

Sunday, January 22

122nd Anniversary Sunday!

We begin the 5 week Worship series:

UNRAVELED: Seeking God When Our Plans Fall Apart.

What happens when our world falls apart? How do we press onward when our tightly knit plans come undone and unravel into loose threads?

In our unraveling, sometimes life surprises us with a new beginning we could never have imagined. Sometimes we need God to unravel us, for we long to be changed. We'll explore 5 stories from scripture when God meets us as our plans are unraveling and creates something new.

Matthew 14: 22-23

Peter sinks in the Water, Unraveled confidence

January 29. Luke 19:1-10

Zacchaeus the wealthy tax collector, unraveled expectations

Christmas Blessings 2022

Faith and Love in Action - Our Community Garden is a quiet church ministry that doesn't get as much recognition as some of our other ministries. For over 10 years, Edgar Miller has planned and coordinated the garden each year so that it yields perfectly throughout the season and is shared with the Pastor's Pantry.

For the last 3 seasons, Edgar has also offered hourly employment to any who want to work and care for the garden during growing season.

Last summer, a gentleman who showed up to eat at our Saturday Lunch Ministry saw the sign for Garden Help Needed. He contacted Edgar, and began work right away. For the past 8 months, he has consistently and dependably worked for Edgar in the Community Garden. Although his given name is Dave Luck, most of us know him by "Garden Dave."

Over the summer, Edgar asked Jackie if Dave could come in the church building on occasion. As he did, Jackie began to engage him in conversation. He spoke freely and Jackie began to learn more about Garden Dave.

Dave has been homeless for for a few years, but is determined to get back on his feet. He is a Veteran, and at one point made a living working as Surveyor.

Over the past few months, we in the Church Office learned that Dave is quite handy in setting up tables,



replacing light bulbs, breaking down the Fellowship Hall and tidying up afterwards.

We also learned that Dave slept in or near the garden regularly. He kept look out for happenings around the building and in the parking lot – even in the wee hours of the night. Garden Dave became the guardian angel of not only the community garden, but also our church grounds.

Dave would stop in and talk about his desire to get off the street and back on his feet, get a car, and take the necessary class and test to regain his Surveyors license. He faithfully believed that God would help him find his way. The more we got to know Dave, the more evident it became that he could use a *hand up* to reach his goals.

Dave sought out assistance through Goodwill Employment and was connected to a VA Coordinator. He learned of a program in Asheville to help homeless Veterans. Though Dave's persistent efforts, combined with a bit of support from First Reformed, we are happy to report that Dave is no longer sleeping on our church grounds.

Garden Dave was accepted into the **Veterans Restoration Quarters** from **ABCCM (ASHEVILLE BUNCOMBE COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN MINISTRY)**. This program is designed to address every area of restoration in the life of a Veteran experiencing homeless.

Dave moved in December 26th, is getting acclimated to the program and very excited for this opportunity. We are so happy for Dave and wish him all the best. We are blessed to have gotten to know him.

If you would like to send a card of encouragement or blessing to "Garden Dave" on his journey, please do so!

Address to:

Dave Luck
c/o Veterans Restoration Quarters
1329 Tunnel Rd, Asheville, NC 28805

A CHRISTMAS MEAL - Feeding Those In Need

This year Christmas Eve fell on Saturday, the day that First Reformed holds there Saturday Free Lunch Ministry. This could have been a time of canceling for the weeked to enjoy family festivities, traveling, and taking a break from long work weeks. However, the church family at FRUCC stepped up and brought Christmas Cheer to many folks that are economically disadvantaged and homeless.

Several member brought homemade dishes to share and volunteered their time to serve those in need. Other area organizations and churchs dropped off extra food and necessities often needed, such as gloves, socks, hand warmers and toileties. All very welcomed on a weekend of record breaking cold. John Maze held open the fellowship hall for extended hours so that many had a place to set and stay warm. Truly a blessing for those with nowhere to go in single digit

Giving to other from the heart is the grandest of gifts and First Reformed UCC is a testament to this. By blessing otherw with your love and care, you inturn were blessed.

Many thanks to John Maze (Saturday Lunch Ministry) and Jerry Lovell (Clothing Ministry), who coordinate these programs each week. Thank You to all the volunteers who helped and donated food Christmas Eve and New Years Eve, and to the volunteers that show up for these ministries each week to love and care for others!



