



# First Reformed United Church of Christ

Where People Discover...  
The Love of God...  
The Power to Love Others...  
The Ability to Love Ourselves.

May 16, 2021  
The Worship of God  
**ASCENSION SUNDAY**  
**GRADUATION SUNDAY**

(\*Please stand as you are able.

## Gathering Music

Christopher Kiser

### \*Chiming of the Trinity

#### Prelude

Fantasia on "Coronation" arr. Van Denman Thompson

### Welcome to Worship

Rev. Elizabeth Horton

#### Hymn

"Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

Ellen Peterson

#### Opening Prayer

Brian McKerie

### Scripture

#### Ephesians 1: 15-23

Brian McKerie

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants - any longer, because the servant - does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

### Celebration of Our Graduates

Rev. Horton

**Parker Horton**  
**Ethan Lovell**

from Charles England Elementary will attend Lexington Middle School  
from Churchland Elementary will attend Brown Middle School

**Sarah Johnson**  
**Jonathan Kepley**  
**Claire Smith**

from West Davidson will attend Queen's University  
from Central Davidson will attend Elizabeth City State University  
from Westchester Academy will attend East Carolina University

### Scripture

#### Acts 1: 1-11

Rev. Horton

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So, when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

### Sermon

#### "Dare to Believe"

#### Hymn

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Ellen Peterson

#### \*Benediction

#### Postlude

"Rejoice! The Lord Is King" arr. Gene Roberson

Christopher Kiser

**\*Please remain seated until the ushers direct you to exit.**

**First Reformed United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming congregation.** We welcome into the full life and ministry of the church all people, regardless of ability, age, education, ethnicity, family or marital status, gender identity or expression, income, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, or any other distinction. At the baptismal font and at the communion table, from the nursery cribs to the church leadership, whether you were raised in a church or have never, before attended one, you are welcome here.

**MAY CELEBRATIONS:**      **BIRTHDAYS:**      17<sup>th</sup>...Devin Odom...Susan Odom...Ashley Potts  
**ANNIVERSARIES:**      19<sup>th</sup>...Jerry & Patti Lovell      20<sup>th</sup>...Dan & Elizabeth Horton

**PLEASE PRAY FOR...**

**OUR MEMBERS:** The Family of Marzell Crotts, Mike Brown (recovering from fall), Bill Robbins (recovering from surgery at home), Edgar Miller (recovering from knee surgery at home), Lee Bouchard, Jeff Hutchens, Katherine Skipper, Heidi Hutcheson, Deanna Michael, Janelle Bunn (receiving Hospice Care at home)

**AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:** Peggy Bates, Ruth Essick, Pattie Everhart, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Marguerite Leonard, Bob Shaak, Lib Sink, Carolyn Spivey, Adena Wall, Vogen Everhart (Brookdale)

**OUR FRIENDS:** \*Glenda Kiser (Christopher Kiser's mother), \*Mark Frye (son of the late Doris Frye), \*The Family of Ruth Weaver (John Maze's aunt), \*Immanuel Carrothers (friend of Nina Smith), Beth and Michael Bliss (daughter & son-in-law of Eulene Shepherd, recovering from car accident), Victor and Cheryl Moss (friends of Camille Morgan, dealing with sickness), The Family of Cindy Coble (Friend of Alane Holste), Billie Carr (Ben Hale's mother), Nicole Holste (Alane Holste's sister-in-law), Wendi Greene (Bill Robbins' sister dealing with cancer)

\*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.

**CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, May 16: Seventh Sunday of Easter...Graduation Sunday**

9:15AM      **Adult Sunday School via ZOOM HERE. John 17:6-19 "We Are Yours" Smithie Parrish, facilitator**  
(Meeting ID: 890 2652 8333      Passcode: 634119      Dial in: +1 929 205 6099 US)

10:30AM      **In-Person Worship Service LIVESTREAMED ONLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE USING THIS LINK.**  
(COVID PRECAUTIONS FOLLOWED)      <https://www.facebook.com/firstreformeducc/live/>

12:00PM      Please join us HERE for **the last week of Noon Fellowship and Prayer Concerns via Zoom**  
(Meeting ID: 207 685 007      Passcode: 3n7IX8      Dial in: +1 929 205 6099)

1:00PM      **Consistory Meeting via Zoom**

**TUESDAY, May 11:**

12:00PM      **2CFAR Crucial Conversations on Faith and Race via ZOOM**  
Join Meeting HERE. (Meeting ID: 873 4191 8684      Passcode: 222495)

