

First Reformed United Church of Christ

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

August 29, 2021
The Worship of God
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

(*Please stand as you are able.

Prelude	"I'd Rather Have Jesus" arr. Chuck Sinclair	Christopher Kiser
*Ringing of the Chimes		Lucas Peterson
Words of Welcome		Rev. Elizabeth Horton
Special Music	"The Gift of Love" arr. Hopson	Ellen Peterson & Mike Price
Opening Prayer		Cathy Browder
Scripture Reading	Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (Common English Bible)	Cathy Browder
	<p>What contaminates a life? The Pharisees and some legal experts from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. They saw some of his disciples eating food with unclean hands. (They were eating without first ritually purifying their hands through washing. The Pharisees and all the Jews don't eat without first washing their hands carefully. This is a way of observing the rules handed down by the elders. Upon returning from the marketplace, they don't eat without first immersing themselves. They observe many other rules that have been handed down, such as the washing of cups, jugs, pans, and sleeping mats.) So, the Pharisees and legal experts asked Jesus, "Why are your disciples not living according to the rules handed down by the elders but instead eat food with ritually unclean hands?" He replied, "Isaiah really knew what he was talking about when he prophesied about you hypocrites. He wrote, <i>This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far away from me. Their worship of me is empty since they teach instructions that are human words.</i> You ignore God's commandment while holding on to rules created by humans and handed down to you." Then Jesus called the crowd again and said, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing outside of a person can enter and contaminate a person in God's sight; rather, the things that come out of a person contaminate the person." "It's from the inside, from the human heart, that evil thoughts come: sexual sins, thefts, murders, adultery, greed, evil actions, deceit, unrestrained immorality, envy, insults, arrogance, and foolishness. All these evil things come from the inside and contaminate a person in God's sight."</p>	
Pastoral Prayer		Rev. Horton
Hymn	"Lord I Want to Be a Christian"	Ellen Peterson
Gospel Reading	James 1: 17-27 (NRSV)	Rev. Evan Sieges
	<p>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore, rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on-going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.</p>	
Sermon	"Doers Not Hearers"	
Our Covenant in Ministry		Rev. Horton
Invitation to Give and to Serve		
*Benediction		
Postlude	"How Firm a Foundation" arr. Jason Payne	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: Cathy Browder

DIGITAL MEDIA TECH: Jeremy Peterson

SOUND TECH: John Gray

ACOLYTE: Ethan Lovell

BIBLE STEWARD: Lucas Peterson

USHERS: James Gray, Jerry Lovell, Cheryl Walsler

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS: **AUGUST: 30th**...Jude Sink

SEPTEMBER: 2nd...Dave Fulton...Joe Kiser

31st...Kathleen Danze

4th...Henry Crouse

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

OUR MEMBERS: Janette Neal (recovering at home), Lee Bouchard, Jeff Hutchens

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, Deanna Michael, Bob Shaak, Lib Sink, Carolyn Spivey, Adena Wall

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 29: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30AM In-person Bible Study (Parlor)

"Doers of the Word: Avoiding Anger" (June Grubb, facilitator)
James 1:17-27, Mark 7:1-8, 14, 25, 21-23

10:30AM Worship Service In-Person and Livestreamed Online (YOUTUBE)
In the Pulpit: Rev. Evan Sieges

FOLLOWING WORSHIP: CHOIR PRACTICE IN THE SANCTUARY

TUESDAY, August 31:

7:00PM Book Discussion Part 2: "Blessed Are the Crazy" via Zoom

WEDNESDAY, September 1:

2-7:00PM Red Cross Blood Drive (Fellowship Hall)

6:30PM FAMILY MEETING with Rev. Evan (Youth Room)

THURSDAY, September 2:

4-6:00PM Clothes Closet Workday

6:30PM Parlor / Property Committees Meeting (Parlor)

SATURDAY, September 4

12:30PM Saturday Carry-Out Lunch Ministry

SUNDAY, September 5: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30AM In-person Bible Study (Parlor)

"Doers of the Word: Making Distinctions" (Eugenia Holste, facilitator)
James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17, Mark 7:24-37

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

FOLLOWING WORSHIP: CHOIR PRACTICE IN THE SANCTUARY

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)

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Rev. Evan Sieges (evan@frucc.org)

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
August 27, 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.

LOOKING TOWARD SUNDAY: A MESSAGE FROM REV. HORTON

Dear Beloved Community,

We continue feel the instability in the world around us. Numbers of quarantined families are on the rise, more exposed students are now absent from school, Nursing Care facilities once again are on lock-down precautions, the turmoil and suffering in Afghanistan rages. Now that Fall is upon us, we so wanted to return to "normal" and yet, shifting into high gear isn't an option. Instead, distrust, cynicism, and fatigue may be at the forefront of our mind. We might question what good is the church right now?

