



# FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lexington, NC

## JUNE and JULY 2021

### GARDEN MINISTRY WITH MEALS ON WHEELS

Although Edgar Miller has been recuperating from knee replacement surgery, his passion for helping people eat locally grown fresh food has not wavered. Through his vision, we celebrate First Reformed's newest Garden Ministry and Partnership with Meals on Wheels of Lexington!

Each week, fresh produce will be delivered to the church kitchen so it can be included in the approximately 80 meals that are delivered to elderly and/or disabled residents of Lexington. The produce is from the Seven Sisters Farm-Share Program, out of Denton, NC. Jamie Hollman, the MOW cook, won't know exactly what will be in the weekly delivery; just that it's whatever is in season. We are grateful that Jamie is creative and up for these adventures in cooking. This week's delivery: kale and spring onions. Look for a Kale salad soon!

**Would you help our MOW recipients to continue receiving locally grown produce by sponsoring one week of Farm Share Delivery?** The cost is \$50.00,

and you can donate in honor of someone if you'd like. Our goal is to have 12 weeks sponsored. Call the church office or [click here to sponsor a box](#).



Edgar Miller and Jamie Hollman receive the first delivery!



### JUNE AND JULY SERMON SERIES

Do you use your fingerprint to unlock your smart phone? Recently I bought a new phone. I am fascinated every time I place my pointer finger on the tiny screen on the back of this phone. My fingerprint – and only mine – unlocks the phone. This technology is amazing to me. I must use my fingerprint to identify myself.

How do you identify yourself? We will explore this question over the summer. Over 4 chapters in the Gospel of Mark, we will seek to identify who we are in God's Eyes. We will seek to identify who is First Reformed UCC, as well.

**Identify Yourself: See Who You Are God's Eyes [The Gospel of Mark, Chapters 3 – 6]**

### MENTAL ILLNESS RESOURCES



On June 2, we held our first Zoom call about bringing to Lexington the support and resources of NAMI (National Association of Mental Illness). The next step is to hold a Zoom call with a representative from the state chapter, NAMI NC. Stay tuned for details.

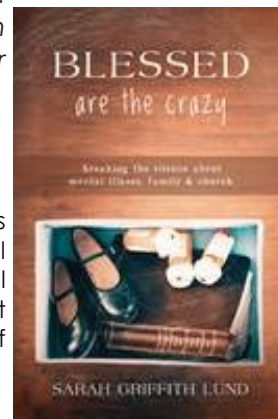
It has become increasingly clear to me that mental illness of varying degrees affects more families than I ever imagined right here in Davidson County.

Over the summer, we will read, Blessed are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness, Family, and Church, by Sarah Griffith Lund.

From the description: When do you learn that "normal" doesn't include lots of yelling, lots of sleep-

ing, lots of beating? In this book, Sarah Griffith Lund looks back at her father's battle with bipolar disorder, and the helpless sense of déjà vu as her brother and cousin endure mental illness, as well. She seeks answers in her faith communities, from feeling pain in God's presence, through seeing the Holy Spirit on Death Row as she witnesses her cousin's execution.

Sarah is a UCC minister serving as Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice on the UCC national staff and as senior pastor of First Congregational UCC of Indianapolis, IN.



# WELCOMING STATEMENT

If you are searching for a place to experience God's wondrous and inclusive love, we invite you to join us at First Reformed United Church of Christ in Lexington, NC.

Following the example of Jesus, we believe that God's love, Christ's church, and the power of the Holy Spirit are for all people. We believe our unity as one body in Christ transcends worldly differences. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

First Reformed United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming congregation. This means 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.

We affirm and celebrate the diversity of God's children as a blessing. We welcome you to First Reformed United Church of Christ.

# CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Claire Smith



Westchester Academy

Jonathan Kepley



Central Davidson High School

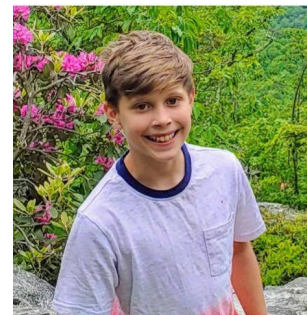
Sarah Johnson



West Davidson High School



Parker Horton  
Charles England Elementary



Ethan Lovell  
Churchland Elementary



Our church honored three high school graduates on Sunday, May 16th as part of Graduation Sunday. All three are recipients of the Vernon Gaston "V.G." Price Memorial Scholarship.

**Claire Smith**, from Westchester Academy, will attend East Carolina University. **Jonathan Kepley**, from Central Davidson, will attend Elizabeth City State University. **Sarah Johnson**, from West Davidson, will attend Queen's University.

We also acknowledged two students who will be moving from elementary school to middle school next year.

**Ethan Lovell**, from Churchland Elementary, will attend Brown Middle School. **Parker Horton**, from Charles England Elementary, will attend Lexington Middle School.

