



**First Reformed United Church of Christ**

*Where People Discover...*

*The Love of God...*

*The Power to Love Others...*

*The Ability to Love Ourselves.*

**December 5, 2021**  
**The Worship of God**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**Holy Communion**



**Prelude**

Christopher Kiser

**\*Ringing of the Chimes**

**Welcome**

Rev. Elizabeth Horton

**Call to Worship**

Joe Browder

If life was a home, then we would pray—may love be the foundation.

**May God be the cornerstone.**

**May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in.**

And may hope be the walls—holding us together.

**In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.**

We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.

**Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.**

Let us worship Holy God.

**Hymn**

*“Angels from the Realms of Glory”*

Ellen Peterson

**Invocation**

Joe Browder

**Gospel Reading**

Luke 1:68-79

A foretelling of John the Baptist

“Bless the Lord God of Israel because he has come to help and has delivered his people. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in his servant David’s house, just as he said through the mouths of his holy prophets long ago. He has brought salvation from our enemies and from the power of all those who hate us. He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and remembered his holy covenant, the solemn pledge he made to our ancestor Abraham. He has granted that we would be rescued from the power of our enemies so that we could serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness in God’s eyes, for as long as we live. You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way. You will tell his people how to be saved through the forgiveness of their sins. Because of our God’s deep compassion, the dawn from heaven will break upon us, to give light to those who are sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide us on the path of peace.”

**Lighting the Candle of Peace**

The Hartle Family

**Response in Song**

*"Make of My Heart a Stable"*

Ellen Peterson

**Children's Church**

Jeremy Lovell & Cathy Browder

**Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Horton

**Merciful God forgive us...**

**Forgive us when we are quick to point the finger at someone else.**

**Forgive us when we put our heads down and ignore the cries of injustice.**

**Forgive us when we speak harsh words about others.**

**Merciful God...**

**forgive us, heal us,**

**encourage us and speak through us.**

**so that we may prepare the way for the Christ child**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer**

Rev. Horton

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Anthem**

*"Come Messiah"*

[Lloyd Larson]

Oh Come, Divine Messiah, the world in silence waits the day  
when hope shall sing its triumph, and sorrows flee away.

O come, Desire of nations, whom priest and prophet long foretold,  
and break the chains that bind us, redeem Your long-lost fold.

Come, Messiah! Dispel our night with the dawn of grace.

Come, Messiah! We long to see Your face. Come Messiah, come!

O come, dear Child of promise, for lowly shall Your cradle be;  
though clothes in human likeness, we shall the Godhead see!

Come, Messiah! Dispel our night with the dawn of grace.

Come, Messiah! We long to see Your face.

Come, Messiah! Dispel our night with the dawn of grace.

Come, Messiah! We long to see Your face.

O come Messiah, come!

O come, Divine Messiah. O come, Divine Messiah. Come Messiah, come!

**Gospel Reading**

Luke 3: 1-6  
(Common English Bible)

Rev. Horton

In the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius—when Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea and Herod was ruler over Galilee, his brother Philip was ruler over Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was ruler over Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—God's word came to John, son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

*A voice crying out in the wilderness:*

*"Prepare the way for the Lord;*

*make his paths straight.*

*Every valley will be filled,*

*and every mountain and hill will be leveled.*

*The crooked will be made straight*

*and the rough places made smooth.*

*All humanity will see God's salvation."*

**Sermon**

"Close to Home: Laying the Foundation"

**Service of Holy Communion**

Rev. Horton

God be with you.

**And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**Communion Prayer**

**Serving the Bread and Cup**

*You may eat and drink when you have been served.*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Call to Serve and to Give**

**Prayer of Dedication**

Joe Browder

**\*Benediction**

Rev. Horton

**Postlude**

Christopher Kiser

**~ Please remain seated until the ushers direct you to exit. ~  
After the service, you are invited to join in the Prayer Circle in the front of the sanctuary.**

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT...HOLY COMMUNION

**9:30AM Bible Study: In-Person & via Zoom**

"The Fear of Home" (Luke 3: 1-6) Facilitators: Jay and Cathy Whitley

**10:30AM Worship Service** In-Person and Livestreamed Online ([YOUTUBE](#))

**10:45AM Children's Church** (Theater Room) Asst. Cathy Browder

Following Worship:

Prayer Circle

**11:45AM Consistory**

**6:00PM Youth Group** (Fellowship Hall)

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 6:

**10:00PM AltarScape Committee Meeting** (Sanctuary)

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7:

**12:00PM 2CFAR Crucial Conversations of Faith and Race** via Zoom

**6:00PM Parlor Committee Meeting** (Fellowship Hall)

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8:

**6:30PM Youth Group** (Youth Room) Asst: Jeremy Lovell

**Children's Fun & Activities** (Fellowship Hall) Asst: Patti Lovell & Renee White

**Choir Practice** (Chapel Annex)

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9:

**4-6:00PM Clothes Closet Workday** with Kidz Dream Klub

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11:

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

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**9:30AM Bible Study: In-Person & via Zoom**