7:00PM      **Book Study via Zoom HERE. "Natural Saints: How People of Faith Are Working to Save God's Earth"**  
(Meeting ID: 846 9163 5471      Passcode: 524570      Dial in: +1 301 715 8592)

**WEDNESDAY, May 19:**

**2:30-7:00PM RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE (Fellowship Hall)**

Please contact Betty Barr (336-239-5001 or [barrpilotcar@gmail.com](mailto:barrpilotcar@gmail.com)) for an appointment or stop by at your convenience

**THURSDAY, May 20:**

4-6:00PM      **Clothes Closet Workday**

5:30PM      **High School Youth via Zoom**

**SATURDAY, May 22:**

12:30PM      **Saturday Carry-Out Lunch Ministry**

**SUNDAY, May 23: Pentecost Sunday...Strengthen the Church Offering**

9:15AM      **Adult Sunday School via ZOOM HERE. Pentecost Sunday**  
(Meeting ID: 890 2652 8333      Passcode: 634119      Dial in: +1 929 205 6099 US)

10:30AM      **In-Person Worship Service LIVESTREAMED ONLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE USING THIS LINK.**  
(COVID PRECAUTIONS FOLLOWED)      <https://www.facebook.com/firstreformeducc/live/>

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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: <https://facebook.com/firstreformeducc>

**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)      **Ministers:** The Congregation

**Choir Director:** Ellen Peterson ([ellenrpeterson@gmail.com](mailto:ellenrpeterson@gmail.com))      **Organist/Pianist:** Christopher Kiser ([cdkiser94@gmail.com](mailto:cdkiser94@gmail.com))

**Administrative Asst.:** Carolyn Robbins ([carolyn@frucc.org](mailto:carolyn@frucc.org))      **Financial Administrator:** Paula Lopp ([paula@frucc.org](mailto:paula@frucc.org))

**WEEKLY EMAIL from FIRST REFORMED UCC  
May 14, 2021**

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

**PLEASE USE [THIS LINK](#) TO VIEW**

<https://www.facebook.com/firstreformeducc/live/>

**OUR LIVESTREAMED WORSHIP SERVICES ON FACEBOOK.**

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**ALL PAST SERVICES MAY BE VIEWED AT ANY TIME ON OUR  
[YOUTUBE PAGE](#)**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHfZFOjObXH\\_bR8E-UG\\_gTA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHfZFOjObXH_bR8E-UG_gTA)

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

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

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**SUNDAY, MAY 16: *Dare to Believe***  
**ASCENSION SUNDAY & GRADUATE SUNDAY**  
Scriptures: [Ephesians 1: 15-23](#) and [Acts 1: 1-11](#)

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

**Sermon Series: Dare to Live**

Do you dare?

The big and bold Book of Acts shows us what it means for us to “Dare to Live”  
in the mystery and wonder of an empty tomb.  
The church in Acts dares 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?

Dear Beloved Community,

We celebrate graduates this Sunday. Young people transitioning from one chapter of their lives to the next. Excitement, questions, and wonder about the unknown road ahead ---felt not just by the graduates, but their families, too.

Sometimes it's just hard to believe this is happening.

This is one Sunday where the Liturgical Year coincides with our lives in a mysteriously beautiful way. It is Ascension Sunday. We see the Risen Christ gather his disciples close around him, only to leave them abruptly. The Resurrected Jesus ascends into heaven.... vanishes right before their eyes. They are left stunned and confused, wondering what to do next without him nearby. It's hard for them to believe this is happening.

Like the disciples, we find our lives and our faith filled with transitions. What is the transition you face right now? How is God calling you to respond?

In the service, the high school graduates will share with us a little about:  
How their faith changed over the past few years?

What has the church meant to them? Join us Sunday as we Dare to Believe.

Grateful to be with you on the journey,  
Elizabeth

## COME MEET OUR NEW GARDEN COORDINATOR

Saturday, **May 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:30** you will have an opportunity to meet our new **Garden Coordinator, Becca Franklin**. Come just to visit or lend a hand in the garden. It's time to plant tomatoes, basil, and weed. Come see what's growing!

## LAST SUNDAY FOR FELLOWSHIP & PRAYERS CONCERNS VIA ZOOM

This Sunday, May 16, will be our last week for meeting via zoom after worship services. Please continue to review names of our members and friends needing prayer who are listed in the bulletin and weekly email.

## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**The next blood drive is Wednesday, May 19, from 2:30-7:00.** Covid precautions will be followed. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please contact Betty Barr, or you may stop by the fellowship hall between 2:30 and 7:00PM. (336-239-5001 or [barrpiotcar@gmail.com](mailto:barrpiotcar@gmail.com)).