**We wish them all well on the next chapter of their educational journeys!**

## MAY MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

### IN MEMORY OF MARZELL CROTTS

Pattie B. Everhart  
John & Vicky Gray  
Merle & Jerry Hodges  
Cliff & Paula Lopp  
Pete & Martha Moore  
Camille Morgan  
John Potts & Janette Neal  
Devin Odom  
Tony & Lee Ann Peele  
John & Cathy Rollins  
Eulene Shepherd  
Katherine Skipper  
Jerry & Aurelia Smith  
John & Susie Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Smith

### IN MEMORY OF BARBARA KOONTZ MILLER (EDDIE YATES' MOTHER)

John Potts & Janette Neal  
Tony & Lee Ann Peele  
Eulene Shepherd  
John & Susie Smith

### IN MEMORY OF TONY HEDRICK (AMY HEDRICK'S HUSBAND)

Cathy & Steve Waitman

### IN MEMORY OF JANELLE BUNN

John & Vicky Gray  
Merle & Jerry Hodges  
Herbert & Betty Bruce Hoover  
Cliff & Paula Lopp  
Buddy & Rita Lohr  
Deanna Michael  
Morning Glory Circle  
John Potts & Janette Neal  
David Remkus  
Bill & Carolyn Robbins  
Eulene Shepherd  
Katherine Skipper  
John & Susie Smith  
Cathy & Steve Waitman

### IN HONOR OF SYLVIA WALSER (BIRTHDAY)

Aurelia & Jerry Smith

### IN HONOR OF AURELIA SMITH & SYLVIA WALSER

Martha Ellen Smith

## JUNE LITURGISTS

13th: Church Picnic (no liturgist)  
20th: John Maze  
27th: John Gray

## JUNE USHERS (subject to change)

Jeff Hutchens (Captain), Marge Doty,  
Jerry Lovell, Alisa Johnson,  
Kelsey Johnson



# ANNUAL CHURCH WORSHIP AND PICNIC AT WILDCAT MOUNTAIN FARM SUNDAY, JUNE 13th at 10:30AM

Worship will not take place in the sanctuary on this Sunday. Instead, come join us on the second Sunday of June, surrounded by the beauty of God's creations, as we worship together during our Annual Sunday Worship and Picnic at Wildcat Mountain Farm. You are welcome to fish, hike or just lounge. You will need to **dress comfortably** and **bring your lawn chair** and **fishing gear, if you plan to fish**. (If you have extra chairs in case someone doesn't have one, please bring them along.)

**We appreciate all who have asked about bringing items. However, this year, to help have a Covid-Safe service and lunch, the Church will provide everything. Just come and enjoy!**

**Menu:** Hamburgers and hotdogs with all the fixings, chips, and soft drinks or water. The Grow and Go Girls will provide desserts (Individually packaged).

Carpooling from the church parking lot will also be available. If you need a ride, please contact the church office. Please plan to meet at the church by 9:45AM prior to the picnic to carpool

**Come join us for some outside worship, food and fellowship!**

## **DIRECTIONS TO WILDCAT MOUNTAIN FARM: 10000 HWY 47, DENTON**

- From the church, head North on North Salisbury Street
- Turn right at the stop sign onto East 5th Street (becomes Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. then Raleigh Road, then Old Hwy 64 East)
- Travel 6.7 miles (staying straight through both stoplights you'll pass) and turn right onto Young Road
- Travel 1.9 miles and turn left onto Jerusalem Road (this will change to Regan Road)
- Travel 2.9 miles and turn right onto Frank Road
- Travel 1.8 miles and turn left at the stop sign onto Hwy 47 East
- Travel 0.6 miles to the entrance to Wildcat on the right
- The picnic area will be on the right, 3/4 mile down the drive





## DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

First Reformed United Church of Christ, Lexington, NC

**Purpose of Position:** We seek a highly motivated, energetic leader who embraces the FRUCC Covenant to join our team as Director of Children and Youth Ministries. This position works collaboratively with the Board of Faith Formation teams for children and youth, as well as with the Pastor. Our worship is a hybrid of online and in person. Covid-safety guidelines are implemented and being followed. We are an Open and Affirming congregation in the UCC; all persons are welcome to apply. LGBTQ+ individuals and persons of color are encouraged and are celebrated.

**Part-time:** 15-20 hours per week, flexible hours; some weeks will be more intensive than others.

### **Expectations including (although not limited to):**

- o Work collaboratively with staff and lay volunteers to develop, create, and implement youth and children's ministries (fellowship, service and Bible Study)
- o Ability to maintain confidentiality.
- o Recruit, educate and nurture teachers/leaders for children and youth in accordance with our Safe Sanctuary Policy.
- o Lead and/or facilitate ministry teams for Children and Youth to create and provide faith formation opportunities
- o Attendance/involvement in worship regularly
- o Attend staff meeting monthly
- o Coordinate and communicate calendar events with larger church calendar through office staff
- o Oversee the coordination of childcare for church functions
- o Encourage connection with larger denomination UCC
- o Collaborate with Pastor about involvement in baptism and confirmation and other milestones
- o Work with the Pastor to incorporate children and youth in worship
- o Seasonal ministry programming (Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter, Summer such as VBS)
- o Communicate consistently and effectively with children/youth/families
- o Emphasize intergenerational opportunities to integrate young people into the congregation
- o Help develop budget with ministry teams
- o Regularly pray for the children and youth.

