



A MESSAGE FROM REV. HORTON

Dear Beloved Community,

World Communion Sunday always falls on the 1st Sunday in October. I love this day...always have. When I tend to get stuck in my ways about the "Correct" way to do church, World Communion Sunday comes as if on cue and knocks me off my liturgical high horse by calling me to remember I am but one of millions who claim to be a follower of Christ...that my way is no better than anyone else's.

It is a day, both mystical and humbling, to recall our kinship with people across the world through the bread and the cup. World Communion Sunday also marks the day in 2018 when First Reformed UCC formally voted to become an Open and Affirming Congregation in the UCC. We took a step in faith for people, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity. God has blessed us by allowing us to be a church home for many who had been deeply wounded from hurtful words said by church folk.

World Communion Sunday also marks our six year anniversary together! As your Pastor, I am grateful for your loving spirit and passion for justice. You have shown me tremendous grace

and extended mercy freely.

Thank you for your willingness to claim faith over fear and to dream of what is yet to come. Thank you for the ways you have loved my family and cared for me when I needed it. You have witnessed my mess ups and repeatedly shown me forgiveness. You have allowed me into some of your most precious and fragile moments. I am grateful for the road we have traveled and excited about what is yet to come!

I love you first reformed United Church of Christ.

Here's to the future!
Elizabeth

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Our custodian, Steve McDonald, also has an anniversary with us. We rarely see him, but we see evidence that he has been here. We are so very blessed that he takes such good care of maintaining the buildings.

If you'd like to send him well wishes through the church office, we'll make sure he gets them.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES WITH REV. EVAN

When I first accepted the position of Director of Children and Youth Ministries at FRUCC, an immediate influx of ideas and emotions came into my head. What could we do together? What sort of things would our youth enjoy? What would our children like? I felt like there was so much to do, and not much time to do it. Developing a structure for these ministries was going to be a big challenge, and I wasn't entirely sure where to start.

In the past month since I started at FRUCC, so many of these challenges have been met, but not by me. They've been met by our

volunteers, staff, parents, and congregants who have lent a helping hand wherever it's been needed. It's been lent by those who helped clean the Youth Room, clear the Theatre Room, and attend parent meetings with me. That help has been a blessing to me, our youth and children, and this church altogether.

Thank you for welcoming me as I start ministering here. I cherish you, your support, and our continued relationship.

WELCOMING STATEMENT

If you are searching for a place to experience God's wondrous and inclusive love, we invite you to join us at First Reformed United Church of Christ in Lexington, NC.

Following the example of Jesus, we believe that God's love, Christ's church, and the power of the Holy Spirit are for all people. We believe our unity as one body in Christ transcends worldly differences. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

First Reformed United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming congregation. This means 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.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRIES



In an effort to help Pastor's Pantry feed their senior clients for their Annual Holiday Meal, our church will collect **400 cans of green beans by Monday, November 8**. Pastor's Pantry has reached out to the community because this is a special treat outside of the monthly groceries they already receive. Boxes for

donations will be outside the church office and in the Narthex. Thank you for your help with this community outreach program!

SATURDAY TAKE-OUT LUNCH MINISTRY

The Saturday Lunch Program continues to grow in the number served on a weekly basis. Labor Day weekend is usually planned as a slow weekend; however, it turned out to be our highest number served year to date. Ninety people enjoyed a home-cooked lunch!

We continue to need volunteers to help plate and serve throughout the month. Please think about giving an hour and a half once a month to help serve our community. We have cooks in place for each Saturday, but we could easily use four or more volunteers to help with serving.

Contact our church office if you can help us! Thanks to all of those who cook, serve, bring desserts, and help make the lunch program a success!

CHARLES ENGLAND BACKPACK MINISTRY

As we continue our partnership with Charles England Elementary School, any donations for this program may be made by check **with "CEES in the memo line** or you may contribute online at the church's website.

CLOTHING MINISTRY

Our Clothing Ministry is in the process of coordinating with Children and Youth Ministries to make the best use of the space available for each group's needs. Most recently, this has involved streamlining some of the clothing inventory.

