

# First Reformed United Church of Christ

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

August 15, 2021  
The Worship of God  
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
**BACKPACK BLESSING**

(\*Please stand as you are able.

**Prelude**

“Jesus Loves Me” arr. Jason Payne

Christopher Kiser

**\*Ringing of the Chimes**

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. Elizabeth Horton

**Opening Prayer**

Marge Doty

**Scripture Reading**

Ephesians 5: 15-20

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Backpack Blessings**

**Special Music**

“Be Thou My Vision” arr. Nathan Pacheco

Ellen Peterson

**Kids Worship Connection**

Paula Lopp & Renee White

**Pastoral Prayer**

Rev. Horton

**Gospel Reading**

John 6: 56-59

Rev. Horton

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

**Sermon**

“Bread Again?”

**Hymn**

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Ellen Peterson

**\*Benediction**

Rev. Horton

**Postlude**

“All Creatures of our God and King” arr. Mark Hayes

Christopher Kiser

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

**THE FLOWERS AT THE FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY** are in loving memory of Mary Beck Berrier, given by her family. Mary was remembered as saying she wanted 20 yellow roses at her funeral service, one for each member of her family.

**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:**

**DIGITAL MEDIA TECH:** Jeremy Peterson      **SOUND TECH:** John Gray  
**USHERS:** James Gray, Jerry Lovell, Cheryl Walsler, Eddie Yates

**ACOLYTE:** Ethan Lovell  
**BIBLE STEWARD:** Lucas Peterson

## AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS:

15<sup>th</sup>...Baron Freeman...Beau Sink  
16<sup>th</sup>...Doris Sink  
18<sup>th</sup>...Amanda Fulton  
19<sup>th</sup>...J. W. Bates  
20<sup>th</sup>...Myra Thompson  
21<sup>st</sup>...Ramona Yarbrough

### ANNIVERSARIES:

16<sup>th</sup>...Clifton & Harriette Murphy

## PLEASE PRAY FOR...

**OUR MEMBERS:** Lee Bouchard, Jeff Hutchens, Deanna Michael

**AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:** Peggy Bates, Sherry Bonner (Brookdale, Rm. 208, Phone: 336-237-9897), Ruth Essick, Pattie Everhart, Vogen Everhart (Room 102 Brookdale), Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Marguerite Leonard, Bob Shaak, Lib Sink, Carolyn Spivey, Adena Wall

**[BROOKDALE ADDRESS: 161 YOUNG DRIVE, LEXINGTON, NC 27292 MAIN PHONE: 336 238 1700]**

**OUR FRIENDS:** \*Jimmy Grubb (June Grubb's brother), \*Martha Moore, Rev. Dr. Ray Howell III (Pastor, First Baptist Church, Lexington), Marc Frye (son of the late Doris Frye), Ronald Yates (Eddie Yates' father), Steve Ketner (recovering from surgery), Gloria Briggs (Janette Neal's sister recovering from surgery)

\*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, August 15: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost...BACKPACK BLESSING

**9:30AM** In-person Bible Study (Parlor)  
Session 6: "Giving Thanks" Ephesians 5:15-20 (Eddie Yates, facilitator)

**10:30AM** Worship Service In-Person and Livestreamed Online (YOUTUBE)  
Kids Worship Connection (Leaders: Renee White & Paula Lopp)

### WEDNESDAY, August 18:

**6:30PM** Finance Committee Meeting (Parlor)

### THURSDAY, August 19:

**4-6:00PM** Clothes Closet Workday  
**6:30PM** PFLAG Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

### SATURDAY, August 21

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

### SUNDAY, August 22: Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**9:30AM** In-person Bible Study (Parlor)  
Session 7: "Armored" Ephesians 6:10-20 (Eugenia Holste, facilitator)

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

## **FOLLOWING WORSHIP: CHOIR PRACTICE IN THE SANCTUARY**

## LOOKING AHEAD FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 28:

**5:00PM** **Back to School party for ALL PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN** at the home of Billy & Stacy West (404 West Second Avenue, 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](http://www.frucc.org)

**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)

**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**  
**August 13, 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.**

**A MESSAGE FROM REV. HORTON: NEW COVID PROTOCOL**

**Dear Beloved Community,**

At the Consistory meeting this past Sunday, we discussed how to best care for the congregation as the Delta variant accelerates around us. We expressed gratitude for the patience and thoughtfulness you have shown over the past several months wrestling with masks, sitting further apart than desired, and having thermometers pointed upon entering the sanctuary! Thank you for your grace and (most especially) your love and bits of humor, which always makes the tough times much more bearable.