### **Qualifications:**

- o must demonstrate progressive theology and expansive imagery of God,
- o interest in helping young people explore ministries of service and social justice
- o high regard for the diversity of God's people
- o openness to questions and seeking the ways of Jesus, but not exclusive of other faith traditions
- o dedication to continued exploration and growth.
- o Bachelor's Degree or equivalent;
- o Experience with children and youth ministries, or related field.

**To apply:** Please submit cover letter, resume, and 3 references to [carolyn@frucc.org](mailto:carolyn@frucc.org)

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NEW RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE COORDINATORS

The Board of Community Outreach would like to thank James and Alice Gray for volunteering to serve as our new coordinators for the Red Cross Blood Drives. They will work with our local Red Cross to coordinate drives within our church calendar. They will also be present on site during the day of the drive. Currently, the next blood drive has not been scheduled. Information will be shared when we know the next date.

At our Blood Drive on May 19th, 28 people came to give blood. 26 units were donated.

### DVD MINISTRY

If you are unable to watch Sunday church services via Facebook or YouTube, our DVD Ministry program may be a way you can "feel present" at these services. DVD copies are mailed out the week following each service. If you are interested in receiving a DVD, please contact the church office.

### PLACING FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

If you are interested in placing flowers in the sanctuary on Sunday morning, please contact the church office. Dates may be reserved in advance for the current year.

### WOMEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP LENDS A HAND

Alisa Johnson posted a donation request from the American Children's Home on Facebook. Members of Women's Life Fellowship helped out with items on their Amazon Wishlist. Purchases included beach towels, beach bags, sunscreen lotion, pool floats and toys. We hope the young people at the home enjoy their summer vacations!

### BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

If you have noticed your birthday or anniversary is not listed in the newsletter or bulletin, we probably don't have it on file. Please contact the office to help us update our list.

## FIRST REFORMED UCC CLOTHES CLOSET

**Jerry Lovell, Chairperson**

The Clothes Closet continues to receive generous contributions from the community, for which we are very appreciative. We still, however, have a need for more men's clothing along with clothes for school-age boys and girls.

We are filling orders for our neighbors through collaborations with the Saturday Lunches served from First Reformed, the Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Breakfasts served by Open Hands at St. Stephen, and volunteers with Meals on Wheels.

Just this week, we met pastors from "Victory in Jesus Christ Ministries." Through our conversations, we learned that their primary mission is to offer "refuge and restora-

tion to those who are lost". They house, clothe, and feed men and women free of charge. Some of their clients had clothing needs they were unable to supply. Working with First's Clothes Closet, items were given to fill that gap. Assisting this ministry and their needs now, and possibly in the future, grows our ministry at First Reformed; a ministry that is expanding into neighboring communities.

Jerry W. Lovell,  
Chair First Reformed UCC Clothes Closet  
(336-746-6493 or 336-590-5074 or  
[plovell53@yahoo.com](mailto:plovell53@yahoo.com))

# CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS...MAY 2021

Consistory members met via Zoom on April 11, 2021.

## Board Reports:

### **Community Outreach:** Robert Danze

- Community Garden (Edgar Miller): Kidz Dreamz Klub continues to help in the garden.
- Charles England (Kathleen Danze): Teacher Appreciation Day snacks and special treats on May 6 were enjoyed and appreciated by all staff.
- Shelter Meals: Adult Sunday School and Morning Glory Circle provided money for the shelter to purchase pizza, drinks and dessert for the meal on May 10. Next served meal will be the provided by Nina Smith and the youth on September 13, 2021.

### **Congregational Life:** Mike Price and Susie Smith

- Working on plans for June 13<sup>th</sup> picnic. Susie is organizing.

### **Evangelism:** Renee White and Dave Fulton

- Weekly Attendance Average for April 2021: 59.

### **Property Management:** John Smith and John Maze

- Removed a beetle-infested tree from the Community Garden after part of it fell during a storm.
- Education Building chiller was cleaned so we could change over from heat to air.
- John Maze spoke with Alley Plumbing about a leak in the Education Building. Roughly 30-40' of cracked cast iron sanitary line in need of repair was replaced with PVC pipe.
- Paula spoke with Sharpe Co. about changing the sanctuary sign to read worship at 10:30am rather than 11:00am.
- The kitchen refrigerator stopped working. Necessary repairs were made.

## Business Management & Stewardship:

Harriette Murphy

- Average Weekly offering for April 2021: **\$4,775** (Average weekly offering needed to meet the budget \$5,889)
- General Fund: **\$15,403**
- Music Fund: **\$9,323**

## Concerns of the Past (Old Business):

- **Monday Night Meal Ministry** was approved to restart with take-out service only.
- **Faith Formation Search:** Applications have begun to come in for the position of Director of Children and Youth Ministries. A search committee is being formed to interview possible candidates.
- **Spring Picnic at Wildcat Farm on June 13<sup>th</sup>.** Full service with basic and simplified meal, music and worship:

## Concerns of the Future (New Business)

- **Board of Congregational Life:** Determining a timeline for small in-person groups to begin meeting using CDC guidelines:
  - a person who is vaccinated is not required to wear a mask indoors.
- Protocol during worship service remains in place.
  - Vaccinated persons may remove masks while seated.
  - No congregational singing.