A plan is being put into effect to donate surplus items to Victory Baptist Church in Concord. (We partner with them in their mission to feed, clothe, and house individuals who are also in need of spiritual and emotional support. Men with this group were instrumental in moving furniture when the basement was being reorganized.) This plan allows us to make the most efficient use of our donations and still provide for our ministries.

As the night temperatures are falling and the weather, in general, is getting cooler, we are in need of warmer clothing: jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, etc. We also need: men's pants/jeans (waist sizes 29-34), men's shoes/boots (sizes 9-13) and sleeping bags.

Again, thank you for your donations which enable our church to provide to the community and beyond.

SEPTEMBER MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

IN MEMORY OF BOB SHAAK

Eddie & Jemmietta Allred

John & Vicky Gray

Jerry & Merle Hodges

Steve & Vikki Hodges

Clifford & Paula Lopp

John Potts & Janette Neal

Thomas & Joyce Phillips

Tony & Lee Ann Peele

Bill & Carolyn Robbins

Mrs. Patricia Royster

Guy, Melinda, Jennifer & Meredith Smith

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Smith

John & Susie Smith

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Smith

Bob & Kay Timberlake

Steve & Cathy Waitman

Billy & Stacy West

Bruce & Kim Wehrle

IN MEMORY OF KATHERINE SKIPPER

Thomas & Joyce Phillips

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

We extend Sympathy to and share Christian Hope with...

The family of Robert Ray "Bob" Shaak, who passed away on Friday, September 17. Memorials may be made to First Reformed United church of Christ or the donor's choice.

Beverly Sandifer, whose husband, Robert Miley Sandifer, passed away on July 12. Memorials may be sent to the Edisto Island Preservation Alliance (PO Box 157, Edisto Island, SC 29438) or the Edisto Island Open Land Trust (PO Box 1, Edisto Island, SC 29438).

OUR MEMBERS:

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

Lib Sink

Carolyn Spivey

Adena Wall

OUR FRIENDS:

Bob Saylor

(friend of John Maze)

Connie Leggette

(friend of Renee White)

Ashley Thomason

(Ron & Heidi Hutcheson's daughter-in-law)

Cheri Yates

(Eddie Yates' stepmother)

Rev. Dr. Ray Howell III

(Pastor, First Baptist Church, Lexington)

Marc Frye

(son of the late Doris Frye)

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear FRUCC,

Thank you so much for the Amazon gift card. It helped a lot as I was getting things for my dorm room. It has been great growing up in a church like FRUCC, and the church family has always been so great! Again thank you so much for the Amazon gift card.

Claire Smith

Dear First Reformed UCC,

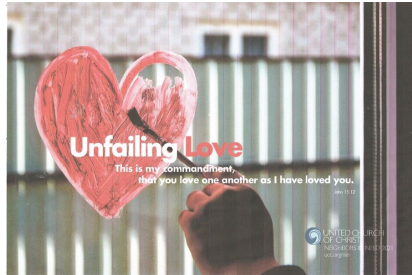
Thanks for supporting our school and our students. Your donation is greatly appreciated. "It takes a village to raise a child." (African Proverb) Thank you for being part of our village.

Beth Callicutt, Principal
& Charles England Family

ITEMS OF INTEREST

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

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. We will collect this offering on Sunday, October 3, World Communion Sunday. You may also give online anytime at <https://www.ucc.org/giving/donate-now/>.



GET TO KNOW US

The Evangelism Board will host a hybrid "Get to Know Us" event in the fellowship hall bi-monthly, beginning October 17, 2021. The event is an opportunity for visitors and newcomers to have a chance to engage with some of our members.

SOC & WNCA ANNUAL MEETING

The Southern Conference Annual Gathering will be held in conjunction with Association Annual Meetings on November 5-6, 2021. There will be an in-person option for attendance at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, and also a virtual option for those who cannot or would prefer not to attend in person. More details to follow!

BUILDING USE

Anyone interested in using the church building for meetings or gatherings of any kind must contact the church office to confirm dates are available and reservations can be made. Reservations also help us know when heat/AC should be set for the period of use. (336-248-2617)

NEW BIBLE STUDY BEGINS

A four-week Bible series begins OCTOBER 3rd at 9:30AM, meeting both in-person in the Church Parlor and via ZOOM. This study, entitled "Born to Trouble," will focus on the Old Testament book of Job.

