

FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lexington, NC

NOVEMBER 2021

A MESSAGE FROM REV. HORTON

Dear Beloved Community,

In some ways, it feels more difficult to **Be The Church** now than it did one year ago at this time. Last year, we followed very clear directives in terms of gatherings and expectations. Now the lines feel quite blurry. We're not able to go back to "normal," yet not able to see ahead clearly.

Mask, no mask; sing, no sing; meal, no meal... The list of decisions continues at lightning speed, yet it seems we are not moving quickly at all. This shows up in all facets of our church life – planning for Homecoming, Christmas decorating, Sunday school, children's activities, outreach ministries. So many variables come into play. We know that every decision will not please every person.

Let us be reminded our mission is not to please people, our mission is to live as

faithful disciples of Jesus in this day and age. Our mission is not to serve ourselves, but to serve others. Ministry cannot wait until life returns to normal. So, we will adapt and discern how to be relevant.

We will learn how to be the Body of Christ with both those who attend worship in person and those who don't. We will love one another. We will meet people where they are. We will follow God's calling into ministry that matters for today.

Elizabeth

Sermon Series: A Life That Matters

Homecoming—November 7:

Generosity (Mark 12: 38-44)

November 14:

Authenticity (Mark 13: 1-8)

November 21:

Courage (John 18: 33-37)

November 28: ADVENT Series Begins!

Closer to Home

YOUTH BIBLE STUDAY: A VOLUNTEER'S PERSPECTIVE

Frankie Hedrick

Many years ago, my husband Buddy and I were high school youth leaders. We really enjoyed our time with those young people, so when the opportunity came to volunteer as the second adult for the Youth Bible Study, I didn't hesitate. Man, am I glad I did! I wondered if my age would be an issue, but the young people never made me feel anything other than welcomed.

Rev. Evan is quite talented in engaging the youth. The diversity and depth of thinking with this group quickly became apparent. These young people so impressed me

with their comments, questions and simple engagement with learning about the Bible through Evan's unique presentation. Eventually the group will discuss what the Bible says about various contemporary topics.

My one regret is not being with them to hear their thoughtful discussion. This experience was a wonderful way for me to reconnect with life and hope. How could anyone be around these young people and not leave feeling a sense of hope?

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.

We affirm and celebrate the diversity of God's children as a blessing. We welcome you to First Reformed United Church of Christ.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRIES

SATURDAY TAKE-OUT LUNCH MINISTRY

Saturday, October 23rd, this lunch ministry served its largest number to date...101 plates! If you are interested in how you can help with this ministry, just ask John Maze, and he can give you suggestions. This ministry can use money or food donations and volunteers to either prepare food or help plate meals for take-out.

Contact our church office if you are interested in getting involved or contact John Maze (704-524-6462). Thanks to all of those who continue to help make the Saturday Lunch Ministry successful.

PASTOR'S PANTRY ANNUAL HOLIDAY MEAL

We continue to help Pastor's Pantry feed their senior clients for their Annual Holiday Meal. Our church has pledged to collect **400 cans of green beans by Monday, November 8. We currently have about 270 cans with one more week to collect.** 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! Continue to help us reach our goal!

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH MEALS

Grace Episcopal Church has resumed their Sunday lunch program with precautions in place. Meals are carry-out only at this time. First Reformed serves the month of November.

Thanks to the following volunteers:

November 7th:

Buddy Lohr, Ben Hale, Camille Morgan & John Smith (as cook and back-up)

November 14th:

Mike & Bonita Hooper
Jerry & Patti Lovell

November 21st:

Rev. Evan and the youth group

November 28th:

Mark, Nicole, Elliott & Emory Smith
Camille Morgan

OCTOBER MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

IN MEMORY OF BOB SHAAK

J.W. Bates

Bill Bean

Jeff & Lori Clement

Jimmy & Peggy Everhart

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Hartzog

Jill Hayes

Rick & Christine Johnson

Nancy Kugel

Buddy & Rita Lohr

Robert Lowe

Catherine Michael

Lisa Nelson

Ed & Barbara Perrell

Beryl & Lewie Phillips

Mary & Bob Plybon

Eulene Shepherd

Allyson Waters

IN MEMORY OF JANELLE BUNN

Gerald Smith

IN MEMORY OF MARGOT EVERHART

Jim & Martha Amundsen

IN MEMORY OF STEVE MYERS

Jim & Martha Amundsen

IN HONOR OF JAMES GRAY

(NOVEMBER 27TH BIRTHDAY)

