

**First Reformed United Church of Christ**  
 Where People Discover...  
 The Love of God...  
 The Power to Love Others...  
 The Ability to Love Ourselves

**April 24, 2022**  
**The Worship of God**  
**Blue Sunday Day of Prayer**  
**for Abused Children**  
**and Those Who Help Them Heal**

*\*Please stand as you are able*

**Prelude**

*"Crown Him with Many Crowns"*  
 arr. Jason Payne

Christopher Kiser

**\*Chiming of the Hour**

**Welcome**

Rev. Horton

**\*Hymn**

*"All Are Welcome"*

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**Call to Worship**

Clifton Murphy

When the disciples tried to keep children from Jesus,

**Jesus said "Let the children come to me!"**

When the disciples wanted to send hungry people away, saying there were too many to feed,

**Jesus said, "We can feed them!"**

When a parent whose child was in terrible trouble came to Jesus,

**Jesus said he would help.**

When a woman in poverty gave what she could,

**Jesus honored her generosity.**

We gather in the name of that Jesus who welcomed the children, fed hungry people, helped

children in trouble, and recognized the gifts of those in poverty.

**Let us follow Jesus in word and deed.**

**MINISTERS:** The Congregation of **FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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**\*Invocation**

Clifton Murphy

**Young Disciples**

Rev. Evan Sieges

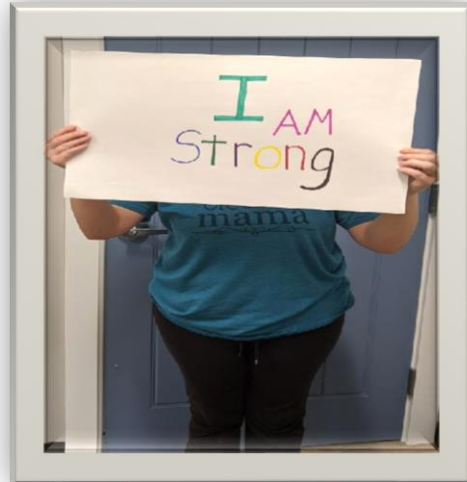
**Scripture Reading**

Psalms 10:16-18 (Common English Bible)

Clifton Murphy

The LORD rules forever and always! LORD, you listen to the desires of those who suffer. You steady their hearts; you listen closely to them, to establish justice for the orphan and the oppressed, so that people of the land will never again be terrified.

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



**Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Horton

God of great and small, near and far, we confess that our love is not like yours. In the face of injustice, we often feel helpless or hopeless. Forgive us for failing to speak up or take action because we do not want to rock the boat. Forgive us when anger or despair turns into violence. Forgive us for overlooking the children that are not our own. Remind us of the ways you opened your arms to all children, and give us the heart to do the same. Through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Prayer of Intercession**

Rev. Horton and Ellen Peterson

**Gospel Reading**

Mark 10: 13-16

Rev. Horton

People were bringing children to Jesus so that he would bless them. But the disciples scolded them. When Jesus saw this, he grew angry and said to them, "Allow the children to come to me. Don't forbid them, because God's kingdom belongs to people like these children. I assure you that whoever doesn't welcome God's kingdom like a child will never enter it." Then he hugged the children and blessed them.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 24:**

9:30AM

**Adult Bible Study** (Parlor)

"We Are Witnesses" Acts 5:27-32 Facilitator: Smithie Parrish

10:30AM

**Worship Service for Blue Sunday Day of Prayer**

**Special Speakers:** Dragonfly House Executive Director, Brandi Reagan  
Lexington Police Chief Robby Rummage and

10:45AM

**Young Disciples**

**FOLLOWING WORSHIP:** Prayer Walk to the Town Square

6:00PM

**Youth Group:** Rev. Sieges & Volunteer Needed

**MONDAY, APRIL 25:**

6:30PM

**Women's Life Fellowship's Salad Potluck Meal at the home of Paula Lopp**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 26:**

