



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 8, 2020
Stewardship Sunday
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

“BOLD” indicates congregational response

Prelude	"Brethren, We Have Met to Worship" [Dana Smith]	Robert Wilson
Welcome and Invitation to Worship		Rev. Elizabeth Horton
Hymn	"My Lord, What a Morning"	Ellen Peterson

Centering

Old Testament Reading	Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25	Eddie Yates
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Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac; "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore, we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God." But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So, Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Prayer		Keri Hartle
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Holy God, full of glory and honor, we make plans and predictions, but who are we?
Mere mortals who have only a glimpse of what tomorrow brings.
We don't presume to understand what You know, O God, but we do know that You have been with us since the beginning, and You will see us through.
You are the one who knows the hairs on our heads, who whispers our names, who knows the deep wounds we live with in our hearts.
We come to You in our brokenness, in our aching, in our sighing, because You are the Great Physician.

Heal us, O God. Heal our bodies and spirits.
Heal our families, neighbors, communities. Heal our cities, our nation, our world.
Heal us, O God, by restoring our hope, our faith in one another.
Heal us by helping us to be whole again, to let go of the practices that cause harm, and cling to ways of justice, mercy, and peace.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Stewardship Stories
Hymn

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

Ellen Peterson

Proclaiming

New Testament Reading

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

Rev. Horton

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so, we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Sermon

"Pressing On with Encouragement"

Sending

Benediction
Postlude

"Rejoice, the Lord Is King"
[Robert Braxton]

Robert Wilson*

***At end of worship, Consistory President, Eddie Yates, will present the slate of new consistory candidates for 2021.**

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)

OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

OUR MEMBERS:

Frankie Hedrick, on the loss of her husband, Harold "Buddy" Foil Hedrick, Jr., Smithie Parrish, on the loss of her mother, Emma Bass, 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:

*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), The family of Susan Wilkerson (Carolyn Robbins' cousin), 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

- 9th ...Robert Danze
...Harrison Danze
...Coreen Freeman
...Everly Robertson
12th ...Mike Hooper
13th ...Will Hooper
14th ...Holt Biesecker

WEEKLY CALENDAR

November 8: STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

9:30AM Adult Bible Study on Exodus via Zoom. Join the meeting [HERE](#).

(Meeting ID: 899 1141 8582 Passcode: 793724)

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

Following Worship: CONGREGATIONAL MEETING to announce Consistory nominees for 2021 Consistory members

12:00PM Join us [HERE](#) for Fellowship & Prayer Concerns via Zoom

(Meeting ID: 207 685 007 & Password: 3n7IX8)

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH MEAL GROUP: Buddy & Rita Lohr, Jerry & Patti Lovell

2:00PM Consistory Meeting via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85159172530?pwd=bkhsZisrdjZrYkQ1a25BRk5XSG5vUT09>

(Meeting ID: 851 5917 2530 Passcode: 805597)

Dial in to join: +1 929 205 6099 US (Meeting ID: 851 5917 2530 Passcode: 805597)

November 9:

6:00PM Crisis Ministry Shelter Meal (Bonita Hooper's Team)

6:30PM Youth Ministry Team Meeting via Zoom. You may join the meeting [HERE](#).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84141989464?pwd=WlUxU1JVN0svUIV0cDVzOGc2SUtjZz09>

(Meeting ID: 841 4198 9464 Passcode: 836872 Dial in: 1 929 205 6099)

November 10:

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 the meeting [HERE](#).

November 11:

5:30PM Middle School Youth Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

7:00PM Worship Service (Sign up [HERE](#) to reserve your space.)

November 15: STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

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 us [HERE](#) for Fellowship & Prayer Concerns via Zoom

(Meeting ID: 207 685 007 & Password: 3n7IX8)

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 26: Thanksgiving Holiday (Church Office is Closed)

November 27: Church Office is Closed

November 29: First Sunday in Advent

ITEMS OF NOTE from FIRST REFORMED UCC

NOVEMBER 6, 2020

NEW TIME FOR SUNDAY SERVICE: 10:45AM

on both our [YouTube Channel HERE](#) and Facebook page [HERE](#)

SPECIAL NOTE: Closed Captioning is available on the YouTube channel.

Look for the  symbol to select options.

Join us for a “FELLOWSHIP & PRAYER CONCERNS” ZOOM Chat
after Worship at 12:00PM EST [HERE](#) (Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Password: 3n7IX8)

LOOKING TOWARD SUNDAY: A MESSAGE FROM REV. HORTON

Dear Beloved Community,

I want to share words written from the Pastor of First Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, Rev. Hull McGee. I found them to be inspiring and important in reminding us of who we are as a congregation in the midst of an uncertain time.

Today, and in the unknown hours, and days, and weeks, and months to come, I want to remind you of what we do know and what we will do.

We will breathe.

We will step outside to feel the holy light on our face and the Spirit breath on our skin.

We will love those before us.

We will weep with those who grieve.

We will hold space for those who fear.

We will remember that each and every one of us — all ages, all races, all parties, all orientations, all identities, all nationalities, all levels of education or economics, belief or background — every single one bears the divine image of God — created in God’s image, blessed, beloved, and so very, very good.

We will continue the work of welcoming the stranger, of caring for the immigrant, of attending to the widow and the orphan, of lifting up the poor and the lowly, of loving our neighbors, of loving our enemies, of following Jesus right to the margins to those whose very lives are threatened and not being surprised to find him right there.

We will be about the sacred work of bending the arc of justice so that it rolls down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

We will bear light — persistent, fierce light — into this world and practice bold love and boundless compassion every chance we get.

This is our holy calling, deeper and truer and more beautiful than any citizenship we have in a country we so love. And by the grace of God, who grants us wisdom and courage for the living of these days, we will hold fast to the promise that echoes throughout time and space, across generations, shouted on the lips of our ancestors for us to hear this very hour:

Do not fear.

I am with you.

Love never fails.

This is our prayer! Amen.

In your mercy, Lord,
hear our prayer.

Seeking to serve with you faithfully,
Elizabeth

DRIVE-THRU DROP OFF FOR 2021 TIME & TALENT SHEETS AND PLEDGE CARDS

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.

THE DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL NOVEMBER 15 WHEN YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DROP OFF BOTH IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT FROM 2-3:00PM.

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.

SUPPORT FIRST REFORMED UCC'S GIRL SCOUT TROOP #2160

Our Girl Scout Troop 2160 is hosting the fall Nut, Candy, and Magazine Sale this month. If you would like to support Jianna Miller and the rest of the troop, please visit www.gsnutsandmags.com/nut or www.gsnutsandmags.com/mag and enter the code: 27UUVTNK. You can choose from a wide variety of delicious snack items or magazines for many interests.

You can choose to have items shipped directly to you now, or Jianna can meet you at church to deliver your items in person in mid-November. **DEADLINE TO ORDER IS NOVEMBER 9TH.** Thanks for supporting our Girl Scouts!

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY

Wednesday Worship will continue in November at 7:00PM, 30-minute **WORSHIP SERVICES** will be held in the Sanctuary. 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.**

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, you may 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

Please include 1) name, 2) e-mail address, 3) church or other affiliation, and 4) role in church, agency, etc. (OPTIONAL).

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FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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)

Choir Director: Ellen Peterson (ellenrpeterson@gmail.com)

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