

## OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

### OUR MEMBERS:

Cathy Waitman

### AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

Peggy Bates, Janelle Bunn, Marzell Crotts, Ruth Essick, Margie & Vogen Everhart, Margot Everhart, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Carolyn Spivey, Adena Wall

Accordius Health (formerly Brian Center): Valerie Price

Brookdale: Hoyle Potts

Lexington Health Care: Jo Hudson

Piedmont Crossing: Mary Berrier, Doris Flynt, Rita Tussey

Westchester Manor: James Everhart

### OUR FRIENDS:

\*Dale Allen (Friend of Patti Lovell), Sandra Everhart (Friend of Brian McKerlie)

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).

**\*Indicates newly added. Names will remain on the prayer list for 4 weeks, unless the church office is notified.**

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

May 26-June 1

### BIRTHDAYS

May 28<sup>th</sup>

Patrick Horton

### ANNIVERSARIES

May 28<sup>th</sup>

Ben Hale & John Maze

May 31<sup>st</sup>

Wilson Hooper

## SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

Beginning June 16<sup>th</sup>, worship will be held at 10:30AM in the sanctuary. Sunday School will not meet during the summer. This schedule will continue through September 1<sup>st</sup>.

## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

### Sunday, May 26

**TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE OF ANY GRADUATES OR ANY MILESTONES IN EDUCATION.**

### 9:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

{Downstairs} Children

Teens

{Parlor} Adults

### 11:00AM WORSHIP

#### Following Worship:

Service for Tom Danze and John Walsler in the Memorial Garden

### Monday, May 27 MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

**\*\*\*CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED\*\*\***

### NO OPEN HANDS MINISTRY MEAL TONIGHT

### Tuesday, May 28

10:00AM Willing Weavers {Rm 3}

12:00PM "A Conversation on Race and Faith" {Parlor}

### Wednesday, May 29

2:30-7:00PM RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE {FH}

To make an appointment, please contact the church office (336-48-2617) or go online at

www.redcrossblood.org and search sponsor code:

FirstReformed

7:00PM Choir {Chapel Annex}

### Thursday, May 30

5:30PM Yoga {Dance Studio}

### Friday, May 31

5:00PM Open & Affirming Team Planning Meeting  
{Kivi Miller's Home}

### Sunday, June 2

10:00AM Sunday School for Children {Downstairs}

New Member Orientation {Parlor}

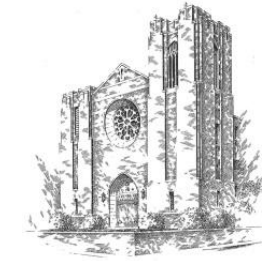
All-Church Social & Conversation {FH}

11:00AM WORSHIP: RECEIVE NEW MEMBERS

HONOR GRADUATES

FOLLOWING WORSHIP: Consistory

## First Reformed United Church of Christ



## The Worship of God

Sixth Sunday of Easter

*The Unexpected Acts of God*

May 26, 2019

11:00AM

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

## Gathering

(\*)Please stand as you are able

**"BOLD" indicates congregational response**

Prelude

\*Chiming of the Hour

Choral Opening

*"Come to the Waters"*

Call to Worship

Jerry Lovell

From God comes the wonder of creation.

**We will worship God the Creator.**

From God comes healing for the brokenness we see.

**We will worship God our Redeemer.**

From God comes the strength to face the new day.

**We worship God our Sustainer.**

\*Hymn

*"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*

\*Invocation

Elizabeth Horton

Welcome

## Centering

Scripture Reading

John 14: 23-29

Jerry Lovell

(page#983 in pew bible)

Prayer of Confession

Elizabeth Horton

**Because you dwell in our hearts, Eternal God, you know how the anger, pain, and bitterness of our lives try to crowd you out. We want our children to be good and gentle to others, yet they hear us speak of others with demeaning words. Our desire for revenge shows that your peace, indeed, is not in us. Have mercy upon us, and forgive us, through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

\*Passing the Peace

\*Hymn

*"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"*

Young Disciples

Elizabeth Horton

*(All youth are invited to join in this worship at the front.)*

Prayer of Remembrance for Memorial Day

Anthem

"Blades of Grass and Pure White Stones"

Arr. Keith Christopher

Blades of grass and pure white stones shelter those who've come and gone.  
Just below the emerald sod are those who've reached the arms of God.

Buried here with dignity, endless rows for all to see,  
Freedom's seeds in sorrow sown, 'neath blades of grass and pure white stones.

Blades of grass and pure white stones cover those who left their homes  
To rest in fields, here side by side, lest we forget their sacrifice.

Buried here with dignity, endless rows for all to see.  
Freedom's seeds in sorrow sown, 'neath blades of grass and pure white stones.

Just below the emerald sod  
Are those who've reached the arms of God.

