



**First Reformed United Church of Christ**

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

**September 12, 2021  
The Worship of God  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Prelude**

***"The Solid Rock Medley"* arr. Chuck Sinclair**

Christopher Kiser

**\*Ringing of the Chimes**

Lucas Peterson

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. Elizabeth Horton

**Opening Prayer**

Marge Doty

**Scripture Reading**

**Mark 8: 27-38**

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

**Anthem**

***"The Unclouded Day / Will the Circle Be Unbroken"* arr. Sheldon Curry**

*O they tell me of a home far beyond the skies, they tell me of a home far away;*

*O they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise, O they tell me of an unclouded day.*

*Will the circle be unbroken, by and by, Lord, by and by? There's a better home awaiting in the sky, Lord, in the sky!*

*O they tell me of a home where my friends have gone, they tell me of a land far away;*

*Where the tree of life in eternal bloom sheds its fragrance through the unclouded day. (refrain)*

*O they tell me that He smiles on His children there, His smile drives their sorrows away;*

*And they tell me no tears ever come again to that land of cloudless day. (refrain)*

**Pastoral Prayer**

Rev. Horton

**Hymn**

***"Pass It On"***

Ellen Peterson

**Gospel Reading**

**James 3: 1-12**

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine fig? No more can salt water yield fresh.

**Sermon**

***"A Faith that Works: Toxic Talk"***

**Invitation to Give and to Serve**

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

***"Higher Ground"* arr. Marilyn Thompson**

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:** Marge Doty   **SOUND TECH:** John Gray  
**DIGITAL MEDIA TECH:** Jeremy Peterson  
**USHERS:** Raeann Allred, Alane Holste, John Smith  
**ACOLYTE:** Emma Hartle  
**BIBLE STEWARD:** Jacob Hartle

### CELEBRATIONS

**BIRTHDAYS:**                      **ANNIVERSARIES:**  
**12<sup>th</sup>...**Lee Jessup               **18<sup>th</sup>...**Eddie & Susan Miller  
**15<sup>th</sup>...**Andy Sink  
**16<sup>th</sup>...**Barbara Sink...Addie Walser  
**17<sup>th</sup>...**Lynn Brown...Stephen Wall

### PLEASE PRAY FOR...

#### OUR MEMBERS:

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

#### AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

Peggy Bates, Sherry Bonner, Ruth Essick, Pattie Everhart, Vogen Everhart, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Marguerite Leonard, Deanna Michael, Bob Shaak, Lib Sink, Carolyn Spivey, Adena Wall

#### OUR FRIENDS:

\*Ashley Thomason (Ron & Heidi Hutcheson's daughter-in-law), Jimmy Grubb (June Grubb's brother, recovering from a fall), Cheri Yates (Eddie Yates' stepmother), Steve Ketner, Martha Moore, Rev. Dr. Ray Howell III (Pastor, First Baptist Church, Lexington), Marc Frye (son of the late Doris Frye)

### YOUTH MINISTRIES

**SUNDAYS at 6:00PM:** Youth Group (West's home)  
**WEDNESDAYS at 6:30PM:** Youth Study (at church)

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

**WEDNESDAYS at 6:30PM:** Children's Fun & Games (at church)  
**SUNDAYS BEGINNING 9/26:** Children's Church (Theater Room)

### WEEKLY CALENDAR

#### SUNDAY, September 12:

**9:30AM** In-person Bible Study (Parlor)  
 Smithie Parrish, facilitator  
 (James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38)  
**10:30AM** Worship Service In-Person and Livestreamed Online (YOUTUBE)  
 Kids Worship Connection

#### FOLLOWING WORSHIP:

**CONSISTORY MEETING** (FELLOWSHIP HALL)  
**CHOIR PRACTICE** (SANCTUARY)

**6:00PM** Youth Group (West's home)

#### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13:

**6:00PM** Shelter Meal (Nina Smith & Team)

#### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

**12:00PM** 2CFAR via Zoom  
**7:00PM** Book Study Group via Zoom:  
 "Strangers No More"

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

**6:30PM** Youth Group  
 Children's Fun & Games  
**7:00PM** Parlor/Property Meeting (PARLOR)

#### THURSDAY, September 15:

**4-6:00PM** Clothes Closet Workday  
**6:30PM** PFLAG Meeting via Zoom  
 Request link by emailing:  
[pflaglexingtonnc@gmail.com](mailto:pflaglexingtonnc@gmail.com)

#### SATURDAY, September 11

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

#### SUNDAY, September 19:

**9:30AM** In-person Bible Study (Parlor)  
 Mike Hooper, facilitator  
 (James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a, Mark 9:30-37)  
**10:30AM** Worship Service In-Person and Livestreamed Online (YOUTUBE)  
 Kids Worship Connection

#### FOLLOWING WORSHIP:

**CHOIR PRACTICE** (SANCTUARY)

**6:00PM** Youth Group (West's home)

**MINISTERS:** The Congregation of **FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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