



# FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lexington, NC

DECEMBER 2020

## Dear Friends,

What is essential? This is one question we have engaged many times since March 2020. During the pandemic and unrest of 2020, we have had to get back to the basics in so many aspects of our lives, seeking clarity in the midst of chaos, straining to figure out what is essential and what is not; wrestling with the question, "If we can't have everything the way we want it, what then is essential?" Which workers? Which grocery items? Which medical procedures? Which parts of school are essential? And even in church life, we have tried to discern what is essential for ministry and worship. Some answers come easier than others.

This Advent, we will continue to ask this question, "What is essential?" Advent began on November 29. It is a season of waiting, of preparing, of marking our days with intention, so that we can fully receive the Light of the Christ Child on the 25th of December.

Even though nothing right now is as it should be, let us take an honest look at ourselves, our congregation, and our community -- and ask, "What is essential in reminding us that the Light **will** overcome the darkness?" **Join us as we search together.**

This December, we will have several opportunities to worship in-person SAFELY. Please stay closely in touch as the details may change as we continue to adjust to the pandemic. Through Zoom, we continue to have Bible Study on Sunday mornings, as well as prayer time at noon on Sunday.

I hope you will find a way to connect with the church this Advent season.

*Elizabeth*

## A MINIMALIST ADVENT: ELIMINATE THE NON ESSENTIALS:

**11/29 - Assess the Mess**  
**Isaiah 64:1-9 & Mark 13:24-37**

**12/6 - Remove the Clutter**  
**Isaiah 40:1-11 & Mark 1:1-18**

**12/13 - Decide:**  
**Foundation or Furniture?**  
**Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 & John 1:6-8, 19-28**

**12/20 - Create a Home  
for Everything**  
**2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 & Luke 1:26-38**

**12/27 - Enjoy the Company**  
**Isaiah 61:10-62:3 & Luke 2:22-40**

## 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.

## NOVEMBER MEMORIALS AND HONOR GIFTS

### **IN MEMORY OF EMMA BASS (SMITHIE PARRISH'S MOTHER)**

Cliff & Paula Lopp  
Eulene Shepherd  
Cathy Waitman

### **IN MEMORY OF DORIS FLYNT**

Merle & Jerry Hodges  
Cliff & Paula Lopp  
Katherine Skipper  
John & Susie Smith

### **IN MEMORY OF BUDDY HEDRICK (FRANKIE HEDRICK'S HUSBAND)**

Monte Darrell (Sparky) Brooks  
John & Vicky Gray  
Buddy & Rita Lohr  
Thomas & Joyce Phillips  
Bill & Carolyn Robbins  
Eulene Shepherd  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Smith  
Cathy Waitman

### **IN MEMORY OF JO HUDSON'S BIRTHDAY (NOVEMBER 22ND)**

Jan Raper

### **IN MEMORY OF STEVE MYERS (JAN SMITH'S HUSBAND)**

Jerry & Patti Lovell

### **IN MEMORY OF BOB OATES**

Cliff & Paula Lopp  
Thomas & Joyce Phillips  
Bill & Carolyn Robbins

### **IN MEMORY OF RITA TUSSEY**

Lori Tussey

### **IN MEMORY OF BILL WALSER**

John & Vicky Gray  
Steve & Charm Ketner  
Thomas & Joyce Phillips  
John & Kathy Rollins

### **IN HONOR OF RUTH ESSICK**

Alisa Johnson

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

### Company's Coming

Who doesn't like Advent? It is a season of excitement and anticipation and joy. Lots and lots of joy. Even when we acknowledge that we aren't ready for what is coming, for the realm that is promised, for the kingdom we hope for. We admit we have fallen short; we confess that we are wrapped up in ourselves and in things that don't last; we admit that our watchful waiting has fallen by the way-side. And yet, in this season, there is joy. And we have a sense that we can start all over again, because "Company Is Coming." Join the Zoom meetings [HERE](#).

