

**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 SERVING**

**Liturgist:** Clifton Murphy

**Advent Candle Lighting:**

**Ushers:** Anne Hoffman, Eddie Yates

**Sound Tech:** James Gray

**Media Tech:** Kivi & Jianna Miller

**Nursery:** Alice Gray

**CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Elizabeth Parker Horton. *Pastor*  
elizabeth@frucc.org

Rev. June Grubb, *Minister of Pastoral Care*  
june@frucc.org

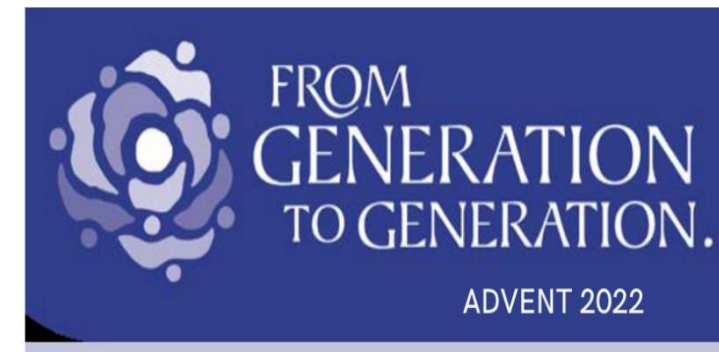
Jackie Mock, *Church Administrator*  
jackie@frucc.org

Ellen Peterson, *Choir Director*  
ellen@frucc.org

Bruce Tippet, *Organist*

**First Reformed United Church of Christ**  
**104 East Center Street, Lexington NC 27292**  
Please visit our website: [www.frucc.org](http://www.frucc.org)

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS** Monday – Friday  
9-1 Walk-ins Welcome  
1 – 2pm Closed for Lunch  
2 – 5pm Please call ahead or make an appointment



**December 18, 2022**  
**The Worship of God**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Celebration of the Nativity**

\*Stand as you are able

**Prelude** **ADESTE FIDELIS** (by Harold Rutz) Bruce Tippet

**\*Chiming of the Hour**

**\*Choral Call to Worship** **God Rest Ye Merry** arr. Geoffrey T. Bell

**Welcome** Rev. Horton

**\*Hymn** **O Come All Ye Faithful**

**1 - O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold him,  
born the King of angels. [Refrain]**

**3 – Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]**

**2- Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest:  
[Refrain]**

**Refrain:  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**

**Lighting the Advent Candle of Love**

**Sung Response** **From Generation to Generation**

**From generation to generation, we have shared the Christmas story  
Of a baby in the manger, who was born in Bethlehem.  
Hope is winging, Peace now ringing, Joy we're singing, Love he's bringing.  
We see God in one another – As we learn to love each other.**

**Opening Prayer** Clifton Murphy

**Celebration of the Nativity**

**Gospel Reading** **Luke 2: 1-5** Lucas Peterson

**\*Hymn**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love  
O morning stars, together proclaim thy holy birth.  
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide in us, our Lord Emmanuel!

**Gospel Reading** Luke 2: 6-7 Sam West

**Choir Anthem** Cradle Hymn arr. Gilbert M. Martin

**Gospel Reading** Luke 2: 8-14 Ava Miller

**\*Hymn** Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Glo ---- ria, in excelsis Deo! Glo --- ria, in excelsis Deo!  
  
Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?  
Glo ---- ria, in excelsis Deo! Glo --- ria, in excelsis Deo!  
  
Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Glo ---- ria, in excelsis Deo! Glo --- ria, in excelsis Deo!

**Gospel Reading** Luke 2: 15-20 Smithie Parrish

**Choir Anthem** Lo, How a Rose arr. Craig Hella Johnson

**Sermon** We Tell the Story Rev. Horton

**Invitation to Give and Serve**  
You are invited to give your offerings in worship or online at: [www.frucc.org/give](http://www.frucc.org/give)

**Offertory** O Come, O Come Emmanuel Ethan Lovell & Mike Price Saxophone

**Prayer of Dedication** Clifton Murphy

**\*Hymn**

**Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King:  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lay his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude** Angels Sing Bruce Tippet

**PLEASE JOIN US**

**TONIGHT - 8:00pm Candlelight Worship**

service for all ages with candlelight and carols.  
Sermon: *We Tell the Story*  
*Special Music Including:*  
*the vocals by Emma West, Choir, Ellen Peterson & Mike Price (saxophone)*

**Christmas Eve, 8:00pm Candlelight Worship**

Service for all ages with candlelight and carols.  
Sermon: *We Tell the Story*  
*Vocals by Emma West, Choir, & Ellen Peterson*

**SUNDAY, DEC. 25<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP 10:30am**

Come casual and comfortable to worship. Bring your toy with you for a **Blessing of the Toys**. We will gather for sweets, and enjoy hot drinks.  
Bring sweets and snacks to share.  
Sermon: *God Dwells With Us*

**SUNDAY, JAN. 1<sup>ST</sup> NEWS YEARS DAY – 10:30am**

Combined service and agape meal with Second UCC. Service and meal in our Fellowship Hall.

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** If you are new here or have a prayer request, please fill out a Communication Card found in the back of the pew. Drop it into the offering plate so we can connect with you.

**WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR**

**Sunday, 12/18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:30am .....Adult Sunday School  
10:30am.....Worship Service  
6:00pm.....Longest Night Service

**Tuesday, 12/20**

12:00pm.....2CFAR (Parlor)  
7:00pm.....NAMI (Zoom)

**Wednesday, 12/21**

7:15pm.....Choir Practice

**Friday, 12/23**

5:00pm.....FRUCC Fellowship Hall in use (private event)

**Saturday, 12/24 Christmas Eve**

12:00pm.....Christmas Eve Saturday Lunch Ministry  
8:00pm.....Candlelight Worship

**Sunday, 12/25 Christmas Day**

9:30am .....Adult Sunday School  
10:30am.....Worship Service  
Come dressed comfy and casual,  
Gather for sweets and hot drinks

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

Eulene Shepherd

**AT HOME:** Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, J.W. Bates, Peggy Bates, Ruth Essick, Gerri Hill, Myrtle Latimer, Deanna Michael, Carolyn Spivey, John Potts & Janette Neal, Adena Wall, Merle Hodges,

**IN CARE FACILITIES:** Vogen Everhart, Sherry Bonner, Marguerite Leonard, Patti Everhart

**OUR FRIENDS:** Sarah Lovell Biggers (Jerry & Patti Lovell's daughter), Ray White, (Step-father to Travis White), Rena Y. Curia (sister to Cheryl Walser), Charles Hines (Friend of Alane Holste), Carter Dorley (request from community), Diane Womack (Nina Smiths mother), John Ray Ward (Patti Lovell's, Brother in Law),