At the time of the meeting, **the rate of fully vaccinated residents in Davidson County was at 35%.\*\*** This means 65% of Davidson County had not been vaccinated. With school starting soon, exposure is certain to increase.

Your church leadership takes very seriously the call to care and protect one another, particularly those who are considered the least of these.

Therefore, in the spirit of caring for the body of Christ, and listening to the CDC suggested guidelines, beginning Sunday, August 15...

We ask everyone **regardless of vaccination status. please wear your mask when you enter the church house and keep it on as we worship together.** We will have masks if you forget one!

- We will continue to social distance.
- We will continue to hold off on congregational singing. We will have beautiful music of soloists, ensembles, and instrumentalists
- If vaccinated, liturgists, singers, and preachers can speak from the pulpit unmasked.
- If NOT vaccinated, all who speak from the pulpit will remain masked.
- Groups that choose to meet in-person at the church do so at their own risk. First Reformed is not liable for illness or injury that occurs as a result of attending a meeting or event at the church.

As we enter this leg of the journey, we know that each family has different needs, which means some will remain at home, some will return. We trust you in your decision making. Our online worship will still be available.

We also realize conditions fluctuate. We are open to revising guidelines as science evolves and public health information is updated. The mission is to provide a safe, supportive, environment to worship God and to discern how God is calling us in this world.

Please reach out with questions if you have them.

In faith, hope, and love,  
Elizabeth Horton, Pastor and Raeann Allred, Consistory President

## SERMON TITLE: "BREAD AGAIN?"

Scripture: John 6: 56-59

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

## BASEMENT CLEAN-UP

Plans are in the works by the Board of Property Management for cleaning out and reorganizing the basement in the Educational Building. If you have ANY PERSONAL ITEMS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO KEEP, please pick these up before August 22nd. If you need to be let in the building, come to the church office, which is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:00-12:00.

## LOOKING AHEAD FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

**SUNDAY, August 15:**

**BACKPACK BLESSING**

Bring your backpacks to worship

**SATURDAY, August 28: 5:00PM**

**BACK TO SCHOOL KICK-OFF for all children, youth and their parents** at the home of Billy and Stacy West. (404 West Second Avenue)

## KIDS WORSHIP CONNECTION

Continuing each Sunday, Pre-K through 3rd graders will be invited to leave the sanctuary to go to the playground with two adult leaders to hear a Bible story and enjoy some play time and a snack. Paula Lopp and Renee White will lead the August 15th session. **Please contact Rev. Horton if you are interested in volunteering to lead.**

## URGENT REQUEST FOR USHERS

Ushers are needed for the remainder of the year. **If you are able to serve according to the month assigned to you for 2021**, please contact Eddie Yates to confirm. If you are able to help any additional Sundays, please sign up at from our weekly email or you may contact Eddie Yates at ([bbqman46@gmail.com](mailto:bbqman46@gmail.com)).

## ADULT IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY

The Adult "in person" Bible study meets Sunday **in the church Parlor at 9:30 a.m.** This **seven-week series, entitled "Geared Up for Life,"** takes a walk through the Epistle to the Ephesians, dividing it into two halves - the first half, Chapters 1-3, provides a theological foundation for the faith in some of the most beautiful language in the Epistles. The second half, Chapters 4-6, focuses on the ethical dimensions of the faith: How do we live it out? This second half reminds us that faith isn't simply about believing, but about living. The series themes follow:

**Sunday, August 15th**

"Giving Thanks" Ephesians 5:15-20 (Eddie Yates, facilitator)

**Sunday, August 22nd**

"Armored" Ephesians 6:10-20 (Eugenia Holste, facilitator)

## MONTHLY PFLAG MEETINGS

Every 3rd Thursday, PFLAG meetings will be held in the church Fellowship Hall. The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, August 19th at 6:30PM.** For more info, you may contact confidentially: 646-221-2442 or [pflaglexingtonnc@gmail.com](mailto:pflaglexingtonnc@gmail.com)

## WORKING OUR WAY BACK TO REGULAR CHOIR PRACTICES

It has been a long time since our choir has practiced together and sung for Sunday worship services AND WE HAVE MISSED IT! We are starting some short practice sessions beginning in August following Sunday worship, just to get used to singing together again before regular choir practices begin on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you are a regular choir member, we look forward to singing with you again. If you would like to be a part of the choir, join us on the Sundays listed below. Ask anyone who is a member...we have a lot of fun and get to sing some beautiful music together under Ellen's direction!

