

## 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 22, 2020  
Thanksgiving Sunday

### Gathering

**"BOLD"** indicates congregational response

Prelude	"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" [Douglas Wagner]	Robert Wilson
Invitation to Worship	"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"	Ellen Peterson
The Prayer of Thanksgiving		Marge Doty

For the wide sky and the blessed sun,  
For the salt sea and the running water,  
For the everlasting hills  
And the never-resting winds,  
For trees and the common grass underfoot.  
We thank you for our senses  
By which we hear the songs of birds,  
And see the splendor of the summer fields,  
And taste of the autumn fruits,  
And rejoice in the feel of the snow,  
And smell the breath of the spring.  
Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty;  
And save our souls from being so blind  
That we pass unseeing  
When even the common thorn bush  
Is aflame with your glory,  
O God our creator,  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.  
*(by Rev. Walter Rauschenbusch, 1890)*

Hymn	"We Gather Together"	Ellen Peterson
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### Centering

Scripture Reading	Deuteronomy 8:7-18	Christie Plummer
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<sup>7</sup>For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, <sup>8</sup>a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, <sup>9</sup>a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. <sup>10</sup>You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

<sup>11</sup> Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. <sup>12</sup>When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, <sup>13</sup>and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, <sup>14</sup>then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, <sup>15</sup>who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, <sup>16</sup>and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in

the end to do you good. <sup>17</sup>Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' <sup>18</sup>But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

A Thanksgiving Day Prayer

Rev. Elizabeth Horton

Hymn

*"Now Thank We All Our God"*

Ellen Peterson

## Proclaiming

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:31-46

Rev. Horton

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

Sermon

*"If I Had Only Known"*

## Sending

Prayer

Rev. Horton

Benediction

Postlude

*"Trumpet Tune in D"*  
[David German]

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=SIBsZzhlbkEwUFJwb0lEaWFXbWJNQT09)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/207685007?pwd=SIBsZzhlbkEwUFJwb0lEaWFXbWJNQT09>

(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/207685007?pwd=SIBsZzhlbkEwUFJwb0lEaWFXbWJNQT09>

## NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

22<sup>nd</sup> ...Jo Hudson

23<sup>rd</sup> ...Frank Leonard

24<sup>th</sup> ...John Maze

25<sup>th</sup> ...Webb Fulton

27<sup>th</sup> ...James Gray...Ava Miller...Cathy Waitman

### ANNIVERSARIES

23<sup>rd</sup> ...Stacey & Sarah Potts

## OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

### OUR MEMBERS:

\*Susan Odom, \*Doris Flynt, Susan Miller on the loss of her brother, 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), 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).*

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### **SUNDAY - November 22:** Thanksgiving Sunday

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

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)

**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH MEAL GROUP:** John & Susie Smith, Jonathan Kepley

### **TUESDAY - November 24:**

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

7:00PM **Adult Book Study via Zoom: *Evangelicals*.**  
Join Zoom Meeting with the link below:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83691735429?pwd=R3c5L1JBUVl2SGNyeXVqZWpQdXBsZz09>  
(Meeting ID: 836 9173 5429 Passcode: 262712 Dial in: +13017158592)

### **WEDNESDAY - November 25:**

12:00PM ALL ITEMS FOR THE DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER ARE DUE TO THE OFFICE BY NOON.  
5:30PM Middle School Youth Meeting (Fellowship Hall)  
7:00PM NO WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

**DEADLINE FOR DONATING MONEY for SECRET SANTA.**

**THURSDAY - November 26:** HAPPY THANKSGIVING **CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED**

**FRIDAY - November 27:** **CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED**

### **SUNDAY - November 29:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

9:45AM Adult Sunday School: "Company's Coming" Week 1- "This Place Is a Mess"  
[Isaiah 64:1-9](#) and [Mark 13:24-37](#)

Join the Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89026528333?pwd=RW10OTlkXmdDBCdllaVRSUEJnQT09>  
(Meeting ID: 890 2652 8333 Passcode: 634119)

Dial by your location: +1 929 205 6099 US (Meeting ID: 890 2652 8333)

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

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)

**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH MEAL GROUP:** Walter & Ann Hoffman and Doris Sink

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### December 2:

5:30PM High School Youth meeting via Zoom  
7:00PM Wednesday Worship (**Sign up [HERE](#) to reserve your space or call the church office.**)

### December 5:

10-6:00 Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Lanier's

### December 6: **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

9:45AM Adult Sunday School: "Company's Coming" Week 2- "Clean-up Crew"