Sign-up to Volunteer for our Ministries

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 2 volunteers each Sunday. We especially need 2 people for next Sunday, Nov. 20th. [Click here to Sign-up for a Sunday](#)

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](#)

Charles England Elementary School: To ensure that students living in financial hardship have food during weekends, FRUCC has joined in the Weekend Backpack program. We will be taking up the following from
December 15 – Jan 15: - (individual & microwavable) Mac & Cheese - Pop Tarts
Jan. 16 – Feb. 15: Individual wrapped cookie packets and snack crackers

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 alisajohnson912@gmail.com

Gifts for the Angel Tree

In Honor of...

Allyson Clark & Avery.....	Eddie & Belinda Yates
Gerri Hill	
Nancy Barr.....	Betty & Darren Barr
Peggy Bates.....	Buddy & Rita Lohr
FRUCC Staff.....	Jeremy, Ellen & Lucas Peterson
Becky Fritts.....	Lisa Nelson
Eugenia Holste.....	Alane Holste
Marguerite Leonard.....	Barry & Renee Sink
Vicky & John Gray	Sylvia Walser
Alice & James Gray	
Camille Morgan.....	Marge Doty
Irvin & Doris Sink.....	Robert & Martha Adams
Ron & Pam Sink	
Our Amazing Staff.....	Walter & Ann Hoffman
Our Melodius Choir	
Paula & Cliff Lopp, John & Susie Smtih	

In Honor of....

Paula Lopp, Cathy Waitman.....Clifton & Harriette Murphy
Carolyn Robbins, LeeAnn Peele, Jackie Mock
Sylvia Walser.....John Smith
Anonymous.....Eulene Shepherd
Rev. Elizabeth Horton.....June Grubb
Ellen Peterson, Opal Younts

In Memory of...

Dedra Clark.....Eddie & Belinda Yates
Jeff Hutchens, Barbara Miller, Ronald Yates
Harold Holste.....Alane Holste
Eleanor & R. Bruce Smith.....Jerry & Aurelia Smith
Boyce & Elizabeth Sink.....Irvin & Doris Sink
Vernon G. Price, Jr., Dwight Hinkle.....John Gray
John T. Wlaser, Jr.
John Barber.....Sara March, Erik & Katie
Edith Barber
Lori Lopp Floyd.....Tony & LeeAnn Peele
Buddy Hedrick, Chad Kirkman
Lib Sink.....Robert & Martha Adams
Noland Leonard
Ruth & Bud Fritts.....Walter & Ann Hoffman
Jeff Hutchens
Rev. William R. Yocum.....Carolyn H. Yocum
Mary Johnson.....Keith & Alisa Johnson
Rev. Harold W. Holste.....Alane Holste
Hoyt & Bernice McCachren



PRE-ORDER NOW!
**WOMEN'S
FELLOWSHIP
FAMOUS
VEGGIE SOUP**

Ladies of First Reformed UCC's Women's Fellowship will be making some of their famous "Brunswick Stew Style" vegetable soup

Soup will be available in both quarts (\$10 each) and pints (\$5 each), but you must **PRE-ORDER NOW!** ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER WILL BE AVAILABLE.