"The Joy of Home" (Luke 3: 7-18) Facilitator: TBD

**10:00AM Special Music prior to service**

**Performances this morning by:**

*Center Street Saxophone Quartet and Organ/Piano Duet*

**10:30AM Worship Service** In-Person and Livestreamed Online ([YOUTUBE](#))

**10:45AM Children's Church** (Theater Room) Asst. TBD

Following Worship:

Prayer Circle

**6:00PM Youth Group** (Fellowship Hall)

## 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:** Joe Browder

**SOUND TECH:** Dave Fulton

**ACOLYTE:** Lucas Peterson

**USHERS:** Raeann Allred, Ann Hoffman, Clifton Murphy, Lisa Nelson

**DIGITAL MEDIA TECHNICIAN:** Kivi & Jia Miller

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Jeremy Lovell & Cathy Browder

**BIBLE STEWARD:** Ethan Lovell

## PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Edgar Miller (recovering from surgery), Marge Doty, Lee Ann Peele (recovering from surgery at home)

J.W. Bates, Peggy Bates, Sherry Bonner, Lee & Ellen Bouchard, Ruth Essick, Pattie Everhart, Vogen Everhart, Gerri Hill, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Merle Hodges, Jeff Hutchens, Myrtle Latimer, Marguerite Leonard, Deanna Michael, John Potts & Janette Neal, Lib Sink, Carolyn Spivey, Adena Wall, Carolyn Yocum

**OUR FRIENDS:** \*Amanda Fulton and Nancy Zimmerman (daughter-in-law of Dave and Glenyce Fulton and her sister whose mother passed away on November 29), Lacy Belcher (Cathy Waitman's aunt), Nicole Holste (Alane Holste's sister-in-law), Joe Carpenter and Chuck Woodson (neighbors of Eugenia Holste), Marc Frye (son of the late Doris Frye), Ashley Thomason (Ron & Heidi Hutcheson's daughter-in-law)

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 7<sup>th</sup>...Ruth Essick (104 Years Old!!!)

**MINISTERS:** The Congregation of **FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**104 EAST CENTER STREET, LEXINGTON, NC 27292** PHONE: 336-248-2617 [www.frucc.org](http://www.frucc.org)  
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**MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE:** Rev. June Grubb ([jgrubb3@triad.rr.com](mailto:jgrubb3@triad.rr.com) #336-248-5668)  
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**FINANCIAL ADMIN.:** Paula Lopp ([paula@frucc.org](mailto:paula@frucc.org))

## WAYS TO SERVE OTHERS THIS ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

- Sign up to ring the bell for Salvation Army
- Donate gloves, scarves, toboggans, and socks to worship on Sundays beginning November 28 or during the Advent Prayer Walk for the Christmas Day Treat Bags for Saturday Lunch recipients

**OR**

Contribute money towards the Christmas Day Treat Bags for the Saturday Lunch recipients

- Bring a Christmas Card to church for our members who are sick, homebound, or in Care Facilities
- Volunteer to deliver fruit baskets and Christmas cards to our members at home
- Bring a side dish or dessert for the Christmas Day Lunch Ministry
- Give Alternative Gifts for Christmas **OR** Place and angel on our Angle Tree
- Donate to The Christmas Fund (*formerly The Veterans of the Cross and The Emergency Fund*)
- Volunteer to **serve or cook** for Saturday Lunch Ministry
- Sort clothes or fill orders in Clothes Ministry

**Contact the church office if you have questions. More details may be found in the December 2021 Newsletter.**

## DECEMBER CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES IN OUR CHURCH

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5:

6:30PM Youth Group: Christmas Program Practice (Fellowship Hall)

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8:

6:30PM Youth Group: Christmas Program Practice (Youth Room) Asst: Jeremy Lovell)

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00AM Special Music prior to Worship

10:30AM Worship (Performances this morning include music by the Center Street Saxophone Quartet and Organ/Piano Duets)

6:30PM Youth Group: Christmas Program Practice (Fellowship Hall)

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15:

4-7:00PM Advent Prayer Walk and Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

6:30PM Youth Group: Christmas Program Practice (Youth Room) Asst: Jeremy Lovell)

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16:

4-7:00PM Advent Prayer Walk Stations and Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17:

4-7:00PM Advent Prayer Walk Stations and Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18:

9AM-12PM Advent Prayer Walk Stations and Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

2:00PM Christmas Program Practice (Fellowship Hall)

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19: DEADLINE TO BRING CARDS FOR OUR MEMBERS AT HOME

Help deliver fruit baskets and Christmas cards to members at home. You may pick up items from the Fellowship Hall following worship this morning or after the Christmas Program this evening.

10:30AM Worship

6:00PM Youth Christmas Pageant (Fellowship Hall)

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE

3:30-5PM Drop off food items in the kitchen for the Saturday Take-out Lunch

7:30PM MUSIC BEGINS

8:00PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25: MERRY CHRISTMAS!

9-10AM Drop off food items in the kitchen for the Saturday Take-out Lunch

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26: DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, FOOD & FUN!

10:30AM WORSHIP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

FOLLOWING WORSHIP, GIFT EXCHANGE...BRING A \$10 GIFT