This change will be in weekly email and announced by Rev. Horton from the pulpit. Small group meetings will be decided individually; will probably follow the same guidelines. Children will be required to wear masks inside and outside.

## **Board of Community Outreach:**

- Garden Coordinator, Becca Franklin was hired to oversee the garden while Edgar Miller is recuperating, May—October 2021.
- Board of Community Outreach duties revised to replace those currently in the church manual.
- Kitchen Use for Saturday Carry-out Lunch Program was approved since the volume of food needing to be cooked has grown. The second, fourth, and occasional fifth Saturdays will use our kitchen facilities.
- New Blood Drive Coordinators: James and Alice Gray.

## **Board of Worship and Sacrament:**

- New flower calendar protocol updated for the operating manual.
- Technical Update for Live Streaming Worship Services (Kivi Miller): The new equipment has been purchased and set in place. Jeremy Peterson said there are still some glitches to work out. A decision was made to use two cameras and live stream to YouTube (service can be downloaded to Facebook). Rev. Horton will communicate this message during the worship service.
- Kidz Dreamz Klub Proposal: A committee will be formed to meet with Kidz Dreamz Klub Director regarding a daycare for children ages 1-pre-K using our facilities. Committee should clarify expectations and responsibilities. More details are needed.
- **Next Consistory Meeting: Decision will be made if next meeting will be in Person or via Zoom on: June 27, 2021**



## THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all for thinking of our family with your comforting words, cards, calls, and messages during Mom's illness and following her passing. Special thanks to those who honored her memory with memorials to the church. Our family truly appreciates all the love shown in so many ways during this difficult time.

Your prayers helped us as we navigated Mom's final months and we are grateful for each of those prayers. May they continue to give us strength always.

Eddie & Belinda and Barbara Miller's Family

Dear Frist Church Family,

Thanks to each of you for your prayers and concerns during my hospital stay. The congregation's support of prayer is a comfort as I get through these next few weeks. I thank you all for that.

Mike Brown

Dear Church Family,

What a nice surprise to receive a "goody bag" from you. I loved my gifts and appreciate your sending them to me via Steve Smith. That was a very pleasant evening. I particularly liked the picture of the church. It's not too long after that we've seen that much snow on the bushes in Lexington.

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and caring!

Fondly,  
Merle Hodges

Dear First Reformed Family,

I want to thank all of you for your many prayers,

cards, texts, phone calls and good wishes during my recent surgery and recovery. I have been strengthened by the knowledge that others care. Thank you to Elizabeth and June for your visits and prayers and support for Carolyn. The special Pentecost bag was such a nice surprise. I am especially enjoying the prayer book. I am happy to be a part of such a caring church family.

Bill Robbins

Members of FRUCC,

I want to thank you for the wonderful gift bag and lovely cards that you have sent me. Thank you again for remembering me. I have enjoyed them so much, and it is so nice to read your messages of encouragement. I hope I can soon return to church.

Love in Christ,  
Lib Sink

Dear First UCC Family,

Thank you all so much for granting me with the B.G. Price Scholarship. I am honored to be one of the 2021 recipients. I have already used the money to purchase a new computer that I will use throughout my college career. I am deeply appreciative of the support and guidance y church family has given me through the years.

Thank you again,  
Claire Smith

Dear Church and Family,

Thank you for the colorful bag of Pentecost-related items. That was very thoughtful of you and I appreciate it very much.

Marguerite Leonard

## 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](mailto:cdkiser94@gmail.com)**

**Phone: (336) 469-4716**



## **SATURDAY LUNCH PROGRAM & GRACE EPISCOPAL FOOD MINISTRY**

**JOHN MAZE**

Saturday Lunch continues to grow each week! The program has been feeding around 35-40 with numbers now growing to 71. We forecast serving 100 each Saturday in the near future. We are fortunate to have Macedonia Baptist cooking and serving the first Saturday of each month. Helen from Open Hands has a team that cooks and serves the third Saturday of each month. Members from First Reformed handle the other weeks. If you are able to come and help, we have plenty of opportunities as the program continues to grow. Noon to about 1:30 is our busiest times. We can use talented people to bag the food and drinks, people to carry the meals to the people waiting outside, folks that like to plate food, and folks that like to cook. Please reach out to the church office if you have interest in any of these items.

A special thanks to Heidi Hutcheson for the wonderful signage her company has donated to us, Mark Smith for safety items donated, Jerry Lovell for integrating the clothes closet with the lunch, Helen and Kathy at Open Hands for

great development ideas and work to make the program a success. A special thank you to all of our volunteers who cook, serve, and get it done each week! Thanks to our consistory for their unwavering support helping launch this program as well!