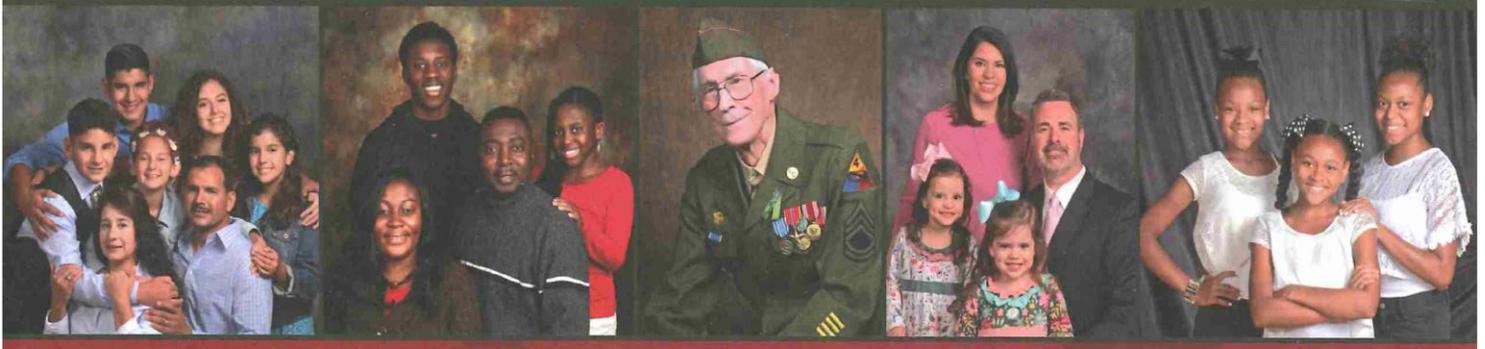
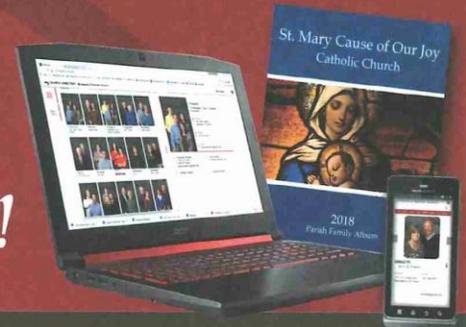
ORDER NOW by
contacting Paula Lopp at
336-250-3343 or
pls155@yahoo.com



Pre Order NOW – Cut Off Date Jan. 25th
Pick up Soup Jan. 27th

**ITS TIME FOR NEW CHURCH DIRECTORIES!
SIGN UP SUNDAY MORNINGS OR ONLINE**

*Dear Church family,
It's time for a New Directory!*



*Celebrating faith.
Connecting families.
Sharing hope.*

When people enter the doors of our church they are looking for a place to belong. Our directory brings us together to develop new relationships, connect with our own families, and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. Join us for this "Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at our church!

Directory Committee

Connections Event

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.

- **Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at the church or simply go online and follow the instructions below.** If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.
- **Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!**
- **Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church!** You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

Set your appointment with Universal today!



*Gathering families,
Connecting generations.*



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

January 8th **The Water is Fine**

The Baptism of Jesus
Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29;
Matthew 3:13-17
Facilitator: June Grubb

January 22nd **Have The Same Mind**

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9;
I Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

January 29th **Blessed Are**

The Beatitudes
Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15;
I Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

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

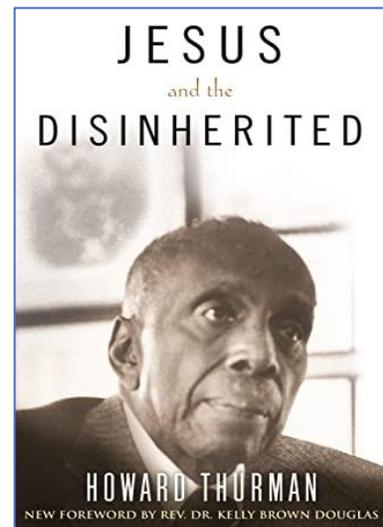
First Reformed United Church of Christ Book Club “Jesus and the Disinherited” By Howard Thurman

Meeting IDL 846 9163 5471
Passcode: Faith

FRUCC BOOK STUDY HAS RESUMED

“It is such a pleasure to be apart of a loving and giving congregation! **Thank you** for all the cards, the alternative gifts in my name and the generous Christmas bonus! I am overwhelmed. May we all journey into the New Year with good health and warm wishes to all.”

-- June Grubb, Minister of Pastoral Care



The book study
MEETS Tuesday evenings via ZOOM

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,
December 6, 2022 at 6:00 PM at**



Women's Fellowship

All women of the church are invited!

The Women's Fellowship meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 14th** for a Christmas get together at Yarborough's Restaurant. Time will be 11:30 am.

Starting in January of 2023, they will return to meeting the 4th Wednesday of each month.

Children, Youth, and Intergenerational Activities

Children's Church will be catching **Glimpses of the Kin-dom**. We'll begin the series on Jan 8th by making worship stones and talking about symbols and ICONs. As we move through the Sundays after Epiphany we'll use the worship stones along with scriptures from the lectionary to learn about Jesus.