**Meeting ID: 890 2652 8333    Passcode: 634119**  
**Dial in: +1 929 205 6099 US**

#### Week 1 – This Place Is a Mess!

[Isaiah 64:1-9](#) & [Mark 13:24-37](#)

(Facilitator: Rev. June Grubb)

#### Week 2: Clean-Up Crew

[Isaiah 40:1-11](#) & [Mark 1:1-18](#)

(Facilitator: Smithie Parrish)

#### Week 3: Deck the Halls

[Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11](#) & [John 1:6-8, 19-28](#)

(Facilitator: Eddie Yates)

#### Week 4: Waiting on the Threshold

[2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16](#) & [Luke 1:26-38](#)

(Facilitator: Eulene Shepherd)

#### Week 5: Enjoying the Company

[Isaiah 61:10-62:3](#) & [Luke 2:22-40](#)

(Facilitator: Rev. June Grubb)

#### Week 6: Living the Celebration

[Ephesians 1:3-14](#)

(Facilitator: Smithie Parrish)

## SPECIAL AWARD PRESENTATION

On October 27, 2020 the Late Rev. Banks D. Shepherd and his wife, Eulene Fisher Shepherd were presented an award from the Campus Ministry Program of Catawba College. The award honored their lifetime achievements during their partnership with the Catawba College program, as well as for their support of each other during this time. Congratulations to Rev. Shepherd, to whom this award was presented posthumously, and Eulene!



# BOARD OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Jerry Lovell

This year has given us challenges in the way First Reformed United Church of Christ has been able to reach out to our community.

## **CHARLES ENGLAND ELEMENTARY**

For the Charles England Elementary School Food Breakfast Program, we have been able to use monetary donations instead of canned and packaged goods. Our church has sent monthly checks to help keep this on-going program afloat.

Charles England Elementary School is continuing with remote learning. To encourage the Holiday Spirit at CEES, Principal Beth Callicutt and her staff are planning a Surprise Holiday Extravaganza. This will feature a "reverse parade" at the school with stations for distribution of craft bags, lollipops, bags of hot chocolate mix and other treats. The staff will cover the stations as the students ride by in cars to pick up their goodies.

Our church is helping with the Extravaganza for the 360 students in the following ways:

- Members have donated lights and decorations.
- Some of our groups and church members have made donations to offset the cost of treats and other supplies.

If you would like to help, you can write a check to First Reformed UCC with "CEES Extravaganza" on the memo line.

## **PASTOR'S PANTRY**

The Pastor's Pantry is providing a Christmas meal for their senior clients. If you would like to help, make a donation to First Reformed UCC, and mark "Pastor's Pantry" on the memo line.

## **SALVATON ARMY KETTLE BELL RINGERS**

Our church is continuing our outreach mission to help with the Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing. Volunteers are:

### **Saturday, December 5th:**

<b>10-11:00</b>	Buddy Lohr
<b>11-12:00</b>	Steve Ketner
<b>12-1:00</b>	Susie Smith
<b>1-2:00</b>	Maria Cruz
<b>2-4:00</b>	John & Vicky Gray
<b>4-5:00</b>	Steve Smith
<b>5-6:00</b>	Nicole, Elliott & Emory Smith

### **Tuesday, December 8th:**

<b>10-11:00</b>	Harriette & Clifton Murphy
<b>11-12:00</b>	Mike & Bonita Hooper
<b>12-1:00</b>	Eddie Yates
<b>1-2:00</b>	Frank Leonard
<b>2-4:00</b>	James & Alice Gray
<b>4-5:00</b>	Stacy Sosebee-West
<b>5-6:00</b>	<b>OPEN SLOT</b>

## **ALTERNATIVE GIFTS**

As the Christmas Season arrives, do not forget our "Alternative Gifts" for those "hard to shop for" friends and relatives. Send a donation to our church to the charity of your choice and receive a card to send to the designated person.

(A copy of the Alternative Gifts form can be found in the back of the newsletter. You may contact the office to request cards for you to mail to those on your donation list.)



## DECK THE HALLS!



Although our decorations are not quite the same as they usually are, the Chrismon Tree and other altar decorations look beautiful! Special thanks go to the following people who worked skillfully on November 21st to decorate the sanctuary for the Advent season:

Keri, Casey, Jacob & Emma Hartle  
Paula & Cliff Lopp  
John & Susie Smith  
Eddie Yates  
June Grubb  
Lynn Brown  
Rich Johnson

### WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Sign up for one of our Wednesday Worship Services [HERE](#) or contact the church office for an opportunity to view these decorations and spend some time in prayer and listening to beautiful music.

### CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

There will be two opportunities for a 30-minute candlelight service this year on either Wednesday, December 23 or Thursday, December 24. You may save your spot by signing up [HERE](#) or contacting the church office.

# SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **ATTENTION CURRENT COLLEGE STUDENTS!**

It is time to apply for the Hinkle, Sink, Swing Scholarship. Applications are available in the church office or can be emailed by contacting [paula@frucc.org](mailto:paula@frucc.org). Applications should be completed and back in the office by **DECEMBER 31, 2020**.

## **2021 TIME & TALENT SHEETS AND PLEDGE CARDS**

We will continue to accept both the 2021 Time and Talent Sheet and Pledge Cards until the end of December. 2021 committees are formed by your responses to the categories on the Time & Talent Sheet. This information is helpful for Consistory chairpersons to have by their first meeting in January 2021. Neither of these represents a permanent commitment. Choices may be revised at any time by contacting the church office.

**Copies of these forms can be found at the back of this newsletter.** Complete them and drop them by or mail them to the office or call the office and the staff can mark your preferences over the phone.

## **GRACE EPISCOPAL MEAL ASSISTANCE**

Grace Episcopal needs people to help serve meals on Sundays in December. There will be someone in the kitchen cooking, but help is needed to bag water, dessert, and the meal. They are searching for groups of three people to help from **12-1:15PM** on the following Sundays:

**December 6...December 13...December 20**

Please contact John Maze if you are able to help. ([majejmaze1@aol.com](mailto:mazejmaze1@aol.com) or 704-524-6462)

## **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. This will be presented as part of our December 20th service.

## **WALK-THRU HOLY COMMUNION**

On Sunday, December 6th from 4-5:00PM we will have another Walk-Thru Communion. This time it will be held in the church Sanctuary. Please wear your mask and practice social distancing. The elements will be presented in pre-packaged cups including both the wafer and the juice. Join us during this time and get a chance to see our beautifully decorated chancel as you take part in Holy Communion.

## **CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICES**

There will be two separate candlelight services in the sanctuary this year. The services are 30 minutes each and will be limited to 20 people. You can reserve your spot [HERE](#) or contact the church office by email ([carolyn@frucc.org](mailto:carolyn@frucc.org)) or phone (336-248-2617).

## **CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR OUR MEMBERS AT HOME**

Save a stamp! Again, this year the church will collect and deliver Christmas cards for our 18 members at home. If you include a special message in your card, make sure to add a name on the envelope. After the cards are all collected, they will be delivered by a member of the Board of Evangelism or mailed to each person below. Your cards **MUST BE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE by NOON MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2020**. You will have an opportunity to bring them to the church on Sunday, December 6th during the Walk-Thru Communion service from 4-5:00PM.

### **OUR MEMBERS AT HOME:**

**J.W. BATES**

**MARY BERRIER**

**JANELLE BUNN**

**RUTH ESSICK**

**PATTIE EVERHART**

**LIB & JIMBO HINKLE**

**MARGUERITE LEONARD**

**ELIZABETH SINK**

**CAROLYN SPIVEY**

**PEGGY BATES**

**ELLEN BOUCHARD**

**MARZELL CROTTS**

**MARGOT EVERHART**

**VOGEN EVERHART**

**GERRI HILL**

**BOB SHAAK**

**KATHERINE SKIPPER**

**ADENA WALL**

## **OUR ANGEL TREE**

Purchase an Angel Tree in honor or in memory of someone, and it will be placed on the tree in the Education Building breezeway. Funds will benefit our benevolences. To purchase, please contact the church office or click [HERE](#).

## **ALTERNATIVE GIFTS**

The holiday season is quickly approaching. Have you thought about what to buy for family and friends? Why not give to a local charity in their honor or in memory of a loved one? For an alternative gift, donate to any of the church benevolences and the church office will give you a special "alternative gift" card to send to your honoree.

To purchase, complete the form **at the back of the newsletter** and return it to the church office with your donation, call the church office, or click [HERE](#) to donate. This is such a meaningful way to honor someone on your gift list, benefit those in need, and help our church meet its benevolences for the year.

## THANK YOU NOTES

Dear First Reformed UCC Choir,

Thank you for the kind donation to our church in Bill's memory. He so enjoyed being in the choir when he was able to sing.

With sincere gratitude and appreciation,  
Cheryl, Hense and Walser Family

Dear First Reformed UCC,

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  
and Charles England Family

First Reformed UCC Consistory,

Oh, my goodness. We just received a donation from you all, and now another? How could we ever say thank you? We can't thank you all enough. But know that we greatly appreciate all you do to make Charles England the best it can be.

