



# FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lexington, NC

**JUNE 2020**

Dear Friends,

"Please don't come to church." It feels very odd to hear, doesn't it? Yet, this is exactly the message we need to continue to send out of love for our neighbor and protection for the vulnerable. The Consistory met May 17th and approved to continue with the suspension of in-person worship. We'll keep the current schedule having online worship service only through Facebook and YouTube, and then reassess at the June meeting. I am grateful for their wisdom and spirit of leadership.

As we have sought to Be The Church while we are not actually **IN** The Church with passages from Acts, this month we will explore Genesis in the series: "Create and Connect." God's Spirit has been at work since the very beginning, from the creation of the world to the many creative ways God seeks to connect with humanity. In the midst of this pandemic, God seeks to be at work within us and among us, creating and connecting.

Much of the world feels extremely harsh...the rhetoric, language, and the posture of many people in general. I believe this typically stems from an underlying fear or insecurity of some sort. Many are hurting among us and need wounds healed. A powerful way for us to Be the Church right now is to be gentle with one another - with friends and family,

neighbors and strangers, and during this time, be gentle with yourself. Remember you are loved and precious to God. So many need to hear and feel this message too.

Thank you for the ways you have cared for each other, adapted to new ways to connect, and continue in generosity.

So, No. We won't come to church in June. But, Yes...

- We will still worship.
- We will still worship the God who creates.
- We will still worship the God who speaks life into being.
- We will still worship the God who welcomes the stranger and loves the unlovable.
- We will still worship.

--Elizabeth

## **Scripture for June Genesis: Create and Connect**

**June 7 - Chapter 1**

**June 14 - Chapter 18**

**June 21 - Chapter 21**

**June 28 - Chapter 22**

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT**

Thank you Members and Online Friends!

During the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic you have been faithful stewards of God's gifts and the church thanks you for your continued support. Although we have been unable to formally gather as a congregation for worship services, you have continued to mail, drop-off or give online for the ministries of First Reformed United Church of Christ.

First Reformed UCC was able to obtain a Payroll Protection Program Loan. While this gift has helped for the month of May, we hope you will remember the church during the summer season as we continue to serve our church family and community.

## 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.

## MAY MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

### ~IN MEMORY OF~

**HOYLE POTTS**

Elizabeth Sink

**SANDRA CHURCH**

John & Vicky Gray

**STEVE MYERS**

John & Vicky Gray

**LAUREN THOMPSON GOULD**

Steve & Charm Ketner

### ~IN HONOR OF~

**AURELIA SMITH'S BIRTHDAY**

Sylvia Walser

## TEMPORARY CHANGE IN CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE...



**OUR CHURCH OFFICE HOURS WILL BE  
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY  
9:00AM - 12:00PM**

You may contact our  
Administrative Assistant any day by email at [carolyn@frucc.org](mailto:carolyn@frucc.org)  
or call the church office at 336-248-2617 to leave a message  
any time the office is closed.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

On Sunday, May 3rd, we welcomed new members into our church via our ZOOM meeting following the worship service. This was another way Rev. Horton has adapted to social distancing as a result of CoVid-19. We are so happy to have these four as a part of First Reformed UCC and happy that our church membership continues to grow, even during a crisis such as this!



**Joe & Cathy Browder**

Joe and Cathy both join by Letter of Transfer. Both had been visiting our church before becoming members. Many of you have already had the opportunity to meet them both, but here are a few more things that will help you get to know them better.

Joe is retired. He spends his spare time enjoying his many interests that include geography and history, carpentry and car repair. He also enjoys spending time outside hiking, camping, sailing and kayaking.

Cathy works in administration at Davidson County Community College. She was born in Lexington, but moved several times as her dad served in the Air Force. Her family moved back to Lexington, where she's lived since sixth grade. She also enjoys being outside and hikes, camps and kayaks.

Welcome Joe and Cathy!



**Rev. James (Jay) & Cathy Whitley**

Jay and Cathy both come to First Reformed UCC by Letter of Transfer, also. They had been attending our church for a while prior to Covid-19 social distancing, so you may have already had the chance to meet them.