**Isaiah 40:1-11 and Mark 1:1-18**

10: 45 Worship

1:00PM Consistory

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

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

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

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

### December 7:

12:00PM Christmas Cards for members at home are due in the office

6:30PM Children's Ministry Team meeting

### December 8:

10-6:00 Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Lanier's

### December 9:

5:30PM High School Youth meeting via Zoom

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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

Currently, my family is in the middle of isolating because we were in contact with people who were Covid positive but did not know it at the time. Later, when told about their symptoms and test results, we began isolating. Parker has been tested because he is the only one of us with symptoms. His are mild, but enough that we needed to proceed with testing. Even if he turns up negative, we still must continue to act as though we all are positive. This is the reason Wednesday Worship was cancelled and will be next week, as well.

Ever since we have been pre-recording the worship services, I have spent Saturday nights with my dad, who is 90 years old. Needless to say, I cannot be with him this Saturday night nor over Thanksgiving. Like many of you who are making these kinds of choices, I am very sad about it. He is the only living grandparent my children have, and they have seen him one time since March.

This is our first experience being knowingly exposed.

For you who are exposed on a daily basis, my prayers are for you and with you.

For protection, for safety,

For calmness in the midst of the uncertainty,

For peace in the midst of unease;

for health in the midst of sickness,

Prayers of gratitude, admiration, and thanksgiving.

Elizabeth

## 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.

## BELL RINGERS NEEDED FOR SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLES

Shifts are still available to ring the kettle bell for Salvation Army during the Christmas season. Dates for our church are **Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> with shifts from 10:00AM-6:00PM.** Please contact Jerry Lovell at either 336-746-6493 (H) or 336-590-5074 (C) for more information or to sign up.

## SECRET SANTA FOR 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. **You may continue to make donations for this to the church office until November 25. Please write "Secret Santa" on any donations. For every \$5 donated, our Youth will make luminaries to place outside the church at Christmas.**

## CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR OUR MEMBERS AT HOME

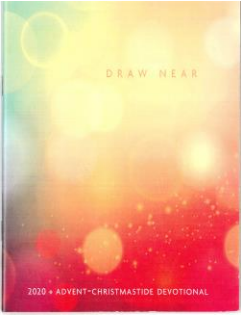
Again, this year we will collect Christmas Cards for our members at home. You do not need to address these. You may either send 18 cards in plain envelopes or if you prefer to include a special message for these members, you may include a name on the outside. We will collect these in the church office and send out a collection for each member at the same time. Below is a list of names for our members at home. **THE DEADLINE FOR THE OFFICE TO RECEIVE THESE CARDS IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2020.**

PEGGY BATES  
JANELLE BUNN  
MARGOT EVERHART  
DORIS FLYNT  
MARGUERTIE LEONARD  
KATHERINE SKIPPER

MARY BERRIER  
MARZELL CROTTS  
PATTIE EVERHART  
LIB & JIMBO HINKLE  
BOB SHAAK  
CAROLYN SPIVEY

ELLEN BOUCHARD  
RUTH ESSICK  
VOGEN EVERHART  
GERRI HILL  
ELIZABETH SINK  
ADENA WALL

## 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.

## 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 give in memory of a loved one? You may donate to any of the church benevolences and send a card (provided by the office) 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. 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 its benevolences for the year.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: 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 kin-dom 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 wayside. And yet, in this season, there is joy. And we have a sense that we can start all over again, because "Company Is Coming." A link for the Zoom meetings will be sent out prior to November 29.

### **Week 1 – This Place Is a Mess!**

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

### **Week 2: Clean-Up Crew**

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

### **Week 3: Deck the Halls**

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

### **Week 4: Waiting on the Threshold**

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

### **Week 5: Enjoying the Company**

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

### **Week 6: Living the Celebration**

[Ephesians 1:3-14](#)

## WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY

The 7:00PM Wednesday Worship services will resume in December. Each service is 30 minutes and is limited to 20 people. **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.**

## 2021 TIME & TALENT SHEETS AND PLEDGE CARDS

We will still accept 2021 pledge cards and Time & Talent sheets for another couple of weeks. You may drop them off in the church office, mail them (104 East Center Street, Lexington, NC 27292) or call /email the office and tell us how you'd like either completed.

## **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**

[Click here for the news of the of the Western Association and Southern Conference of the UCC:](#)

<https://wnca-soc.org/enews/>