12:00PM

**Crucial Conversations on Faith and Race (2CFAR)** via Zoom

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27:**

6:30PM

**Choir Practice**

**Children's Fun & Activities:** Evan Sieges & Volunteer Needed

**Youth Study:** 2 Volunteers Needed

**THURSDAY, APRIL 28:**

4-6:00PM

**Clothing Ministry Workday**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30:**

12-1:30PM

**SATURDAY LUNCH MINISTRY**

**SUNDAY, May 1:**

9:30AM

**Adult Sunday School** (Parlor)

"Who Are You Lord?" Acts 9:1-6 Facilitator: June Grubb

10:30AM

**Worship Service...Holy Communion**

10:45AM

**Young Disciples and Children's Church** Volunteer Needed

**FOLLOWING WORSHIP:** Reception to honor Paula Lopp and Carolyn Robbins

6:00PM

**Youth Group:** Rev. Sieges & Volunteer Needed

**IRST 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...**

Vogen Everhart, Jeff Hutchens, Thomas Phillips, Bonita Hooper, Lee Bouchard, Myrtle Latimer

**MEMBERS AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:** Peggy Bates, Sherry Bonner, Ellen Bouchard, Ruth Essick, Pattie Everhart, Gerri Hill, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Marguerite Leonard, Deanna Michael, Carolyn Spivey, Adena Wall

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

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE**

**LITURGIST:** Clifton Murphy

**SOUND TECH:** James Gray

**ACOLYTE:** Emma Hartle

**USHERS:** John McCarn, Doris Sink

**DIGITAL MEDIA TECH:** Jeremy Peterson

**BIBLE STEWARD:** Jacob Hartle

**CELEBRATIONS**

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS:**

24<sup>th</sup>...Becca McKerlie

26<sup>th</sup>...Hense Walser...Sylvia Walser

28<sup>th</sup>...Emma Hartle...Pam Sink

29<sup>th</sup>...Kay Crouse

**CONGRATULATIONS**



Congratulations to Maria Cruz and Robert Danze who were married yesterday afternoon in our sanctuary.

**LEXINGTON CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT**

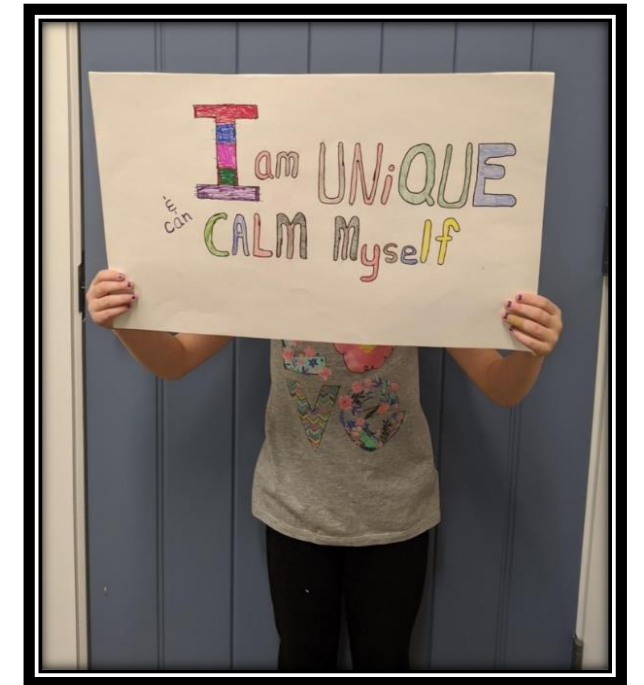
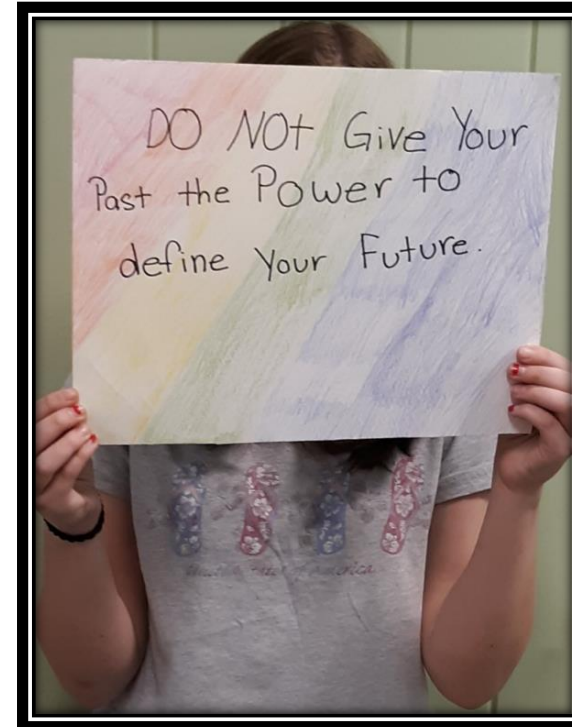
Lexington Choral Society, under the direction of our choir director, Ellen Peterson, will present **"Love Is...A Spring Sing Concert"** on Sunday, May 1 at 3:00PM at First United Methodist Church This concert is free and open to the public.