John & Vicky Gray

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

OUR MEMBERS:

Janette Neal

Ellen 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:

Glenda Kiser

(Christopher Kiser's mother)

Nicole Holste

(Alane Holste's sister-in-law)

Joe Carpenter and Chuck Woodson
(neighbors of Eugenia Holste)

Mike Frick

(friend of the church)

Marc Frye

(son of the late Doris Frye)

Becky Poetzinger

(Susie Smith's mother)

Kiana Sinz

(friend of Patti Lovell)

Franklin Waters

(Cathy Whitley's father)

Bob Saylor

(friend of John Maze)

Connie Leggette

(friend of Renee White)

Ashley Thomason

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

ITEMS OF INTEREST

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7th!



**DON'T FORGET
to turn your clocks
BACK ONE HOUR
before you go to bed on
Saturday, November 6th!**

2022 PLEDGE CARDS

2022 Pledge Cards were mailed out recently after passing the next year's budget. On Sunday, November 14th we will dedicate our pledges during worship service. As you complete your Pledge Card, we ask you consider faithfully and prayerfully how you can contribute to the church's financial responsibilities for 2022. (Your pledge does not represent a permanent commitment. It may be revised by contacting the church office.)

Please complete and return your card to the church any of the following ways:

- Place them in the offering plate during the November 14th worship service
- Drop off your form at the church office
- Email your form to paula@frucc.org
- Mail your form to the church at 104 East Center Street, Lexington, NC 27292

2022 TIME AND TALENT SHEETS

Usually a new **Time and Talent sheet** would come in the mail along with the pledge cards. We will not complete these for next year. Instead, we will seek volunteers to help meet the church's needs in other ways. **Please consider serving when you are asked to volunteer.**

DECK THE HALLS

The Decorating Committee has plans to meet in the church sanctuary on **Sunday, November 21st at 3:00** in the afternoon to decorate for the holidays. If all the décor-

ating cannot be completed on that afternoon, **Tuesday, November 23rd at 6:00** is scheduled to finish up.

The committee can always use extra hands, so if you want to help, please add these dates to your calendar and join us for a different kind of fellowship!

NEW BIBLE STUDY

"From Worship to Discipleship: A Life That Matters" The theme is intentional. By connecting the themes and scriptures from corporate worship to the small-group experience, we will be more fully formed into disciples of Jesus Christ. Our discussions for the first three weeks will be based on the Gospel of Mark.

October 31st:

Not Far From the Kingdom Mark 12:28-34
(Facilitator: Smithie Parrish)

November 7th:

Everything She Had Mark 12:38-44
(ALL SAINTS DAY)
(Facilitator: June Grubb)

November 14th:

Not One Stone Mark 13:1-8
(Facilitator: Eulene Shepherd)

November 21st:

Everyone Who Belongs John 18:33-37
(REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY)
(Facilitator: Eddie Yates)

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)

CLOTHES CLOSET...Jerry Lovell

The Clothing Ministry here at First Reformed is operating at a record pace in distributing clothes to the underserved in our community. With the weather getting cooler, some of our inventory is becoming depleted. We are especially in urgent need of MEN's clothes in these categories and sizes:

- Jeans and pants (sizes 29-40)
- Coats (all sizes)
- Sweatshirts (all sizes)
- Hoodies
- Tennis shoes/shoes/boots (sizes 8-13)
- Belts (sizes 34-40)
- Socks

With the increased workload, our volunteer staff is becoming overwhelmed due to the demands of getting donations ready for distribution. We need help in all these areas of this ministry.

- Sorting donations
- Sizing clothes
- Hanging items
- Filling orders
- Distributing orders at Open Hands Breakfast (M/W/F) at St. Stephens Church. and Saturday lunch, here at First Reformed
(Macedonia Methodist assists with both handing out food and clothing.)

The Clothing Ministry really needs your help "behind the scenes" to keep this vital program active and alive going forward. Thank you for your support as we look to the future.