This book is usually placed among the wisdom literature of the Bible. Yet, it is not at all like Proverbs with its aphoristic approach to advice and suggestion. It is not like the Psalms or Song of Songs with their poetic praise and petition and passion. Job starts like a fairy tale but reads like a documentary.

Did this all happen? Does it matter? But the commentaries suggest that the book of Job deals with some profoundly difficult questions in the life of faith, and it does so without easy answers or simplistic cliches. In fact, Job takes on those cliches with some painful truths about life in the real world. To be honest, Job isn't really for those for whom everything is great, and all their choices come up smelling like roses. It is a book for those who have questions, those who are struggling or suffering, or feeling like there is no one listening, no one out there at all.

If this is you, or someone you know, then this study of the book of Job is the place for you. Come join us as we discuss the following passages and topics on the theme, "Born to Trouble."

October 3: "To and Fro on the Earth"

Job 1: 1; 2: 1-10, Mark 10: 2-16
Facilitator: Eulene Shepherd

October 10: "Bitter Complaints"

Job: 23: 1-9, 16-17, Mark:10: 17-31
Facilitator: Smithie Parrish

October 17: "Out of the Whirlwind"

Job 38: 1-7 (34-41) Mark 10: 35-45
Facilitator: June Grubb

October 24: "Now My Eyes See"

Job 42: 1-6, 10-17 Mark 10: 46-52
Facilitator: Eddie Yates

CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS...SEPTEMBER 2021

Consistory members met Sunday, September 12, 2021 in the church Fellowship Hall and virtually via Zoom.

Board Reports

Community Outreach.....Robert Danze

- Check mailed to CEES from donations to Backpack program

Evangelism.....Renee White & Dave Fulton

- Weekly Attendance Average for **August 2021: 54**
- Dave requested items to be ordered to prepare more visitor bags for worship. Bags are in the Narthex.

Faith Formation.....Alane Holste & Smithie Parrish

- Rev. Evan met with parents of children and youth Children's church will continue on Sunday mornings and the youth will meet on Sunday evenings. Both children and youth will meet on Wednesday evenings. We will need volunteers and prayers.
- Many thanks to Jerry Lovell and all the volunteers who cleared out the Youth and Theater rooms downstairs. They look great.

Board of Property Management.....John Smith & John Maze

- All air conditioning units are in and running in the sanctuary.
- Due to folks using outside water spigots and the electrical outlet in the Memorial Garden, the spigots have been capped and the breaker has been turned off for the outlet.
- We've received three estimates for painting the Parlor.

Board of Business Management & Stewardship:.....

Harriette Murphy

Finance & Budget Report for **August 2021**

- Average Weekly offering: **\$5564**
- General Fund: **\$12,396**
- Music Fund: **\$9,373**
- Harriette Murphy reported all bills are current.

OLD BUSINESS

- **A/C Unit for classroom next to Chapel Annex** was replaced with one donated by John Maze. Chris will supplement heat with a small space heater when weather warrants.
- **Parlor Committee Update:** The committee will meet to approve flooring, paint and window shutters contracts. All are below budget, so we'll have money for furniture and upholstery upgrades.

- **Basement Clean-up:** Rev. Horton questioned how to dispose of large items from the basement. (e.g. TVs, A/C units, etc.) She also questioned if broken floor tiles in two closets contained asbestos.

- **Fire Marshal:** John Smith reported we are in compliance with the fire marshal and included there were no water leaks after the hard rains.

NEW BUSINESS

2022 Budget:

- Congregational Budget Meeting will follow worship on October 17
- Copies will be mailed to members to review by October 3
- Members may submit any questions for the proposed budget to Paula Lopp or bring them to the budget meeting on October 17.

Board of Faith Formation: Current plans with Rev. Sieges

- Sunday Youth Group: 6:00pm (started 9/12)
- Wednesday Youth Study: 6:30pm (started 9/22)
- Children's Church: during worship service, started 9/26)
- Children's Wednesday Fun & Games: 6:30pm (started 9/22)
- The downstairs Youth Room looks great. Thank you to Christy Plummer who will donate a refrigerator to use here.
- No furniture or lecterns were discarded from the room but were relocated. Bibles and hymnals were kept also.