**Congregational Response**

*"Jesus Loves the Little Children"*

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.  
Every color, every race, all are covered by His grace.  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

We will pray for all the children, all the children of the world.  
Big or little, short or tall, does not matter, not at all,  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.



**Guest Speakers**

Brandi Reagan, Executive Director, The Dragonfly House Advocacy Center  
Robby Rummage, Police Chief, Lexington, NC

**A Blessing for the Ones Who Rescue, Protect and Heal**

Rev. Horton

**Song of Assurance**

*"You Say"*  
By Lauren Daigle

Keri Hartle

**The Call to Give and to Serve.**

Love Offering for The Dragonfly House  
Ways to give: Collection basket in Narthex or online at [www.frucc.org/give](http://www.frucc.org/give)

**Prayer of Dedication**

Clifton Murphy

**\*Benediction**



**\*Congregational Response**

**"Go, My Children"**

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;  
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit's power filled you; Here his tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

**Postlude**

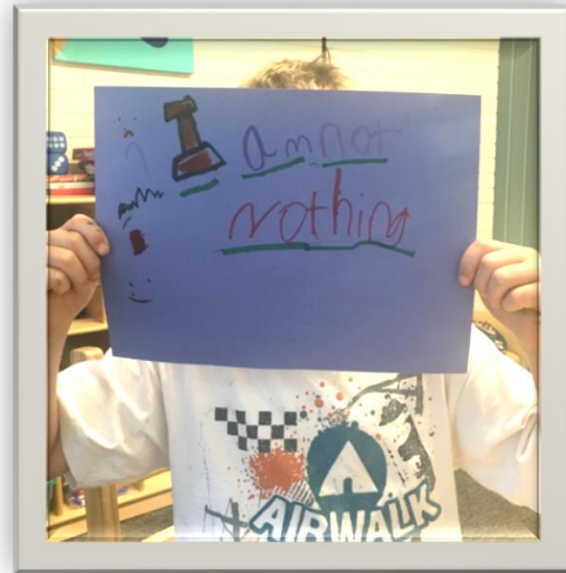
**"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"**  
Gina Sprunger

Christopher Kiser



**Please carry a flag and join us for the Procession of Prayer  
in honor of the 400 children served by The Dragonfly House.**

The 400 blue flags represent the number of local child abuse victims served by The Dragonfly House in 2021. After worship, our procession to the Uptown Square will end in the grassy field by the church. We will place our flag in the ground while praying for the child it represents.



**ALL ARE WELCOME**



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and  
 2. Let us build a house where hands will reach be-  
 3. Let us build a house where all are named, their

All can safe-ly live. A place where saints and  
 yond the wood and stone, To heal and strength-en,  
 songs and vi-sions heard And loved and treas-ured,

chil-dren tell how hearts learn to for-  
 serve and teach, and live the Word they've  
 taught and claimed as words with-in the

give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi-sions, rock of  
 known. Here the out-cast and the stran-ger bears the  
 Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh-ter, Prayers of

faith and vault of grace, Here the love of Christ shall  
 im-age of God's face, Let us bring an end to  
 faith and songs of grace. Let this house pro- from

end di-vi-sions:  
 fear and dan-ger:  
 floor to raft-er: } All are wel-come, all are wel-come,

all are wel-come in this place.