Ms. Waller &  
The Charles England Family

## SPECIAL THANKS!

We want to begin by thanking our church family and friends for your generosity during this unusual year. Because of your faithfulness we have been able to pay church bills and with the help of the Angel Tree and Alternative Gift donations are planning to pay all budgeted benevolences in December.

The Church budget for 2021 is \$306,214.00. Thus far, we have received \$128,240.00 in pledges from 24% of our families. We are 42% of the way there.

This 2021 budget is a plan for the ways this church hopes to use our resources for ministry. We know the recent economic impacts and uncertainties that abound can make it difficult for some to continue their yearly pledge. With that in mind, if you are able, we hope you will please consider to make an increase or even an additional donation.

We are also grateful for the folks who may not turn in a pledge card, but who continue to give regularly.

Thank you for the ways you support God's work through this church!

You may still turn in your pledge through December.

Elizabeth Horton

Thanks to the never-ending generosity of our congregation, we were able to provide Secret Santa gifts for 21 children of families affected by HIV/AIDS in our area! Girl Scout Troop 2160 is coordinating the purchase of presents and gift cards with the donated funds and will wrap and deliver the gifts to Positive Wellness Alliance for distribution.

Special thanks to the following donors and shoppers:

Marge Doty  
Dave & Glenyce Fulton  
Girl Scout Troop 2160  
Alice Gray  
John & Vicky Gray  
June Grubb  
Merle Hodges  
Mike & Bonita Hooper  
Cliff & Paula Lopp  
John Maze & Ben Hale  
Kivi & Edgar Miller  
Tony & Lee Ann Peele  
Bill & Carolyn Robbins  
Molly & Brad Robertson  
John & Susie Smith  
Cathy Waitman  
Jay & Cathy Whitley

Kivi Miller



# CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS...NOVEMBER 2020

To comply with Governor Roy Cooper's requests to help prevent the spread of Covid-19, Consistory members met virtually via Zoom.

## **Board Reports**

### **Board of Community Outreach:** Jerry Lovell

- Grace Episcopal lunch volunteers scheduled.
- Volunteers for Salvation Army Kettle Bell ringers needed for dates in December.

### **Board of Evangelism:** Renee Walsh

- Discussing something instead of fruit baskets this year for our members at home. Will continue the Christmas card contributions, which will be mailed out. Renee will check with the office for best method to gather and send out cards

### **Board of Worship and Sacrament:** Raeann Allred

- Rev. Horton will continue Wednesday Worship through December
- Working on Co-chairs for Music Committee to have in place to begin new search for organist. Thanked Harriette for her years of service.
- The sanctuary will be decorated for the advent/Christmas season. Decorations need to be in place by November 29<sup>th</sup>, the first Sunday of Advent. Chairpersons of the Decorating Committee contacted to find out who will be able to help.

### **Board of Property Management:** John Smith

- Two roofers looked at the Sunday school side of Education Building and reported the roof did not need replacing at this time. Jim at McCrae Roofing was to send an estimate for future reference. Six ceiling tiles were replaced in the room where stains were. We will continue to monitor.
- Steve did a great job of cleaning and buffing the floors where Sheets Dance Academy practiced. Board asked Consistory about a bonus for him.
- Big holly bush at the back entrance to Education Building has been removed.
- Committee members discussed removing upstairs curtains upstairs and replacing with blinds.
- Buddy Lohr repaired the back doorknob of the sanctuary and installed touchless soap dispensers in sanctuary bathrooms.

### **Financial Report:** Harriette Murphy reported:

- Finance & Budget Report for October 2020
  - ◊ October Average Weekly Offering: \$4,403
  - ◊ General fund balance \$24,851.58
  - ◊ Music fund Balance \$7,620
  - ◊ All bills are current

## **Old Business**

- Men's Brotherhood meeting on November 10, 2020 was cancelled due to rising number of Covid cases statewide.
- Current number of Time & Talent Sheets returned: 12. Deadline extended.
- Current number of 2021 Pledge Cards returned: 15. Deadline extended.
- Advent, Christmas Eve, etc.
  - ◊ Plans for Chrismon Tree and sanctuary decoration
  - ◊ Wednesday Worship will continue through December. At least

one usher needed each evening. Attendance remains small for the meaningful services. Suggestion that the office sends reminders of available spaces for services.

