

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

Connection

The newsletter of First Reformed United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC

www.firstreformeducc.org

November 2021

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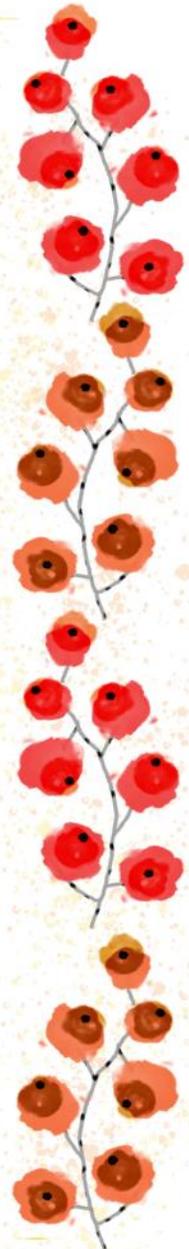
November

Anniversary Sunday

NOVEMBER 7

CELEBRATING 132 YEARS OF MINISTRY

REV. RICHARD MCBRIDE
GUEST SPEAKER



Congregation bids farewell

On Sunday, October 10, we bid farewell to Rev. Phil Myers after 27 years as pastor and teacher of First Reformed UCC. The service of appreciation included:

- A slide show presentation created by Sarah Myers
- A plaque presented by Rev. Eddie Weathers, ENCA Associate Conference Minister
- A monogrammed stole presented by Susan Puckett on behalf of Circle 4
- Lowe's gift cards presented by Consistory President, Ray Deal
- A Book of Gratitude: Letters and cards compiled by Arleen Widerman

Phil and Lois are moving to Virginia Beach, VA to serve Lynnhaven Congregational Church UCC

Upcoming guest speakers

November 7 (Anniversary Sunday)

- Rev. Richard McBride, Chaplain Emeritus at Elon University

November 14

- Rev. Richard McBride

November 21

- TBA

November 28

- Rev. Nora Driver Foust, Associate Conference Minister for Congregational and Ministerial Excellence, Penn Central Conference, United Church of Christ and former Associate Pastor at First Reformed UCC



Free books!!

In the window sills of the Fellowship Hall (*on the left side*), you'll find a variety of books suitable for adult readers. All of these were purchased years ago for the church library. The books cover a wide range of themes, including, but not limited to:

- ◆ Biblical,
- ◆ Devotional,
- ◆ Marriage,
- ◆ Parenting,
- ◆ Aging,
- ◆ Stories on Hymns,
- ◆ And More!!!



With the church no longer maintaining a library, these books are available to anyone interested in having them. And they're FREE!!! Please take whatever looks interesting and don't hesitate to share with others.

P.S.

We also have ten or more boxes of books geared toward younger children, older children, and teens. After it is determined which of these books the church will keep, the remainder of those will become available as well.

Three kinds of giving

"There are three kinds of giving: grudge giving, duty giving and thanksgiving. Grudge giving says, 'I have to'; duty giving says, 'I ought to'; and thanksgiving says, 'I want to.' The latter comes from a full heart. Thanksgiving is an open gate into the love of God."

—Robert N. Rodenmayer

People who think they are too big to do little things are perhaps too little to be asked to do big things.

—Anonymous

Daily Bible readings for November

NOVEMBER	
DAY	Scripture Readings
1	Ezekiel 2, 3 / Psalms 119:97-120
2	Ezekiel 4, 5 / James 1
3	Ezekiel 6, 7 / James 2
4	Ezekiel 8, 9 / Psalm 119:121-144
5	Ezekiel 10, 11 / James 3
6	Ezekiel 12, 13 / James 4
7	Ezekiel 14, 15 / James 5
8	Ezekiel 16, 17 / Psalm 119:145-176
9	Ezekiel 18, 19 / 1 Peter 1
10	Ezekiel 20, 21 / 1 Peter 2
11	Ezekiel 22, 23 / Psalms 120-122
12	Ezekiel 24, 25 / 1 Peter 3
13	Ezekiel 26, 27 / 1 Peter 4
14	Ezekiel 28, 29 / 1 Peter 5
15	Ezekiel 30, 31 / Psalms 123-125
16	Ezekiel 32, 33 / 2 Peter 1
17	Ezekiel 34, 35 / 2 Peter 2
18	Ezekiel 36, 37 / Psalms 126-128
19	Ezekiel 38, 39 / 2 Peter 3
20	Ezekiel 40, 41 / 1 John 1
21	Ezekiel 42, 43 / 1 John 2
22	Ezekiel 44, 45 / Psalms 129-131
23	Ezekiel 46, 47 / 1 John 3
24	Ezekiel 48 / 1 John 4
25	Daniel 1-3 / Psalms 132-134
26	Daniel 4, 5 / 1 John 5
27	Daniel 6, 7 / 2 John 1
28	Daniel 8, 9 / 3 John 1
29	Daniel 10-12 / Psalms 135, 136
30	Hosea 1, 2 / Jude

Meals on Wheels
Delivery Dates
November 22-24

Tethered to God

“The daring young man on the flying trapeze ...” Those lyrics to a popular 19th-century song come to mind when I picture aerial artists. A performer called the flyer leaps off a bar, swings a couple of times from a trapeze, then lets go to sail through the air before connecting with another swinging performer, the catcher.

