

First Reformed United Church of Christ

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

July 4, 2021
The Worship of God
Independence Day
Holy Communion

(*Please stand as you are able.

Gathering Music		Christopher Kiser
*Ringing of the Chimes		
Welcome to Worship		Rev. Elizabeth Horton
Prelude	<i>"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"</i> arr. John Carter	Christopher Kiser
Opening Prayer		Alane Holste
A Word of Reconciliation and Hope for a Nation Celebrating Independence		
Special Music	<i>"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"</i>	Ellen Peterson
Pastoral Prayer		Rev. Horton
Scripture	Mark 6: 1-13	Rev. Horton

Jesus left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." So, they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Sermon **"Identify Yourself: In-dependent or Inter-dependent"**

Service of Holy Communion
Please stay seated. The servers will come to you, and we will share the elements together.

Hymn	<i>"Will You Come and Follow Me"</i>	Ellen Peterson
*Benediction		Rev. Horton
Postlude	<i>"God of Our Fathers"</i>	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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE:
LITURGIST: Alane Holste **DIGITAL MEDIA TECH:** Jeremy Peterson **SOUND TECH:** James Gray
USHERS: Jerry Lovell, Clifton Murphy, Lisa Nelson, Michell Winters

JULY CELEBRATIONS:

BIRTHDAYS:

5th ...Paula Lopp
7th...Cheryl Walser...Carolyn Yocum
9th...Jacob Hartle...Mary Jo Jessup

ANNIVERSARIES:

8th ...Frank & Beth Callicutt

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

OUR MEMBERS: Peggy Bates, Alisa Johnson, Mike Brown, Bill Robbins, Lee Bouchard, Jeff Hutchens, Deanna Michael

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

OUR FRIENDS: Charm Ketner, (recovering at home), Cora Mae Atkinson (Beverly Lovell's grandmother), Nancy Burton (Mother of a friend of Patti and Jerry Lovell), Beverly & Dave Ward (Ron Link's sister and brother-in-law), Marc Frye (son of the late Doris Frye)

*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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, July 4: Holy Communion...Independence Day

10:30AM Worship Service In-Person and Livestreamed Online (YOUTUBE)

MONDAY, July 5: HOLIDAY

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED

TUESDAY, JULY 6-MONDAY JULY 12:

Rev. Horton will be on vacation. Please contact Rev. June Grubb (336-248-5668) or the church office if you need assistance during this time.

WEDNESDAY, July 7:

5:00PM Board of Trustees Meeting (Parlor)

THURSDAY, July 8:

4-7:00PM Clothes Closet Workday

SATURDAY, July 10

12:30PM Saturday Carry-Out Lunch Ministry

SUNDAY, July 11: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

10:30AM Worship Service In-Person and Livestreamed Online (YOUTUBE)

In the Pulpit: Rev. Les Smith, Associate Pastor at Union Baptist Church in Lexington. Rev. Smith is a former Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor at US Department of Veterans' Affairs. He studied at Hood Theological Seminary, is active in Crucial Conversations on Faith and Race (2CFAR) and an advocate for justice in the city of Lexington.

For details on all our ministries, contact Carolyn in the church office to subscribe to our weekly email.

Ministers: The Congregation of

FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, 104 EAST CENTER STREET, LEXINGTON, NC 27292

PHONE: 336-248-2617 www.frucc.org

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 (ellenrpeteron@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 July 2, 2021

**IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE BEGINNING AT 10:30AM
LIVESTREAMED ONLY ON OUR YOUTUBE PAGE**

**You may also view past services on this same page
Service will be uploaded to view later on our Facebook page.**

SUNDAY, JULY 4, 2021: Identify Yourself: In-dependent or Inter-dependent
Scripture: [Mark 6: 1-13](#)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARGUERITE LEONARD!

Marguerite Leonard is celebrating her 100th birthday today! If you'd like to wish her a Happy Birthday, you may send a card to her at 221 Shuler Circle, Thomasville, NC 27360

COVID PRECAUTIONS

In light of the new CDC recommendations, the Consistory approved these guidelines for us to gather:

- If you have been completely vaccinated, you may remove your mask while you are seated if you wish.
- If you have NOT been completely vaccinated, please leave your mask on at all times as usual.

We are trusting in the honor system when it comes to these decisions.

We ALL will continue to:

- Wear masks upon arriving to church
- Receive temperature checks
- Take attendance
- Socially distance

As restrictions are being lifted, would you like to make occasional visits to our homebound members and those in care facilities. Please let me know at elizabeth@frucc.org

LOOKING TOWARD SUNDAY: A MESSAGE FROM REV. HORTON

Dear friends,

As our county celebrates our great freedoms on this Independence day, we, as a church, are called to look at our own freedoms and what independence means as we follow in the way of Christ.