Board of Evangelism:

- Raeann Allred reported Renee White will resign from Consistory and as Chairperson of the Board of Evangelism. Dave Fulton will serve as Chairperson of the Board of Evangelism through the remainder of 2021. She thanked Renee for her service.

Next Consistory Meeting:

- No regular meeting is scheduled for October.
- Either a called meeting on October 17, a Zoom meeting, or an email communication will be used as needed.
- The next scheduled meetings will be **November 14** and **December 5**.

OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

6:30: WEDNESDAY'S CHILDREN'S FUN & ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 6:

JEREMY PETERSON & ALICE GRAY

OCTOBER 13

JEREMY LOVELL & JEREMY PETERSON

OCTOBER 20

SMITHIE PARRISH & RENEE WHITE

OCTOBER 27

JEREMY PETERSON & RENEE WHITE

.....

SIGN UP TO HELP WITH CHILDREN'S FUN &
ACTIVITIES USING THE LINK ON OUR
WEEKLY EMAIL.

6:30: WEDNESDAY'S YOUTH STUDY

OCTOBER 6:

JEREMY LOVELL

OCTOBER 13:

STACY SOSEBEE-WEST

OCTOBER 20:

BELINDA YATES

OCTOBER 27:

JEREMY LOVELL

.....

SIGN UP TO HELP WITH WEDNESDAY YOUTH
STUDY USING THE LINK ON OUR
WEEKLY EMAIL.

SUNDAY'S CHILDREN'S CHURCH



OCTOBER 3:

SMITHIE PARRISH & HELPER

OCTOBER 10

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

OCTOBER 17

JEREMY & KERI LOVELL

OCTOBER 24

SMITHIE PARRISH

OCTOBER 31

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

.....

SIGN UP TO HELP WITH CHILDREN'S CHURCH
USING THE LINK ON OUR WEEKLY EMAIL.

SUNDAY'S YOUTH STUDY

WILL CONTINUE TO MEET AT THE HOME
OF BILLY & STACY WEST
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
PLEASE JOIN US AT 6:00PM
EACH SUNDAY EVENING





2021 HOMECOMING

Homecoming 2021 is scheduled for Sunday, November 7, 2021. Again this year we will not have a congregational meal that we typically have. However, our Homecoming Committee has plans to make this a special day for our church.

As always, there will be a service to honor members who are no longer with us during worship. Family members may light a candle in memory of their loved ones.

Present plans also include special speakers Jay & Cathy Whitley and Jeremy & Keri Lovell sharing why they chose to join First

Reformed Church. Special music will be presented by members within our choir and congregation. Christopher Kiser will also share his musical talents with organ and piano selections.

Do you have other ideas you would like to suggest? Please feel free to contact Rita Lohr, Chairperson of the Homecoming Committee. (rlahr@triad.rr.com or 336-249-9783) She is open to other ideas you may have to help us celebrate. In the meantime, Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 7, 2021!

SUPPORT OUR GIRL SCOUT TROOP



Girl Scouts Troop #2160 is participating in the Annual Nuts and Candies Sale. This sale helps support many of the troop's activities, including service projects with First Reformed.

You can order online or email Jianna Miller at jiannamiller@gmail.com to place an order. Orders can be shipped to you directly or dropped off at church. Jianna can take orders from you **until October 17** and **online orders for direct shipping can be placed until October 23.**

ITEMS AVAILABLE TO ORDER:

English Butter Toffee
Deluxe Pecan Clusters
Chocolate Covered Almonds
Sweet and Salty Mix
Peanut Butter Bears
...and much more for \$6-8

To see the full list of items, please go to bit.ly/jianna2021.