January 8th: **The Water's Fine**. Matthew 3:13-17. The baptism of Jesus.

January 15th: **Not Lacking**. Psalm 40:1-4. What do you think about the Slimy Pit?

January 22nd: **Have the Same Mind**. 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Taking sides in church. Is that a thing?

January 29th: **Blessed Are**. Matthew 5:1-12. Jesus the teacher.

February 5th will be a time for families to worship and participate in communion together during the service.

February 12th: **But I Say**. Matthew 5:33-37a. Promises.

February 19th: **Super Sunday**. Matthew 17:1-9. (Yes, not the "super bowl" sunday.) Jesus is changed.

I will be leading these sessions, but I need a volunteer helper each Sunday. Please consider giving some time to the Children's Church as you are able. You can sign up online here. We need volunteers for the nursery as well. Please consider giving time to help. sign up here.

Isn't it wonderful to have the nursery in use after so long a time of being empty. We are working on improvements, such as supplemental heat. A new space heater should be in place and making the nursery cozy by next Sunday. We are also working toward putting a camera in the nursery and on the door for safety of our nursery keepers and the children.

Smithie Parrish

News, Upcoming Events & Updates

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



NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, provides support and education services to those affected by mental illness and the people who love and support them. If you have any questions about NAMI or would like to participate in any activity, reach out to

Cathy 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

Thank You.... to my church family for all the calls, cards, and kindnesses I've received throughout the year. Peggy Bates

Consistory Highlights

Avg. weekly offering in Nov: \$5178.00

(Avg. wkly offering needed to meet annual budget: \$6,240)

November Avg. Attendance: 55

***Property** – Education Building Roof in need of repairs. McRae Roofing to make quote. New janitorial started Dec. 1st.

***Evangelism** – Suggestion made to secure keys for balcony doors in lue of new equipment for security. Buddy Lohr to be contacted to install.

***Faith Formation** – Getting estimates for security cameras in/around nursery (including doors), and giving visibility in narthex. Suggested that project move forward. Search for Youth Minister replacement to be delayed for now.

***Financial Report** – Weekly offering continues to be less than budget requires.

***Pastor's Report** – Stewardship a success; Don Morgan accepted ministry calling; Advent Devotional successful; Advent wreath/gingerbread project well attended; and Joe Watkins finishing digital/sound in sanctuary.

Several transitions have occurred during the year. Low attendance remains. John Gray stated that we have reduced the number of Consistory Members from 12 to 10 and boards will be combined from 7 to 5. Consider using majority of consistory votes rather than two thirds.

Approvals:

- \$2500 from Thomason Fund for Sancturay Upgrade
- Remove choir chairs and replace with new chairs donated from Jeff Hutchens Estate

Next Consistory Meeting: Jan. 15, 2023

PRAYER CONCERNS

Adena Wall, 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), Diane Womack (Nina Smith's mother), John Ray Ward (Patti Lovell's, Brother in Law)



January Birthdays

- 1 Gerri Hill
- 3 Carroll Spivey
- 5 Jianna Miller
Smithie Parrish
- 6 Gennie Lou Byerly
- 10 Deanna Michael
Harriette Murphy
- 11 Camille Morgan
- 13 Jitter Yarbrough
- 15 Laura Perry
- 18 Patti Lovell
Mike Price
- 19 Heidi Hutcheson
- 21 Carolyn Robbins
- 22 Lisa Nelson
- 24 Alyson Bustamante-Cruz
Denise Durham
- 25 Eddie Yates
- 30 Lauren Gregg

~ Memorials ~

In Memory of Jeff Hutchens
J.W. Bates

In Memory of Jack Poetzinger
Bill & Carolyn Robbins
Cathy Waitman

In Memory of Mary Johnson
John & Vicki Gray

In Memory of Tom E. Cook
Cathy Waitman



Join Us on Facebook:
facebook.com/firstreformeducc

Thank you for all of the cards, prayers, and thoughtfulness shown during the passing of my father (Tom Cook). You are truly wonderful people and I am blessed to be working here for all of you.

Many great moments and memories in 2023,
Jackie Mock, Church Administrator

January Anniversaries

Jan. 16
Walter & Ann Hoffman

Jan. 20
Chris & Raeann Allred