Jay is a retired UCC clergy with WNCA Southern Conference. His interests include reading, writing and traveling. He writes for the ACLU. You have probably enjoyed reading items he has submitted for last month's newsletter and some of our weekly emails. (He also submitted a piece for this newsletter which you can find on page 5.)

Cathy is a legal assistant with Biesecker, Tripp, Sink & Fritts Law Offices. She enjoys playing piano and flower gardening.

Welcome Jay and Cathy!

When we are able to physically return to worship in our sanctuary, be sure to introduce yourself to our new members if you haven't had the chance already.

# SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Events listed below are subject to change.)

## GRADUATION SUNDAY IS JUNE 7TH

This year's graduation plans will be different than usual. We still would like to celebrate our **HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES** and honor all other **MILESTONES IN EDUCATION**. If you have a family member who fits into any of the categories below, please contact the church office (336-248-2617 or carolyn@frucc.org) or Rev. Susan Morris (susan@frucc.org). **Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline.**

**PRESCHOOL  
KINDERGARTEN  
5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
HIGH SCHOOL  
COLLEGE & BEYOND**

## WORSHIP VIA YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK CONTINUES THROUGH JUNE

We will continue to worship online on both [YOUTUBE HERE](#) and our [FACEBOOK PAGE HERE](#) through the month of June. Virtual meetings such as Consistory, Book Studies, Bible Studies, Youth Ministry and Children's Ministry Team meetings, Youth and Children activities and Fellowship and Prayer Concerns will also continue to be held via ZOOM. Scheduled activities for the month are shown in the calendar at the back of the newsletter. However, in case of changes, it's good to review the weekly calendar sent with the Weekly Items of Note on Fridays for a more up-to-date calendar for each week. Links for the Zoom Chats will be available prior to the scheduled dates.

## REGULAR GIVING

Please continue to give during this time we continue to worship together, but separately. You may drop offering off at the church office, mail your offering to the church office at 104 East Center Street, Lexington, NC 27272, or give online through our church website. **Visit <https://frucc.org> and click on the link at the top of the page titled "ON-LINE GIVING."**

## SUPPORTING JEFF HUTCHENS

There are a couple opportunities to support Jeff Hutchens in his fight against cancer. For fundraisers, you may contact **Kalyssa Hutchens (khutchens2001@yahoo.com)** or **Tammy Rhodes (rhodes2215@yahoo.com)**. You may also make donations directly to the church. Please make checks payable to the church and write "Jeff Hutchens" on the memo line. If you are giving cash, write this on the front of your envelope.



## BOARD OF EVANGELISM FUNDRAISER

The Board of Evangelism is selling "**BE THE CHURCH**" Window Clings. These are similar to bumper stickers, but they cling on glass instead and can easily be moved from place to place. Proceeds will go to the church's general fund. The cost is \$5 each. If you are interested in purchasing, please contact the church office. We appreciate Ron and Heidi Hutcheson's help at Davidson Speed Printing.



## BOARD OF FAITH FORMATION

Rev. Susan Morris

### YOUTH NEWS:

The end of the school year is upon us. I would imagine everyone is looking forward to the summer break. The youth will continue to have their youth group via zoom on the **first and third Wednesdays** in the month of June.

As we move into July there will be some changes with the youth group. We will begin a Middle School group (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades) and a High School group (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades). I will send out more information in June to youth and parents. I am looking forward to a great summer.

### CHILDREN'S NEWS:

This summer the children will have a "Kid's

Adventure Time" on the **first and third Thursdays** of each month at **6:30pm** (June 4<sup>th</sup> and June 18<sup>th</sup>). We will meet via zoom in the month of June. The time and day could change when we are able to come together in person. New adventures await!

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY:

During Sunday School time 9:45-10:45am each Sunday in June, I will lead a Bible Study on the book of Genesis. If you would like to join in on this Bible study please let me know. My email address is [Revsuemo@gmail.com](mailto:Revsuemo@gmail.com).

Looking forward to a great time of learning!