The Board of Community Outreach is in search of a **coordinator for future Red Cross blood drives** held in our church. Betty Barr has done a wonderful job serving as coordinator since the Red Cross started holding blood drives here. The new coordinator will work with the local Red Cross to schedule drives with our church. Being present on site during the day of the drive is another responsibility. Generally, this is from 12-7:00PM. Blood drives have typically been held 2-3 time per year. For more details about responsibilities, please contact Betty Barr.

## PENTECOST GIFT BAGS FOR OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Volunteers are needed to help prepare and deliver gift bags for our homebound members on Pentecost Sunday. Bags will be assembled on **Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00** in the Fellowship Hall. They will be **delivered after church on Pentecost Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>**. If you would like to help, please contact Susie Smith at [skepley8@yahoo.com](mailto:skepley8@yahoo.com).

## STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

**Strengthen the Church offering will be collected on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021.** Pentecost celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit to the demoralized and confused disciples. The Spirit changed the lives of the disciples, moving them from a place of fear to one of courage – they unlocked their doors and went out into the community. Peter, inspired by the Spirit, spoke, and taught a new and bold continuing testament. Lastly, the Spirit bridged the differences between strangers, allowing people to experience an extravagant welcome – everyone understood the disciples, each in their language.

**Strengthen the Church** donations will help the United Church of Christ continue as a Spirit-inspired and world-changing Christian movement. We will continue to benefit from best practices, insights, and innovations across the life of the UCC.

Donations may be made by check (please write "Strengthen the Church" on the subject line), or cash (please place donation in a labeled envelope), or you may give securely online [HERE](#).

With your help, together we grow stronger!

## MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Alisa Johnson needs volunteers to help for cover routes for meal delivery. If you are willing to help one morning of the week or more, please contact Alisa at **336-250-6589** or [alisajohnson912@gmail.com](mailto:alisajohnson912@gmail.com).

## UPDATE ON JANELLE BUNN

Over the past several years, Janelle has lived through several seasons of chemotherapy treatments. At this point, the goal is to help Janelle stay comfortable. She is rather weak, but with help, she is staying at home. She rests much of the day, but Janelle's gracious spirit is still strong, and her blue eyes still shine with kindness. It would be lovely, if you are able, to send Janelle a card expressing your love and prayers for her during this time. Her address: Janelle Bunn, 145 Gabriel Pointe, Lexington NC 27295

If you have other questions, please contact her daughter, Laura Olson at [lauraolson0127@gmail.com](mailto:lauraolson0127@gmail.com).

## BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

Birthdays and anniversaries are shared weekly in our Sunday bulletins and monthly in our newsletters. If you have not noticed your birthday and/or anniversary, we probably don't have it in the office. Please contact Carolyn ([carolyn@frucc.org](mailto:carolyn@frucc.org)) so we may update our lists!

## FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

If you are interested in placing flowers in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, please contact Carolyn ([carolyn@frucc.org](mailto:carolyn@frucc.org)) or call the church office (336-248-2617).

## CHURCH PICNIC: JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup>!

Our annual Sunday Picnic at Wildcat Farm will be held on the second Sunday of June. Plans are in the works for a basic, simplified and Covid-safe service and lunch. The meal will be provided and will include hamburgers and hotdogs with all the fixings, chips, dessert and soft drinks or water. The burgers and hotdogs will be served for you as you pass through the line and other items will be in individual packages for your safety. Bring your lawn chair and join us for some outside worship, food and fellowship. **Look for more information in the June 2021 Newsletter.**

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT MENTAL ILLNESS?

CHANCES ARE, we know someone with a mental illness. When it's someone we love, we want to help but may not know how.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), is an organization who supports, educates, and raises awareness for people affected by mental illness and their families. NAMI has 600 local chapters, but not one close to us.

Joe and Cathy Browder have worked with NAMI in the past and hope to start a chapter in Lexington, so that local folks and families will have good support and resources around mental illness.

We are looking for 3 or 4 persons who are interested in learning more about how to get NAMI started in this area. Please e-mail Cathy at [cmbrowder@gmail.com](mailto:cmbrowder@gmail.com) or contact Rev. Horton at [elizabeth@frucc.org](mailto:elizabeth@frucc.org)

## SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

**Living the Resurrection: Easter Season**, the Adult Bible Study, continues Sunday mornings at 9:15AM via ZOOM. 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:

May 23: Pentecost Sunday

## BOOK STUDY

The book study meets on Tuesdays, at 7:00PM via ZOOM. 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 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.