



FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lexington, NC

AUGUST 2020

I don't know about you, but the very phrase "I don't know" has become the most used phrase of the summer. It seems the only accurate answer to most of the questions we hear about our future: work, school, home, church.

It's not easy to live in the "I don't know" zone, but it seems we may be here for a long while. We will continue to wait to gather back together in the sanctuary. August will be worship online only.

I am grateful to minister with Ellen Peterson and Robert Wilson, whose talents in music and song bring an extremely high quality to the worship service. They are wonderful to work with.

I am grateful to the congregation for the ways you have extended grace to me and to each other. I imagine I speak for many ministers when I say, "They did not teach me anything about video recording a sermon in seminary." I am trying to adapt. Each Sunday I learn something new.

In this "I don't know zone," our church must adapt. Think about the previous ministries we had before Co-Vid. How can we adapt them to fit the needs we see today in the parameters that are in place? I encourage the Boards, committees, and groups to think about how we can adapt to meet the current needs in the church, the community,

and in the world.

What has changed over these past 20 Sundays?

It's hard to believe that we have been out of the sanctuary for 20 Sundays. How has being out of church affected your faith journey? What are ways this has enhanced your faith journey? Where have you been struggling? Please email me your experiences and thoughts by August 14th at elizabeth@frucc.org

What have you been up to this summer?

We need to see your faces! Send us a picture from something you did over the summer -- either with others or by yourself. We just want to see what our folks have been up to. Email pics to Ellen by **August 10** at ellenrpeterson@gmail.com

If you do not have access to the worship services, please let Carolyn in the church office know at carolyn@frucc.org. We want all who desire to be able to worship with this congregation.

Let's continue to be gentle with one another and give plenty of grace. It might be a long haul.

Striving to serve with you faithfully,
--Elizabeth

JUNE MEMORIALS AND HONOR GIFTS

IN MEMORY OF VIRGINIA HILL

(Cathy Waitman's Mother)

Walter & Ann Hoffman
Marguerite Leonard
Deanna Michael
Jerry & Aurelia Smith
Carroll & Carolyn Spivey

IN HONOR OF JUNE GRUBB AND IN MEMORY OF JUNE'S DOG, COCO

Jerry & Aurelia Smith

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.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONLINE WORSHIP THROUGH AUGUST

We will continue to worship online on both [YOUTUBE HERE](#) and our [FACEBOOK PAGE HERE](#) through the month of August. **Past worship services are archived on each of these pages and may be accessed at any time!**

Virtual meetings such as Consistory, Book Studies, Bible Studies, Youth and Children's Ministry Team meetings, 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 and will also be included in the weekly emails. Links for the Zoom Chats will be included or emailed to group members.

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS

Typically our church collects supplies for "Communities in Schools" outreach program during the months of July and August. Because of Covid 19, we will be doing things a little differently this year.

Instead of going out to shop for school supplies that would be collected in big boxes at church, we would like to collect **"DOLLARS TO DONATE TO COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS"** so they may shop for the supplies needed.

You have always been so generous in your support of "Communities in Schools." Your continued support will be appreciated!

"DOLLARS TO DONATE" may be mailed or brought by the church office, or you may donate on line from our church website [HERE](#).

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Since it was started ten years ago, the Frist Reformed UCC Prayer Shawl Ministry has collected approximately 528 handmade shawls of all shapes, sizes, materials and colors. They have been knitted, crocheted or hand-tied using fleece. They ALL have been touched by the talented hands of church members.

All the prayer shawls have been blessed by pastors of the church, including Rev. Horton, before they were shared with those in need. Harriette Murphy had just completed her 204th shawl before the Prayer Shawl Blessing on July 19, 2020! (She completed her 205th while at the beach last week!)

The needs of those who have received them varied: loss of a loved one, illness, a new member of the church, an educational milestone, baptisms, weddings... Hopefully, the shawls provided comfort or served as an important reminder that others supported them or celebrated with them.

Over the ten-year span of this ministry, the following have participated by crocheting or knitting shawls or tying knots for blanket shawls:

Ann Bevan, Lynn Brown, Debra Freeman, Glenyce Fulton, Vicky Gray, Geri Hill, Mary Jo Jessup, Alisa Johnson, Lena Johnson, Paula Lopp, Harriette Murphy, Janette Neal, Carolyn Robbins, Barbara Sink, Katherine Skipper, Aurelia Smith, Carolyn Spivey, Cathy Waitman, and Belinda Yates.