For those that love cooking and serving our friends in need, there are opportunities on Sundays at Grace Episcopal. If you are able to open several cans of vegetables, chop potatoes, slice bread, wash dishes, or whatever help you can be, get in touch with the Carolyn at the office for more information. Like Saturday Lunch, the number of people needing a meal continues to climb. The more food that is needed to prepare, the more labor is needed to produce the meal. Any help in the kitchen is appreciated! There are several great food programs in our community to ensure people don't go hungry. Grace's program is one that can use some more volunteers on any Sunday. Whether you can do it one time, once a quarter, once a month, your help is greatly appreciated.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY**

**Rev. June Grubb**

The Pentecost Season's Bible Study is entitled "When the Spirit Moves". This study began on May 23rd, Pentecost Sunday. We will continue to gather by ZOOM at 9:15AM. All are welcome to join in the bible study mornings.

The Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 6th "Being Renewed"  
Mark 3:20-35, 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

The Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 13th "Growing in the New Creation"  
Mark 4:26-34, 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13) 14-17

**Picnic at Wild Cat Mountain No ZOOM today!!**

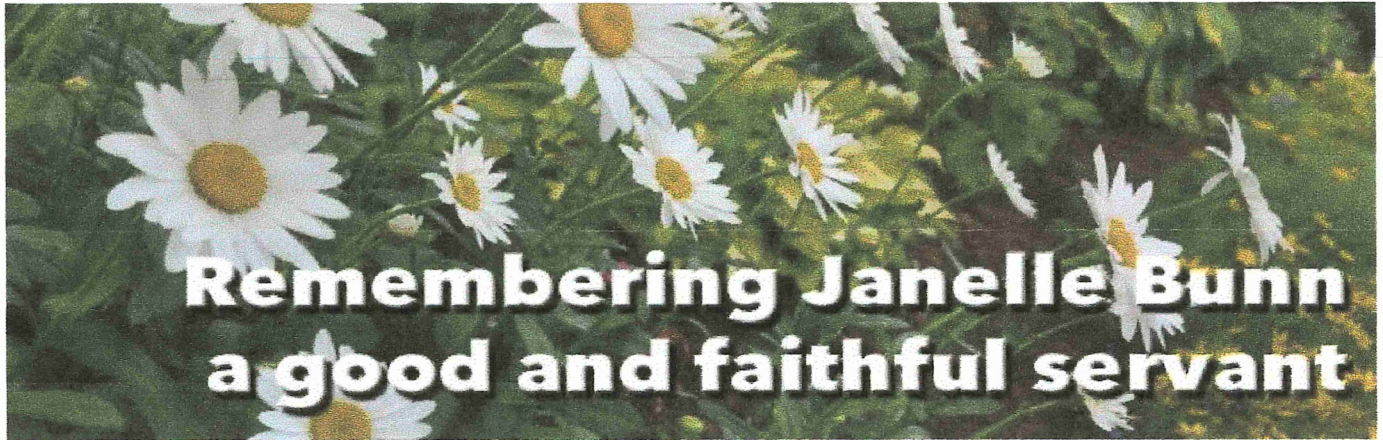
The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, June 20 "Enduring the Storms"  
Mark 4:35-41, 2 Corinthians 6:1-3

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, June 27 "Giving What You Have"  
Mark 5:21-43, 2 Corinthians 8:7-15



## SOC TRIBUTE TO JANELLE SMITH BUNN

### Southern Conference United Church of Christ *e-Newsletter / May 26, 2021* SPECIAL EDITION



#### **My Angel**

*written by Rev. Edward S. Davis (D.Min.)  
Southern Conference Minister*

When we think of angels, we think of these mythical creatures that hover over this world. But, in scripture the angels are beings who have greater power and ability than humans. They exist in heaven or the spirit realm and they are referred to as spirits. Angels are there to warn, guide and -- yes -- bring good news. They are there also to guide

us to our God. Such is and has been the life of Janelle Bunn who on last Thursday subsided to her illness that had hovered within her body over the last few years. I called Janelle my angel because it was Janelle who, upon my arrival to the Conference, guided me in the affairs of the Conference. She warned me of the pitfalls and dangers that were inherent in the Conference and she encouraged me and let me know God was with me. That is why I am here.

When I first came to the Southern Conference two songs stood out for me as I visited the various churches. They were "They'll know we are Christians by our Love" and in particular in the African American Church, "I'm a soldier in the army of the Lord." These songs resonated in my spirit and they were often reminders of the Apostle Paul narrative of the 13 Corinthians when he said love is kind, love is patient. Janelle not only talked about love but she exemplified it. All too often she would correct me when I would think about the behaviors of others in the Conference by saying, "the best way to understand is to know no matter what position people have, the only thing that is going to define them is their behavior."



I often share with others that the people that I admire in history are Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Teresa, Franklin Roosevelt, Nelson Mandela and Sojourner Truth, because they all possess the ability to love and show kindness to those who are suffering. They were each known for their strength and conviction, but they are also known for their love and kindness towards humanity.

This former English teacher was gifted in knowing the correct way to pronounce words as well as the right words to use in the structure of a sentence. However, she also understood the correct way to be in life. Most certainly there are those who do work for social justice, but have no love. There are those who are gifted in properly exegeting scriptures, but have no love. There are those who are intellectually gifted, but yet they have no love. In Paul's narrative of love, it reminds me of the soul singer James Brown saying, "you are just talking loud and saying nothing" as it pertains to love.

