



## First Reformed United Church of Christ

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

## The Worship of God

October 4, 2020  
World Wide Communion  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Words of Meditation

*We cannot love God unless we love each other.  
We know God in the breaking of bread, and we know each other in the breaking of bread,  
and we are not alone anymore.  
Heaven is a banquet, and life is, too -- even with a crust -- as long as there is companionship.  
We have all known loneliness.  
We have learned that the only solution is love.  
And love comes with community.  
-- Dorothy Day -- The Long Loneliness*

## Gathering

**"BOLD"** indicates congregational response

Prelude "Du Bist Bei Mir " Robert Wilson  
[Bach]

Welcome and Invitation to Worship Rev. Elizabeth Horton

Invocation Eddie Yates

God of brilliant sunsets and shining rainbows,  
God of golden daffodils and glowing autumn leaves,  
God of all the blues of sunlit seas,  
God of all the shades of green in forest and field,  
God of the rivers and oceans and lakes,  
of broken shells on a beach and polished jewels in a showcase,  
God of people, brown and amber, olive and ivory, pink and ebony,  
artistic and athletic, practical and visionary,  
Quietly compassionate and charismatically comical,  
God who colors us an amazing world of variety,  
We thank you that you have handcrafted each of us in unique shades and designs,  
that you call us to contribute our own special colors to the life around us.  
We come to you in thanksgiving and worship.  
Amen

Hymn "I Come with Joy" Ellen Peterson

## Centering

Old Testament Reading Exodus 20:1-20 Keri Hartle

20 Then God spoke all these words: 21 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; 3 you shall have no other gods before me. 4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, 6 but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. 7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. 8 Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work. 10 But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not

do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore, the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup>You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup>You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. <sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

<sup>18</sup>When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, <sup>19</sup>and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." <sup>20</sup>Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid.

Prayer of Confession

based on Exodus 20: 2-17

Rev. Horton

Your perfect law—if we will let it, Holy One—  
revives, instructs, enlightens, sets free.

But we confess, we don't much like the words "Thou shalt not".

Forgive and heal us, O God, when we put people and things before you,  
when flashy idols capture not just our attention, but our hearts.

Forgive us when we misuse your name, and those of our brothers and sisters,  
when we use words to deny, to denigrate, to criticize, to shame.

Forgive us for all the ways we dishonor the Sabbath, our ancestors, the planet,  
ourselves, and those we share our lives and world with.

May these words of confession, and the prayers of each heart, be received and welcomed by  
you, Lord have mercy. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon and Passing the Peace

Prayers for the People

## Proclaiming

New Testament Reading

Philippians 3: 4-14

Rev. Horton

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Sermon

**"Press On"**

## Responding

Service of Holy Communion  
Invitation to the table

Rev. Horton

Hymn "Gather Us In" Ellen Peterson  
Prayer of Thanksgiving Rev. Horton  
Words of Institution  
Sharing the Meal Together

## Sending

Prayer of Blessing Rev. Horton  
Benediction  
Postlude "Little Toccata" Robert Wilson  
[Colin Curtis]

Join our "**Fellowship & Prayer Concerns**" Zoom Chat **HERE**  
after worship from 12-12:30pm and catch up with your church friends!  
**(Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Password: 3n7IX8)**

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## OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

6<sup>th</sup> ...Joy Walser  
7<sup>th</sup> ...Kelsey Johnson  
9<sup>th</sup> ...Griff Smith

### ANNIVERSARIES

7<sup>th</sup> ...Robert & Beverly Sandifer

## OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

### OUR MEMBERS:

Kelly Greathouse, John Potts, Charm Ketner, Margot Everhart, Lisa Price, Patti Lovell, Jeff Hutchens, Deanna Michael

### OUR MEMBERS AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

Peggy Bates, Janelle Bunn, Marzell Crofts, 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:

