



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

December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent
CHILDREN & YOUTH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



Gathering

"BOLD" indicates congregational response

Prelude	"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" [R. W. Thygerson]	Robert Wilson
Welcome to Worship		Rev. Elizabeth Horton
Special Message from Our Consistory President		Eddie Yates
Call to Worship	<i>"Prepare the Way of the Lord"</i>	Ellen Peterson
Invitation to Worship		Rev. Horton
The Advent Wreath	Sunday of Love	Rev. Horton
A Time of Love	When has the church been a source of LOVE for you?	Brian McKerlie
Lighting of Candle of Love	May God use us all to bring love to a hurting world.	Rev. Horton
Response	<i>"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"</i>	Ellen Peterson
Prayer for the Longest Night		Rev. Horton

Proclaiming

Christmas Pageant	<i>"O Come, Let Us Adore Him"</i> Featuring: Lucas Cruz, Sam West, Kyndell Lovell, Ethan Lovell, Jian Miller, Patrick Horton, Parker Horton, Jasmin Cruz, Alyson Cruz, Jacob Hartle, Emma Hartle, Bryson Gentry, Bella Gentry, Caroline White, Ava Miller, Lucas Peterson, Kiaya Plummer, Christine Grzech, Riley Grzech
	Special Thanks to Jeremy Lovell for organizing the program.

Sending

Benediction		Rev. Horton
Postlude	<i>"Fantasia on Noel"</i> [R. J. Hughes]	Robert Wilson

Join our **Fellowship & Prayer Concerns** after worship from 12-12:30PM and catch up with your church friends!
Join Zoom Meeting [HERE](#) (Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Passcode: 3n7IX8 Dial in: +1 301 715 8592)

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

23rd...Parker Horton

24th...Bryson Gentry
...Isabella Gentry
...Tim Potts
...Jay Whitley

OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

We extend Sympathy to and share Christian Hope with Heidi & Ron Hutcheson and family of Margot Everhart. Margot was a long-time member of First Reformed United Church of Christ who passed away early in the morning December 16th.

OUR MEMBERS:

Susan Odom (WFBMC, Winston-Salem), Ellen Bouchard, Kelly Greathouse, Lisa Price, Deanna Michael

OUR MEMBERS AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

Peggy Bates, Janelle Bunn, Marzell Crotts, 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:

Miriam Logan (Sarah Potts' grandmother), Ken Richardson and family (friend of Camille Morgan), 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).*

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY - December 20: 4th Sunday of Advent

- 9:45AM Adult Sunday School: "Company's Coming" Week 4
"Waiting on the Threshold" (Eulene Shepherd, facilitator)
[2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 and Luke 1:26-38](#)
Join the Zoom Meeting [HERE](#).
(Meeting ID: 890 2652 8333 Passcode: 634119 Dial in: +1 929 205 6099 US)
- 10:45AM Worship online via YouTube [HERE](#) or Facebook [HERE](#).
Join us for our Children & Youth Christmas Pageant this morning: "O Come, Let Us Adore Him"
- 12:00PM Fellowship & Prayer Concerns
Zoom Meeting [HERE](#) (Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Passcode: 3n7IX8 Dial in: +1 301 715 8592)

TUESDAY - December 22:

- 7:00PM Adult Book Study via Zoom: *Evangelicals*. Join Zoom Meeting [HERE](#).
(Meeting ID: 836 9173 5429 Passcode: 262712 Dial in: +13017158592)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23: COME SEE LUMINARIES AT DUSK!

Our youth are making 200 luminaries in response to the money collected to help children for Christmas. They will be placed around the church and lighted at dusk this evening.

THURSDAY, December 24: CHRISTMAS EVE

- 7:00PM VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE via YouTube [HERE](#) or Facebook [HERE](#)

FRIDAY, December 25: MERRY CHRISTMAS! CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED

SUNDAY, December 27: 1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

- 9:45AM Adult Sunday School: "Company's Coming" Week 5
"Enjoying the Company" ([Isaiah 61:10-62:3 and Luke 2:22-40](#)) (Facilitator: Rev. June Grubb)
Join the Zoom Meeting [HERE](#).
(Meeting ID: 890 2652 8333 Passcode: 634119 Dial in: +1 929 205 6099 US)
- 10:45AM Worship online via YouTube [HERE](#) or Facebook [HERE](#).
- 12:00PM Fellowship & Prayer Concerns
Zoom Meeting [HERE](#) (Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Passcode: 3n7IX8 Dial in: +1 301 715 8592)

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, December 31: NEW YEAR'S EVE

FRIDAY, January 1: NEW YEAR'S DAY...CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED

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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 FACEBOOK: facebook.com/firstreformeducc

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)

Organist: Robert Wilson (robert@frucc.org)

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

FIRST REFORMED UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOOKING TOWARD SUNDAY: A MESSAGE FROM REV. HORTON



Dear First Reformed Family,

As this last week in Advent comes before us, we long for the signal that the Advent waiting is over... when the shadows are gone and the light pours in...

