

First Reformed United Church of Christ

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

**September 5, 2021
The Worship of God
Holy Communion
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

()Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude
***Ringing of the Chimes**
Words of Welcome

Christopher Kiser

Rev. Elizabeth Horton

Anthem

"Come Find Forgiveness and Love" Don Besig & Nancy Price

Come to the table, Jesus is there. Come to the banquet the Lord has prepared.
Bring all your troubles, each worry and care. Come find forgiveness and love.

Come to the table, Jesus is near. Come feel His presence surrounding you here.
Lay down your burdens, your sorrow and fear. Come find forgiveness and love.

The bread has been broken, the cup has been poured, and now they are offered to you.
The promise is spoken and hope is restored. You are redeemed. All is made new.

Come to the table, all who believe. Come and remember, His grace makes you free.
Cherish this moment, this gift you receive. Come find forgiveness and love.

Softly and tenderly Jesus invites us, touching each heart and each soul.
Now, in communion, our Savior unites us, cleansing and making us whole.

Come take the bread. Come share the cup. Come find forgiveness and love.

Opening Prayer
Scripture Reading

Bonita Hooper

Mark 7: 24-37

...Then Jesus returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Pastoral Prayer
Gospel Reading

Rev. Horton

James 2: 1-17

...What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So, faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Sermon
Service of Holy Communion

"A Faith that Works for Today and Tomorrow"

Please remain seated. The Bread and the Cup will be brought to you.

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: Bonita Hooper

DIGITAL MEDIA TECH: Jeremy Peterson

SOUND TECH: Dave Fulton

ACOLYTE: Emma Hartle

BIBLE STEWARD: Jacob Hartle

USHERS: Raeann Allred, James Gray, John Smith,

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS:

5th...Kyndell Lovell

8th...Alyson Cruz

10th...Eddie Miller

11th...Doug Sink

ANNIVERSARIES:

5th...Dave & Glenyce Fulton

STAFF ANNIVERSARY FOR SEPTEMBER:

Paula Lopp (27 years)

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: *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)

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, September 5: Holy Communion

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)

FOLLOWING WORSHIP: CHOIR PRACTICE IN THE SANCTUARY

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6:

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY (CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

12:00PM **2CFAR** via Zoom

7:00PM **New Adult Book Study** begins on *"Strangers No More"* via Zoom

THURSDAY, September 9:

4-6:00PM **Clothes Closet Workday**

6:30PM **Board of Evangelism** (Parlor)

SATURDAY, September 11

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

SUNDAY, September 12: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

"Doers of the Word: "Taming the Tongue" (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 (FELLOWHSIP HALL) AND CHOIR PRACTICE (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 (jarubb3@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)

ADMIN ASST.: Carolyn Robbins (carolyn@frucc.org)

FINANCIAL ADMIN.: Paula Lopp (paula@frucc.org)

WEEKLY EMAIL from FIRST REFORMED UCC
September 3, 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,

What good is religion in this day and age?

How does your religion inform your decisions day in and day out?

Is the church a museum of relics, filled with antiquated teachings or is there more?

In our sermon series from James, we are confronted with these questions. James wants us to discover if the religious words we speak with our mouths equal up to the actions shown in our lives.

According to James,

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. (James 1:27 NRSV)

Join me Sunday as we ask the hard questions about the relevancy of the institution of the church in 2022. May we be challenged to live up to James' call to the church in our series: **A Faith That Works for Today and Tomorrow.**

We will share in Holy Communion Sunday and we will follow Co-vid Protocols in the sanctuary. If you are joining us online via YouTube you are invited to have bread and juice/wine ready so we can all eat and drink together.

Elizabeth

SERMON TITLE FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2021:
"A Faith that Works for Today and Tomorrow"

Scripture: JAMES 2: 1-17

THIS SUNDAY: SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

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

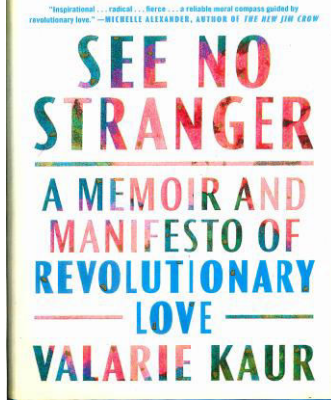
PIANO LESSONS AVAILABLE

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.

Author, Valarie 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**.