:30PMYOGA Class {P}

7:00PM Square Dancing {FH}

Saturday, September 15

6:30PMRev. Al Staggs: Reception & Performance {FH}

“Laughter for Life”

Sunday, September 16.....**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

9:45AM Sunday School

Youth & Adults: Rev. Al Staggs: **“Clarence Jordan and the God Movement”** {FH}

11:00AM ... WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

Rev. Al Staggs: **“A View from the Underside: The Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer”**

Intercessory Prayer Circle at the front of the sanctuary

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries {September 9-15}

BIRTHDAYS..... September 10.... Eddie Miller

September 11 Doug Sink

September 12.... Lee Jessup

September 15.... Andy Sink