### ADD THESE DATES TO YOUR CALENDAR:

**Sunday practices in the sanctuary following worship from 11:30-12:30:**

**August 22 and 29 and September 5, and 12**

**REGULAR CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 AT 7:00PM**

## PIANO LESSONS AVAILABLE

Are you interested in piano lessons? Contact Christopher Kiser, our church organist/pianist, who is still taking enrollments for lessons! Lessons are given individually and will begin in September. If you or someone you know may be interested in learning to play the piano, please contact him by email or phone. ALL AGES ARE WELCOME! Email: [cdkiser94@gmail.com](mailto:cdkiser94@gmail.com) Phone: (336) 469-4716

## VISITS TO OUR MEMBERS AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES

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](mailto:elizabeth@frucc.org)

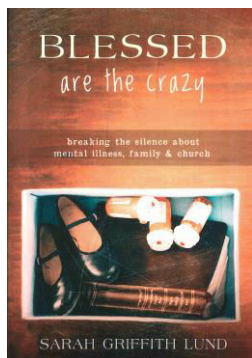
## PLUS-SIZE CLOTHING NEEDED FOR OUR CLOTHES CLOSET

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 8-12:00.

## MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Alisa Johnson needs volunteers to cover routes for meal delivery. If you can help one morning of the week or more, please contact Alisa at [alisajohnson912@gmail.com](mailto:alisajohnson912@gmail.com) or 336-357-0648.

## BOOK DISCUSSION ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 24



On June 2, we held our first Zoom meeting about bringing to Lexington the support and resources of NAMI (National Association of Mental Illness).

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.

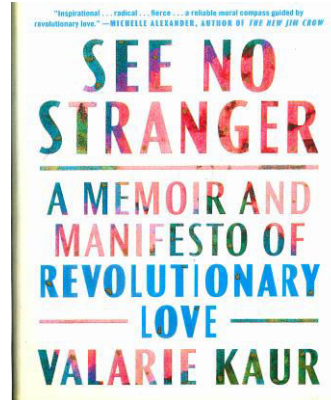
**On Tuesday, August 24th at 7:00PM**, we will discuss, Blessed are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness, Family, and Church, by Sarah Griffith Lund.

**NEW ADULT EDUCATION BOOK STUDY BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER**

On Tuesday, September 7 at 7:00PM we will begin our study of "See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love" by Valarie Kaur. We will continue to meet via ZOOM. (The link will be shared prior to the first meeting.)

Valarie Kaur--renowned Sikh activist, filmmaker, and civil rights lawyer--declares revolutionary love as the call of our time, a radical, joyful practice that extends in three directions: to others, to our opponents, and to ourselves. It invites us to see no stranger but instead look at others and say, "You are part of me I do not yet know."

Kaur takes us on her journey as a brown girl growing up in California farmland finding her place in the world: as a young adult galvanized by the murders of Sikhs after 9/11; as a law student fighting injustice in American prisons; and as a woman trying to heal from her own experiences with sexual assault and police violence. "See No Stranger" helps us imagine new ways of being with each other--and with ourselves--so that together we can begin to build the world we want to see. You may order your copy of the book from your preferred bookstore and join us as we begin this new study on **September 7th**.



**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**



**Blood Drive**  
**First Reformed United Church**  
**of Christ**

Fellowship Hall  
104 East Center Street  
Lexington, NC 27292

**Wednesday, September 1, 2021**  
**2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

To make an appointment, please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use  
Sponsor Code: First Reformed

Questions? Please contact the church office at 336-248-2617 or 1-800-Red-Cross  
for assistance. All donors need a photo ID.



Scan to be directed to  
RedCrossBlood.org



Scan to schedule  
an appointment.

**Share the vibe. Give blood to help save lives.**

Download the Blood Donor App | [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) | Call 1-800-RED CROSS