## A LESSON WELL REMEMBERED

Rev. Jay Whitley

Elizabeth Jones was my seventh grade teacher. She was, in my opinion, one of God's great gifts to children. Other than my mother, she had the most profound influence on my life. She not only taught "the three R's", but she also taught life lessons. Those of us who were fortunate enough to be her students were also blessed with this Godly woman who genuinely cared for us.

Fifty-two years young when I was in her class, she was old enough to retire. That, fortunately for me, was not her ambition, to leave that which was her love in life, teaching children! Simply fading off into her sunset years would never do. Elizabeth Jones was not married. Her life was devoted to her students. Oftentimes, she would invite a number of us to her home...and that's where the life-lessons began.

Miss Jones would always have Kool-Aid and homemade cookies for us. I never have had another teacher who cared so much about my future. I am convinced that every child needs an Elizabeth Jones in her/his life.

One of the great lessons Miss Jones taught me was that which "freedom" is all about. Said she that it is a gift to be an American – one that we cannot afford to take for granted. Continuing she said that being free to live as you desire comes with responsibilities to realize that others have the same freedoms and responsibilities.

To fail to live in harmony and mutual regard with all persons in our country would result in chaos. It was difficult for a seventh grader to wrap my mind around such a theory until our beloved mentor brought it home proclaiming, "Your freedom ends where my nose begins." I surmised it to mean that we must respect one another's space. This is the inspiration for today's devotional thought.

During this Covid-19 virus we have learned that in order to be respectful of another person's space we have been called upon to do things that we social animals are not used to doing. We do things like social distancing, sheltering in place, and wearing face masks. As we begin "opening our nation" we are still mindful that we are called upon to remain respectful of all persons. Please remember to stay home whenever possible. Please stay at least six feet from others. Please wear masks when you are near people you could possibly infect. When all is said and done, these sacrifices will be worthwhile.

Dear friends, the Corona Virus is not eradicated. We are making strides forward but to get this race run to its completion will be a marathon, not a sprint. Don't let your guard down. Still follow all CDC guidelines and respect others. The life you save may be mine...or maybe yours! Thank you for your respect!

# MAY'S CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

**Board of Property Management:** John Smith and John Maze

- Danny Young Electric installed four dusk till dawn lights on March 26<sup>th</sup> to help with security. Young Electric also installed a new wall outlet in the fellowship hall kitchen for the donated dishwasher.
- Buddy Lohr contacted Alley Plumbing the first week of April about hooking up the dishwasher. Buddy hopes to build a cabinet for the dishwasher at the end of May or first of June. When the cabinet is finished Alley Plumbing will be able to complete the project.
- Pine needles were spread April 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to John Maze, Ben Hale, Cliff Lopp and Jeff Hutchens. Thanks also to Rich Johnson for putting the church banner back up on the front lawn of the education building.
- David Driver is to submit a plan to the Fire Marshall for finishing the installation of the alarms, detectors and lighting in the basement in hopes of finishing that project.

**Financial Report:** Harriette Murphy

- Average weekly offering in April: \$4,977
- End of Month Available General funds \$375
- Music fund Balance \$7,545
- The Financial Secretary applied for and received a Corona Virus PPP (payroll protection program) government loan valued at \$12,990. The church is allowed eight weeks to use these funds and at least 75% must be used for payroll in order for the loan to be forgiven.

**New Business:**

- **Administrative Assistant Hours Adjustment:** Administrative Assistant, Carolyn Robbins requested a temporary decrease of in-office hours. With church activities on hold and a decrease of visitors her in-house responsibilities have decreased. She will be able to complete portions of her job from home. The consistory wanted office

hours to be consistent. *[Editor's Note: temporary office hours are 9am-12pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday.]*