- ◊ 30-minute candlelight services at 7:00PM planned for December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Sign up available to allow 20 people. Area churches are not meeting in person due to Covid 19.
- ◊ Decoration plans for the sanctuary are in progress
- ◊ Plans for a virtual Visit from Santa on December 6 via Zoom.
- ◊ December 20<sup>th</sup> service will be led by the children for Christmas pageant.

## **New Business**

- Invite 2021 Consistory Members to December 6 meeting
- Staff Christmas Gifts
  - ◊ Eddie will write letter to the congregation to send out the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of November. A deadline for donations will be included. Rev. Horton suggested recording the presentations of staff gifts in church office to be included in a Sunday worship service.
- Church positions
  - ◊ Organist position search
  - ◊ The Music Committee will appoint a chairperson to organize search for organist. Robert will play through December. We will need a fill-in organist. Mike Price suggested an organist from another area church to fill in.
  - ◊ Faith Formation search
    - ◊ Board of Faith Formation will lead the search for a replacement of Rev. Susan Morris.
- Both searches will remain under concerns for the future on Consistory agenda.
- Due to time consuming challenges of videoing and editing the online Sunday services, live streaming of services beginning the first of 2021 is under consideration This would require the purchase of additional equipment.
- John Smith suggested giving our custodian a bonus for the time and work on cleaning and restoring the floors in the Education Building used by the dance students. Motion: The Property Committee, Second: Jerry Lovell. All approved.
- Kivi Miller has been contacted by Positive Wellness Alliance regarding the Adopt a Child Secret Santa program. She will coordinate the project to use sign up genius to get donations for gift card and names of people who want to shop for gifts. The Girl Scouts will assist with the project.

**Next Consistory Meeting: December 6, 2020 at 1:00 via Zoom**



# BOARD OF FAITH FORMATION

## MINISTRY TEAM MEETINGS:

**The Children's Ministry Team** meeting will be held on **Monday December 7, 2020** at 6:30PM via Zoom. You may join the meeting [HERE](#).

(Meeting ID: 818 9546 5762 Passcode: 840364 Dial in: 1 929 205 6099)

**The Youth Ministry Team** meeting will be held **Monday, December 14, 2020** at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Jeremy Lovell will lead this meeting. You may join the meeting [HERE](#).

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

## CHILDREN'S NEWS:

Kid's Adventure Time **WILL NOT** be held in December.

## YOUTH NEWS

Meetings for the **HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH** scheduled for December will be held on the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 5:30PM**. Jeremy Lovell and Stacy Sosebee-West will lead this group.

The **December 2nd meeting** will be held via Zoom at 5:30PM. Join the meeting [HERE](#).  
(Meeting ID: 988 9882 1207 Passcode: FRUCC)

The **December 16th meeting** will be held in the **Fellowship Hall @ 5:30PM**. Please remember to wear a mask.

The meeting for the **MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH** scheduled for **Wednesday, December 9th** at 5:30PM will be determined at a later date.

# THE CHRISTMAS FUND

## THE VETERANS OF THE CROSS AND THE EMERGENCY FUND



The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

Over the past nine months, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the church have increased dramatically. In such a time as this, the need for the Christmas Fund is more urgent than ever.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!

**This year's offering will be collected on Sunday, December 20.**

# First Reformed Community Garden Faces Challenges in 2020

Edgar Miller

Just like everybody and everything else in 2020, the First Reformed UCC Community Garden faced a number of challenges this year. From an irrigation system leak that flooded our newly planted potatoes in the Spring to canceling in-garden events like the Great Tomato Sandwich Give-Away and the loss of volunteers, we faced some pretty significant hurdles.



Despite those challenges and due to the ongoing commitment of our church and community to support the garden ministry, the garden still produced 350 pounds of fresh produce for food-insecure families in our community. The pandemic and racial tensions also posed even greater challenges for garden workers from Open Hands Ministry of Davidson County, but their dedication never wavered and they were always there when we needed them.



As we wrap up our 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Community Garden, it serves as a reminder that we can achieve so much more working together than focusing on our differences. "Many hands make light work," as the old saying goes. Although, the garden produced less this year, the produce was never more appreciated than it was this year at Pastor's Pantry.



As we look forward to planning the 2021 growing season, we want to thank all the church and community members who have supported the garden financially and hope we can count on you again next year to sustain this important ministry.







# Puzzle!

Use the code to complete Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus, our Savior.



