



February 2023 Newsletter

Join Sunday Worship on Youtube:
http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfZFOjObXH_bR8E-UG_gTA

Welcoming Statement

If you are searching for a place to experience God's wonderful and inclusive love, we invite you to join us at First Reformed United Church of Christ in Lexington, NC.

Following the example of Jesus, we believe that God's love, Christ's church, and the power of the Holy Spirit are for all people. We believe our unity as one body in Christ transcends worldly differences. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

First Reformed United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming congregation. This means 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.

We affirm and celebrate the diversity of God's children as a blessing. We welcome you to First Reformed United Church of Christ.

A Message from Rev. Elizabeth Horton

Unraveled

When our tightly knit plans unravel before our eyes or our neat and tidy lives unravel into loose ends?

We finish our Sunday series, Unraveled, by exploring moments in the life of Job, and Moses when life begins to unravel; pivotal moments when they spiral downward. And this is just when God meets them, unravels their plans, and begins to create something new. They discover their undoing is not the end they fear it might be.

During this new year, our congregation has felt some Unravelings of our own: in our rhythms and rituals, board structures and meetings, attendance and communication, building needs, children and youth ministry, just to name a few. These unravelings can feel frustrating and unnerving.

However, we are called to ask: How is God meeting us in this time? When the frayed ends are allowed to completely unravel, perhaps that is when we discover that God is creating something new. Perhaps this undoing is not the end we fear, but a path into a new beginning.

We will keep the faith, and we will keep pulling at the frayed ends, until the Unraveling is complete!

- Feb. 5:** Unraveled When Life's Not Fair - Job seeking understanding
- Feb. 12:** Unraveled When People are Mean – Moses facing Pharaoh



February 5 and 12: The Communion Table has been covered in torn fabric, shreds of cloth unraveling! During February worship, our Youth and Children will take these strips of cloth and weave them into beautiful woven round tapestries. Come see through the arts how God takes our frayed ends and weaves them into something new and lovely.



February 26 : Guest speaker in worship Beth Calicutt

Our “Gardening” Angel, Dave Luck, has been quite busy since his move to the Veterans Restoration Quarters in Asheville, NC. During January. After a week or two of settling into his new surroundings, he has been busy with job interviews and getting set up with VA services. He has been assured that he will have assistance with housing for the next two years and is awaiting news on getting much needed hearing aids. Dave is temporarily working with Labor Finders on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and works at the Restoration Quarters facility on designated days. His goal is to find a full time job.

Dave sends us updates nearly weekly. In his update this week he stated; *“Waiting to hear from multiple job applications and on the Lord. I really am pleased with my situation and praising God for it. FRUCC has really been a blessing to me and all the wonderful people that I've meet and interacted with.”*

We are grateful for Dave, for the ABCCM/Veterans Restoration Quarters, and to God for placing Dave in just the right spot!



To send cards of encouragement or blessing:

Dave Luck

C/O Veterans Restoration
Quarters
1329 Tunnel Rd.
Asheville, NC 28805

Thank You From John Maze

As we closed out 2022 and another year of wonderful community service FRUCC provides, I want to personally thank all of the folks that dove in and helped **Grace Episcopal** serve so many people each week in November. It is a lot of hard work, but with the groups we provided, it was fun and “easy”! Our church family served like we do every year, and our friends at Grace called to express extreme thankfulness! Thank you so much to our existing and new volunteers that stepped in to help!!!

Thank You,
John Maze

Saturday Lunch Ministry Celebrates its Second Full Year! Thanks to all of our volunteers that have made serving our community so successful for another year! February 13th will mark our second year of serving our friends in the city of Lexington and Davidson county. We average 86 people served each week with well over 4000 people fed each year. Please consider donating to a worthy ministry as food costs continue to soar. As an example, when the program started, hot dog buns and hamburger buns were 58 cents a package. Now the same buns run \$1.39. While it is frustrating to run a budget on soaring grocery hikes, we make it work. Together our volunteers make a difference in our community and serve healthy meals every Saturday.

I want to thank all of our volunteers from the bottom of my heart that have stepped up to cook as my new job landed me working many Saturdays. I lost a lot of sleep worrying over the lunch ministry and prayed hard for answers. Smithie Parish, Ben Hale, Cindy Easter, Stacy Sosebee-West, and our friends Helen and Kathy at Macedonia Methodist all helped to cook meals that served so many! Ben and Stacy’s meal they created, tacos, have taken the number one spot in the number of people served on any Saturday! Thank you!