- **Moving Forward: Ministry Following Covid-19:** After much discussion, a motion to continue online worship services through the month of June 2020 was approved. Consistory will re-evaluate the status on a month-to-month basis going forward.
- **Covid-19 Focus Group:** Consistory discussed plans to organize a Focus Group for the purpose of discussing needs for reopening the church buildings. This group would present their suggestions to the consistory for a vote before implementing.
- **Church Picnic:** Since consistory had already voted to not meet through the month of June, it was decided to postpone the picnic at this time.
- **Johns River Valley Camp:** The youth summer camp has been closed for the 2020 season.
- **PFLAG:** The Consistory approved the newly formed chapter of PFLAG Lexington to use the church address and facility for monthly meetings once the church building is open for activities. PFLAG is a group which gives support and resources for LGBTQ people and their families/friends. John Maze, Belinda Yates and Rev. Horton are on the PFLAG Board.
- **Request for Sharing Fundraising Opportunities:** Consistory approved to share fundraising opportunities for Jeff Hutchens through church communications and church offerings. Consistory members will continue to fulfill the church's mission during the corona virus by contacting church members by phone calls for with cards.
- The next regularly scheduled Consistory meeting is **June 7, 2020.**

# JOHNS RIVER VALLEY CAMP IN A BOX



## WHAT?

Ramp-Up-4-Camp is the Spring Fundraiser of Johns River Valley Camp. It allows churches and individuals to support our Summer Camping Program. This year it has more significance than ever. Due to the risks associated with COVID-19, our summer programs have been cancelled. Your gifts are needed more than ever.

As always, our goal is to raise at least 72 gifts in 72 hours. This year our additional goal is to raise the proceeds which allow us to send boxes to all Campers registered in 2019 and 2020 as well as potential new Campers. For every \$150 raised, an edition of JRVC-in-a-Box can be sent. We hope to raise the money for 200 boxes.

Each box will contain a t-shirt, crafts, elements of this year's curriculum, a \$50 voucher for any of next summer's Camps and more. Your gifts will help us to connect with our Campers, reach out to potential new Campers and sustain the ministry of Johns River Valley Camp.

## WHEN?

Ramp-Up-4-Camp will begin on Friday, June 5th and will conclude on Sunday, June 7th at 11:59PM.

## HOW?

### HOW TO DONATE

The best way is to make a church offering (via check or online) and put JRVC on the memo line. We will then send in the money at one time.

JRVC is in the foothills of North Carolina's Blue Ridge beside Johns River, with access to waterfalls, hiking, an archery course, river activities and group interactive courses. They offer mission and summer camps. With over 83 years of experience, JRVC has provided life-changing outdoor ministries that have helped form the faith of our young people in the Southern Conference.

If you have questions, please let **Rev. Horton** know.

Cell: 336-972-8895

Email: [elizabeth@frucc.org](mailto:elizabeth@frucc.org)

## A MESSAGE FOR KIDS CLUB

Alice Gray

Dear Kids Club Members,

Boy, have I missed you! The world sure has gone crazy, hasn't it? So many everyday changes. It's weird! In Kids Club we do service projects to help other people. With that in mind, **I have a challenge for you.** (I promise it won't be hard).

**Do something nice for one person in your family.**

Here are some suggestions:

- make a Thank-You card for your mother
- compliment your brother or sister
- brush your pet if you have one

Until we meet in person again, remember that God Loves You.



## THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Thanks for supporting our school and our students. Your donation is greatly appreciated, "It takes a village to raise a child." (African Proverb)  
Thank you for being part of our village.

Love,  
Beth Callicutt, Principal &  
Charles England Family

## OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

We extend Sympathy to and share Christian Hope with Renee Walsh and family upon the death of her aunt, Sandra Church.

We offer Sympathy to and share in Christian Hope with Jan Smith and family on the loss of her husband, Steve Myers.

**OUR MEMBERS:** \*Deanna Michael, Aurelia Smith, Jeff Hutchens, Kelly Greathouse, Susan Miller, Bill Walser

### AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

Pattie Everhart, Peggy Bates, Janelle Bunn, Marzell Crotts, Ruth Essick, Margot Everhart, Vogen Everhart, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Bob Shaak, Lib Sink, Katherine Skipper, Carolyn Spivey, Adena Wall