IT'S MORE THAN JUST A CLOTHES CLOSET...Jerry Lovell

There is a young couple in our community. You may have seen them around town. They live in the area in an abandoned house with no utilities. They have a roof over their heads. He is confined to a wheelchair because he has had a leg amputated, and she walks alongside him. I got to know them through the Open Hands Monday night meals in the pre-pandemic era. They attended regularly for the meal and stayed for both the fellowship and worship. Both are sociable. She has played the piano in the Fellowship Hall on occasion and is very talented. They continue to attend breakfasts at St. Stephen and Saturday lunches here at First Reformed.

About two weeks ago, they were experiencing even more hardships. They needed more suitable clothing for the cooler temperatures. He also needed a pair of

gloves for gripping the wheels and braking his wheelchair, which was showing extensive wear.

It was odd when they did not come to pick up their order. I was able to contact them and learned he had been hospitalized due to seizures. A few days later, they were able to get their order at St. Stephen. I watched them open the bag while sitting on that brick wall. It was like watching my grandchildren open presents at Christmas. Their joy, excitement, and appreciation were priceless! We were also able to provide funds so they could take the Park-n-Ride to a government agency in Winston-Salem to get his wheelchair replaced.

Thank you, First Reformed, for supporting our Clothing Ministry. It's about so much more than clothes.

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

6:30: WEDNESDAY CHILDREN'S FUN & ACTIVITIES

- Offered for all K-5th children at First Reformed 6:30 drop off at the Fellowship Hall (main floor of the education building)
- Pick up at 7:30 from the Fellowship Hall
- This is a time for children to play, have fun and spend time together!

NOVEMBER 3:

JEREMY LOVELL & RENEE WHITE

NOVEMBER 10:

JEREMY PETERSON & RENEE WHITE

NOVEMBER 17:

SMITHIE PARRISH & RENEE WHITE

NOVEMBER 24:

JEREMY PETERSON & STACY SOSEBEE-WEST

**SIGN UP TO HELP USING THE LINK
ON OUR WEEKLY EMAIL.**



SUNDAY CHILDREN'S CHURCH

NOVEMBER 7: VOLUNTEER NEEDED

NOVEMBER 14: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

NOVEMBER 21: VOLUNTEER NEEDED

NOVEMBER: 28 SMITHIE PARRISH

**SIGN UP TO HELP USING THE LINK
ON OUR WEEKLY EMAIL.**

6:30: WEDNESDAY YOUTH STUDY

- Offered for all middle & high school youth at First Reformed
- 6:30 drop off at the Youth Room (basement floor of the education building)
- Pick up at 7:30 from the Youth Room
- Weekly discussions are centered around asking, "What does the Bible say about _____?" (This includes a wide variety of topics.)

NOVEMBER 3: DAVE FULTON

NOVEMBER 10: JUNE GRUBB

NOVEMBER 17: JEREMY LOVELL

NOVEMBER 24: JUNE GRUBB

**SIGN UP TO HELP USING THE LINK
ON OUR WEEKLY EMAIL.**



SUNDAY YOUTH STUDY

We will continue to meet at the home of Billy & Stacy West until further notice. Please join us at 6:00PM each Sunday evening.

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Church Family,

I cannot express how much your calls, cards, texts, food and memorials have touched my and my family's hearts. Your outpouring of love and support during our time of sorrow over the loss of Dad was so comforting and truly appreciated! On behalf of the entire Shaak family, I thank you!

Love,
Raeann

Dear Consistory,

The red roses you sent after Dad's death were

beautiful! Your thoughtfulness, kindness and support during this sad time have been extremely comforting and are much appreciated!! Thank you!!

Love,
Raeann

Dear First Reformed,

Thank you for holding a candy drive! Our kids are going to be so excited at our Fall Festival!

Beth Callicutt, Principal
Charles England Elementary School

2021 HOME COMING

Homecoming 2021 is **Sunday, November 7th**. Our Homecoming Committee has plans to make this a special day for our church. This year a boxed lunch is planned following worship on the outside patio area of Yarborough's restaurant. The menu includes a choice of chicken (light or dark meat or nuggets), 2 sides, dessert and bottled/canned drinks. The meal is covered by the church. **Orders are being taken until November 4th. Please call the office if you have not placed your order yet .**

The worship service will include a memorial for members who are no longer with us. Family members may light a candle as the

name of their loved one is called. **A small token of remembrance will also be shared with each family.**

Present plans 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 perform music on the organ and piano.