Thanks to ALL of our wonderful volunteers that work many Saturdays to ensure our ministry serves the people that need us most! We are coming up to our second-year anniversary of this ministry in the community.

Please join us any Saturday to visit or help serve!

Peace of Christ,

John and Ben

If you would like to visit or help serve on a Saturday please:

[Click here to Sign-up to Volunteer](#)

Prayer Concerns

Deanna Michael, Brian McKerlie

AT HOME:

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

IN CARE FACILITIES:

Vogen Everhart, Sherry Bonner, Patti Everhart

OUR FRIENDS:

Nancy Barr (Darren Barr's mother), Jamie Colin's (friend of Alisa Johnson), George Champion (Robin Champion's Father, 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), Diane Womack (Nina Smith's mother)



Our Deepest Sympathy



We Extend our Sympathy and Prayers

To the family of Adena Wall,
who passed peacefully Thursday, January 26th
at Hinkle Hospice Home of Davidson County

Adena's service will be at First Reformed UCC
Friday, Feb. 3, 2023

Visitation: 12:30-1:30 PM

Service: 2 PM

– And –

To the family of Marguerite Leonard
who passed Friday, January 27th
at Piedmont Crossing

A celebration of Marguerite's life and inurnment
will be held at First Reformed UCC.
Details will be announced when finalized.

Adult Worship, Study, & Fellowship Opportunities

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Sundays at 9:30 am – Church Parlor

Glimpses of the Kin-dom encompasses the Season of Epiphany in our next series. We are counting the weeks after Epiphany and attempting to get a glimpse of what life as the people of God might be like, We consider some of the most famous passages of scripture to help us shape a vision of the life we are called to live---not just a special rise-to-the-occasion kinds of life, but an everyday life, an ordinary life that isn't ordinary. Because we believe that followers of Christ who live this faith day by day are anything but ordinary. They stand out, they

become models and mentors, they are examples of what life is all about. At least that is our hope and our belief; that our lives represent the Kin-dom of God. We are the evidence that our faith is true and our God is at work in the world. In other words, we are now the epiphany, the light shining forth for the world to see. And of course, we will fail from time to time. But how we deal with failure is also a sign of the presence and glimpse of the Kin-dom. So, this ordinary time is extra-ordinary in the living of it. Let us embrace the call with grace and with joy

February 5th **You Are**

Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-10;

I Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20

February 12th **But I Say**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8;

I Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

February 19th **Super Sunday**

Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 99;

2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

FRUCC Men's Brotherhood

All men of the church are invited!

FRUCC Men's Brotherhood meet the first Tuesday, of each month, at Yarborough's. They enjoy a wonderful meal, review their last meeting, have a devotion and enjoy good fellowship.

**Upcoming meeting will be Tuesday,
February 7th, 2023 at 6:00 PM
at Yarborough's Restaurant.**



Women's Fellowship

All women of the church are invited!

The Women's Fellowship meeting is scheduled for the fourth **Wednesday, of each month** at Yarborough's Restaurant.

**Upcoming meeting will be Wednesday,
February 22nd, 2023 at 11:30 am
at Yarborough's Restaurant.**

Women's Fellowship Meeting Minutes

The members of Women's Fellowship met January 25th during the monsoon that was drenching Davidson County at Yarborough's Restaurant with 13 ladies braving the elements to be present. The meeting was called to order by President Glenyce Fulton. Paula Lopp had devotions for us entitled, "Power in Community". Community is about our connections to other people and God. Everyone has a talent or gift to share. When we look at all the active ministries First Reformed offers to the community, we know that we are part of something bigger than our church.

Women's Fellowship double checked our donations for our famous Vegetable Soup Sale. Times were set to meet in the Fellowship Hall kitchen to make and package the soup. As the local paper used to say, "a good time was had by all."

Rita Lohr gave a report on the Rada Cutlery sale that will be an ongoing project. These are on-line sales only.

Circle Members voted to ask Cheryl Walser to provide the meal when we serve The Shelter in March.

Our next meeting will be February 22nd at 11:30 at Yarborough's Restaurant. Ladies of the First Family, we would love to have you join us!

