

## WEEKLY CALENDAR OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES

### Sunday, March 27: Fourth Sunday of Lent...One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. Envelopes will be available to drop your contribution in the offering plate on Sunday morning, or you may bring it directly to the church office or give online [HERE](#) or on the OGHs website at <http://www.ucc.org/oghs>

9:30AM Adult Bible Study in-Person (Parlor)

"Lost and Found" Luke 15:1-3;11b-32 (Facilitator: Eugenia Holste) The parable of the prodigal son

10:30AM Worship Service (in person and via YouTube)

10:45AM Children's Worship: Rev. Sieges & Cathy Browder (Theater Room)

Following Worship:

Intercessory Prayer Circle

Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

6:00PM Youth Meeting: Rev. Sieges & Cathy Browder (Youth Room)

### Tuesday, March 29

12:00PM 2CFAR – Crucial Conversations on Faith and Race via Zoom

7:00PM Book Study "The Book of Joy" (via Zoom)

### Wednesday, March 30

6:00PM Supper in the Parlor

6:30-7:30PM Mid-Week Lenten Bible Study (Parlor)

6:30PM Choir will not meet tonight

Children's Fun & Activities: Rev. Sieges and Volunteer Needed

Youth Study: 2 Volunteers Needed

### Thursday, March 31:

4-6:00PM Clothing Ministry Workday

### Saturday, April 2

12:30PM Lunch Ministry (Kitchen)

### Sunday, April 3: Fifth Sunday of Lent

9:30AM April 3<sup>rd</sup> Fifth Sunday in Lent

Filled with the Fragrance John 12:1-8 (Facilitators: Jay & Cathy Whitley) Mary anoints Jesus with perfume

10:30AM Worship Service (in person and via YouTube)

10:45AM Children's Worship: Rev. Sieges & Volunteer Needed (Theater Room)

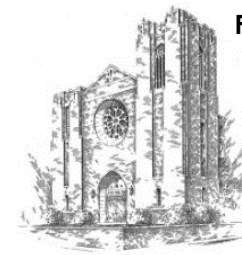
Following Worship:

Intercessory Prayer Circle

Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

6:00PM Youth Meeting: Rev. Sieges & Cathy Browder (Youth Room)

MINISTERS: The Congregation of FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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PASTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES: Rev. Evan Sieges ([evan@frucc.org](mailto:evan@frucc.org))  
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ORGANIST/PIANIST: Christopher Kiser ([cdkiser94@gmail.com](mailto:cdkiser94@gmail.com))  
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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

March 27, 2022  
The Worship of God  
Fourth Sunday of Lent  
One Great Hour of Sharing

\*Please stand as you are able

Prelude

Christopher Kiser

\*Chiming of the Hour

Opening Sentence

Anthem

"Jesus Paid It All"

arr. Helvey

I hear the Savior say, "Thy strength indeed is small!  
Child of weakness, watch and pray, find in Me thine all in all."  
Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe; sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

Lord, now indeed I find Thy power, and Thine alone,  
Can change the leper's spots and melt the heart of stone.  
Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe; sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

For nothing good have I whereby thy grace to claim,  
I'll wash my garments white in the blood of Calvary's Lamb.  
And when before the throne I stand in Him complete, "Jesus dies my soul to save," my lips shall still repeat.  
Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow. He washed it white as snow.

Words of Welcome

Rev. Elizabeth Horton

\*Responsive Call to Worship

John Maze

Let us worship God, who meets us exactly where we are.

**who accepts us, takes us in, and loves us unconditionally.**

Let us praise God for this place called home, where we belong and our souls fit;

**Where our questions are allowed and our anger is heard.**

Where our needs are recognized, our pain is held, and our names are known.

**We give thanks for these fellow travelers and doubters and companions on the way.**

May we work together to make this a home for all who seek a place of grace.

**Let us worship and work right here, right now.**

\*Hymn

"Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound"

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\*Invocation

John Maze

Young Disciples

Rev. Evan Sieges & Cathy Browder

Scripture Reading

Psalms 32

John Maze

(Common English Bible)

The one whose wrongdoing is forgiven, whose sin is covered over, is truly happy!

The one the LORD doesn't consider guilty—in whose spirit there is no dishonesty—that one is truly happy!

