

**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: Jerry Lovell

Ushers: Eddie Yates

Sound & Stream Team Leader: Kivi Miller

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/Pianist*
bruce@frucc.org

First Reformed United Church of Christ
104 East Center Street, Lexington NC 27292
Please visit our website: www.frucc.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS Monday – Friday
9-1 Walk-ins Welcome
1 – 2pm Closed for Lunch
2 – 5pm Call ahead and/or Appointment only
Office: 336-248-2617

Come and Find the Quiet Center

1 Come and find the qui - et cen - tre in the crowd - ed life we lead,
2 Si - lence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
3 In the Spir - it let us trav - el, o - pen to each oth - er's pain,

find the room for hope to en - ter, find the frame where we are freed:
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our be - ing, face to face,
let our loves and fears un - rav - el, cel - e - brate the space we gain:

clear the cha - os and the clut - ter, clear our eyes, that we can see
mak - ing space with - in our think - ing, lift - ing shades to show the sun,
there's a place for deep - est dream - ing, there's a time for heart to care,

all the things that real - ly mat - ter, be at peace, and sim - ply be.
rais - ing cour - age when we're shrink - ing, find - ing scope for faith be - gun.
in the Spir - it's live - ly schem - ing there is al - ways room to spare!



**First Reformed
United Church of Christ
February 26, 2023
First Sunday in Lent**

The Worship of God
*Stand as you are able

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. Please fill out a Communication Card if you are new, have a question, or a prayer request. You can drop it into the offering plate when passed and we'll get back with you.

Prelude *Elegy (by Anthony Giamanco)* Bruce Tippet

***Chiming of the Hour**

Choral Introit *My Love Song is Unknown*

***Call to Worship** Jerry Lovell

Welcome pilgrims on the way to the cross.

We are learning to follow Jesus.

For those who feel Christ near,

May we not turn away from the discomfort of the journey ahead.

For those who feel as far from Christ as the desert is from the ocean,

May we find Christ in the wilderness with us.

For all of us who stumble and fall in our silence, indifference, and lack of generosity,

May we reach for the hand of Christ, who raises us up to continue on the journey.

Pilgrims on the way, come let us worship God!

We come to worship God as we learn to find our way. Amen

***Hymn** *Come and Find the Quiet Center* back pg.

***Invocation** Jerry Lovell

Welcome Rev. Elizabeth Horton

Old Testament Reading *from Psalm 32* Jerry Lovell

Responsive Prayer of Confession Jerry Lovell

O God, you offer us so much,
forgive us for sharing so little.

You have called us to your ways,
forgive us for ignoring your call.

You have given us the gift of community,
forgive us for not giving thanks.

You have given us countless blessings,
forgive us for taking your love for granted.

**And now, gracious God, be merciful to us
in our sin and indifference, through Christ,
our Savior.**

Assurance of Forgiveness and Passing the Peace Rev. Elizabeth Horton

Sung Response Be Thou My Vision

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) (D) (G) (A)
 B^b E^b A^b B^b

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) (D) (F#m7) (G) (A)
 A^b E^b Gm7 A^b B^b

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) (D/F#) (G) (D)
 Cm E^b/G A^b E^b

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Young Disciples

Choral Call to Prayer Enter My Heart

Prayers of the People and 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.

Solo Arise, My Soul, Arise (Dan Forrest) Ellen Peterson

Scripture Reading Mark 8:22-25

Finding Our Way
 Guest Speaker, Beth Callicutt, Principal of Charles England Elementary School

Invitation to Give Tithes and Offerings

You are invited to give your offerings in worship or online at: www.frucc.org/give

***Offertory Hymn Together We Serve**

1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,
 2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,
 3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,
 4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,

(C) (G) (Am7) (Dsus) (D)
 E^b B^b Cm7 Fsus F

in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.
 a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
 the bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care.
 re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong.

(G) (D) (C) (Bm)
 B^b F E^b Dm

We work and we pray through sor - row and joy,
 We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
 We of - fer a home to those who will come,
 To - geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth,

(G) (C) (G) (Am) (D7) (G)
 B^b E^b B^b Cm F7 B^b

ex - tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.
 un - til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.
 our hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.
 re - mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

***Prayer of Dedication** Jerry Lovell

***Benediction**

***Choral Response**

Postlude Contemplation on HENDON (by Dennis Janzer) Bruce Tippette

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, 2/26
 9:30amAdult Sunday School
 10:30am.....Worship Service (Sanctuary & YouTube)
 Guest Speaker: Beth Callicutt, Charles England Elm. Principal
 7:00pm..... Evening Vespers (Chapel)

Monday, 2/27
 5:00pm.....FRUCC Clothes Ministry Open (Basement)
 5:00pm.....Open Hands Meal & Service (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, 2/28
 12:00pm.....2CFAR (Zoom)
 7:00pm.....Lenten Book Study begins via Zoom
 It Takes a Church to Raise a Parent: *Creating a culture where parenting for faith can flourish*

Wednesday, 3/1
 6:30pm.....Handbell Practice
 7:15pm.....Choir Practice

Thursday, 3/2
 4-6:00pm.....Clothing Ministry Workday

Saturday, 3/4
 11:00am.....Celebration of Life Service for Marguerite Leonard
Reception following

Sunday, 3/5
 9:30amAdult Bible Study
 11:00am.....Worship Service (Sanctuary & YouTube)

Upcoming in March:

NAMI Meeting	Mon. 3-6 & 3-20 at 7pm (zoom)
Men's Brotherhood Meeting	Tue. 3-9 at 6 pm
Consistory Meeting	Thur. 3-9 at 6:45 pm
2CFAR	Tue. 3-14 & 3-28 at 12pm (zoom)
PFLAG	Thur. 3-16 at 6:30 pm
Women's Fellowship	Wed. 3-22 at 11:30 am
Evening Vespers	Sun. 3-26 at 7pm

PRAYER CONCERNS

Eulene Shepherd, Deanna Michael, Brian McKerlie

AT HOME: Peggy Bates, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, J.W. Bates, Ruth Essick, Gerri Hill, Myrtle Latimer, Carolyn Spivey, Merle Hodges

IN CARE FACILITIES: Vogen Everhart, Sherry Bonner, Patti Everhart

OUR FRIENDS: Jodi Yocum (daughter-in-law of Carolyn Yocum, Jamie Collins (friend of Alisa Johnson), George Champion (Robin Champion's father)