

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31:

- 9:30AM Bible Study: In-Person & via Zoom**
"From Worship to Discipleship: Not Far from the Kingdom"
Mark 12: 38-44 (Facilitator: Smithie Parrish)
- 10:30AM Worship Service** In-Person and Livestreamed Online ([YOUTUBE](#))
- 10:4AM Children's Church** (Theater Room)
- Following Worship: Prayer Circle
- 6:00PM Youth Group WILL NOT MEET THIS EVENING**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2:

- 12:00PM 2CFAR Crucial Conversations of Faith and Race** via Zoom
Rev. Eddie Scott
- 6:30PM Parlor & Board of Property Management Meeting** (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00PM Book Study Group via Zoom: "Strangers No More"**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3:

- 5:00PM Staff Meeting** (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30PM Youth Group** (Youth Room) Asst: Dave Fulton
- Children's Fun & Activities** (Fellowship Hall) Asst: Jeremy Lovell & Renee White
- Choir Practice** (Chapel Annex)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4:

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6:

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7: HOMECOMING SUNDAY

- 9:30AM Bible Study: In-Person & via Zoom**
"From Worship to Discipleship: Everything She Had"
Mark 12:38-44 (Facilitator: June Grubb)
- 10:30AM Worship Service** In-Person and Livestreamed Online ([YOUTUBE](#))
- 10:4AM Children's Church** (Theater Room)
- Following Worship: Prayer Circle
- 12:00PM Homecoming Gathering...Holy Communion...Boxed Lunch**
(Yarborough's Restaurant)
- 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@fruc.org, cell/text #336-972-8895)

MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE: Rev. June Grubb (jgrubb3@triad.rr.com #336-248-5668)

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First Reformed United Church of Christ

Where People Discover...

The Love of God...

The Power to Love Others...

The Ability to Love Ourselves.

October 31, 2021

The Worship of God

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" arr. Mark Hayes Christopher Kiser
***Ringing of the Chimes**

Words of Welcome Rev. Elizabeth Horton

Anthem "The Least of These" Pamela Stewart

*The waters rise and dreams lie shattered. A nation falls; her people flee.
A mother prays to feed her children as hunger drives them to their knees.*

*A body fails; a spirit falters. A burdened heart cries for relief,
Forsaken in its darkest moment. Have mercy on the least of these.*

*Lives are broken all around us. A sparrow falls; the Father sees.
But God needs hearts and arms to open in mercy for the least of these.*

*He left His Father and the angels to dwell among the poor and weak.
He touched the outcast and forgotten, the ones we call "the least of these."*

*But on the cross His arms were open in mercy for our spirits' need.
He came to fill our deepest hunger for we are all "the least of these."*

*Lives are broken all around us. A sparrow falls; the Father sees.
But God needs hearts and arms to open in mercy for the least of these.
Lord, may our hearts, redeemed in mercy, have mercy on the least of these.*

Opening Prayer John Maze

Children's Church Rev. Evan Sieges & Smithie Parrish

Scripture Reading Leviticus 19: 1, 11-19 John Maze
Common English Bible

The LORD said to Moses, Say to the whole community of the Israelites: You must not steal nor deceive nor lie to each other. You must not swear falsely by my name, desecrating your God's name in doing so; I am the LORD. You must not oppress your neighbors or rob them. Do not withhold a hired laborer's pay overnight. You must not insult a deaf person or put some obstacle in front of a blind person that would cause them to trip. Instead, fear your God; I am the LORD.

You must not act unjustly in a legal case. Do not show favoritism to the poor or deference to the great; you must judge your fellow Israelites fairly. Do not go around slandering your people. Do not stand by while your neighbor's blood is shed; I am the LORD. You must not

hate your fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your fellow Israelite strongly, so you don't become responsible for his sin. You must not take revenge nor hold a grudge against any of your people; instead, you must love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD. You must keep my rules.

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Horton

Hymn

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

Ellen Peterson

Gospel Reading

Mark 12: 28-34
(Common English Bible)

Rev. Horton

One of the legal experts heard their dispute and saw how well Jesus answered them. He came over and asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"

Jesus replied, "The most important one is *Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength.* The second is this, *You will love your neighbor as yourself.*^[b] No other commandment is greater than these."

The legal expert said to him, "Well said, Teacher. You have truthfully said that God is one and there is no other besides him. And to love God with all of the heart, a full understanding, and all of one's strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself is much more important than all kinds of entirely burned offerings and sacrifices."

When Jesus saw that he had answered with wisdom, he said to him, "You aren't far from God's kingdom." After that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Sermon

"A Life that Matters"

Invitation to Give and Serve in the Life of the Church

***Benediction**

Postlude

"Toccata in D Minor" J.S. Bach

Christopher Kiser

~ Please remain seated until the ushers direct you to exit. ~

After the meeting, you are invited to join in the Prayer Circle in the front of the sanctuary.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

LITURGIST: John Maze

DIGITAL MEDIA TECHNICIAN: Jeremy Peterson

SOUND TECH: James Gray

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Smithie Parrish

ACOLYTE: Emory Smith

BIBLE STEWARD: Elliott Smith

USHERS: John Gray, June Grubb, Ted Smith,

THE FLOWERS AT THE FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY....

are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Jake and Corky Briggs by Ellen Briggs and Ellen Briggs Burns.

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 (New Address & phone number: 100 Hedrick Drive, Room 116, Thomasville, NC 27360, (336) 474-3821), 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 Poetzing (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)

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS:

1st...Seth Klopp

2nd...Samuel Gray

3rd...Linda Sink

6th...Eli Gregg

2021 HOMECOMING CELEBRATION at YARBOROUGH'S RESTAURANT OUTDOOR PATIO

November 7 after worship...Meal served at 12:30

Come earlier for games and fellowship.

CHURCH IS PROVIDING BOXED LUNCH:

fried chicken (light or dark meat or chicken nuggets), 2 sides, bread & dessert, bottled/canned Drinks

To RSVP by Thursday, November 4th, complete the form included with the bulletin and place in the offering plate, call the church office, email carolyn@frucc.org or sign up through the Sign-up Genius link on the weekly email.