



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 27, 2020
First Sunday after Christmas

First Sunday after Christmas

Prelude "Angels We Have Heard on High" Robert Wilson
[Wilbur Held]

Invitation to Worship Rev. Elizabeth Horton

Words of Gratitude to Robert Wilson

Prayer

Hymns "O Come All Ye Faithful" Ellen Peterson
"The First Noel"

Prayer Rev. Horton

Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High" Ellen Peterson

**For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us; he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
He is named Emmanuel: God with us.
In this tiny baby, this vulnerable child,
we find our light, our joy, our comfort. Joy to the World! The Lord is come!**

Hymn "Joy to the World" Ellen Peterson

Scripture Reading Luke: 2: 22-40 Rev. Horton

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Sermon:	"Looking for 2021"	
Hymn	"Go Tell it on the Mountain"	Ellen Peterson
Benediction		Rev. Horton
Postlude	"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" [J.S. Bach]	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

27th ...Renee Walsh
28th ...Walter Hoffman
 ...Susan Miller
30th ...Keith Johnson
 ...Belinda Yates
31st ...Camill Freeman
 ...Myrtle Latimer

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

1st...Gerri Hill

OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

OUR MEMBERS:

Heidi & Ron Hutcheson and the Family of Margot Everhart, Susan Odom (at home), Ellen Bouchard, Kelly Greathouse, 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:

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 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)

TUESDAY - December 28:

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

THURSDAY, December 31: NEW YEAR'S EVE

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

SUNDAY, January 3: EPIPHANY and HOLY COMMUNION

- 9:45AM Adult Sunday School: "Company's Coming" Week 6
Week 6: Living the Celebration (Smithie Parrish, facilitator)
[Ephesians 1:3-14](#)
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

TUESDAY, January 5:

- 12:00PM 2CFAR meeting via ZOOM
- 7:00PM Adult Book Study via Zoom: *Evangelicals*. Join Zoom Meeting [HERE](#).
(Meeting ID: 836 9173 5429 Passcode: 262712 Dial in: +13017158592)

WEDNESDAY, January 6:

- 5:30PM High School Youth via ZOOM
- 7:00PM Board of Property Meeting

SUNDAY, January 10:

- 9:45AM Adult Sunday School – "FOLLOW ME"

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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

Without looking in your Bible, see if you can answer this: Who was the Governor when Jesus was born? If the name didn't come easily to your mind, that's okay. It doesn't for most of us. You can find the answer in **Luke 2**, which is the Sacred Story of Jesus' birth. We will hear this on Christmas Eve, but most likely you will be focused on the others in the story...Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the angels, and of course, the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.

Luke's telling of the Story reminds us that God saves the world in the most unexpected ways...not through the Emperor or the Governor, not through the Empire or Earthly Kingdom...but through a poor and powerless couple in the lowliest of conditions, in a strange and foreign land.

Things are not as we want, not as they should be, and so many of us are struggling with challenges and losses that are hard to imagine. When circumstances threaten to overwhelm us and we feel like we have little control, it is important to remember that God continues to care for the us and the world through the small, easily overlooked gestures of love and faith, compassion and grace... helping a neighbor, making a phone call, fixing a meal, advocating for the vulnerable. In all these ways, God is at work, still changing, loving, and blessing the world. And at a time when it feels like so many of the big traditions of Christmas have been taken away, perhaps we might find both comfort and courage that God is at work in the many, many small gestures we offer. Jesus was born to grant us courage and faith sufficient to the day, and we will get through this.

The light that shines in the darkness most often comes from the flicker of one small candle.

Most of us will never remember that Quirinius was the Governor of Syria. And perhaps that is Good News.

Elizabeth

JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE TODAY...DECEMBER 23rd

Please submit any items for our January 2021 Newsletter to carolyn@frucc.org by 5:00PM this evening.

FIRST REFORMED UCC VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CARD

Check out our **FACEBOOK** page [HERE](#). and on **YOUTUBE** [HERE](#) as members of our church send wishes for the holiday in our VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CARD!

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.

VIRTURAL CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Our virtual Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be shared on our **FACEBOOK** page [HERE](#). and on **YOUTUBE** [HERE](#) beginning at 7:00PM on Christmas Eve.

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE HINKLE, SINK, SWING SCHOLARSHIP

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

"Company Is Coming" lesson will continue through January 3, 2021. Join the Zoom meetings [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 890 2652 8333 Passcode: 634119 Dial in: +1 929 205 6099 US)

December 27...Week 5: Enjoying the Company (Rev. June Grubb, facilitator)
[Isaiah 61:10-62:3](#) and [Luke 2:22-40](#)

January 3...Week 6: Living the Celebration (Smithie Parrish, facilitator)
[Ephesians 1:3-14](#)

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 are 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.