Along with each shawl given away comes a message for the one who receives it:

Prayers are thrown across your shoulders over and over as you wear this shawl. They were woven in as yarn was thrown over needles, over and over as it was handmade. May you rest enfolded in the soft grace of this continuous thread, interlocking you with all goodness and love.

When you wear your shawl, you are connected with many people throughout the world. May you be blessed by the shawl you receive and may you extend that blessing to those you love.

Thank you, Harriette for your many years of dedication and service through this ministry and all who have contributed their talents to make shawls!

If you would like to join in making prayer shawls for this ministry that touches so many in so many special ways, you may contact Harriett Murphy (hrmurphy69@gmail.com) or the church office.



As a first grader, I remember learning and reciting every day, in school, The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. As we, each, stood and were indoctrinated into the privilege of being Americans, I felt pride in living in "one nation under God with liberty and justice for all."

Since those early days of my life, I have been haunted by the question, "Do we actually mean "liberty and justice for all" or just for some? You see, I have known many for whom liberty and justice have seemed to come at a great price. It is the same liberty and justice that, by my birthright, as a Caucasian, Christian, sexually straight male, I have been entitled to and have taken advantage of all of my life.

I have come to the conclusion that I have been culturally and politically blessed, due to the pigment of my skin, where millions of my sisters and brothers have not. For instance:

- 1) My black college roommate always struggles for a "good" job and decent housing though he and I have the same college degree.
- 2) My LGBTQ friend feels persecution for her lifestyle by her employer, her own family, and the church in which she has been reared.
- 3) An acquaintance of mine who works in construction does not receive the same salary as her white male co-workers though she performs the same job.
- 4) Children of foreign asylum seekers are not able to stay with their parents when they legally cross our borders seeking a better life in America.
- 5) The children of brown immigrants so frustrated that they can only get enough education to keep them "in their places."
- 6) Those who work at menial occupations are never able to make enough money to receive decent health care and pensions.
- 7) And many other scenes of oppression.

As I sit at my desk and name one action after another that is inequitable in our nation, I feel guilty that in my sixty-five years I have been so much a part of the system that has made this white person so comfortable that I have not been motivated to do more for the deprived and disenfranchised.

Knowing that guilt is a poor motivator and often causes me to be reactive, I feel that I must search for a reason to be proactive. For me it is the desire to see all people have equal opportunities to aspire to reach their own potentials and to be of assistance to those who cannot. It is to act with love as my prime motivation. I believe that is what Jesus would do!

From this point onward when I hear the words "with liberty and justice for all" it will motivate my mind and my will to the recognition that in my entire life, I have experienced white privilege. Even though I have always sought to share my blessings with those who are less fortunate than me. . .it is not enough! Now, I must do something about it! Talk is cheap! Simply giving my hand-me-downs to a charitable organization or giving lip service to those groups who actually do the good work, is inadequate at best. White America needs to use its resources to give a hand up, not a hand out. We must get personally involved!

The Black Lives Matter movement and the attention it has raised has brought to the fore all the generations of oppression that non-white people in our country have endured. Isn't it about time that white America admits the equal humanity of all people. The movement calls upon us to try our best to assist them to equality. Besides, in God's eyes we are all equal. God made us all the same. Should we not realize that? And then we finally will be able to say, together, with pride and assurance, "with liberty and justice for all."

Let us make it a reality . . . for all of us!

Blessings for your journey,
Jay

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S NEWS

There will **NOT** be any youth or children group meetings this month. As the summer comes to an end and the new school year begins, I would imagine there will be a lot of activities going on. **We will come back together in September.**

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Genesis Bible study will continue for the **first three Sundays in August**. All are welcome. You may join the meetings [HERE](#).

CHANGE IN DATES:

The Children's Ministry Team Meeting will be held on the **second Monday, August 10 at 6:00PM**. You can join the Zoom Meeting [HERE](#).

The Youth Ministry Team meeting will be held on the **third Monday, August 17 at 6:00PM**. You can join the Zoom meeting [HERE](#).

Please refer to the calendar on Weekly Emails and the bulletins that can be found on our church website [HERE](#) for updates to the calendar.



BACKPACK

Blessing!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

We will have a **drive-thru** Blessing of the Backpacks on **August 16 at 4:00PM**. This will be held in the parking lot of the Education Building at church. Go ahead and put this on your calendars. More details will come closer to the date.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!



If you missed any of our worship services since we began sharing these mid-March, it's still not too late to watch them. All services are still available on our [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) pages. Visit either one to find the Sunday you missed.

JULY'S CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Due to Coronavirus restrictions Rev. Horton is touching base with members through phone calls rather than in-person visits.