CODE:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q

10 23 13 17 14 6 18 21 21

11 14 12 10 21 21 14 13

6 24 23 13 14 1 15 4 21

12 24 4 23 2 14 21 24 1 ,

22 18 16 17 3 8 16 24 13 ,

14 5 14 1 21 10 2 3 18 23 16

15 10 3 17 14 1 , 25 1 18 23 12 14

24 15 25 14 10 12 14 ,

ISAIAH 9:6, NIV



# WHITE AS SNOW

Jesus, our Savior, came to earth to purify sinners.

*Directions: Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose one to try, starting at the first picture under the "Path" box. Follow each picture's directional cues to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blanks below. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.*



PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6
for	give	come	together	around	after
self	into	settle	eternal	thanks	forgive
God	LORD	says	without	Christ	warmth
love	sins	scarlet	other	light	praise
red	star	white	snow	winter	peace

EXIT

"\_\_\_\_\_ now, let us \_\_\_\_\_ the matter," \_\_\_\_\_ the  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Though your \_\_\_\_\_ are like \_\_\_\_\_,  
they shall be as \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ ...."

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV

# LET IT snow!

Create a winter wonderland with this fun craft.



## What you need:

- Glass jar with lid but no label
- Laminated photo (that will fit in the jar)
- Small plastic Christmas trinkets
- Hot or waterproof glue
- Container with spout
- 1 cup distilled water
- 3 tsp. glycerin
- Glitter



## What you do:

1. Unscrew lid and flip jar upside down. Glue the photo and trinkets to the inside of the lid, standing upright.
2. In a container, mix water and glycerin. Pour the mixture into the jar, leaving space at the top.
3. Spoon in some glitter.
4. When glue is dry, attach the decorated lid tightly. Shake the jar to see "snow" swirl and settle.

## OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

We extend Sympathy to and share Christian Hope with the family of Doris Flynt. Doris was a long-time member of First Reformed United Church of Christ who passed away early Thanksgiving morning.

### OUR MEMBERS:

Susan Odom, Patti Lovell, Ellen Bouchard, Kelly Greathouse, Margot Everhart, Lisa Price, 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

### OUR FRIENDS:

Wendi Greene (Bill Robbins' sister), Ashley Thomason Hutcheson (Ron & Heidi Hutcheson's daughter-in-law), 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).***





# DECEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b> 12:00 2CFAR meeting via Zoom 7:00 Book Study "Evangelicals" via Zoom	<b>2</b> 5:30 High School Youth {via Zoom} 7:00 Wednesday Worship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10-6:00 Red Kettle Bell Ringers at Lanier's
<b>6 2nd Sunday of Advent</b> 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship online 12:00 Fellowship & Prayers via Zoom 1:00 Consistory via Zoom 2:30 Virtual Visit with Santa Claus 4:00 Walk-in Holy Communion (Sanctuary)	<b>7</b> 12:00 Christmas Cards for Members at Home due in Office 6:30 Children's Ministry Team Meeting via ZOOM	<b>8</b> 10-6:00 Red Kettle Bell Ringers at Lanier's 12:00 2CFAR meeting via Zoom 7:00 Book Study "Evangelicals" via Zoom	<b>9</b> 5:30 Middle School Youth {via Zoom} 7:00 Wednesday Worship	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Fruit Basket & Card Delivery for Members at Home
<b>13 3rd Sunday of Advent</b> 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship online 12:00 Fellowship & Prayers via Zoom	<b>14</b> 6:30 Youth Ministry Team Meeting via ZOOM	<b>15</b> 12:00 2CFAR meeting via Zoom 7:00 Book Study "Evangelicals" via Zoom	<b>16</b> 5:30 High School Youth {Fellowship Hall} 7:00 Wednesday Worship	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20 4th Sunday of Advent</b> 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship online: Children & Youth Christmas Pageant 12:00 Fellowship & Prayers via Zoom	<b>21</b> Articles for January 2021 news-letter due by Noon	<b>22</b> 12:00 2CFAR meeting via Zoom 7:00 Book Study "Evangelicals" via Zoom	<b>23</b> 7:00 Candlelight Service {Sanctuary}	<b>24</b> 7:00 Candlelight Service {Sanctuary}  <b>HOLIDAY OFFICE IS CLOSED</b>	<b>25</b> <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</b>  <b>HOLIDAY OFFICE IS CLOSED</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27 1st Sunday after Christmas</b> 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship online 12:00 Fellowship & Prayers via Zoom	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 12:00 2CFAR meeting via Zoom 7:00 Book Study "Evangelicals" via Zoom	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