This is exactly where the Book of James speaks to us! Rather than focus on our troubles and the doubts that arise, James pushes us look outward... Words in worship mean very little to us unless these words become alive within us propelling us to help our neighbor.

Join us Sunday as Rev. Sieges kicks off our sermon series on James with Doers, Not Hearers.

Elizabeth

SERMON TITLE FOR AUGUST 29, 2021: "Doers, Not Hearers"

In the Pulpit: Rev. Evan Sieges
Scripture: JAMES 1: 17-27

ADOPT-A-PRAYER PARTNER

Would you be willing to pray for one of our students during this school year?

If so, contact Rev. Horton or the church office, and we will match you with a student and their parent's contact information.

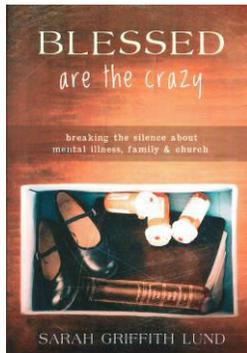
Once we match you with a student, pray for them regularly. That's it. No money spent! The student will know you are praying for them throughout the year. We will also send you suggested ways in which you can pray for the student. If you would like to send them a note or a special occasion card from time to time, get it to the church office, and we will share it with your student.

While this is a very simple request, it is a powerful ministry. Thank you for your faithfulness. You are making a difference in the lives of our students!

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) or sign up [HERE](#) using Sign-up Genius.

PART 2 BOOK DISCUSSION ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 31



On Tuesday, August 31st at 7:00PM, we will meet via Zoom to continue our discussion of *Blessed are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness, Family, and Church*, by Sarah Griffith Lund. Anyone interested may join using the ZOOM LINK that is shared in the weekly email.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86520447402?pwd=ZnNmQ0dyR1ZWMXBltZqZnJUWW8xUT09> Meeting ID: 865 2044 7402 Passcode: Bless

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,86520447402# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,86520447402# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 865 2044 7402

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdydNufQr0>

LOOKING AHEAD FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

FAMILY MEETING WITH REV. EVAN SIEGES

Parents and children/youth are invited to a family meeting on **Wednesday, September 1 at 6:30 PM in the church parlor**. Rev. Evan will use this meeting to begin to get to know the children and youth of our church and make connections with them, as well as their parents. Please plan to attend.

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. Volunteers are needed weekly for this ministry. Please contact Rev. Horton if you are interested in volunteering or sign up [HERE](#) using Sign-up Genius.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE SEPTEMBER 1ST



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 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.

CHARLES ENGLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BACKPACK PROGRAM

As part of our church's Community Outreach Program, we continue our partnership with Charles England Elementary School to help it meet the needs of their students for the 2021-22 School Year.

They will continue to need food for their **"BACKPACK PROGRAM."** Food goes home on the weekends with students who can benefit from this program when they do not have the prepared meals they receive from the school's cafeteria. The school's food pantry constantly needs donations to help keep the shelves stocked, so food is there when it is needed. Therefore, the Backpack Program that our church helps support is an **on-going** one.

A list of requested items is show below. You may drop off items in the Narthex of the sanctuary or outside the church office. We will notify the school when we have food to pick up. However, if you are unable to shop for items needed, money donations are always welcomed! Any donations for this program may be made by check to **First Reformed UCC with CEES Backpack Program in the memo line** or you may contribute online at the church's website.

ITEMS NEEDED:	Juice boxes	Applesauce cups	Breakfast bars
	Ramen noodles	Cheese crackers	Spaghetti-Os
	Chicken Noodle Soup	Canned vegetables	

WORKING OUR WAY BACK TO REGULAR CHOIR PRACTICES

Currently our choir practices held in the sanctuary following worship on Sundays. We are starting with some short practice sessions, just to get used to singing together again before regular choir practices begin on September 22nd. 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 choir 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 29 and September 5, and 12. REGULAR CHOIR PRACTICE IS PLANNED TO RESUME ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22. Right now, the day, time and location of practices may be subject to change. We will keep you updated as more information is gathered.

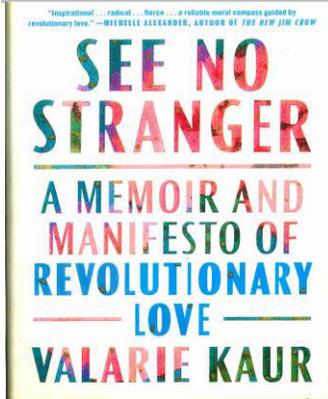
PIANO LESSONS AVAILABLE

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 Phone: (336) 469-4716

MONTHLY PFLAG MEETINGS

Every 3rd Thursday, PFLAG meetings will be held in the church Fellowship Hall. The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 23rd at 6:30PM**. For more info, you may contact confidentially: 646-221-2442 or pflaglexingtonnc@gmail.com

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**.