Rev. Horton is making efforts to keep virtual services relevant and meaningful. Thanks to Ellen Peterson for her expertise in editing the Sunday services. There has been a good response from the congregation with participation in the services.

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Congregational Life:

Kivi Miller is working with church staff to transition bulk church emails to a Mail Chimp system. There is no cost associated with the size of our list currently, but this will put us in compliance with spam laws and let people easily subscribe/unsubscribe to church newsletters via the website and social media.

Board of Property Management:

- D&S Fire Extinguisher Sales and Service inspected fire extinguishers and the kitchen system in June.
- The electric wiring for the dishwasher in the church kitchen has been completed.
- Property Management is obtaining quotes for re-opening cleaning and sanitizing the sanctuary. Currently, there were only two other local churches attending, and there were no reopening plans at this time.

Financial Report:

Harriette Murphy reported:

- Average weekly offering in June: \$4,220
- Available General funds: \$12,546
- Music Fund Balance: \$7,595
- Online giving has increased.

Old Business:

- Consistory voted to continue fundraising opportunities for Jeff Hutchens through the end of July 2020. Jeff returned to the hospital July 20th.

- The \$1,000 budgeted to send FRUCC campers to Johns River Valley Camp was donated to the "Ramp Up for Camp" campaign.
- Conversations on Faith and Race (2CFar) update: Virtual meetings are held every Tuesday at noon. The first Prayer Vigil had approximately 120 attending. The second vigil was held Sunday, July 26th at Shady Side Presbyterian.
- Consistory members continue to work on calling congregation members. Generally, most had positive feedback.
- Considerations for livestream equipment for the sanctuary is still a work-in-progress.
- The UCC Covid-19 Grant was received. These funds are to assist with cleaning and sanitizing buildings in preparation of returning to in-person worship.
- Church Manual Updates: Updating board responsibilities for the church manual continues to be an ongoing process due to Covid-19.

New Business:

Return to Sanctuary:

- Consistory members discussed the possibility of returning to the sanctuary for worship. It was decided to continue our present online services in order to remain cautious and safe. A discussion regarding outdoor services revealed more variables, which are less desirable. Congregational input remains positive. Consistory will evaluate further at the August meeting.
- Open Hands Ministry has no activities in our building at this time.
- The next regularly scheduled Consistory meeting is **August 23, 2020.**

THANK YOU NOTES

To My Dear Choir Family,

Thank you for the memorial you made to our church in memory of my mother, Virginia Hill. I also appreciate all the cards, texts, and phone calls.

I will miss Mother so much, but I realize she is in a better place! Your support during the last several years helped me have the strength to keep going.

I hope we can all be back together soon! I miss the music and the love!

Thanks again!
Cathy Waitman

Dear Merle,

Thank you the beautiful flowers sent to the office on July 24th. They were beautiful and brightened the office, as well as our day!

Sincerely,
Elizabeth, Paula, Susan & Carolyn

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your RampUP4Camp donation of \$1000. The campaign has raised \$30,054 from 87 individuals and 11 churches, with many churches consolidating the gifts of multiple individuals. This generous outpouring of love has strengthened our JRVC family. We look forward with faith and hope to re-open the camp for some activities this fall and resume our normal summer schedule in 2021.

Peace and blessings,
Phil Hardy
Executive Director, JRVC

OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

OUR MEMBERS:

*Margot Everhart, Mike Price, Lisa Price, Bill Walser, Patti Lovell, Jeff Hutchens, Deanna Michael

OUR MEMBERS AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

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

Piedmont Crossing:

Mary Berrier, Doris Flynt

OUR FRIENDS:

Ashley Thomason Hutcheson (Heidi and Ron Hutcheson's daughter-in-law), Angie Bouchard (Lee and Ellen Bouchard's youngest daughter)

****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 church office (336-248-2617).***

Children's Worship Bulletin





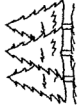





Ages 7+

August 2, 2020 • Genesis 32:22-31

Jacob Wrestles With God

As Jacob was alone one night, a man wrestled with him. When the man saw that he could not win, he injured Jacob's hip. What did he say to Jacob?

Add and subtract letters to find out.

1.  - penci + - con +  - iger = _____
2.  - onky = _____
3.  - hst = _____
4.  - est = _____
5.  - rabb = _____
6.  - dh = _____
7.  - og + - dis +  - d +  - ite = _____



Jacob called this place Peniel.
What did Jacob say about this important event?