Janelle Bunn was genuine. The Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans to let our love be genuine and authentic. Janelle's love was authentic. How she demonstrated God's love was amazing. She showed to all of us that being kind is not a sign of weakness, because it takes just enough energy to be kind as it does to be rude. Over the years I have written several articles about kindness and I also asked for a period of kindness in the Conference in that we may move to a higher place in God. One of the most powerful stories in the bible was told of the Good Samaritan by Jesus. For any of you who have been to the Middle East and have experienced being on the Jericho Road, you could see how this road could cause complications for the traveler. At the heart of this narrative was the kindness and patience shown to a total stranger.

In seminary, I was taught by a professor that we are to be the physical representation of Christ for the people. This has stood with me since that time. I can truly say that Janelle Bunn was the physical representation of Christ among her family, friends, our staff and the people of the Southern Conference. Her ministry to God's people will not be defined by how many people she brought to the sanctuary but the life she lived, showing kindness and love to all.

She is missed, will be missed and will be forever in our hearts! Janelle Bunn, born December 15, 1938 and born into eternity May 21, 2021.

Farewell my angel! Well done!





## Hear my Pastoral Words

*written by Rev. Elizabeth Parker Horton  
Pastor, First Reformed United Church  
of Christ, Lexington, N.C.*

Family of the Southern Conference,

As Janelle entered her last few weeks on this earth, she greatly appreciated the cards and expressions of love that you sent her way. Even as her body grew weaker, her gracious spirit remained steady, and her eyes continued to radiate kindness and gentleness.

When talking with her about dying, Janelle said without hesitation she was at peace and was not afraid...that she knew God was present with her in a very real way. I was struck by the strength in her voice when she spoke of her faith.

Janelle left this world in the same gentle manner as she lived...

She died peacefully in her home with her 3 children and brother gathered around her, while the soft glow of the evening sun filled the room.

I give thanks that I was her pastor, but I confess, over the past several months, Janelle ministered much more to me than I with her. She gave freely words of encouragement and support, which always felt like a beautiful gift.

May we carry the legacy of Janelle Bunn in the heart of the Southern Conference.

May her legacy call us to be gracious in spirit, and gentle with one another.

If you wish to express sympathy to the family, they are receiving cards at her address:

*The family of Janelle Bunn  
145 Gabriel Pointe  
Lexington NC 27295*





## **In an Outdoor Ministry Setting, Janelle Delivered Hospitality**

*Written by Martha Shore  
Director of Marketing and Finance  
Blowing Rock Conference Center*

The Blowing Rock Conference Center would like to express sadness at the loss of our former Employee, Janelle Bunn. We know that our loss is Heaven's gain. Janelle was our Guest Services Director, beginning in January 1992. What an asset she was to not only us, but to every guest who came through the door. She welcomed you with a warm smile and that sweet spirit she exuded so naturally.

Not only did each guest benefit from Janelle's spirit and attitude, but every employee loved her. Of course, she worked 6 days a week, so she knew every employee. And she cared for all of us.

Janelle led our *Special Days for Special People* each year. She worked diligently to make sure this camp would uplift each person. Every participant left walking a little taller because of her efforts.

A group leader reached out to us when he heard of Janelle's passing. He said "she was the Godliest and friendliest person that he ever met." He is right. I thank the Lord that I came to work 6 months after Janelle, because I met one of my dearest friends.

From her diagnosis to her homegoing, Janelle held on to Jeremiah 29:11. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Her faith never wavered from that verse. Every time I spoke with her, she was upbeat. There was never a question as to why me. As she left this life, she did so the way she lived her entire life, with a *Here I am Lord* attitude.



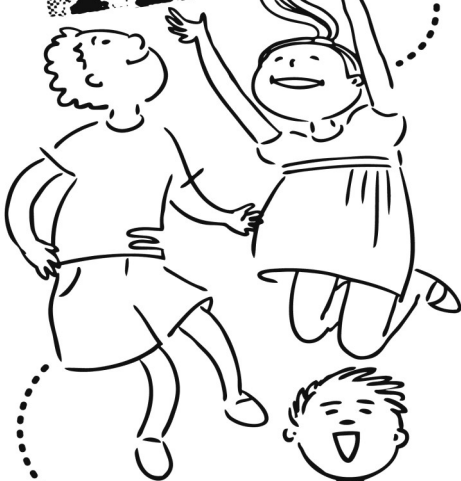
***Editor's note:*** Janelle also worked with Southern Conference communications, both print and later, created the SOC News Blast. I stepped in several times as a guest editor when she required medical leave. It was always a joy to work with her, and has been an honor to put together this SOC e-News tribute edition. She exemplified -- in my eyes -- a very good and faithful servant.

-- C. L. "Curly" Stumb --





## A SWEET TREAT



Make this refreshing treat on a hot summer day.

### What you need:

- Baking sheet
- Parchment paper
- 1 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 2 Tbsp. honey
- ¼ cup granola or cereal

### What you do:

1. On a baking sheet covered with parchment paper, spread yogurt in a thin layer, about ½-inch thick.
2. Drizzle honey evenly over yogurt. Sprinkle granola (or cereal) on top.
3. Freeze about 30 minutes, or until firm.
4. Crack frozen yogurt into pieces and peel away paper. Enjoy!