# ALTERNATIVE GIFTS

The holiday season is quickly approaching. Have you thought about what to buy for family and friends? Why not give to a local charity in their honor? You may donate to any of the following church benevolences and send a card to the person to whom you would like to honor with your gift. Complete the form below to return to the church along with your donation. You may also give online [HERE](#). Acknowledgment cards are available in the church office for you to complete and drop in the mail. This is such a meaningful way to honor someone on your gift list, benefit those in need and help our church meet it's benevolences for the year.

## FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Alternative Gift Giving

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A DONATION TO ASSIST WITH BENEVOLENCES BUT HAVE NO PREFERENCE WHICH ORGANIZATION IT BENEFITS, PLEASE PUT THE DOLLAR AMOUNT UNDER UNDESIGNATED BENEVOLENT DONATION.

	Donation	# Cards
<b>Undesignated Benevolent Donation</b>		
<b>Southern Conference</b>		
Blowing Rock Conference Center		
Elon Homes for Children		
Johns River Valley Camp		
Lancaster Seminary (WNCA Scholarship Fund)		
Nazareth Children's Home		
Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)		
UCC Retirement Home (Trust Fund - Piedmont Crossing)		
<b>Local</b>		
Communities in Schools		
Community Garden		
Community Outreach (Charles England, Etc.)		
Crisis Ministries		
Davidson Medical Ministries		
Davidson Prison Ministry		
Family Services of Davidson County		
Girl Scout Troup #2160		
GLAMA - Crisis Fund		
Habitat for Humanity		
Hospice of Davidson County		
Lexington Housing CDC		
Pastor's Discretionary Fund		
Pastor's Pantry		
Pathway of Hope		
Salvation Army		
<b>***TOTAL DUE</b>		

## REMEMBER TO COMPLETE YOUR 2021 PLEDGE CARD...



You will be enriched  
in every way to be  
*generous in every way.*  
which through us will  
*produce thanksgiving*  
to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11

Even amidst the many months of Covid-19, our Sunday worship services, under the leadership of Rev. Elizabeth Horton, have continued. Many volunteers from our congregation have helped with these, and music provided by Ellen, Robert and members of our choir have helped make these services feel complete. Thanks to Ellen's skills, the parts of each service have been organized into seamless videos that help us imagine we are worshipping in our sanctuary. Thanks to the generous contributions from our congregation, our giving has also remained constant.

2021 Pledge Cards were sent out at the end of October along with the Time & Talent Sheets. **Please give both your prayerful consideration as you complete them.** You may mail them to the office, drop them off if you are uptown or scan and email them. You will also have an opportunity on **Sunday, December 6th to bring these to church during Walk-Thru Communion from 4-5:00PM.**

A copy of the pledge card is shown below for your use. Also, a copy of the Time & Talent Sheet can be found on the following two pages.

### FIRST REFORMED UCC 2021 PLEDGE CARD

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to give \$\_\_\_\_\_ each ☐ week ☐ month  
for an annual total of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the appropriate church officer.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# ...AND YOUR 2021 TIME AND TALENT SHEET



## First Reformed United Church of Christ 2021 Time & Talents

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know ways you would like to serve in the mission and ministry of First Reformed UCC in 2021.

Every Sunday, volunteers fill more than two dozen roles, serving the church and each other in many different ways. Community service, social justice, and other mission work are essential parts of First Reformed UCC's ministry.

Our church Consistory is organized into **SIX BOARDS**, each with responsibilities related to the overall ministry of the church and its activities. When you check with interest to serve on one of the boards, a lay leader will contact you to discuss how you would like to serve. They will also use this list as the "first people to call" as new opportunities and needs arise throughout the year.