**Thanks for supporting our
Girl Scout Troop!**

OCTOBER 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 12:30 Carry-Out Lunch Ministry
3 World Communion Sunday Neighbors in Need Offering 9:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Church 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:00 Youth Group	4	5 12:00 2CFAR (via Zoom) 7:00 Adult Book Study (via Zoom)	6 6:30 Choir Practice Children's Fun & Games Youth Study	7 4-6:00 Clothes Closet Work Day	8	9 12:30 Carry-Out Lunch Ministry
10 9:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Church 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:00 Youth Group	11	12 12:00 2CFAR (via Zoom) 7:00 Adult Book Study (via Zoom)	13 6:30 Choir Practice Children's Fun & Games Youth Study	14 4-6:00 Clothes Closet Work Day	15	16 12:30 Carry-Out Lunch Ministry
17 9:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Church 11:45 Budget Meeting Followed by Prayer Circle 6:00 Youth Group 6:30 "Get to Know Us" Event	18	19 12:00 2CFAR (via Zoom) 7:00 Adult Book Study (via Zoom)	20 6:30 Choir Practice Children's Fun & Games Youth Study	21 4-6:00PM Clothes Closet Work Day 6:30 PFLAG Meeting (via Zoom)	22	23 12:30 Carry-Out Lunch Ministry
24 9:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Church 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:00 Youth Group	25	26 12:00 2CFAR (via Zoom) 7:00 Adult Book Study (via Zoom)	27 6:30 Choir Practice Children's Fun & Games Youth Study	28 4-6:00PM Clothes Closet Work Day	29	30 12:30 Carry-Out Lunch Ministry
31 9:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Church 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:00 Youth Group	<p>The Board of Evangelism will host a hybrid "Get to Know Us" event at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall bimonthly beginning October 17. This event is an opportunity for visitors and newcomers to have a chance to engage with some of our members.</p> <p>SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 7 HOMECOMING SUNDAY</p>					

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Stacey Potts
2 Eugenia Holste
Adena Wall
6 Joy Walser
7 Kelsey Johnson
9 Griff Smith
12 Bill Robbins
20 Lee Ann Peele
21 Mark Loper
22 Molly Robertson
25 Jamie Link
28 Nicole Smith

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

1st
John & Susie Smith

23rd
Jeremy & Keri Lovell

25th
Henry & Kay Crouse

30th
Albert & Melody Evans

OCTOBER STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

October 1, 2015
Elizabeth Horton
June Grubb

October 1, 2005
Steve McDonald

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE IN OCTOBER

LITURGISTS:

October 3
Camille Morgan

October 10
Alane Holste

October 17
Marge Doty

October 24
John Gray

October 31
John Maze

SOUND TECHNICIAN:

James Gray

DIGITAL MEDIA TECH:

October 3
Kivi & Jia Miller

October 10, 17, 24, 31
Jeremy Peterson

ACOLYTE:

Emory Smith

BIBLE STEWARD:

Elliott Smith

USHERS:

October 3
Nicole Smith & Ted Smith

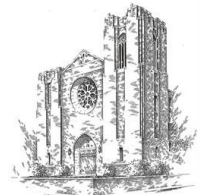
October 10
John Gray

October 17
John Gray, June Grubb &
Nicole Smith

October 24
June Grubb & Ted Smith

October 31
John Gray, June Grubb &
Ted Smith

First Reformed
United
Church of Christ



All Are Welcome Here!

Where People Discover...

*The Love of God
The Power to Love Others
The Ability to Love Ourselves*

104 East Center Street
Lexington, NC 2729
(336) 248-2617
email: church@frucc.org
website: www.frucc.org

10:30 SUNDAY WORSHIP
Livestreamed VIA YOU TUBE

NEW OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Wednesday - Friday
800am to 12:00pm



Join Us on Facebook:
[facebook.com/firstreformeducc](https://www.facebook.com/firstreformeducc)

Church Staff:

Pastor. Rev. Elizabeth Horton
elizabeth@frucc.org
336-972-8895

Minister of Congregational Care
Rev. June Grubb
336-248-5668

Director of Children & Youth Ministries
Rev. Evan Sieges
evan@frucc.org

Administrative Assistant
Carolyn Robbins
carolyn@frucc.org

Financial Administrator
Paula Lopp
paula@frucc.org

Music Director
Ellen Peterson
ellenrpeterson@gmail.com

Pianist / Organist
Christopher Kiser