



## 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

January 10, 2021  
Baptism of Christ  
Remembering Our Baptism  
Installation of Deacons, Elders, and Trustees

### The Baptism of Christ

*Bring a small bowl or glass of water to your worship space if you are able.*

Prelude "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Ashley Clasen, Pianist  
[by William M. Runyan arr. Virginia Halberg]

Invitation to Worship Rev. Elizabeth Horton

Scripture Reading Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Hymn: "Morning Has Broken" Emma West

Prayer for the New Year, 2021 Written and Read by Camille Morgan

Heavenly Father,  
At the still point of the turning world,  
we teeter on the bridge  
between the old and the new,  
the past and the future,  
the night not yet over  
and the day not yet born.

In the long pause,  
we yearn with every breath for transformation  
by baptism at your hands.  
We long to start over with a fresh, clean new year  
to learn to live in your world, O Lord, in your way.  
We don't want tomorrow to be simply a repeat of today.  
By your Grace, O Lord, heal our brokenness.  
We must rebuild our country, repair our democracy, and restore our world.

Now more than ever we must come face to face  
with the evil that lurks within our own souls,  
the darkness of our cruelty and greed.  
The stakes have never been higher:  
the salvation of our country, our world, our entire human race.

Eternal Father,  
We pray that this be a defining moment in our lives.  
Transform our hearts and minds  
that we may see with new eyes,  
that we may inaugurate new life,  
that we may remake our country, our world, and above all, ourselves.

Even as you broke into our time and our world  
as our Savior, Jesus Christ,  
we reaffirm our faith that even now  
you are actively at work in human history  
that we may reaffirm the good and the sacred  
within ourselves and in all your creation.  
Amen

Installation of 2021 Consistory and Trustees

Rev. Horton

Deacons:

Robert Danze, Alane Holste, Kivi Miller, Mike Price, Smithie Parrish, Renee Walsh

Elders:

Raeann Allred, John Gray, Rita Lohr, Harriette Murphy, Lisa Nelson, John Smith

Trustees:

Buddy Lohr, Clifford Lopp, Doug Sink, Jerry Smith, Mark Smith

Congregational Affirmation of our Covenant

**We gather in celebration and joy to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you so that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.**

Prayers of Petition

*You are invited to share your petitions in the comments if you wish.*

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

Hymn

*"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"*

Ellen Peterson

Scripture Reading

Mark 1:4-11

Rev. Horton

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Sermon

Who, Then, Are We?

Hymn

*"Will You Come and Follow Me"*

Ellen Peterson

Remembering Our Baptism

Benediction

Go out into the world in peace.  
Have courage.  
Hold on to what is good.  
Return no one evil for evil.  
Strengthen the faint hearted.

Support the weak.  
Help the suffering.  
Honor all people.  
Love and serve the Lord  
Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
You know what is required of you -  
To do justice. To love mercy and to walk humbly.

Postlude

"Be Still, My Soul"  
[by Jean Sibelius arr. Chris Rice]

Ashley Clasen

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)**

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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://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))

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

## JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

10<sup>th</sup> ...Deanna Michael...Harriette Murphy

11<sup>th</sup> ...Camille Morgan

13<sup>th</sup> ...Jitter Yarbrough

15<sup>th</sup> ...Laura Perry

### ANNIVERSARIES

16<sup>th</sup> ...Walter & Ann Hoffman

## OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

### SYMPATHY:

We extend Sympathy to and share Christian Hope with the family of Jack Frank, who passed away January 7, 2021.

### OUR MEMBERS:

\*Jeff Hutchens (at home now), Stacey & Sarah Potts, 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:

\*Patricia Roberts (Stacey Potts' mother), \*Bob Sheehan (Eddie Yates' brother-in-law), Clarke Ward (father of Jay & Cathy Whitley's son-in-law), 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).*

## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, January 10: RENEWING OUR BAPTISM

9:45AM Adult Sunday School: FOLLOW ME

WEEK 1: Baptism of Jesus ([Mark 1:4-22](#))

"Tearing Apart the Heavens" (Rev. June Grubb, Facilitator)

You may join the meeting [HERE](#).

(Meeting ID: 890 2652 8333 Passcode: 634119)

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 – January 12:

12:00PM 2CFAR meeting via ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 873 4191 8684 Passcode: 222495)

7:00PM Parent Meeting via Zoom

Time of Centering Prayer and Discussion

Join Zoom Meeting [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 818 1148 8780 Passcode: SNOW)

7:00PM **NO ADULT BOOK STUDY THIS EVENING**

### WEDNESDAY, January 13:

5:00PM Board of Trustees Meeting (FELLOWSHIP HALL)

### SUNDAY, January 17: CHURCH'S 120<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

9:45AM Adult Sunday School: FOLLOW ME

January 17th: Second Sunday after the Epiphany

[John 1:43-51](#)

"Anything Good" (Smithie Parrish, Facilitator)

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)

### MONDAY, January 18:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday...CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

## FIRST REFORMED UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LOOKING TOWARD SUNDAY: A MESSAGE FROM REV. HORTON

If you are like me, you may be overwhelmed with emotions as images and stories continue to emerge from Wednesday's horrific events at the U.S. Capital building: grief, anger, sadness, anxiety, confusion, disbelief...and so many questions. I recorded my sermon on Thursday as I normally do, and to be honest, my mind was reeling and my emotions raw as I made what seemed to be a futile attempt to voice words that might usher in even a shimmer of God's presence. The absence of being together felt even more acute.

