

**WEEKLY EMAIL from FIRST REFORMED UCC
APRIL 16, 2021**

**IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE
BEGINNING AT 10:30AM**

**WORSHIP WILL BE LIVESTREAMED ON OUR Facebook page [HERE](#)
or our YouTube Channel [HERE](#)**

LOOKING TOWARD SUNDAY: A MESSAGE FROM REV. HORTON

Sermon Title: **Dare to Repent**

Scriptures: [Luke 24: 36b-48](#) and [Acts 3:12-19](#)

Dare to Live

Are you daring?

If you want to be like the followers in the Book of Acts,
then you should answer yes.

Over the next seven weeks we will explore the big and bold book of Acts –
where we see communities of faith come to grips with the mystery
and wonder of an empty tomb.

What does it look like to live on the other side of the Cross?

The followers in Acts show us.

They dare to open themselves up to the Spirit of The Resurrection.

They dare to allow the Living God to move through them.

They dare to defy the limits of the world.

They dare to surpass the status quo.

They dare to live in faith.

Will we?

Seeking to serve faithfully with you,
Elizabeth

Our service will be livestreamed at 10:30am.

You can worship with us online in two ways:

[On our Facebook Page here.](#)

[On our YouTube Channel here.](#)

If you miss the livestream, the services will be available in both of these places for you to watch at your convenience.

Click [here for the worship bulletin.](#)

Click [here for to give securely on our website.](#)

EARTH DAY

Earth Day falls on Thursday, April 22nd. We will celebrate Earth Day during worship service on Sunday, April 25.

RENEE WALSH & TRAVIS WHITE WEDDING

Renee Walsh and Travis White are excited to have their wedding livestreamed on First Reformed's Facebook page [HERE](#) and our YouTube channel [HERE](#). They invite their church family to join in the happy occasion on Saturday, April 24th at 4:00 in the afternoon!

SAVE THE DATE

Add June 13, 2021 to your calendar! We have scheduled our annual Sunday Picnic at Wildcat Farm for that day. We were unable to hold this last year because of Covid restrictions, and we missed being at Wildcat Farm the year before because of rain. (Our picnic was held in the Fellowship Hall that year.)

Arrangements are being made for our meal. You will not have to contribute any food items this year so this event can safely follow Covid protocols. Mike Brown has already agreed to man the grill. Susie Smith is working on plans for safe food service.

Dust off your lawn chairs and have them ready for June 13th!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE COORDINATOR NEEDED

The Board of Community Outreach is in search of someone to coordinate Red Cross blood drives held in our church Fellowship Hall. Betty Barr has done a wonderful job serving as coordinator since the Red Cross started holding blood drives at our church. The coordinator will work with the local Red Cross to coordinate drives with our church calendar. Being present on site during the day of the drive is another responsibility. Generally, this is from 12-7:00PM. Blood drives have been held 2-3 time per year. The next drive is scheduled for May 19, 2021. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information about responsibilities, please contact Betty Barr for details. (336-239-5001 or barrpiotcar@gmail.com).

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NEW FLOWER PROTOCOL

New guidelines have been established for placing flowers in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Please read as this process has changed.

FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FLOWER MINISTRY PROTOCOL

SPECIAL NOTE:

It has been a tradition in our church to have flowers at the front of the sanctuary as a sign of creation and life. We encourage anyone who wishes to place flowers in honor or memory of someone to continue this tradition, however the guidelines for this ministry have changed.

- I. **It will no longer be the church's responsibility to order and communicate information to the florist(s) for individuals wishing to place flowers in the church.**
- II. **Previously reserved dates will no longer be carried over from year to year.**
- III. **Sunday flower reservations will now be made through the church office based on a yearly calendar.**
- IV. **Flowers will be placed at the front of the sanctuary unless someone has already reserved the date. Then there is an option to place flowers in the Narthex.**
- V. **In order to place flowers/plants in the church, you must contact the church office either by phone or email to see if the requested week is open. (carolyn@frucc.org or 336-248-2617)**

It will be up to individuals to provide the flowers and be responsible for all billing. There are only two florists in the area who have a key to the sanctuary for delivery of arrangements, **C Ray Floral Designs (336-247-1694)** and **Reggie's Flower Shoppe (336-731-8789)**. If you choose to use a different florist, you may contact the office to make arrangements for delivery. **The church has several silk arrangements that may be used**

instead of ordering from a florist. These may be requested for use with a donation made to the church. The most appropriate seasonal arrangement will be selected from these.

It will be up to the individual to remove flowers from the sanctuary. A calendar for each new year will be available for reservations by December 1 of the current year.

Information that must be provided for flower reservations:

Reservation made by: _____

Contact preference: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Bulletin information: _____

Arrangements after Sunday Service:

_____ I will take flowers home on Sunday:

_____ will pick up flowers from the church for me.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Living the Resurrection: Easter Season, the Adult Bible Study, continues Sunday mornings at 9:15AM via ZOOM. Easter is not a day, it is a season. So, our new Bible study sessions will be a six-week series which brings us up to Pentecost. The joy of Easter needs to sustain us until the Spirit can launch us into the next phase of experiencing the "kin-dom" of God.

The study focuses on the lectionary text found in John's gospel, which are stories that follow the resurrection of Jesus. Our question throughout this series is, "How does this help me live today?"