Patti P. Lovell, Secretary



Women's Fellowship RADA Cutlery Fundraiser

Women's Fellowship is having a Rada Cutlery Fundraiser Sale, online, for January through March. Log on to radafundraising.com and type in Lexington NC 27295. Tap Search and choose First Reformed Women's Fellowship to access all items. For questions contact Rita Lohr at rlahr@triad.rr.com or 336-346-7607

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday - February 12th - Congregational Meeting
in Sanctuary
(following Worship Service)

Tuesday - February 14th - Senior Valentines Social
(2pm in the fellowship hall)

This Valentine's Tea is for any of our First Reformed Senior Adults and their friends, to come and enjoy a time of food and fellowship, on Valentine's Day!

Sunday - February 19th - Jazz Worship Service
with Second Reformed
(11am - at Second Reformed Church)

Wednesday - February 22nd - Ash Wednesday
Evening Service

Sunday - February 26th - Worship Service
Guest Speaker: Principal Beth Callicutt
from Charles England Elm. School

Sunday Evening Vespers – last Sunday of the month
7pm in the Chapel

AN INVITATION

for the

SENIOR ADULTS OF
FIRST REFORMED UCC

to a

Valentine's Day Social

2pm on Tuesday, February 14

Church Fellowship Hall

Come for food, fun, and friends!

RSVP to Jackie@frucc.org

Children, Youth, and Intergenerational Activities

FRUCC Nursery on Sunday Mornings:

We're recruiting nursery volunteers! Please consider taking a Sunday or two to spend with our little ones. We need 1 volunteer each Sunday. [Click here to Sign-up for a Sunday](#)



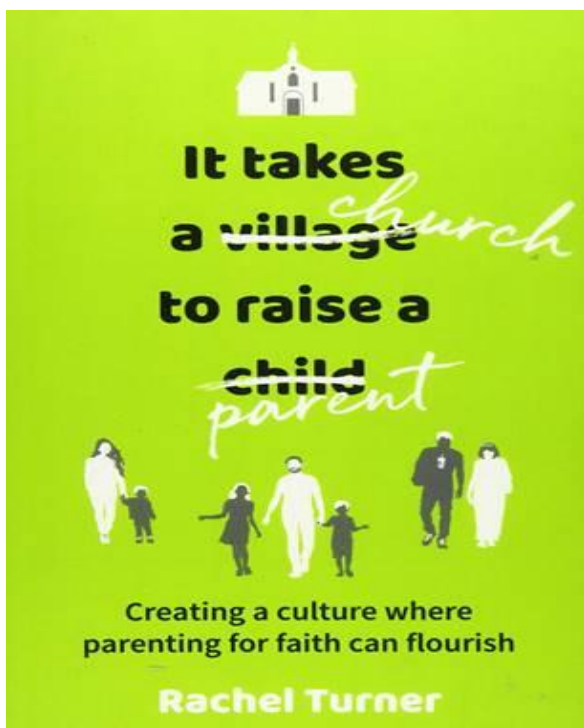
All Church Study!

Beginning Tuesday February 28 at 7pm.

It Takes a Church to Raise a Parent: Helping the Church Community Empower Families.

The six sessions include:

- The role of parents and what that means for church leaders
- Helping parents hope – giving them vision and truth
- Skills parents need and equipping parents through the church community
- Walking alongside parents individually
- Church culture and creating space, community, and encouragement
- Equipping, empowering, and enabling parents in their roles as primary faith developers, especially those on the fringes of our faith community.



Ash Wednesday Service

February 22, 2023



Together with
friends
St. Stephen UMC,
First UMC, and
Second Reformed
UCC

7pm Sanctuary
First Reformed UCC

News & Updates



IT'S GIRL SCOUT COOKIE TIME AGAIN!!!!

February 12th, following the Congregational Meeting, Caroline Walsh will be set up in the Narthex to take your orders and again the following Sunday, Feb. 19th.

Proceeds from Troop 10060 cookie sales will go to supporting a local animal shelter.

DAVIDSON MEDICAL MINISTRIES

We are so happy that the Educational Building is serving as a refuge for Davidson Medical Ministries for the next month. DVV is using 4 rooms Monday – Friday while they are cleaning and restoring their own building damaged by water pipes bursting. The Consistory approved for Davidson Medical Ministries to use several of our rooms during the day for patient care and office space. Welcome them and say hello!



Sign-up to Volunteer for our Ministries

Sunday Morning Ushers Needed: Please sign-up to be an Usher a few Sundays throughout the year. Volunteering as an Usher is an important part of the Sunday Service and is a ministry of the church. The ministry of an usher is pure joy and a privilege in service to the church and congregation.