With that said, I wonder what might it meant that this occurred on the Day of Epiphany, the day when the Light of the Star led the Magi to the Christ child? To me, this timing is not merely coincidence, for on January 6, we did see the Light shine on our country... the ugliness of White Supremacy was uncovered, the dangers of extremism and Christian Nationalism were revealed, and the deep sins of neglecting to love our neighbor were made manifest on this day.

On Sunday, the Light will lead us to Remember our Baptism. As we hear the Gospel passage, [Mark 1: 4-11](#), we see Jesus enter the muddy waters of the Jordan, rising with the blessing of the Holy Spirit to bring in God's kingdom on Earth. This begins our series, **Follow Me**, where we see that even though the Star was

easy for the Magi to follow, the path never seems to remain that Bright. You and I are called to follow the Light even when it flickers dimly. God leads us into the places where love, justice, and peace of God is absent; the places we'd rather not go.

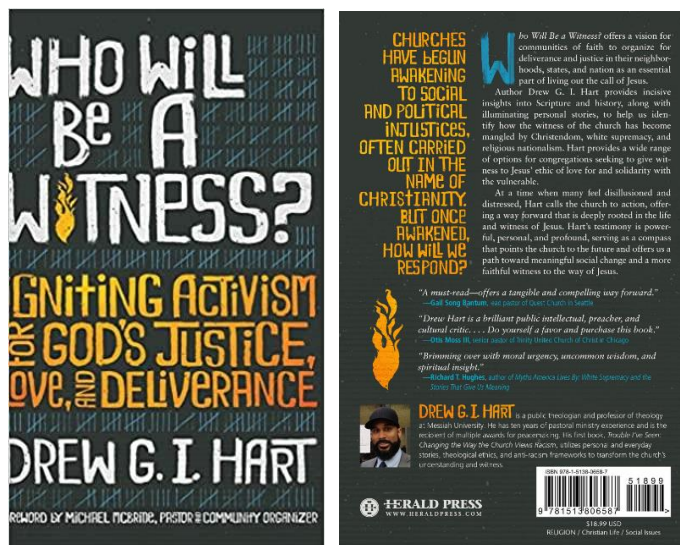
Please join me Sunday. We need reminders of our baptism. We need to remember that we are claimed by God for God's purposes in this world.. even when the Light seems to waver.



Seeking to serve faithfully with you,  
*Elizabeth*

## NEW ADULT BOOK STUDY TO BEGIN TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021

The Adult Book Study group has selected "Who Will Be A Witness? Integrating Activism for God's Justice" by Drew G. I. Hart for their next book study. This study will help us identify how the witness of the church has become mangled by Christendom, white supremacy and religious nationalism.



You may join this book study beginning January 12, 2021 at 7:00PM via Zoom [HERE](#).  
(Meeting ID: 846 9163 5471 Passcode: 524570)

## INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN WORSHIP SERVICES

We invite you to take part in our worship service by reading Scripture or saying a prayer. We will provide the Scripture text and easy instructions for recording yourself with your device at home. If you would like to read in worship service, please click on this Sign-Up Genius link to sign up for a Sunday: [Worship Reader](#)

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL & WORSHIP SERIES: Follow Me

Beginning January 10, our Worship Series and Adult Sunday School will coordinate, using the same scripture for the series, **Follow Me**. This series helps us renew our commitment on the path of discipleship in this new year. We will challenge ourselves to grow deeper in faith and open up to new possibilities in this new year. Let us embrace the call to follow.

### LECTIONARY READINGS AND THEMES

#### January 10th: Baptism of Jesus

Mark 1:4-22

"Tearing Apart the Heavens"

Rev. June Grub, Facilitator

#### January 17th: Second Sunday after the Epiphany

John 1:43-51

"Anything Good"

Smithie Parrish, Facilitator

#### January 24th: Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Mark 1:14-20

"Follow Me"

Eulene Shepherd, Facilitator

#### January 31st: Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Mark 1:21-28

"What Have You to Do with Us?"

Eddie Yates, Facilitator

#### February 7th: Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Mark 1:29-39

"She Began to Serve"

Rev. June Grubb, Facilitator

#### February 14th: Transformation Sunday

Mark 9:2-29

"But Only Jesus"

Rev. Mike Hooper, Facilitator

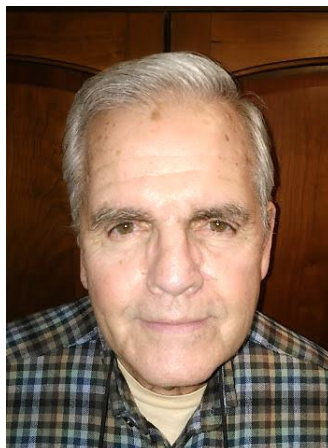
You may join the meeting [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 890 2652 8333 Passcode: 634119)

## 2021 CONSISTORY AND TRUSTEES

### ELDERS



Raeann Allred



John Gray



Rita Lohr





**Harriette Murphy**



**Lisa Nelson**



**John Smith**

**DEACONS**



**Robert Danze**



**Alane Holste**



**Kivi Miller**



**Smithie Parrish**



**Mike Price**



**Renee Walsh**

## TRUSTEES



**Jerry Smith**

**Clifford Lopp**

**Buddy Lohr**

**Mark Smith**

**Doug Sink**

## 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.