\*Keri Lovell and Family (on the loss of her grandmother, Pat Collins), M.C. Hinkle (Ben Hale's uncle), Barbara Miller (Eddie Yates' mother), Vernon Powell (Eulene Shepherd's nephew-in-law), Elania & Nora Koontz and Hutson & Grayson East (cousins and friends of Harriette & Clifton Murphy), Buddy Hedrick (Frankie Hedrick's husband), Ben & Anna Lovell and their parents (Jerry and Patti's nephew, his wife), 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 call the church office (336-248-2617).*

We send our prayers with Gennie Lou Byerly as she moves to Abernethy Laurels, a UCC Retirement Home.  
Her address and phone number are: 500 Shuford Circle Drive, Newton, NC 28658, 336-225-2870

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### October 3:

**10-12:00**      **WORKDAY IN THE COMMUNITY GARDEN**  
Come help Edgar Miller harvest sweet potatoes and okra. Also, we will work to prepare beds for the winter. Everyone is welcome to come help!

### October 4:

**9:30AM**      **Adult Bible Study: Exodus via Zoom. Join the meeting [HERE](#).**  
(Meeting ID: 899 1141 8852    Passcode: 793724)

**10:45AM**      **Worship online via YouTube [HERE](#) and Facebook [HERE](#).**  
**NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING COLLECTION**

**12:00PM**      **Join us [HERE](#) for Fellowship & Prayer Concerns via Zoom**  
(Meeting ID: 207 685 007 & Password: 3n7IX8)

**12:30-2:00PM**      **WALK-IN Communion**

Please enter through Memorial Garden, one family unit at a time. (If raining we will enter through the Fellowship Hall entrance.) Enter Chapel and walk up the aisle. Receive pre-packaged juice and wafer and partake of Communion at the front of the chapel. Exit through the choir room door and leave building through door at nursery. There will be an IN-CAR option for those who wish to receive communion in this way.

A separate Communion Service will air online for those at home.

**2:00PM**      **Consistory Meeting (Fellowship Hall and via Zoom)**

Join the meeting using the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82320810024?pwd=Q1NpYmRDcHlTVnVFWXVhREo4RTBtQT09>  
(Meeting ID: 823 2081 0024    Passcode: 982103)

### October 5:

**6:30PM**      **Children's Ministry Team Meeting (Fellowship Hall)**

### October 6:

**12:00PM**      **2CFAR: Crucial Conversations on Faith and Race via Zoom. Join the meeting [HERE](#).**  
(Meeting ID: 873 4191 8684 & Password: 222495)

**6:30PM**      **Youth Ministry Team Meeting (Fellowship Hall)**

**7:00PM**      **Adult Education Meeting: New Book Study begins on "Evangelicals" via Zoom**  
(Information to connect to the meeting will be provided prior to the time of the meeting.)

### October 7

**12:00PM**      **Prayer Worship** for those who have signed up (Sanctuary)

**5:30PM**      **High School Youth Meeting via Zoom. You may join the meeting [HERE](#).**  
(Meeting ID: 826 0087 0645)

**7:00PM**      **Prayer Worship** for those who have signed up to attend (Sanctuary)

### October 10:

**12:00PM**      **Kids' Adventure Time via Zoom. You can join the meeting [HERE](#).**  
(Meeting ID: 841 6958 6956)

### October 11:

**9:30AM**      **Adult Bible Study: Exodus via Zoom. Join the meeting [HERE](#).**  
(Meeting ID: 899 1141 8582    Passcode: 793724)

**10:45AM**      **Worship online via YouTube [HERE](#) and Facebook [HERE](#).**  
**NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING COLLECTION**

**12:00PM**      **Join us [HERE](#) for Fellowship & Prayer Concerns via Zoom**  
(Meeting ID: 207 685 007 & Password: 3n7IX8)

**12:30PM**      **Virtual Congregational Budget Meeting via Zoom**  
Please plan to attend to discuss and/or vote on the 2021 Budget.  
(Information to connect to the meeting will be provided prior to the time of the meeting.)