Fill in the missing vowels to find out.

l a o a e o a a e i e a a e

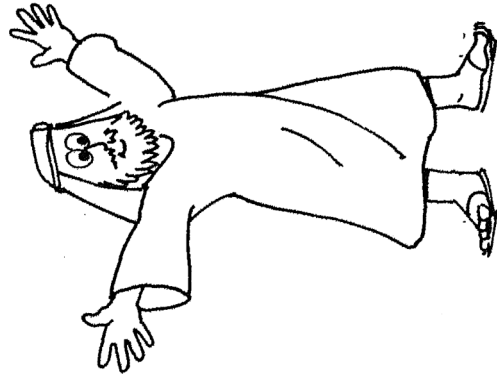
" _____ s _____ w _____ G _____ d _____"

f _____ c _____ t _____ f _____ c _____,

_____ nd _____ y _____ t _____

my l _____ f _____ w _____ s _____

sp _____ r _____ d."



AUGUST 2020

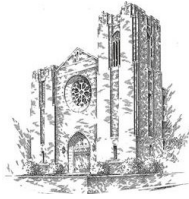
We will continue to worship online on both our [YOUTUBE CHANNEL HERE](#) and [FACEBOOKPAGE HERE](#) through the month of July. Adult Bible Study [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 871 3599 3948 & Password: 418121)

“White Fragility” book study via Zoom Chat [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 859 2701 0393 & Password: 7x6nQw)

You may join the 2CFAR meetings

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 9:45 Adult Bible Study on Genesis via Zoom 11:00 Worship online 12:00 Fellowship & Prayers via Zoom	3	4 12:00 2CFAR meeting via Zoom 7:00 Book Study on <i>White Fragility</i> via Zoom	5	6	7	8
9 9:45 Adult Bible Study on Genesis via Zoom 11:00 Worship online 12:00 Fellowship & Prayers via Zoom	10 7:00 Children's Ministry Team Meeting via Zoom	11 12:00 2CFAR meeting via Zoom 7:00 Book Study on <i>White Fragility</i> via Zoom	12	13	14	15
16 9:45 Adult Bible Study on Genesis via Zoom 11:00 Worship online 12:00 Fellowship & Prayers via Zoom 4:00 DRIVE THRU BACKPACK BLESSING	17 7:00 Youth Ministry Team Meeting via Zoom	18 12:00 2CFAR meeting via Zoom 7:00 Book Study on <i>White Fragility</i> via Zoom	19	20	21	22
23 11:00 Worship online 12:00 Fellowship & Prayers via Zoom TBD Consistory Meeting via zoom	24	25 12:00 2CFAR meeting via Zoom 6:30 Finance Committee meeting 7:00 Book Study on <i>White Fragility</i> via Zoom Articles for newsletter due	26	27	28	29
30 11:00 Worship online 12:00 Fellowship & Prayers 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



Join Us on Facebook:
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

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Pattie Everhart
Claire Smith
- 2 Eugenia Holste
Karla Loper
Jerry Lovell
- 4 Lynn Klopp
- 6 Lucas Peterson
- 10 Nina Smith
- 12 Casey Hartle
- 13 Christie Plummer
- 14 Lena Johnson
- 15 Baron Freeman
Beau Sink
- 16 Doris Sink
- 18 Amanda Fulton
- 19 J.W. Bates
- 20 Myra Thompson
- 21 Ramona Yarbrough
- 22 Edgar Miller
- 23 Vogen Everhart
- 24 John Smith
- 26 Albert Evans
Jeremy Lovell
- 30 Jude Sink
- 31 Kathleen Danze

**AUGUST
ANNIVERSARIES**

- 3
Bill & Carolyn Robbins
- 7
John & Vicky Gray
- 11
Tim & Tracy Potts
- 16
Clifton & Harriette Murphy
- 22
Calvin & Susan Odom
- 27
Buddy & Rita Lohr



**LOOKING
AHEAD TO
SEPTEMBER**

(Activities shown are
subject to change.)

6	• 11:00 Worship Service
7	• LABOR DAY HOLIDAY: CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED
8	• 12:00PM 2CFAR meeting via Zoom
13	• 11:00 Worship Service: Faith Formation Sunday & Holy Communion • Consistory Meeting
14	• Crisis Ministry Shelter Meal (Nina Smith's Group)
15	• 12:00PM 2CFAR meeting via Zoom
20	• 11:00 Worship Service
22	• 12:00PM 2CFAR meeting via Zoom
27	• 11:00 Worship Service
29	• 12:00PM 2CFAR meeting via Zoom