Thank you Rita Lohr, Chairperson, and the Homecoming Committee, to make this another special day for our church!

NEED A CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA?



Adopt a Benevolence

The church can help! First Reformed is offering an opportunity for individuals to purchase an "Alternative Gift". Make a donation to one of our benevolences in honor of teachers, family members, friends, co-workers, etc. We will provide an acknowledgement card and envelope for you.

A member of the Board of Community Outreach will be in the narthex Sunday mornings during the month of November or you can stop by the church office to make a purchase.

The FRUCC budget supports the following agencies:

Communities in Schools	Community Garden	Community Outreach (CE)
Crisis Ministries	Davidson Medical Ministries	Davidson Prison Ministry
Family Services	GLAMA—Crisis Fund	Girl Scout Troup #2160
Habitat for Humanity	Hospice of DC	Lexington Housing CDC
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	Pastor's Pantry	Pathway of Hope
Salvation Army	Blowing Rock Conf Ctr	Elon Homes for Children
Johns River Valley Camp	Lancaster Seminary	Nazareth Children's Home
Our Church's Wider Mission		UCC Retirement Homes

NOVEMBER 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 6:30 Parlor Committee & Board of Property Management Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	3 5:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Choir Practice Children's Fun & Games Youth Study	4	5	6 12:30 Carry-Out Lunch Ministry
7 HOMECOMING Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Church 11:45 Prayer Circle 12:00 Homecoming Lunch at Yarborough's 6:00 Youth Group	8	9 12:00 2CFAR (via Zoom) 7:00 Adult Book Study (via Zoom)	10 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Choir Practice Children's Fun & Games Youth Study	11 4-6:00 Clothes Closet Work Day 6:30 Board of Evangelism Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	12	13 12:30 Carry-Out Lunch Ministry
14 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 9:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Church 11:45 Prayer Circle 11:45 Consistory 6:00 Youth Group	15	16 12:00 2CFAR (via Zoom) 7:00 Adult Book Study (via Zoom)	17 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Choir Practice Children's Fun & Games Youth Study	18 4-6:00 Clothes Closet Work Day 6:30 PFLAG Meeting (via Zoom)	19	20 12:30 Carry-Out Lunch Ministry
21 THANKSGIVING SUNDAY 9:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Church 11:45 Prayer Circle 3:00 Decorating the Church 6:00 Youth Group	22	23 12:00 2CFAR (via Zoom) 7:00 Adult Book Study (via Zoom)	24 6:30 Choir Practice	25 	26	27 12:30 Carry-Out Lunch Ministry
28 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Church 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:00 Youth Group	29	30 12:00 2CFAR (via Zoom) 7:00 Adult Book Study (via Zoom)				

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Seth Klopp
- 2 Samuel Gray
- 5 Linda Sink
- 6 Eli Gregg
- 9 Robert Danze
Harrison Danze
Coreen Freeman
Everly Robertson
- 12 Mike Hooper
- 13 Will Hooper
- 14 Holt Biesecker
- 17 Anne Bevan
- 18 Dottie Walser
- 19 Maria Cruz
Gary Hahn
- 20 Emory Smith
- 21 Vance Walser
- 22 Jo Hudson
- 23 Frank Leonard
- 24 John Maze
- 25 Webb Fulton
- 27 James Gray
Ava Miller
Cathy Waitman
- 30 Irvin Sink

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

16th
Pat & Amy Golden

23rd
Stacey & Sarah Potts

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE IN NOVEMBER

LITURGISTS:

November 7

No liturgist for Homecoming

November 14

Marge Doty

November 21

Doris Sink

November 28

John Maze

SOUND TECHNICIAN:

John Gray

DIGITAL MEDIA TECH:

November 7

Kivi & Jia Miller

November 14, 21, 28

Jeremy Peterson

ACOLYTE:

Parker Horton

BIBLE STEWARD:

Patrick Horton

USHERS:

November 7

Mark Smith

More Volunteers Needed

November 14

Mark Smith

More Volunteers Needed

November 21

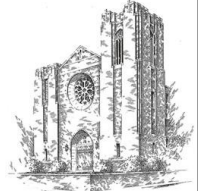
Volunteers Needed

November 28

Mark Smith

More Volunteers Needed

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 27292

(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

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

cdkiser94@gmail.com



PRAISE-FILLED petals

Create an interactive display
of God's provision for a
Thanksgiving centerpiece.