Buried here with dignity, endless rows for all to see.  
Freedom's seeds in sorrow sown, 'neath blades of grass and pure white stones.  
'Neath blades of grass and pure white stones.

Proclaiming

Scripture

Acts 16: 9-15  
(page #1009 in pew bible)

Elizabeth Horton

Sermon

"Surprise: Detours Ahead"

Responding

\*Hymn

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

Invitation to Receive Offerings

Elizabeth Horton

Offertory

\*Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Christ, all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God with all the hosts above. Praise God in wonder, joy and love.

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

\*Prayer of Dedication

Jerry Lovell

Sending

\*Call to Discipleship

Jerry Lovell

Liturgist: And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us to share God's love in the unexpected places?"

People: Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

\*Benediction

Elizabeth Horton

\*Choral Benediction

"Peace I Leave with You"

\*Postlude

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

FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

104 EAST CENTER STREET, LEXINGTON, NC 27292

PHONE: 336-248-2617 WEBSITE: www.frucc.org FACEBOOK: facebook.com/firstreformeducc

Ministers: The Congregation

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

Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. June Grubb (jgrubb3@triad.rr.com #336-248-5668)

Director of Spiritual Growth and Renewal: 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)

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 36:6

Musical notation for the first system of "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise". It includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written on a five-line staff. Below the staff, there are four lines of lyrics: "1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise, 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light, 3 Your life is life - giv - ing to both great and small; 4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,"

Musical notation for the second system of "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise". It continues the melody from the first system. Below the staff, there are three lines of lyrics: "in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes, not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might; in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all; your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;"

Musical notation for the third system of "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise". It continues the melody. Below the staff, there are four lines of lyrics: "Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days, Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove, We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers, All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:"

Musical notation for the fourth system of "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise". It continues the melody. Below the staff, there are four lines of lyrics: "al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise. your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love. then with - er and per - ish but naught dims your powers. in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you."

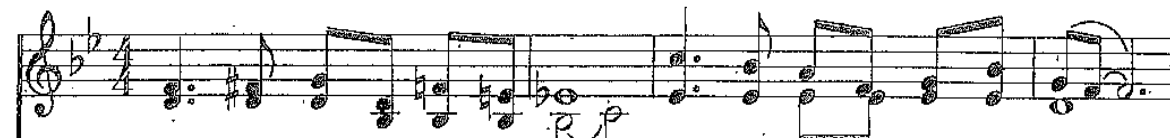
Walter C. Smith, minister of the Free Church of Scotland and later moderator of the Assembly, wrote poetry as a retreat from work and to say what could not be fully expressed in the pulpit.

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11. Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cyssegr, 1839

**“Help Us Accept Each Other”**  
(To the Tune of “The Church’s One Foundation”)

# Just a Closer Walk with Thee

For when I am weak, then I am strong 2 Cor. 12:10



1. I am weak, but thou art strong; Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
  2. Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
  3. When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
- Refrain: Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it, Je - sus, is my plea,



*D. C. for Refrain*

I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.  
dai - ly walk - ing close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



WORDS and MUSIC: Anonymous

CLOSER WALK  
Irregular

Help us ac - cept each oth - er  
as Christ ac - cept - ed us;  
Teach us as sis - ter, broth - er,  
each per - son to em - brace.  
Be pres - ent, God, a - mong us  
and bring us to be - lieve  
we are our - selves ac - cept - ed  
and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O God, your les - sons,  
as in our dai - ly life  
we strug - gle to be hu - man  
and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for peo - ple,  
for all, not just for some,  
To love them as we find them,  
or as they may be - come.

Let your ac - cept - ance change us,  
so that we may be moved  
in living sit - u - a - tions  
to do the truth in love;  
To prac - tice your ac - cept - ance  
un - til we know by heart,  
the ta - ble of for - give - ness  
and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.

God, for to - day's en - count - ers  
with all who are in need,  
Who hun - ger for ac - cept - ance,  
for righ - teous - ness and bread.  
Bring us new eyes for see - ing,  
new hands for hold - ing on;  
Re - new us with your Spir - it;  
God! Free us, make us one!



# Annual Church Worship & Picnic

at Wildcat Mountain Farm  
Sunday, June 9th at 11:00



**Worship service will not take place in the sanctuary on this day.  
We will still receive offering during worship.**

Wildcat Mountain Farm is a 579 acre hunting preserve near Denton, only 19 minutes from the church. This beautiful property includes...

- a unique hunter's cabin
- a 26-acre lake teeming with fish
- terrific hiking trails!