This Sunday, Jesus is teaching in the synagogue in his hometown. He is rejected by the religious leaders and many others who knew him and his family. As a result, the ministry was impeded, and Jesus had a choice to make: Quit or adapt.

Jesus knew his worth was not dependent upon other People's Opinions. His worth came from God alone.

Thus, Jesus chose not to quit. He adapted. He sent out his disciples 2 by 2 and prepared them how to respond when they too face rejection.

Rejection stings. No one likes it, but it is inevitable. As a follower of Christ, we are not dependent on other people's opinions of us.

We are free to love.

We are free to live in faith.

We are free to live out our calling.

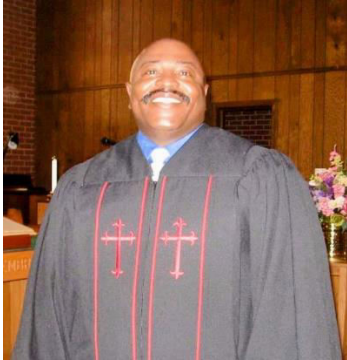
...And we will face rejection

How will you respond?

Looking forward to seeing you Sunday,
Elizabeth

Beginning Tuesday, July 6, I am taking vacation. Rev. June will be available if you need her.

IN THE PULPIT NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 11...



Rev. Lester Smith, Associate Pastor at Union Baptist Church in Lexington. Rev. Smith is a former Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. He studied at Hood Theological Seminary, is active in Crucial Conversations on Faith and Race (2CFAR) and an advocacy for justice in the city of Lexington.

General Synod 33 begins July 11 – 18, 2021

Upon my return, I will serve as a Southern Conference delegate for this General Synod. Here is the link for you to explore the workshops, worship services, and other offerings. Also included is the link to the resolutions to be presented.

<https://www.generalsynod.org/>

<https://www.generalsynod.org/proposed-resolutions/>

BOOK STUDY MEETING

Tuesday's Book Study Group will meet via Zoom at 7:00PM on Tuesday, July 13 to discuss plans for the next book study that will begin on July 20. **You may join the Book Study meeting via Zoom at:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691635471?pwd=d1JLRtV2K1dhZW85K1JwcUJXl2ZDZz09#success>. (Meeting ID: 846 9163 5471 Passcode: 524570 Dial in: +1 301 715 8592)

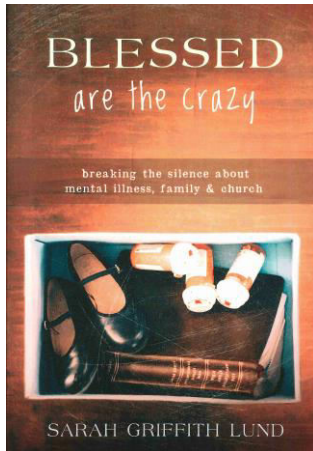
MONTHLY PFLAG MEETINGS

Every 3rd Thursday, PFLAG meetings will be held in the church Fellowship Hall. For more info, you may contact confidentially: 646-221-2442 or pflaglexingtonnc@gmail.com

USHERS NEEDED

As we work to return to worship, we are all aware that things are still not back to "the way they were before," but we are working in that direction. One of the changes currently is with the ushers and usher duties. As we work through this, would you please assist in this planning by signing up to usher in the weeks ahead. Contact the church office if you are interested.

NEW BOOK DISCUSSION PLANNED



Take July and August to read ***Blessed Are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness, Family & Church*** for a planned discussion on August 24th. All are welcome to take part in this **"IN PERSON"** discussion about author Sarah Griffith Lund's "raw, honest look at her father's battle with bipolar disorder, the helpless sense of déjà vu as her brother struggles with his own mental illness, and serving as spiritual advisor for her cousin, a mentally ill man executed for murder."

Several copies are available in the office for sharing (**please remember to return borrowed copies so that others may borrow**), or you may purchase your own copy at your location of preference. More information will be shared closer to the meeting date.

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.

PIANO LESSONS AVAILABLE

Are you interested in piano lessons? Christopher Kiser, our church organist/pianist, is opening up his piano studio for enrollment! Lessons are given individually and will begin in August/September.

If you or someone you know may be interested in taking piano lessons, please contact Chris by email or phone. ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

Email: cdkiser94@gmail.com

Phone: (336) 469-4716

PLUS-SIZE CLOTHING NEEDED FOR OUR CLOTHES CLOSET

Our Clothes Closet partners with Meals on Wheels recipients who are mostly homebound. Several have need for 2X, 3X, and 4X clothes, men's or women's. Items such as T-Shirts, elastic shorts, legging type pants are particularly useful. If you have gently used clothing or can find a bargain at a discount store in plus sizes, please consider donating to this ministry. Our Church Office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9-12:00.