**Piedmont Crossing:** Mary Berrier, Doris Flynt, Marguerite Leonard

**OUR FRIENDS:** \*Ronnie Hartzog (Glenyce Fulton's brother), \*Grayson Beck (Grandson of Clifton & Harriette Murphy), \* Rob and Betty Kepley (Jonathan Kepley's great-grandparents), Michael R. Owen (Bill & Carolyn Robbins' daughter), Angie Bouchard (Lee and Ellen's youngest daughter), Teri Ungerer and Rose Bouchonville (John Maze's sisters), Virginia Hill (Cathy Waitman's mother), Aaron Trammell (the son of Jay Whitley's best friend) and all those everywhere who are on the front lines dealing with COVID-19, Renee Sink (sister-in law of Lindsay Sink and Sherry Bonner), Bob Sheehan (Eddie Yates' brother-in law)

***\*Indicates newly added. Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks. 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***

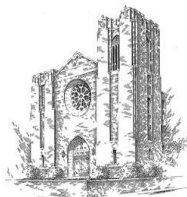


# JUNE 2020

We will continue to worship online on both our [YOUTUBE CHANNEL HERE](#) and [FACEBOOK PAGE HERE](#) through the month of June.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 7:00 Children's Ministry Team Meeting via Zoom 7:00 Discussion Group on <i>Peaceful Neighbor</i> via Zoom	3 6:00 Youth Ministry via ZOOM	4 6:30 Kids' Adventure Time via ZOOM	5	6
7 GRADUATION SUNDAY 9:45 Adult Bible Study via Zoom 11:00 Worship online 12:00 Fellowship & Prayers via Zoom TBD Consistory Meeting via zoom	8	9 7:00 Youth Ministry Team Meeting via Zoom 7:00 Discussion Group on <i>Peaceful Neighbor</i> via Zoom	10	11	12	13
14 9:45 Adult Bible Study via Zoom 11:00 Worship online 12:00 Fellowship & Prayers via Zoom	15	16 7:00 Discussion Group on <i>Peaceful Neighbor</i> via Zoom	17 6:00 Youth Ministry via ZOOM	18 6:30 Kids' Adventure Time via ZOOM	19	20
21 9:45 Adult Bible Study via Zoom 11:00 Worship online 12:00 Fellowship & Prayers via Zoom	22	23 7:00 Discussion Group on <i>Peaceful Neighbor</i> via Zoom	24	25 63rd Anniversary of the UCC  July articles for newsletter due	26	27
28 9:45 Adult Bible Study via Zoom 11:00 Worship online 12:00 Fellowship & Prayers via Zoom	29	30 7:00 Discussion Group on <i>Peaceful Neighbor</i> via Zoom	31			

**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

**11:00 SUNDAY WORSHIP ON LINE**  
**VIA FACEBOOK LIVE and**  
**YOU TUBE**

**Temporary Church Office Hours:**  
**Monday - Wednesday - Friday**  
**9:00am to 12:00pm**



Join Us on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/firstreformeducc](https://facebook.com/firstreformeducc)

**Church Staff**

**Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Horton**  
E-mail: elizabeth@frucc.org  
Cell: 336-972-8895

**Associate Pastor of Congregational Care**  
**Rev. June Grubb**  
336-248-5668

**Associate Pastor of Faith Formation**  
**Rev. Susan Morris**  
E-mail: susan@frucc.org  
Cell: 276-525-2810

**Administrative Assistant**  
Carolyn Robbins  
E-mail: carolyn@frucc.org

**Financial Administrator**  
Paula Lopp  
paula@frucc.org

**Choir Director**  
Ellen Peterson

**Organist**  
Robert Wilson

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

7 Caroline White  
8 Brian McKerlie  
11 Frankie Hedrick  
Sarah Potts  
13 Beth Callicutt  
17 Rich Johnson  
Carolyn Spivey  
21 John Gray  
22 Peggy Bates  
25 Scott Gray  
Alisa Johnson  
28 June Grubb  
Ron Hutcheson

**JUNE  
ANNIVERSARIES**

2  
Craig & Donna Coe  
Buddy & Frankie Hedrick  
Irvin & Doris Sink  
9  
Lindsay & Linda Sink



**LOOKING AHEAD TO JULY**

**(July's calendar of activities is not  
determined at this time.)**