Join study [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 890 2652 8333 Passcode: 634119 Dial in: +1 929 205 6099 US)

Gospel Texts and Session Titles:

April 18: Luke 24:36b-48 "Touch and See"

April 25: John 10:11-18 "Listen to My Voice"

May 2: John 15:1-8 "Abide In Me"

May 9: John 15:9-17 "No Greater Love"

Also, Festival of the Christian Home (Mother's Day)

May 15: John 17:6-19

"We Are Yours"

May 22: Pentecost Sunday

BOOK STUDY

The book study meets on Tuesdays, at 7:00PM via ZOOM. Edgar Miller is the facilitator for this study of the book **Natural Saints: How People of Faith Are Working To Save God's Earth**. The important topics included for discussion throughout this book coordinate well with Earth Day celebrations in the month of April. Congregations and individuals seeking to integrate care of creation into their faith community will find inspiration and concrete advice in the lives of these natural saints. The book focuses on the following ministries:

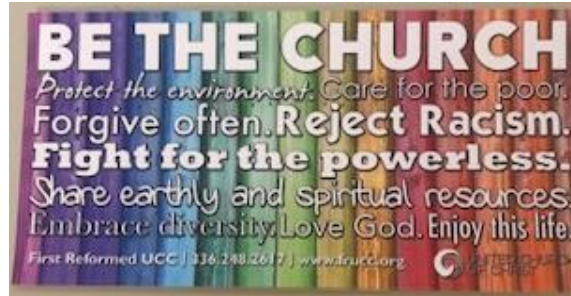
McDuff Highlights Eight Key Ministries:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| protecting human dignity | feeding the hungry |
| creating sacred spaces | responding to natural disasters |
| promoting justice | making a pilgrimage |
| educating youth | bearing witness |

You may order your copy of the book from your favorite resource. **You may join this book study Tuesday evenings via ZOOM at 7:00PM [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 846 9163 5471 Passcode: 524570 Dial in: +1 929 205 6099 US)**

BE THE CHURCH WINDOW CLINGS

The Board of Evangelism has plenty “**BE THE CHURCH**” Window Clings still for sale. These are similar to bumper stickers, but they cling on glass instead and can easily be moved from place to place. Proceeds will go to the church’s general fund. The cost is \$5 each. If you are interested in purchasing, please contact the church office.



OPEN HANDS SATURDAY LUNCH MINISTRY

Open Hands Ministry and First Reformed UCC Serve a carry-out lunch at 12:30 on Saturdays out of our Fellowship Hall kitchen. Volunteer or come for a carry-out meal for this Saturday Lunch. Contact John Maze if you would like to help. (704-524-6462)

IMMEDIATE PRAYER PARTNERS

Praying for another person is a powerful ministry that connects us more deeply to others and amplifies the needs before God. Formerly called the Prayer Chain, our newly named prayer ministry is **Immediate Prayer Partners**, coordinated by Patti Lovell. The **Immediate Prayer Partner** Ministry begins by calling Rev. Horton, the church office, or Patti Lovell with your prayer request. It will then be shared with volunteers who have **made a commitment to offer intercessory prayer immediately when they receive the message**. Depending on the volunteer’s preference, communication will be via texts, emails, or phone calls. If you would like to volunteer to be an **Immediate Prayer Partner**, please contact Patti Lovell at 336-309-9302.

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE NEWS OF THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

Click below for the news of the Western Association and Southern Conference of the UCC:
<https://wnca-soc.org/enews/>

JRVC OPPORTUNITIES

JOHN'S RIVER VALLEY CAMP: SUMMER 2021

"Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything beautiful." -Ralph Waldo Emerson

Johns River Valley Camp is making plans to provide Outdoor Ministry opportunities during the summer of 2021, albeit on a scaled down basis. COVID protocols will be in place in an effort to create a safe environment. Camps will be provided for Campers grades 4-12. Church youth groups and others are asked to inquire about our "Hospitality Model" where you work with our staff to plan and provide a retreat experience which meets your group's unique needs. We also continue to invite groups to plan Mission Camps involving meaningful projects and ministry opportunities.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

June 13-18: "Hospitality Model" or Mission Camp

June 20-25: "Hospitality Model" or Mission Camp

July 4- 9: "Hospitality Model" or Mission Camp

During these weeks you are invited to work with our Staff to create a retreat experience which is custom designed for your group.

Cost with Food Service: \$75 per day per participant

Cost without Food Service: \$50 per day per participant

Contact us today!

June 27-July 2: Middle and Senior High (Grades 7-12)

Campers will hike to Harper Falls, bike the Virginia Creeper Trail, kayak the Johns River and more. (Cost: \$425)

July 11-16: Junior Age (Grades 4-6)

Campers will enjoy aquatics, hikes, games, campfires and more. (Cost: \$400)

August 6-8: Family Camping:

Enjoy the grounds with your family and plan your own weekend retreat with meals provided. (Cost: \$50 per day per participant)

COVID SAFETY MEASURES INCLUDE:

All lodging is in climate controlled lodges. No communal bathrooms.

Camp nurse employed.

Camps limited to 30 participants

Shortened weeks (Sunday - Friday)

Food served individually instead of family style. Four per table.

CONTACT US

Phil Hardy (Executive Director)

Phone: 336-266-1617

Email:
phardy.frv@gmail.com

Website: www.jrvc.org

REGISTRATION:

Cut out this section and mail to:

PO BOX 119

Collettsville, NC 28611

(along with a \$30 deposit or register online at
www.jrvc.org)

____ June 27-July 2: Middle High/Senior High (Grades 7-12) Cost: \$425 (Directed by Staff)

____ July 11-July 16: Junior Camp (Grades 4-6) Cost: \$400 (Rev. Randy Orwig, Director)

____ August 6-8: Family Camping...Cost: \$50 per day per participant (Total: \$100 for the weekend)
in Family ____

Camper's Name: _____

Grade Entering in Fall of 2021: _____

Special Dietary or Health Concerns: _____