We yearn for that moment when the lonely darkness is finally lifted and we hear, breaking into the silence, the cry of the Newborn Christ Child...

Yet, this particular year, we realize that our waiting and longing will still continue even as Christmas arrives.

"On the night Jesus was born, it wasn't that everything suddenly became safe or peaceful. The Roman Empire continued; war, disease, and poverty were not eliminated. And yet, a new door on the journey toward salvation was opened. God came to earth, to live and die as one of us and to teach us about a different kind of freedom—a freedom to love without fear of death, pain, or shame." (Heidi Haverkamp, *Christian Century Magazine*, December 2020)

We will always live waiting in the in-between the now and the not-yet. Christmas reminds us that we are never alone. Christmas gives us strength to love without fear, courage to forgive without condition, and the ability to live in irrational and incredible hope.

Let us listen faithfully for the cry of the Newborn King.

Peace,
Elizabeth

ADVENT 2020: ONLY THE ESSENTIALS – HOPE PEACE LOVE JOY

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](#)

1/6/2021 - Living the Celebration [Ephesians 1:3-14](#)

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Our Christmas Eve service will now be virtual, but we still want the opportunity to share with one another *glad tidings of great joy*. Therefore, will you help us make a **First Reformed Digital Christmas Card?**

We would like you to:

Make a VIDEO wishing your church family a Merry Christmas OR Submit a FAMILY PHOTO.

Ellen Peterson has graciously agreed to compile them into a digital presentation to show before Christmas.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT is Sunday, DEC. 20th.

Guidelines for Videos:

- should be less than 30 seconds.
- Film in landscape orientation
- Identify yourself/family, then say your greeting.
- Speak loudly!
- Share video with Ellen Peterson via Google Drive at ellenrpeterson@gmail.com

Guidelines For Photos:

- Make sure you include in your name(s).
- Drop by church office or send to Ellen via Google Photos at ellenrpeterson@gmail.com

Let us give thanks for the season of Advent... the season of Hope... Let us keep our hope in the One who dwells among us.

COME SEE THE LUNMINARIES ON DECEMBER 23RD!

Our youth are making 200 luminaries in response to the money collected to help children for Christmas. They will be placed around the church and lighted at dusk on Wednesday, December 23rd.

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.

Applications should be completed and back in the office by December 31, 2020.

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." Join the Zoom meetings [HERE](#).

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

December 20...Week 4: Waiting on the Threshold (Eulene Shepherd, facilitator)

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

December 27...Week 5: Enjoying the Company (Rev. June Grubb, facilitator)

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

January Week 6: Living the Celebration (Smithie Parrish, facilitator)

[Ephesians 1:3-14](#)

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](#). **DEADLINE TO MAKE DONATIONS IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20.**

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

"For Such a Time as This." Esther 4:14

Each year, the Pension Boards receives many notes and letters of thanks from recipients of assistance made possible by your gifts to the Christmas Fund.

These letters come from both retired and active UCC pastors or their surviving spouses. Here are excerpts from just two of the letters received by the Pension Boards letting us know what a difference your generosity has made in their lives and the lives of their families. Here are excerpts from two notes received last year:

"My/our gratitude goes beyond words! With this gift I was able to pay the propane bill and have the propane tank refilled. It was depleted to 10% of capacity, and we have been having some very cold nights this winter. My illness has precluded him from doing any work for the last 6 months, and we have fallen way behind in our living expenses..."

"My church, although solvent, was unable to give me a raise this year and is experiencing a shortfall in pledges. Thank you again for your faithful and gift which has enabled us to keep warm!"

"This note is a heartfelt thank you for the very generous emergency grant that the Board provided us to help offset costs associated with my kidney transplant and follow-up medical procedures and appointments. Not surprisingly, our family prayed a lot in the months leading up to my transplant in great of what was coming, and in the time since, having received the gift of a 'second chance' at life..."

"We are grateful for modern medicine, excellent medical providers, and the support of our local and wider church families and friends, including the United Church of Christ Pension Boards..."

"We never lost faith, trusting in Christ's promise that we would not - and will not - have to walk alone. Thank you for meeting us along our path and for extending your outstretched hand to help us financially."

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 below 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. **DEADLINE FOR ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING IS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31ST.**

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
Undesignated Benevolent Donation		
Southern Conference		
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)		
Local		
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		
***TOTAL DUE		

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would like to participate in the online worship services, please let us know. If you're interested, please contact Rev. Horton or the church office. **Please click [HERE](#) to sign up.**

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.