

Consistory Notes

The Consistory of FRUCC met on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. In addition to Grace McMullen, eight members were in attendance.

Approval of Reports

The February 2024 minutes and February Financial reports were approved.

Ministry Reports

Faith Formation

- Godly Play presented a request to the Endowment committee for \$5,454 for 2024 (funds needed to start the Godly Play program—we will need to create a new budget line in 2025). The request was approved, and job notices will be posted at the university for anyone interested in part-time work and training.
- Exploring educational opportunities for the Open & Affirming committee to share with the church.

Fellowship

- Plans for a May gathering are in the works.

Mission & Outreach

- The hometown mission trip 2024 is scheduled for Saturday, May 18, with June 1 as the rain date. Twenty work sites will be specially selected using the following criteria: safety issues, wheelchair-bound, and no family available to assist. We will invite family and friends to join us. There has been no response from other churches to date. An endowment request has been submitted.
- Visitation Ministry made 11 visits in February. A team meeting is scheduled for March 24 after the service.
- New Initiative: Freedom's Hope. Pastor Grace and Bev Pugh met at SAFE on March 12 with Tiffanie Jackson and Cheryl Flinchum, Freedom's Hope Board member. A meal of soup and sandwiches will be provided, and the Community Meals budget line will cover expenses. Sandi Jones serving as a volunteer at Freedom's Hop
- A Community Meal will be served on Memorial Day, May 27.

Trustees

- Continue to work on outside lighting. Receiving quotes from Kemco and King Electric. A Duke Power light pole has been researched, but we are having issues gaining permission from neighbors to place it.

Pastor's Report

- Exploring resources for responding to homeless neighbors (would like to partner with downtown churches, partner more robustly with Freedom's Hope and S.A.F.E.
- Next "Jubilee" services on April 7. (Sunday after Easter)
- Will be attending Godly Play training in Winston-Salem April 12 – 14. Working on the supply minister for that date.

Personnel Committee report

- Meeting scheduled for April 14 to work on editing job descriptions.

Old Business

- YMA safe church training certificates are complete, and we will monitor any new hires or needed training on an ongoing basis. We will request quarterly staffing updates.
- Door update: Derek Smith has met with Cardinal Joinery, and they are exploring options but will have a quote soon. The grant application has been completed with Preservation Burlington.
- Derek Smith advised the company that quoted the fountain that we want to use the grate and rock option. The quote is attached. The cost will be \$3,250.00, with a \$350.00 maintenance fee when service is needed. Claudette Fitzgerald motioned to approve the quote to start the work, with a second by Teresa Ibarra. The motion carried.
- A budget line is needed for Funeral Hospitality. The Morning and Evening Circles recommended increasing from \$100 to \$150 for each event.

Respectfully Submitted,

Claudette Fitzgerald





Evening Circle
Wednesday,
April 17,
at 7 p.m.
in church parlor

3rd Wednesdays at 7 pm

Greeters: Kyle Hayes, Susan Hayes,
 Chuck Terrell

Trustee on Call: Stella McLean

Birthdays

- 5 Mike Taylor
- 7 Becca Merrill
- 12 Ray Deal



The Morning Circle will meet
Wednesday,
April 3, at 10:00
a.m. in the church
parlor.



Morning Circle
 First Wednesdays
 10 a.m. in church parlor

Running slowly

At a track meet, we sat in the stands, cheering for our son. I chuckled as a young sibling of an athlete asked, “Why are they running so slow, Mommy?”

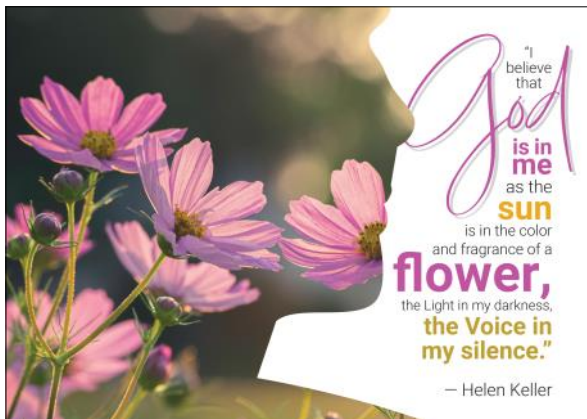
These athletes had been training for years, and many were setting personal best times and even state records. Most spectators would provide little competition for the runners. But the child was comparing how he’d felt while running at the park, sprinting to a soccer game.

Along the track, dozens of teammates and coaches cheered. Each time an athlete passed, she

heard strong, pointed encouragement. “You’ve got this!” “Someone’s approaching; time to pick up the pace!” “Great stride — keep going!” The coaches and runners knew what was helpful and understood how hard the athletes were working.

My point: Consider who you allow to speak truth into your life. Do you listen to loved ones who “train” alongside you? Or do you give sideline critics too much space in your thoughts? Heed Proverbs 2:2 (NLT), which advises, “Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding.”

—Janna Firestone



Meals on Wheels

Delivery Dates

April 8 - 12

Senior Adults

Thursday, April 25

Red Robin

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Suggestions and contributions for our newsletter
are welcomed and encouraged.
The deadline for each issue is
the 15th of each month.

Sunday Services

9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Worship

All are welcome!

Jesus didn't reject people. Neither do we.



Striving to become living expressions of God's extravagant grace and love.

Connection

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513 West Front Street
Burlington, NC 27215

- RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED -



Mission Statement

At First Reformed UCC, we are:

***Striving to become living expressions
of God's extravagant grace and love.***

We seek to accomplish this by...

1. Welcoming all persons with a warmth and hospitality that will help them realize that God loves them beyond imagination and that they are of extreme value.
2. Gathering in moments of worship and celebration characterized by authenticity, vitality, and creativity – where one may experience and share the life-changing presence of God in a multitude of ways.
3. Offering a variety of opportunities for spiritual growth, faith development, and supportive fellowship.
4. Helping persons to explore and develop their own individual gifts for ministry and inviting them to share generously of their time, talents and resources.
5. Engaging in acts of service and love that will express the compassion, mercy, and justice of Christ in the world.