



## 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

November 15, 2020  
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

### Gathering

**"BOLD"** indicates congregational response

Prelude	"Prelude and Fugue in F Major" [J.S. Bach]	Robert Wilson
Welcome and Invitation to Worship		Rev. Elizabeth Horton
Hymn	"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"	Ellen Peterson
Prayer		Cathy Browder

### Centering

Scripture Reading	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Rev. Horton
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<sup>5</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Prayer

Stories of Stewardship  
John and Vicky Gray  
Smithie Parrish

Hymn	"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"	Ellen Peterson
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### Proclaiming

New Testament Reading	Matthew 25:14-30	Rev. Horton
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<sup>14</sup>"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and

trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

<sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

<sup>26</sup>But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Sermon

**"Buried Alive"**

## Sending

Benediction

Rev. Horton

**\* Consistory President, Eddie Yates, will present nominees from the congregation for 2021 Consistory or ask for a vote on names presented by Consistory last week.**

Postlude

"Now Thank We All Our God"  
[Wayne Kerr]

Robert Wilson

Join our "**Fellowship & Prayer Concerns**" after worship from 12-12:30PM and catch up with your church friends!

**Join Zoom Meeting [HERE](#)**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/207685007?pwd=SIBsZzhIbkEwUFJwb0lEaWFXbWJNQT09>**

**(Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Passcode: 3n7IX8)**

Dial in: +1 301 715 8592 (Meeting ID: 207 685 007)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kqOHfs8Pa>

## OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

### OUR MEMBERS:

\*Susan Miller on the loss of her brother, Patti Lovell, Susan Odom, Ellen Bouchard, Kelly Greathouse, John Potts, Charm Ketner, Margot Everhart, Lisa Price, 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:

\*The Family of Bob Oates (friend of John & Susie Smith), Ashley Thomason Hutcheson (Ron & Heidi Hutcheson's daughter-in-law), Martha Winters and Ken Jacobs (friends of Charm Ketner), Barbara Miller (Eddie Yates' mother), 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).**

## NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

17<sup>th</sup> ...Anne Bevan

18<sup>th</sup> ...Dottie Walser

19<sup>th</sup> ...Maria Cruz...Gary Hahn

20<sup>th</sup> ...Emory Smith

21<sup>st</sup> ...Vance Walser

### ANNIVERSARIES

16<sup>th</sup> ...Pat & Amy Golden

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### SUNDAY - November 15:

10:45AM **Worship online via YouTube [HERE](#) or Facebook [HERE](#).**

**Following Worship: CONGREGATIONAL MEETING to announce any nominees from the congregation for 2021 Consistory OR vote on nominees presented by Consistory**

12:00PM Join our "**Fellowship & Prayer Concerns**" after worship from 12-12:30PM and catch up with your church friends! **Join Zoom Meeting [HERE](#)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/207685007?pwd=SIBsZzhlbkEwUFJwb0lEaWFXbWJNQ09>

**(Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Passcode: 3n7IX8)** Dial in: +1 301 715 8592 (Meeting ID: 207 685 007)

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**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH MEAL GROUP:** Mark, Nicole, Elliott & Emory Smith

2-3:00PM **Drive-Thru Drop Off for 2021 Pledge Cards and Time & Talent Sheets**

In what ministries would you like to serve? Please complete your Time and Talent sheets and Pledge Card for 2021. You may drop them off in the church office, mail them (104 East Center Street, Lexington, NC 27292) or call the office and let us know in which areas you'd like to volunteer. Enter the parking lot behind the Education Building from the Center Street entrance. Rev. Horton will be there to receive both your Pledge Card and Time & Talent Sheets. Exit at Salisbury Street.

### TUESDAY - November 17:

12:00PM **2CFAR: Crucial Conversations on Faith and Race via Zoom. Join the meeting [HERE](#).**

(Meeting ID: 873 4191 8684 & Password: 222495)

6:00PM Men's Brotherhood Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

7:00PM **Adult Book Study via Zoom: *Evangelicals*.**

Join Zoom Meeting with the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83691735429?pwd=R3c5L1JBUVI2SGNyeXVqZWpQdXBsZz09>

**(Meeting ID: 836 9173 5429 Passcode: 262712)**

Dial in: +13017158592,,83691735429# US (Washington D.C)

### DEADLINE to sign up for SECRET SANTA THROUGH POSITIVE WELLNESS ALLIANCE

Please sign up to be a Secret Santa for children of clients served by Positive Wellness Alliance, which supports low-income people with HIV/AIDS in our area. Kivi Miller and the Girl Scouts are coordinating. When you volunteer, Kivi will contact you by email to follow-up with either your wish list for a specific child or how to donate cash to the gift card fund.