[Click here to Sign-up as an Usher](#)

Saturday Lunch Ministry: Please volunteer to help our Saturday Lunch Ministry! To date we are serving 80-100 less fortunate individuals and families by supplying a free nutritional meal. We are always in need of cooks, packagers, & servers. [Click here to Sign-up to Volunteer](#)

FRUCC Clothing Ministry: With cold weather now approaching, our Clothing Ministry is in need of coats for men and children. We are also in need of volunteers to help during the week, especially on Thursdays from 4-6pm and Mondays from 5-6pm. Please call Jerry Lovell to volunteer.

Meals on Wheels Food Delivery: Meals on Wheels is in need of a few delivery persons to drop off meals for seniors that are home bound. Please contact Alisa Johnson to volunteer: 33-6250-6589

Charles England Elementary School: To ensure that students living in financial hardship have food during weekends, FRUCC has joined in the Weekend Backpack program. *(See Items listed below)*

OF FACTS AND FAITH FROM THE CHARLES ENGLAND MINISTRY

An elderly clergy friend and I were having lunch together some forty years ago. During our conversation over a great meal, my friend expressed to me something that I have always remembered, and it changed the way I have performed my ministry. Said he, "Jay, the best way to motivate the people of God is to give them the facts and have faith that the Holy Spirit will inspire them to act in a Godly way."

Today, I would like to give all of us some facts:

Fact: We are partners with The Charles England Elementary School to help some fifty to sixty children with food to eat on the weekends. It is our Back Pack Program.

Fact: We also support the children in the ministry by providing clothing for a clothes closet.

Fact: We support the children with school supplies, Such as: pencils, paper, etc.

Fact: We support the children by having medical supplies for the teachers. . .band aids and emergency needs.

Fact: We support the children through having special events for them such as "Fifth Grade Graduation Lunch" and "Teacher Appreciation Breakfast."

Fact: We support the children through our gift of hours of work that we volunteer such as "Reading Buddies" and special support.

Fact: We support the children through our monetary donations to "The Charles England Ministry."

Yes . . .we do a lot. And that requires a lot of help from a lot of people. Fact is, we cannot do an adequate job without you. Look back at all the "facts" and see how you can help, and Ben and I will have faith that The Holy Spirit will work through you!

Thanks for all you've done. . .and will do!

Blessings,
Jay Whitley

Food Items needed for the Weekend Backpack program at Charles England School

Jan 15-Feb 15 - individually wrapped cookie packets/and snack crackers

Feb 15-Mar 15 bottled water/juice drinks (Capri-sun/Hugs/etc.)

We are grateful to have access to the services below and thankful for all those who have worked to make this possible. Thank you to coordinators Cathy Browder (NAMI) and Belinda Yates (PFLAG)



If you live with or support a loved one with a mental illness or are diagnosed with a mental illness, NAMI support groups are here for you. You are NOT alone.

Family Support Groups meet on Zoom Mondays, February 6 & 20, 7:00-8:30pm and Tuesdays, February 14 & 28, 6:00-7:30pm. Please contact Cathy Browder.

Peer Support Group meets on Zoom Wednesday, February 15, 5:30-6:30pm. Please contact Louise Whealton at lwhealton@gmail.com or 336-744-0370 for logon information

Cathy Browder at 704-502-9095 or email NAMIDavidsoncounty1@gmail.com

NAMI Family Support Group Meeting Each Month

The 1st and 3rd Mondays
The 2nd & 4th Tuesdays



PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

PFLAG is a national support, education and advocacy organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and genderqueer or non-conforming (LGBTQ) people, their families, friends and allies.

Join meetings on the third Thursday of each month at FRUCC in the fellowship hall - 6:30pm

Memorials

*In Memory of Iva Dean Hutchens
Michael & Kelly Lambeth*

*In Memory of Adena Wall
John & Vicki Gray*

February Anniversaries



*Feb. 1st Ted & Nina Smtih
Feb. 9th Mike & Lynn Brown
Feb. 10th Mike & Bonita Hooper
Feb. 20th Larry & Betty Sink
Feb. 28th Jerry & Aurella Smtih*

February Birthdays



*Feb. 1st Bonita Hooper & Camron Sink
Feb. 7th Haylee Hutcheson
Feb. 9th Ethan Lovell
Feb. 12th Ann Hoffman
Feb. 17th Lee Bouchard & Amy Hedrick
Feb. 18th Kalyssa Hutchens
Feb. 19th Susan Morris
Feb. 20th Frank Callicutt & Janette Neal
Feb. 26th Clifford Lopp*



Attendance and Offering

Avg. Weekly Offering in January: \$3,290.00

(FRUCC's average weekly offerings needed to meet the congregationally approved 2023 annual budget is: \$6,240.)

