



First Reformed United Church of Christ

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

September 19, 2021
The Worship of God
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Christopher Kiser

*Ringing of the Chimes

Words of Welcome

Rev. Elizabeth Horton

Anthem

"No Greater Gift"

Ruth Elaine Schram

*Though I speak the language of angels, though I know all there is to know,
If I have no love, I am nothing at all. There is no gift greater than love.*

*And though I understand every mystery, and my faith could remove any mountain,
If I have no love, I am nothing at all. There is no gift greater than love.*

*Love is kind and gentle, rejoicing in the truth. Love is not proud. Love is not rude.
Love never fails, though all other gifts will cease. Love hopes and endures, love bears and believes.*

*Though I give all I have to the hungry, though I give my very life,
If I have no love, I am nothing at all. There is no gift greater than love.*

There is hope, there is faith; they will always remain. But there is no gift greater than love.

Opening Prayer

Carolyn Robbins

Scripture Reading

Mark 9: 30-37

Jesus, Peter, James, and John went on from the mountain and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

Kids Worship Connection

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Horton

Special Music

'The Lord's Prayer'

Mike Price

Hymn

"As the Deer Pants for the Water"

Ellen Peterson

Gospel Reading

James 3:13-4: 3, 7-8a (Common English Bible)

Are any of you wise and understanding? Show that your actions are good with a humble lifestyle that comes from wisdom. However, if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, then stop bragging and living in ways that deny the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above. Instead, it is from the earth, natural and demonic. Wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there is disorder and everything that is evil. What of the wisdom from above? First, it is pure, and then peaceful, gentle, obedient, filled with mercy and good actions, fair, and genuine. Those who make peace sow the seeds of justice by their peaceful acts.

What is the source of conflict among you? What is the source of your disputes? Don't they come from your cravings that are at war in your own lives? You long for something you don't have, so you commit murder. You are jealous for something you can't get, so you struggle and fight. You don't have because you don't ask. You ask and don't have because you ask with evil intentions, to waste it on your own cravings.

Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will run away from you. Come near to God, and he will come near to you.

Sermon

"A Faith that Works: Controlling the Cravings"

Invitation to Give and to Serve

*Benediction

Postlude

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: Carolyn Robbins
SOUND TECH: Dave Fulton
DIGITAL MEDIA TECH: Jeremy Peterson
USHERS: Raeann Allred, John Smith
ACOLYTE: Emma Hartle
BIBLE STEWARD: Jacob Hartle
KIDS' WORSHIP CONNECTION: Smithie Parrish & Renee White

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS:

19th...James Atkins
 20th...Glenyce Fulton...Matthew Johnson
 24th...Alice Gray...Jordan McCarn

ANNIVERSARIES:

19th...Johnny & Lynn McCarn...Tony & Lee Ann Peele
 20th...Brad & Molly Robertson

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), 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
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
WEDNESDAYS at 6:30PM: Children's Fun & Games
SUNDAYS BEGINNING 9/26: Children's Church

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, September 19:

9:30AM Bible Study: In-Person (Parlor) & via Zoom (link in weekly email)
 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

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21:

12:00PM 2CFAR via Zoom

7:00PM Book Study Group via Zoom:
 "Strangers No More"

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22:

6:30PM Youth Group (at church)
Children's Fun & Games (at church)

7:00PM Choir Practice (Chapel Annex)

THURSDAY, September 23:

4-6:00PM Clothes Closet Workday

SATURDAY, September 25:

12:30PM Saturday Carry-Out Lunch Ministry

SUNDAY, September 26:

9:30AM Bible Study: In-Person (Parlor) & via Zoom (link in weekly email)
 Dave & Glenyce Fulton, facilitators
 (James 5: 13-20, Mark 9: 38-50)

10:30AM Worship Service In-Person and Livestreamed Online (YOUTUBE)
Children's Church (Theater Room)

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

MINISTERS: The Congregation of **FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
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PASTOR: Rev. Elizabeth Horton (elizabeth@frucc.org, cell/text #336-972-8895)
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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)
ADMIN ASST.: Carolyn Robbins (carolyn@frucc.org) **FINANCIAL ADMIN.:** Paula Lopp (paula@frucc.org)

WEEKLY EMAIL from FIRST REFORMED UCC
September 17, 2021
IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE BEGINNING AT 10:30AM
LIVESTREAMED ONLY ON OUR YOUTUBE PAGE

LOOKING TOWARD SUNDAY: A MESSAGE FROM REV. HORTON

Dear Beloved Community,

What are you craving in this moment? A carrot? Florets of cauliflower? Maybe a nice portion of cooked kale?

OF COURSE NOT! Who craves a carrot? Most of us crave something sugary, buttery, or gooey? Maybe loaded with carbs or calories? Most of us crave that which is nutritionally EMPTY but totally TASTY.

The first bite brings satisfaction that feels ever so good, but this satisfaction is fleeting, disappearing quickly, with only the crumbs remaining. So, how do you control your cravings... Or do you?

Let's talk about this on Sunday, as we explore from the Book of James what it means to have **A Faith That Works for Today and Tomorrow**.

He asks if the conflicts we face come from the **cravings that are at war within us**? What do we impulsively reach for that unfortunately will never bring lasting fulfillment?

What is at war within you?

What is at war within us?

Our world argues about masks and vaccines, hurling vicious words even at school board meetings. Grabbing power, being mean, and living selfishly seem to be the rule rather than the exception.

There is much at war within us and among us. Family of God, you are not alone. James calls us, Come near to God, and God will come near to you. We will live out our faith together...today and tomorrow.

Making peace, seeking wisdom, and showing grace.

Elizabeth

SERMON TITLE FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021:

"A Faith that Works: Controlling the Cravings"

Scripture: James 3:13-4: 3, 7-8a

PRAYER SHAWLS BLESSING

Attention anyone who contributes shawls to our prayer shawl ministry. Rev. Horton has scheduled the next Prayer Shawl Blessing for **Sunday, September 26 during worship**. Please contact Harriette Murphy if you have any shawls completed for blessing on this date.

(336-239-1900 or hrmurphy69@gmail.com)

ADULT BOOK STUDY CONTINUES IN SEPTEMBER

Tuesdays, we hold our study sessions for "See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love" by Valarie Kaur. We will continue to meet via ZOOM.

"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. Join us by using the link provided in the weekly email!

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 continue to need food for their "**BACKPACK PROGRAM**"

Please consider helping with any donations listed below for this program, or you may make monetary donations by check to **First Reformed UCC with CEES Backpack Program in the memo line** or you may contribute online at the church's website.

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

MONTHLY PFLAG MEETINGS

Every 3rd Thursday, PFLAG meetings will be held via Zoom. The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, October 21st at 6:30PM**. For more info on how to join the meeting, you may contact confidentially: 646-221-2442 or pflaglexingtonnc@gmail.com

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING...OCTOBER 3



NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) IS A SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST THAT SUPPORTS MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE AND COMPASSION IN THE UNITED STATES. In 2021, Neighbors in Need "Unfailing Love" offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. **Our church will collect the offering on October 3, 2021** as part of World Communion Sunday, but contributions can be made at any time online.