- If you want to shop yourself, either sign up via Sign-up Genius [HERE](#), or let the church office know by **Tuesday November 17th**
- Deadline for [donating money](#) is **November 25**.
- For every \$5 donated, our Youth will make luminaries to place outside the church at Christmas.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F44ABAE28A7FE3-secret>

### WEDNESDAY - November 18:

5:30PM **High School Youth Meeting (Fellowship Hall)**

**7:00PM**      **Worship Service (Sign up [HERE](#) to reserve your space.)**  
Wednesday Worship will continue through December at 7:00PM. Services last approximately 30-minutes. Each session will be limited to 20 people. Please wear masks and practice social distancing. **You may reserve your space [HERE](#) or contact the church office if you are interested in attending. There is also a sign-up sheet outside the office.**

**SUNDAY - November 22:**

**10:45AM**      **Worship online via YouTube [HERE](#) or Facebook [HERE](#).**  
**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING to announce nominees from the congregation for 2021 Consistory members**

**12:00PM**      Join our “Fellowship & Prayer Concerns” after worship from 12-12:30PM and catch up with your church friends! **Join Zoom Meeting [HERE](#)**  
**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/207685007?pwd=SIBsZzhlbkEwUFJwb0lEaWFXbWJNQT09>**  
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**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH MEAL GROUP:** John & Susie Smith and Jonathan Kepley

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**November 25:** Items for the December 2020 Newsletter are due in the office by NOON

**November 26:** Thanksgiving Holiday (Church Office is Closed)

**November 27:** Church Office is Closed

**November 29:** First Sunday in Advent

**9:45AM      Adult Sunday School Focus: “Company’s Coming”**

**December 6:**

**1:00PM      Consistory**

**2:30PM      VIRTUAL SANTA VISIT VIA ZOOM (more details to be shared next week)**

**4-5:00PM    Walk-thru Holy Communion in the Sanctuary**

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**FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

104 EAST CENTER STREET, LEXINGTON, NC 27292

**PHONE:** 336-248-2617    **WEBSITE:** [www.frucc.org](http://www.frucc.org)    **FACEBOOK:** [facebook.com/firstreformeducc](https://www.facebook.com/firstreformeducc)

**Ministers:** The Congregation

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

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

**Choir Director:** Ellen Peterson ([ellenrpeterson@gmail.com](mailto:ellenrpeterson@gmail.com))

**Organist:** Robert Wilson ([robert@frucc.org](mailto:robert@frucc.org))

**Admin. Asst.:** Carolyn Robbins ([carolyn@frucc.org](mailto:carolyn@frucc.org))    **Financial Secretary:** Paula Lopp ([paula@frucc.org](mailto:paula@frucc.org))

# FIRST REFORMED UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LOOKING TOWARD SUNDAY: A MESSAGE FROM REV. HORTON

Amidst all of the unexpected that 2020 has brought, First Reformed continues to plan for 2021! Your Time & Talent Sheets and Pledge Cards are a part of this. Even though we don't have a clear or set schedule for what church will look like next year, we know that God is still working in and through the life of this church. You might be leery of completing a pledge card, but do it any way. Pledge Cards are not binding, but they do serve as a symbol of commitment and as a spiritual discipline.

Several of our church members have recently shared their "Stories of Stewardship" based on a few questions. How would you answer them?

1. What aspects of the church's ministry are most meaningful to you?
2. Why do you give financially to the church?
3. What is your greatest hope for what God might do with the gifts you give?
4. How do you feel your life is better because of your generosity?

This Sunday, I will be in the parking lot of the Church from 2-3 pm to receive your Time and Talent Sheets and Pledge Cards. You can also just come by to share a prayer concern or just to say hello. I hope to see you.

Seeking to serve with you faithfully,  
Elizabeth

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

It is time for offering envelopes to be ordered. Many of our congregation do not use these for their giving, but some still do. If you would like to continue to receive offering envelopes, please contact the church office (336-248-2617) or email Paula Lopp (paula@frucc.org) as soon as possible.

## ADVENT - CHRISTMASTIDE DEVOTIONALS: DRAW NEAR



Social distancing is our new way of life. What a strange and alienating reality. Humans are wired for connection, and we do better -- mentally and physically -- with touch. So, what is a human to do when drawing near is both what we most need, and in an age of pandemic, what might end us? Find connection, find nearness, find God in all things this Advent (through Christmastide) with the Still Speaking Writers' Group and contributors in **Draw Near**. From the writers of the popular online [Daily Devotional](#) **Draw Near** includes a biblical text, reflection, and prayer for each day of Advent through Epiphany. **We have a limited number available. Please contact Church Office to claim one.**

## PLACE AN ANGEL ON OUR ANGEL TREE

Again, this year, you will have an opportunity to purchase an Angle Tree in the Education Building Breezeway. Angels can be purchased in honor/memory of someone. Funds will benefit our benevolences. If you'd like to purchase, please contact the church office.

## CHILDREN'S VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Any children and youth interested in taking part in our **VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** this year, please contact the church office **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would like to **participate in the online worship services**, please let us know. Rev. Horton would love to have as many faces as possible present for our services. If you're interested, please contact Rev. Horton or the church office. **Please click [Here for Sign-Up Sheet](#)**

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

If you happen to miss a week of our worship services and other events that are shared on our Facebook and YouTube pages, they will remain on **Facebook** and **YouTube**'s history, so you may go back to watch any time.

## **STAY CONNECTED WITH THE NEWS OF THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE**

**If you would like to receive the SOC weekly news, sign up by following the directions below.**

ALL persons are invited and welcome to receive the Southern Conference e-News. Churches may share this invitation with their members for individuals to self-subscribe.

**To add names, submit by e-mail to editor: [stumb@boone.net](mailto:stumb@boone.net)**

**Please include 1) name, 2) e-mail address, 3) church or other affiliation**