January Average Woship Service Attendance: 43

Consistory Highlights

***Faith Formation** – From estimates for security system for nursery, Centric Systems was chosen and has installed the camera and sound/streaming equipment. Space heater has been bought for nursery and we continue to need volunteers.

***Financial Report** – Weekly offering continues to be less than the monthly budget requires. At present we are getting half the amount needed. Rev. Horton equested more information about online giving.

***Pastor's Report** – (1)Focus on enhancing intergenerational ministry, digital ministry, and stewardship building. (2) tremendous trentitions – simplify and combine boards and areas of ministry, involve more people. (3) Congregational meeting for 2/12, (4) Staff reviews in March, (5) Table Talks in Spring. (6) Sunday morning visitors; emphasis on greeting and acknowledging them, (7) Jazz Sunday with Second Reformed 1/19

New Business – (1) Change Consistory meeting dates,(2) simplify Consistory Boards, combining 7 to 4, (3) Change Consistory quorum from two thirds to majority. *Present at annual Congregational meeting in Februry.

Approvals:

- Congregational meeting Sunday, Feb. 12th
- Jazz Sunday with Second Reformed Sunday, 19th
- Approved Thursday, Feb. 9th for next Consistory meeting at 6:45pm

Next Consistory Meeting: Feb. 9th , 2023

Time: 6:45 pm

FRUCC 2023 Leadership

President: Clifton Murphy

Vice President: John Maze

Secretary: Rita Lohr

Treasurer: Walter Hoffman

Trustees

2023 Cliff Lopp **2024** Jerry Smith

2025 Mark Smith **2026** Walter Hoffman

2027 Raeann Allred

Elders: 2021-22-23 John Gray & Lisa Nelson
2022-23-24 Betty Barr & Clifton Murphy
2023-24-25 Jerry Lovell

Deacons: 2021-22-23 Jeremy Lovell & Smithie Parrish
2022-23-24 John Maze & Dave Fulton
2023-24-25 Jay Whitley

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9:00am	Walkin's Welcome
1-1:30pm	Lunch
1:30 – 5pm	Please call ahead or make an appointment

Phone: 336-248-2617

104 East Center St., Lexington, NC 27292

Join us for worship Sunday's at 10:30am

Jackie Mock, Church Administrator

Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Horton

elizabeth@frucc.org 336-972-8895

Minister of Congregational Care

Rev. June Grubb 336-248-5668

Music Director

Ellen Peterson ellen@frucc.org


Pianist/Oranist

Bruce Trippette bruce@frucc.org

Church Administrator

Jackie Mock jackie@frucc.org

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30pm Handbells 7:15pm Choir	2 4-6pm Clothing Ministry workday	3 Funeral Service Adena Wall 12:30 – 1:30 pm 2pm Servie	4 Saturday Lunch Ministry 
5 9:30am Ault Bible Study 10:30am Worship	6 5pm Clothing Ministry open 5pm Open Hands Meal 7pm NAMI Via Zoom	7 12pm 2CFAR Via Zoon Evangelism Meeting Parlor at 1PM 6PM Men's Brotherhood At Yarboroughs	8 6:30pm Handbells 7:15pm Choir	9 4-6pm Clothing Ministry workday 6:45 PM Consistory Meeting		11 Saturday Lunch Ministry 
12 9:30am Ault Bible Study 10:30am Worship Congregatopnal Meeting following worship	13 5pm Clothing Ministry open 5pm Open Hands Meal	14 Valentines Senior Social in the Parlor 2PM 	15 6:30pm Handbells 7:15pm Choir	16 4-6pm Clothing Ministry workday 6:30pm PFLAG		18 Saturday Lunch Ministry 
19 Jazz Woship with Second Reformed 111am Worship At Second Reformed Youth Underground Church	20 5pm Clothing Ministry open 5pm Open Hands Meal 7pm NAMI Via Zoom	21 12pm 2CFAR Parlor Via Zoom	22 Ashe Wednesday Women's Fellowship 11:30am	23 4-6pm Clothing Ministry workday		25 Saturday Lunch Ministry 
26 9:30am Ault Bible Study 10:30am Worship 7pm Ves;pers in the Chapel	27 5pm Clothing Ministry open 5pm Open Hands Meal	28	 Join Us on Facebook: facebook.com/firstreformeducc			