Board of Evangelism	Promotes the church in the community, brings new members into the church & involves members in caring for one another.	I will help	Board of Congregational Life	Promotes and coordinates church meals, Sunday socials, bereaved family meals, kitchen management & other fellowship activities.	I will help
Pray / Contact / Visit for sick & homebound members			Meal set up / Meal clean up		
Call / Write members who have missed church			Cook / prepare food for church functions		
Volunteer to drive others			Prepare food for bereaved families		
Participate with Prayer Shawl/Blanket Ministry			Photograph church events		
Work with or assist LGBTQ+ people			Sunday School Coffee Cart set up /clean up		
Work on racial justice issues			Host First Sunday Social		
Work / Assist with homeless and/or low-income people			Serve on History Committee		
			Help plan Homecoming Sunday		

Board of Community Outreach	Coordinates to meet various needs in the community with service events, partnerships & volunteers	I will help	Board of Worship & Sacrament / Music	Helps plan and implement worship services, including communion, music, altar preparations and decorations.	I will help
Help plan / participate in community activities			Serve as worship hour greeter		
Prepare / Serve meals for homeless shelter			Serve as liturgist/lay reader		
Deliver Meals on Wheels			Serve as usher		
Volunteer - Touching Davidson County with Love			Serve as sound system and/or help with digital ministry		
Volunteer - Grace Episcopal Church Lunch (Nov.)			Help with decorating / altar preparation		
Volunteer - Community Garden			Assist with communion preparation / clean up		
Volunteer - Open Hands Ministry Meals			Candle preparation		
Volunteer - Salvation Army Kettle Bell Ringer			Sing in Adult Choir		
			Participate in Bell Choir		
			Play a musical instrument _____		

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE!



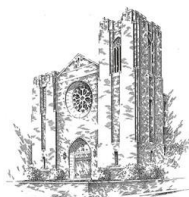
<b>Board of Faith Formation</b>	<b>Manages the faith formation of children, youth and adults, including Sunday school</b>	<b>I will help</b>	<b>Board of Property Management</b>	<b>Maintains and repairs church's facilities, equipment and property.</b>	<b>I will help</b>
*Serve as Sunday school teacher for...	Adults		Volunteer to open / close buildings for events		
	High School youth		Special skills that would be helpful to board...		
	Middle School youth				
	Children (K-5 <sup>th</sup> )				
*Serve as Substitute Sunday school teacher					
*Assist with Vacation Bible School					
*Serve as caregiver for nursery (18 & older)					
*Serve as Children or Youth Leader					

**\*must have background checks**

<b>Opportunities for Christian Growth</b>	<b>I will help</b>	<b>Opportunities for our Youth</b>	<b>I will help</b>
Attend Morning Glory Circle		Serve as Bible Steward / Acolyte	
Attend Women's Life Fellowship		Serve as Youth Usher	
Attend United Friendship Club		Serve as Youth Liturgist	
Attend Men's Brotherhood		Serve as a Community Garden Volunteer	
Participate in Adult Sunday school		Participate in Children's Youth Activities	
Participate in Bible / Book study		Participate in Middle School Youth Activities	
Study Suggestions...		Participate in High School Youth Activities	
		Participate in special Sunday school / church programs	
		Attend Vacation Bible School	

<b>Tell Us about Other Special Talents You Would Like to Share</b>	<b>Tell Us about Other Ways You Would Like to Serve</b>

**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**  
[elizabeth@frucc.org](mailto:elizabeth@frucc.org)  
336-972-8895

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

**Administrative Assistant**  
Carolyn Robbins  
[carolyn@frucc.org](mailto:carolyn@frucc.org)

**Financial Administrator**  
Paula Lopp  
[paula@frucc.org](mailto:paula@frucc.org)

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

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

**DECEMBER**

- 1 Ann Johnson Crandell  
Buddy Lohr  
Jerry Smith
- 2 Beverly Sandifer
- 3 Brandi McCarn Gerew
- 7 Ruth Essick
- 12 Donna Coe
- 14 Marge Doty  
Merle Hodges
- 15 Janell Bunn
- 17 Christina Grzech
- 19 Maxx Clark
- 23 Parker Horton
- 24 Bryson Gentry  
Isabella Gentry  
Tim Potts  
Jay Whitley
- 27 Renee Walsh
- 28 Walter Hoffman  
Susan Miller
- 30 Keith Johnson  
Belinda Yates
- 31 Camill Freeman  
Myrtle Latimer

**DECEMBER  
ANNIVERSARIES**

**12th**

**Susan Morris & Charyl Clark**

**18th**

**Doug & Barbara Sink**

**19th**

**Lee & Mary Jo Jessup**



**Candlelight &  
Holy Communion Services**  
**December 23 & 24 at 7:00PM**  
**in the Sanctuary.**

**Reserve your spot [HERE](#)**  
**or call the church office,**  
**336-248-2617**