What you need:

- Colorful sheets of thin paper
- Scissors
- Black pen
- Dish of water

What you do:

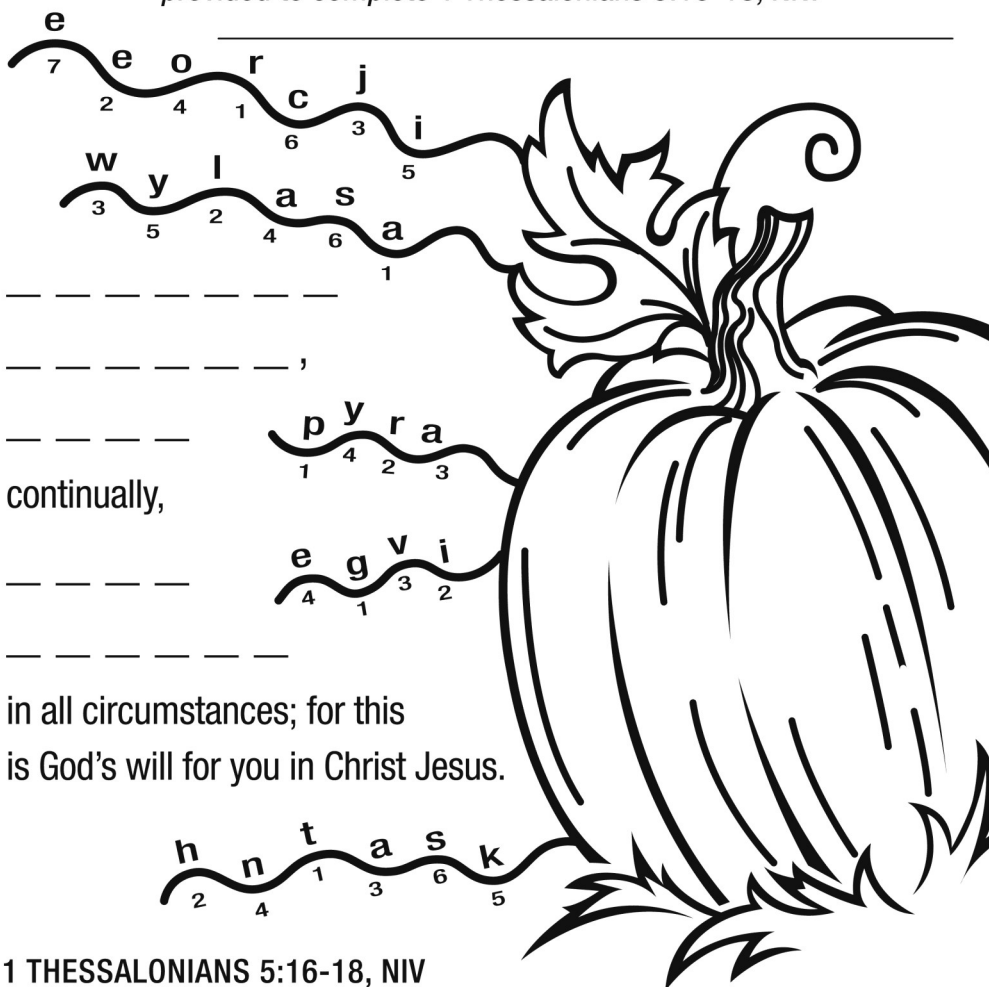
1. From the paper, cut out various shapes and sizes of flowers and petals.
2. In the center of each flower, write a praise to God. Thank him for who he is and for answered prayers.
3. Fold petals inward, toward the center of each flower.
4. Gently place flowers on the water. Petals will slowly unfold to reveal the words.
5. Invite meal guests to participate in this centerpiece that blooms with thanks.



GOD'S WILL

God wants us to follow his will, but how can we know what that is?

Directions: Write the letters on each vine in the correct order on the lines provided to complete 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV.



1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18, NIV