## As sweet as honey




Honey is both a sweetener and a medicine. How can our words be used in the same ways?



*Directions: Use the hexagon key to fill in the missing vowels and complete Proverbs 16:24, NIV.*



Gr   c         s w   ords  
   r        h   n         c   mb,  
sw      t t    th    s        
   nd h         ng   
t    th    b   n   s.

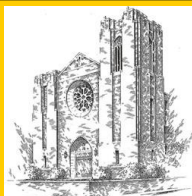


PROVERBS 16:24, NIV

# JUNE 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div> <b>WORSHIP TIME:</b>  <b>10:30AM</b> </div>		<b>1</b> 12:00 2CFAR Meeting via Zoom	<b>2</b> 6:00 Mental Illness Support Zoom Meeting	<b>3</b> 4-6:00 Clothes Closet Work Day	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 12:30 Saturday Carry-Out Lunch Ministry
<b>6</b> Holy Communion Sunday 9:15 Adult Sunday School via Zoom 10:30 <b>In-Person</b> Worship & Live Streaming	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 12:00 2CFAR Meeting via Zoom 7:00 <b>PFLAG</b> Scholarship Presentation Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 4-6:00 Clothes Closet Work Day 6:30 Board of Evangelism Meeting (Parlor)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 12:30 Saturday Carry-Out Lunch Ministry
<b>13</b> 10:30 <b>WORSHIP &amp; PICNIC</b> <b>AT WILDCAT</b> <b>MOUNTAIN FARM</b> <b>BRING YOUR</b> <b>LAWN CHAIR</b> <b>LUNCH IS PROVIDED</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 12:00 2CFAR meeting via Zoom 6:00 Property Committee Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 4-6:00 Clothes Closet Work Day 6:30 <b>PFLAG</b> Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 12:30 Saturday Carry-Out Lunch Ministry
<b>20</b> FATHER'S DAY 9:15 Adult Sunday School via Zoom 10:30 <b>In-Person</b> Worship & Live Streaming	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 12:00 2CFAR meeting via Zoom	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 4-6:00PM Clothes Closet Work Day	<b>25</b> <div> <b>Articles for            JULY            Newsletter            Due</b> </div>	<b>26</b> 12:30 Saturday Carry-Out Lunch Ministry 1:00 Memorial service & reception for Janelle Bunn
<b>27</b> <b>OPEN &amp;            AFFIRMING SUNDAY</b> 9:15 Adult Sunday School via Zoom 10:30 <b>In-Person</b> Worship & Live Streaming 12:15 Consistory Meeting	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 12:00 2CFAR meeting via Zoom	<b>30</b>			

**First Reformed  
United Church of  
Christ**



**All Are Welcome  
Here!**

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

104 East Center Street  
Lexington, NC 2729  
(336) 248-2617  
email: church@frucc.org  
website: www.frucc.org

**10:30 SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
Livestreamed VIA YOUTUBE  
and shared on FACEBOOK

**Temporary Office Hours:**  
**Monday - Wednesday - Friday**  
**9:00am to 12:00pm**



Join Us on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/firstreformeducc](https://facebook.com/firstreformeducc)



OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER...

**OUR MEMBERS**

**Mike Brown**  
(recovering from a fall at home)  
**Bill Robbins**  
(recovering from surgery at home)  
**Edgar Miller**  
(recovering from surgery at home)  
**Lee Bouchard**  
**Jeff Hutchens**  
**Katherine Skipper**  
**Deanna Michael**

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

7 **Caroline White**  
8 **Brian McKerlie**  
11 **Frankie Hedrick**  
**Sarah Potts**  
13 **Beth Callicutt**  
17 **Rich Johnson**  
**Carolyn Spivey**  
21 **John Gray**  
22 **Peggy Bates**  
25 **Scott Gray**  
**Alison Johnson**  
28 **June Grubb**  
**Ron Hutcheson**

**JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**

**2nd**  
**Craig & Donna Coe**  
**Irvin & Doris Sink**  
**9th**  
**Lindsay & Linda Sink**

**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

1 **Keri Hartle**  
2 **Raeann Allred**  
**Ron Link**  
**Brad Robertson**  
3 **Marguerite Leonard**  
5 **Paula Lopp**  
7 **Cheryl Walser**  
**Carolyn Yocum**  
9 **Jacob Hartle**  
**Mary Jo Jessup**  
11 **Jonathan Odom**  
12 **Elizabeth Sink**  
13 **Lynn McCarn**  
**Calvin Odom**  
**Tracy Potts**  
**Lindsay Sink**  
14 **Travis White**  
16 **Craig Coe**  
**Johnny McCarn**  
18 **Cathy Browder**  
20 **Jasmine Cruz**  
21 **Jeremy Peterson**  
**Michell Winters**  
23 **Joe Browder**  
**Annabell Callicutt**  
24 **Mary Lloyd Callicutt**  
25 **Melody Evans**  
27 **Betty Link**  
28 **Jeff Hutchens**  
30 **Sam West**

**JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

**8th**  
**Frank & Beth Callicutt**  
**12th**  
**Rich & Lena Johnson**  
**27th**  
**March & Nicole Smith**  
**30th**  
**Eddie & Belinda Yates**

**AT HOME AND  
IN CARE FACILITIES**

**Peggy Bates** **Ruth Essick**  
**Pattie Everhart** **Bob Shaak**  
**Lib Sink** **Carolyn Spivey**  
**Adena Wall**  
**Marguerite Leonard**  
**Lib & Jimbo Hinkle**  
**Vogen Everhart (Brookdale)**

**OUR FRIENDS**

**Beverly & Dave Ward**  
(Ron Link's sister and brother-in-law)  
**The family of Dean Thornsburg**  
(friend of Alane Holste)  
**Glenda Kiser**  
(Christopher Kiser's mother)  
**Marc Frye**  
(son of the late Doris Frye)

**Church Staff:**

**Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Horton**  
[elizabeth@frucc.org](mailto:elizabeth@frucc.org)  
336-972-8895

**Assoc. Pastor of  
Congregational Care**  
**Rev. June Grubb**  
336-248-5668

**Administrative Assistant**  
**Carolyn Robbins**  
[carolyn@frucc.org](mailto:carolyn@frucc.org)

**Financial Administrator**  
**Paula Lopp**  
[paula@frucc.org](mailto:paula@frucc.org)

**Music Director**  
**Ellen Peterson**  
[ellenrpeterson@gmail.com](mailto:ellenrpeterson@gmail.com)

**Pianist / Organist**  
**Christopher Kiser**  
[cdkiser94@gmail.com](mailto:cdkiser94@gmail.com)



# KIDS' SUMMER READING PLAN

Hey kids! Are you interested in some Bible-reading fun this summer? **RUNNING THE RACE SUMMER READING PLAN** is simple to follow. See what lessons you can learn from reading passages in your Bible, complete an activity and earn some prizes along the way.

**This RACE will take place during June and July.** You can print the race sheet below or look for one in the activity bags on Sunday morning. You may also contact the church office for a copy. The race is divided into 5 different MILES, color coded below. When you complete each MILE, let Rev. Horton or the office know and you will win a prize. **If you want to learn more, join us at the June 13th worship and picnic at Wildcat Mount Farm.**

## RUNNING THE RACE

*Summer Reading Plan*

Loving and following Jesus is like being a runner, the Bible says. And a special "prize" waits at the end of the race! When you're tired or your faith feels weak, trust Jesus to give you strength.

With this Summer Reading Plan, you can complete a box every day or every other day. Read the Scripture and complete each activity to grow closer to Jesus. When you reach the finish line, start over for more practice. Invite a friend or family member to "run" with you!

**START**

**1 Corinthians 9:24-26**  
Run in place as long as you can. Think of ways you "run" for Jesus.

**Deuteronomy 31:1-8**  
(focus on vs. 6)  
How does it feel to know God always runs with you?

**Hebrews 12:1-3**  
Find out what "perseverance" means. Why do runners need that?

**Jeremiah 10:23**  
Pray that God always directs your steps.

**Proverbs 3:5-6**  
Run backward, then in circles, then with eyes closed. Why are "straight paths" simpler?

**Psalms 18:32**  
Memorize this verse.

**Isaiah 41:10**  
Make a paper baton. Practice relay handoffs & discuss God's helpful hand.

**Psalm 119:32**  
Why do we need to follow rules — and God's commands?

**1 Peter 2:21**  
Play Follow the Leader with friends & family.

**Jonah chapter 1**  
(or a book about Jonah) What happens when Jonah runs from God?

**Matthew 18:10-14**  
Think of a time you "wandered off" — and how Jesus found you.

**Matthew 24:13**  
Write the verse with sidewalk chalk. "Stand firm" by it and say it aloud.

**Luke 15:11-32**  
(or a book about it) Why did the son run away? What makes his father run?

**John 20:1-10**  
Act out Easter morning, with runners sharing the good news.

**Acts 8:26-40**  
Why did Philip run? How do you share Jesus with others?

**Galatians 5:7**  
Make an obstacle course. What gets in the way of faith?

**2 Timothy 2:5**  
Make a crown to remember your victory in Jesus.

**Philippians 4:13**  
Write or tell someone your strengths.

**1 Timothy 4:8**  
Do jumping jacks, stretches and physical training.

**Revelation 22:20**  
Pray, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

**2 John 8**  
Play Tag, then "reward" yourself with a cold drink or treat.

**2 Timothy 4:7**  
Draw or make a finish line and run through it.

**2 Corinthians 12:9-10**  
Show muscles and say, "When I'm weak, I am strong."

**Philippians 3:13-14**  
Make a sign that reads "Press on!"

**James 1:12**  
Brainstorm ways to support and cheer other runners.

**Hebrews 10:36**  
Talk about the promises God keeps to us.

**Great JOB!**

**FINISH**

We did it!

GO!

**MILE 1 = RED**

**MILE 2 = GREEN**

**MILE 3 = PINK**

**MILE 4 = BLUE**

**MILE 5 = YELLOW**