When I kept quiet, my bones wore out; I was groaning all day long— every day, every night! —because your hand was heavy upon me. My energy was sapped as if in a summer drought. *Selah*

So, I admitted my sin to you; I didn't conceal my guilt. "I'll confess my sins to the LORD," is what I said. Then you removed the guilt of my sin. *Selah*

That's why all the faithful should pray to you during troubled times, so that a great flood of water won't reach them. You are my secret hideout! You protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of rescue! *Selah*

I will instruct you and teach you about the direction you should go. I'll advise you and keep my eye on you. Don't be like some senseless horse or mule, whose movement must be controlled with a bit and a bridle. Don't be anything like that! The pain of the wicked is severe, but faithful love surrounds the one who trusts the LORD. You who are righteous, rejoice in the LORD and be glad! All you whose hearts are right, sing out in joy!

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

**Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Horton

**Creator of all that is, You hold the entire world in your hands, yet you know each of us in our inner being. When we refuse to admit our sin, it eats away at us, little by little, weakening us in body and soul. Forgive us when we turn away from you. Forgive us when we do not care for the weak or share what we have. Open our hearts and minds that when we are forgiven, we may learn from the example of Jesus, who chose the way of the Cross that all might know the depth of your love for all you have made. Amen.**

**Moment of Silent Prayer**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**Response in Song**

*"Come as You Are"*

Ellen Peterson

Come as you are, that's how I want you. Come as you are, feel quite at home  
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven. Come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits. No need to fear, love never ends  
Don't run away, shamed and disheartened. Rest in my love, trust me again

I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous. I came to bring peace, not to condemn  
Each time you fail, to live by my promise. Why do you think, I'd love you the less?

Come as you are, that's how I love you. Come as you are, trust me again  
Nothing can change, the love that I bear you. All will be well, just come as you are.

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**\*Hymn**

*"Softly and Tenderly"*

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**Scripture**

Luke 15:1-3;11b-32  
Common English Bible

Rev. Horton

All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him. The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Jesus told them this parable:

Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the inheritance.' Then the father divided his estate between them. Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

# Stations of Holy Week

*A walk-through, multisensory  
Worship Experience for All Ages*

**The Sanctuary  
First Reformed UCC  
22 East Center Street  
Lexington, NC**

**Thursday, April 14, 4-7:00  
Friday, April 15, 4-7:00  
Saturday, April 16 10-12:00**

*Travel the path Jesus walked  
the last night of His life.  
Holy Communion served.  
Covid precautions followed.*

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF EVANGELISM

Beginning in April, First Reformed will begin a new relationship with **Davidson Local** for six months. Davidson Local is an "electronic newspaper" that runs local Davidson County news articles. They have between 40,000-50,000 views per month. So, we think that this is a great way to get our name out in the community. You can view/subscribe to their daily local email by going to [www.davidsonlocal.com](http://www.davidsonlocal.com) or search for their Facebook or Instagram accounts. We will have a banner at the top of their home page that advertises our church. We will also be able to include up to four stories per month that describe some of the ministries of our church. These stories will be included in their Saturday edition. Along with the stories, we will also be able to include pictures with these articles.

We need your permission to use your or your families' pictures in any of our printed or electronic platforms. Below is a permission slip for you to either agree or disagree to have your pictures placed in any of the church's social media or printed material. Please return this permission slip to the church office as soon as possible.

These permission slips will be available in Sunday bulletins, weekly emails and in the church office.

**First Reformed United Church of Christ**  
104 East Center Street, Lexington, NC 27292  
**PHOTO & VIDEO PERMISSION FORM**

Participation in church activities may involve snapshots and videos. These pictures may be used on social media and for other resources.

I give my permission (circle one) **YES** **NO** to use photographs/videos of me at church activities on social media or other platforms.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent//Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 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.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Bonita Hooper, Cheryl Walsler, Jeff Hutchens, Lee Bouchard, Myrtle Latimer

## MEMBERS AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

Peggy Bates, Sherry Bonner, Ellen Bouchard, Ruth Essick, Pattie Everhart, Vogen Everhart, Gerri Hill, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Marguerite Leonard, Deanna Michael, John Potts & Janette Neal, Carolyn Spivey, Adena Wall

## OUR FRIENDS:

\*Janice Mullineaux (Cathy Browder's mother), \*Charm & Steve Ketner, Sarah Lovell Biggers (Jerry & Patti Lovell's daughter), Marc Frye (friend of the congregation)