Life sometimes seems like a circus act, though we don’t always feel so daring. Especially during transitions, we often must let go of one thing before we’re secure with



another. We may feel as if we’re flailing through the air during a move or job change, while awaiting medical test results or just walking along the path of faith.

Thankfully, God is our dependable “catcher.” As we sail through life, wondering whether there’s a safety net, we needn’t worry about our ability to connect with and cling to God. Instead, he catches us and holds on for dear life — our earthly life and our heavenly one.

—Heidi Mann



Consistory Notes

The Consistory of FRUCC, met Tuesday October 12, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. There were seven members in attendance.

Approval of Reports:

The September minutes were approved. Approval of regular financial reports are on hold until the accountant review is completed.

Ministry Team Reports

Mission & Outreach Beverly Pugh, Derek Smith

- Labor day lunch: prepared 125 grilled hotdog plates; distributed to community, Willows residents and church members; budgeted: \$600, spent: \$445.34
- Hometown Missions: November 13 scheduled leaf raking event only; checking with Macedonia to determine interest; may cancel due to current circumstances
- Habitat Women's Build: Wednesday, September 29, Circle 4 members prepared and delivered lunch to a local build site.
- Crop Walk: Thursday, September 30, five people participated in the FRUCC Honor Walk at Arboretum.

Old Business

- The nominating committee for Consistory, Endowment committee, and Trustees (Arleen Wideman, Ray Deal and Julie Lefew) will report their progress at the November .
- Budget committee report will be discussed at the November meeting.
- It was agreed that the consultant would be contracted early 2022.

New Business

- Interim Pastor search is underway with two prospects to be contacted.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudette Fitzgerald
Consistory Secretary

Trustee on call: Gary Lefew

Resolve to revitalize

Church revitalization is a hot topic, and ideas for congregations can bring fresh energy and meaning to personal and family life, too. Consider the following tips:

- Have a clear vision. It's easy to go along day to day without considering what you're moving toward. Beyond the everyday routine, what bigger vision does God have for you? This year, take specific steps toward living that out.
- Ask questions. What gets you excited — even passionate? What issues or situations break your heart? What are you good at? Resolve to use a talent or something you enjoy to help heal hurts.
- Balance history with innovation. Honor your past as God's gift that makes you who you are, but be open to change. Dare to step out in faith for the

sake of your life's mission. Try something new in the spirit of the God who's always doing a new thing (Isaiah 43:19; Revelation 21:5).

- The best way to revitalize a church might be to revitalize the lives of its individual members!



Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.

—William Arthur Ward

Leaf Raking Service Project

Saturday, November 13

Volunteers from both Macedonia Lutheran Church and First Reformed UCC will gather on Saturday, November 13 for a Fall Cleanup Day. From 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. they will rake leaves – and perform other limited yard cleanup – for several clients of Meals on Wheels. The plan is to work at 8-10 sites with 5-6 workers at each site.



For more information, contact Beverly Pugh.

Exercising our gratitude muscles

Expressing gratitude isn't just a good thing to do; it also appears to be good for us! Indiana University researchers found that participants who performed gratitude-focused writing exercises felt uplifted, and were more likely to express gratefulness through generosity, even weeks later.

Furthermore, brain scans revealed increased gratitude-related activity even months down the road (*New York Magazine*).

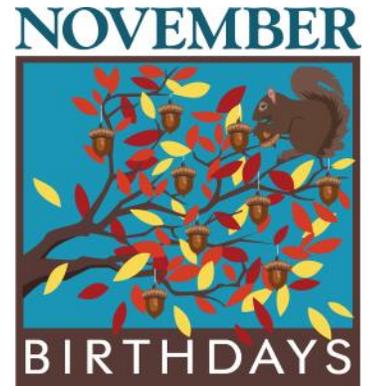
Though the study was small, we seem to have a "gratitude muscle" that can be strengthened through exercise. If so, there may be more than we thought to the popularity of gratitude journals and Mom's insistence that we write thank-you notes. Not to mention the biblical call to "give thanks to the LORD, for he is good" (1 Chronicles 16:34, for example).

Might God have hardwired us for gratitude — not only at Thanksgiving but year round — because it's good for *us* as well as for those we thank? To that, we respond, "Thanks be to God!"



Birthdays

- 1 Owen Merrill
- 7 Elizabeth Madison
- 8 Eli Fitzgerald
Garrett Sutton
- 9 Alanda Jones
- 16 Teresa Ibarra
- 17 Susan Puckett
- 27 Wally Shearin
- 28 Karen Small
Cole Widerman
- 30 Grayson Holt



The church office will be closed November 25-26 for the Thanksgiving holiday.



Church Office Hours

MWF - 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

TT - 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Stay Connected

If you haven't done so already, please be sure you join FRUCC's social media accounts.

Website:
firstreformeducc.org

Facebook:
First Reformed UCC of Burlington, NC



Instagram:
[frucc_of_burlington_nc](https://www.instagram.com/frucc_of_burlington_nc)



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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
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
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.

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- RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED -



I will give thanks
to the Lord
with my whole heart;
I will recount all of your
wonderful deeds.

Psalm 9:1