Folks are welcome to fish, hike or just lounge. **Attendees will need to bring lawn chairs**, dress comfortably, and bring your own fishing gear if you want to fish. *(If you have extra lawn chairs to bring in case someone needs one that would be helpful.)*

**THIS YEAR THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL PETTING ZOO AND PONY RIDES AS A FOLLOW UP ACTIVITY FOR THE "LLAMAS FOR LENT" PROJECT!**

**Food sign-up sheets are in the office until June 2nd.**

Please help by signing up to bring needed items.

**We hope to see you there!**

**Directions to Wildcat Mountain Farm: 10000 Hwy 47, Denton**

- From the church, head North on North Salisbury Street
- Turn right at the stop sign onto **East 5<sup>th</sup> Street** (becomes Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard then Raleigh Road then Old Hwy 64 East)
- Travel 6.7 miles (staying straight through the 2 stoplights you'll pass) and turn right onto **Young Road**
- Travel 1.9 miles and turn left onto **Jerusalem Road** (this will change to Regan Road)
- Travel 2.9 miles and turn right onto **Frank Road**
- Travel 1.8 miles and turn left at the stop sign onto **Hwy 47 East**
- Travel 0.6 miles to the entrance to Wildcat on the right
- Travel ¼ mile to the picnic area

**Carpooling from the church parking lot will be available.  
Please let the office know if you need a ride.**

**Please be at the church by 10:15 if you are carpooling with someone!**

## WELCOME TO FIRST REFORMED UCC

If you are visiting with us, please fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate when passed.

Following the example of Jesus, we believe that God's love, Christ's church, and the power of the Holy Spirit are for all people. We believe our unity as one body in Christ transcends worldly differences. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

First Reformed United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming congregation. This means we welcome into the full life and ministry of the church all people, regardless of ability, age, education, ethnicity, family or marital status, gender identity or expression, income, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, or any other distinction. At the baptismal font and at the communion table, from the nursery cribs to the church leadership, whether you were raised in a church or have never before attended one, you are welcome here.

We affirm and celebrate the diversity of God's children as a blessing. We welcome you to First Reformed United Church of Christ.

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

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY** are given to the Glory of God by Rev. June Grubb.

**LITURGIST:** Jerry Lovell  
**USHER CHAIRPERSON:** Jeff Hutchens  
**USHERS:** Mike Brown (Captain), Keith Johnson, Matthew Johnson, Ramona Yarbrough, Jeremy Peterson

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**THE OPEN AND AFFIRMING TEAM** (formerly the Welcoming Task Force) will have its next planning meeting May 31 at 5:00pm at Kivi Miller's home. (319 Becks Church Road, Lexington) Bring an appetizer to share, if able. Anyone interested is welcome.

**NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 2<sup>nd</sup>  
10:00AM**

- **Orientation** for new members
- **First Sunday Social:** Refreshments to welcome new members and congratulate graduates!

**11:00AM**

**Worship:** New members received and graduates honored

**YOU CAN STILL HELP SEND-A-KID-TO-JRVC** with a check in the offering plate with "JRVC" on the memo line or donating on line.

**WANTED: PEOPLE TO SHARE THEIR MUSICAL TALENTS** during selected summer worship services. No matter your age, if you would like to provide music during worship service, please email ELLEN or contact the church office. (336-248-2617 or ellenrpeterson@gmail.com)

**A SUMMER CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS** is being planned by the Board of Evangelism. We would **love** to display some of your art work in the Fellowship Hall during August. If you are willing to share any samples of your art, please get in touch with Bonita Hooper. (336-243-2440 or bonitahooper@gmail.com)

## THANK YOU FOR SERVING

**PLATE ATTENDANT:** Doug Sink  
**SOUND TECHNICIAN:** Dave Fulton  
**GREETER:** Frank Leonard  
**NURSERY:** Tammy Rhodes & Susie Smith

**FIRST REFORMED UCC** is providing a spaghetti luncheon for fifth-grade girls, their mentors, and their teachers in the Rubies and Pearls Program at Charles England Elementary School on **Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>** as part of our partnership with the school. Please let Jerry Lovell know if you could help with preparation for the meal (to feed the 75 guests) or assist in serving them or make a donation to help offset the costs. (Home) 336-746-6493 or 336-309-9302 (Patti).

**THE BOARD OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH** is planning a fall/winter coat and clothing give-away. As you are going through seasonal clothing changes in your wardrobe, please look for items that you no longer wear or that may have shrunk in your closets.

We need your help in providing gently used, clean items for our inventory. Especially needed are: coats, jackets, sweaters, flannel shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, jeans. Any sized warm clothing for men, women and children will be accepted.

Members of the Board of Community Outreach will sort donated items as they arrive. Donations of 10-15 pieces can be brought to the church and left on the table across from the office. For larger deliveries, please contact Jerry Lovell at 336-746-6493 or Patti Lovell at 336-309-6493. A time and place will be set to meet you on the first floor of the Education Building in the former Men's Bible Class.