



First Reformed United Church of Christ

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

May 9, 2021
The Worship of God
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MOTHER'S DAY

(*Please stand as you are able.

Gathering Music
***Chiming of the Trinity**
Prelude

Christopher Kiser

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"
arr. David Cherwien

Welcome to Worship
Opening Prayer
Hymn

Rev. Elizabeth Horton
Marge Doty
Ellen Peterson

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Scripture

John 15: 9-17

Marge Doty

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.

Prayer for Mothers Everywhere

Rev. Horton

Special Music

"The Gift of Love"
arr. Hal H. Hopson

Ellen Peterson &
saxophone, Mike Price

Scripture

Acts 10: 44-48

Rev. Horton

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So, he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Sermon

"Dare to Be Gracious"

***Benediction**
Postlude

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" arr. Mark Hayes

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:** 9th...Ellen Peterson 12th...Dillon Gray 15th...Ellen Bouchard
ANNIVERSARIES: 9th...Carroll & Carolyn Spivey 14th...James & Alice Gray

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

We extend Sympathy to and share Christian Hope with J. W Bates and Susan Odom and the extended family upon the loss of Marzell Crofts, who passed away on Saturday, May 1, 2021.

OUR MEMBERS: *Mike Brown, *Bill Robbins (undergoing surgery), Sherry Bonner (recovering from fall), Edgar Miller (recovering from knee surgery), Lee Bouchard, Jeff Hutchens, Katherine Skipper, Heidi Hutcheson, Deanna Michael

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

OUR FRIENDS: *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)

*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 9: Sixth Sunday of Easter...Mother's Day

9:15AM Adult Sunday School via ZOOM [HERE](#). (John 15:9-17) "No Greater Love" (Facilitator: Mike Hooper)
Also, Festival of the Christian Home (Mother's Day)
(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 Noon Fellowship and Prayer Concerns via Zoom
(Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Passcode: 3n7IX8 Dial in: +1 929 205 6099)

MONDAY, May 10:

6:00PM Shelter Meal provided by Adult Sunday School Class & Morning Glory Circle

TUESDAY, May 11:

12:00PM 2CFAR meeting via ZOOM Join Meeting [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 873 4191 8684 Passcode: 222495)

6:30PM Board of Evangelism Meeting

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)

THURSDAY, May 13:

4-6:00PM Clothes Closet Workday

SATURDAY, May 15:

12:30PM Saturday Carry-Out Lunch Ministry

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

9:15AM Adult Sunday School via ZOOM [HERE](#). John 17:6-19 "We Are Yours"
(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](#).
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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: <https://facebook.com/firstreformeducc>

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) Ministers: The Congregation

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

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

WEEKLY EMAIL from FIRST REFORMED UCC
May 7, 2021

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

BEGINNING SUNDAY, MAY 9 YOU CAN USE
[THIS LINK](#)

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

FOR OUR LIVESTREAMED WORSHIP SERVICES ON FACEBOOK.

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

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChfZFOjObXH_bR8E-UG_gTA

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

Sermon Title: **Dare to Be Gracious**
Scriptures: [John 15: 9-17](#) and [Acts10: 44-48](#)

LOOKING TOWARD SUNDAY: A MESSAGE FROM REV. HORTON

Sermon Series: Dare to Live

Are you daring?

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,

What does it mean to be gracious? Who comes to mind? In a day and age when greed and selfishness seem to be the norm, this Sunday we will wrestle what it means to **Dare to be Gracious.**

How can we be gracious even when we don't feel like it?

How can the church be gracious?

As this is Mother's Day weekend, we will recognize in worship the many emotions that this day can bring, including gratitude, as well as grief. We will celebrate the gifts of those who mother in a variety of ways.

Especially as we prepare for Mother's Day Weekend, I want to emphasize that **our congregation welcomes children in worship**. We know this means extra movement, sounds, and unexpected moments. And that's okay. In fact, it's good for all of us.

- We have revamped our Worship activity bags to include children's bulletins, mandalas to color and soft craft supplies.
- We have a specific place set up if a child needs some breathing space once in a while
- **We are a church family. Children are an important part of the family.**

Let us remember that a church family is built on grace and love. We will help out and receive help from one another. We bear one another's burdens and carry the load together. That's what the beloved community is about.

We are actively in search for a **Director of Children and Youth Ministries**. The job description is linked, so please pass along to any you think might be interested. I ask that you actively pray for this search so that we are open to whom God sends.

Let us Dare to live in faith together,
Elizabeth

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.

GRADUATION SUNDAY

Graduation Sunday is scheduled for **next Sunday, May 16**. If you have a child who is moving up from Elementary School, Middle School or graduating from High School or college, please contact the church office as soon as possible, so we can make plans for Graduation Sunday. We also will need the following information:

Student's Full Name

Moving from: _____ **Elementary/Middle School to...** _____ **Middle/High School**
Graduating from _____ **High School and Attending...** _____ **University/College in the Fall**
Graduating from _____ **University/College with a major in** _____ **and Future Plans are** _____

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) so we may update our lists!

CHURCH PICNIC: JUNE 13TH!

Mark your calendar! Our annual Sunday Picnic at Wildcat Farm will be held on this date. Plans are in the works for a very basic, simplified and Covid-safe service and lunch. We are not asking for covered dishes or donations this year. The menu will be 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.**

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). **Information about signing up to give blood will be sent out soon.**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT MENTAL ILLNESS?

Chances are, every one of us knows someone living with mental illness. When it's someone we love, we want to help but may not know the best ways to do so, which can be extremely difficult for all involved. The **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** is a grassroots organization whose mission is to support, educate, and raise awareness for people affected by mental illness to build better lives. Although **NAMI** has 600 local chapters, the closest one to us is Winston or Concord. Joe and Cathy Browder have worked with **NAMI** in the past and are hoping to start a chapter in Lexington, so that local families and individuals living with mental illness will have the support they need.

To learn more about NAMI resources for mental illness, or just to ask a question, please e-mail Cathy at cmbrowder@gmail.com or contact Rev. Horton at elizabeth@frucc.org

FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST'S NEW FLOWER GUIDELINES

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

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 plans 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:

Bulletin information:

Arrangements after Sunday Service:

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 9: John 15:9-17 "No Greater Love" (Facilitator: Mike Hooper)
Also, Festival of the Christian Home (Mother's Day)

May 16: John 17:6-19
"We Are Yours"

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.