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

**LITURGIST:** John Maze

**DIGITAL MEDIA TECH:** Jeremy Peterson

**ACOLYTE:** Lucas Peterson

**USHERS:** John Smith, Eddie Yates

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Cathy Browder

**SOUND TECH:** Dave Fulton

**BIBLE STEWARD:** Ethan Lovell

## CELEBRATIONS

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

27<sup>th</sup>...Jonathan Kepley

28<sup>th</sup>...Elizabeth Horton

31<sup>st</sup>...Kivi Miller

...Billy West

### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES:

27<sup>th</sup>...Mark & Karla Loper

...Clifford & Paula Lopp

...Steve & Cathy Waitman

### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

2<sup>nd</sup>...Joe & Cathy Browder

## FAMILY SUPPORT GROUPS OFFERED BY NAMI

Beginning in **April, on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:00PM**, Cathy Browder will co-facilitate a Family Support Group via Zoom. This is a meeting where people can talk to each other about experiences with a loved one who has a mental health diagnosis. Please contact Cathy at [cmbrowder@gmail.com](mailto:cmbrowder@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would like to join the current meetings.

## INTERCESSORY PRAYER PARTNERS

Intercessory Prayer is a powerful ministry. Like a prayer chain, this begins by calling one of our ministers, the church office, or Patti Lovell with your prayer request. It will then be shared immediately with volunteers who have **made a commitment to offer intercessory prayer immediately when they receive the message**. Communication will be either text or phone call. If you would like to be on the list as an **Intercessory Prayer Partner**, please call or text Patti Lovell at (336) 309-9302. We'd like to have the list completed by Easter Sunday.

## VERNON GASTON (V.G.) PRICE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!** Applications are due to the church office by March 31. You can contact the church office for an application.

When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country, and he began to be in need. He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have more than enough food, but I'm starving to death! I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands.'" So, he got up and went to his father.

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. Then his son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant replied, 'Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf, because he received his son back safe and sound.' Then the older son was furious and didn't want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him. He answered his father, 'Look, I've served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you've never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.' Then his father said, 'Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.'"

## Sermon

"Here You Are: At Home"

## Call to Serve and to Give

**One Great Hour of Sharing** Your gift to OGHs enables our church and worldwide partners to make a difference in the lives and communities around the world. Together, we are responding to disasters, supporting sustainable farming, education, and health initiatives, as well as pitching in to assist people fleeing violence from their home communities. We receive this offering with joy, believing that, God makes a difference through our gifts.

## Prayer of Dedication

John Maze

## \*Benediction

Rev. Horton

## \*Congregational Response in Song

Tune: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

**The world behind me, the cross before me. The world behind me, the cross before me.  
The world behind me, the cross before me. No turning back, no turning back.**

## Postlude

Christopher Kiser

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

**After the service, you are invited to join in the Intercessory Prayer Circle at the front of the sanctuary.**

# Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

God is able to make all grace abound to you . . . 2 Cor. 9:8

1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!  
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re-lieved;  
 3. The Lord has prom-ised good to me, his word my hope se-cures;  
 4. Through man - y dan - gers, toils and snares I have al - read - y come;  
 5. When we've been there ten thou-sand years, bright shin - ing as the sun,

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.  
 how pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be-lieved!  
 he will my shield and por - tion be as long as life en-dures.  
 'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

WORDS: John Newton, 1779, alt.; st. 5, anonymous  
 MUSIC: Virginia Harmony, 1831; adapt. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

NEW BRITAIN  
 C.M.

# Softly and Tenderly

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" — Matthew 11:28 NIV

1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, Call - ing for  
 2. Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, Plead - ing for  
 3. Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing, Pass - ing from  
 4. Oh! for the won - der - ful love He has prom - ised, Prom - ised for

you and for me; See, on the por - tals He's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not His mer - cies,  
 you and from me; Shad - ows are gath - er - ing, death - beds are com - ing,  
 you and for me; Tho' we have sinned He has mer - cy and par - don,

Watch - ing for you and for me.  
 Mer - cies for you and for me? Come home, come home,  
 Com - ing for you and for me. Come home, come home,  
 Par - don for you and for me.

Ye who are wea - ry come home; Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, Call - ing, O sin - ner, come home!

WORDS: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909  
 MUSIC: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909

THOMPSON  
 Irregular