

# Congratulations 2020 Graduate

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## LISTEN MORE, SPEAK LESS CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

In these difficult days our inclination can be to “circle the wagons” in order to safeguard our sense of normalcy as well as our particular worldview when faced with new information that challenges how we see or have learned things like history, politics, or faith.

However, to stop listening and thus stop learning undermines the call to be crucified and raised with Christ into newness of life. Bonhoeffer warns sharply that this signals the death of our spiritual life because we cease also to listen to God, prizing more dearly our preconceived notions of the world than the revelation of truth that God may be speaking to us through another.

True listening that seeks understanding honors those with whom we dialogue as beloved children of God, and not first as enemies. Impatient, inattentive listening serves only to dismiss another person, and ultimately reveals more about our relationship to God than what we perceive as the error of their thinking or disposition.

In such a hyper-partisan time as this, it's imperative that we pray for humility and for the life of Christ to be formed in us so that we may open our ears and hearts to one another, particularly to those with whom we disagree. Of course this does not preclude the necessity of calling a lie a lie or of struggling for truth in a world tainted by injustice and spin. Just the opposite, it calls us as followers of Christ to hone our discernment and patience so that we may hear the pleas of those who suffer, listen to those who share views other than our own, and thus grow closer to God by courageously coming to the end of ourselves.

- Pastor Patrick

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## FRONTLINE

Focusing on the life and ministry  
of Front Street UMC



July 9, 2020 Volume MMXX No. 13

## LISTEN MORE, SPEAK LESS

*“Fools find no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing their opinions.” - Proverbs 18:2*

More times than I can count, I have witnessed or held conversations in which it was clear that someone was not listening to the person with whom they were speaking, but rather waiting impatiently to voice what they planned to say all along, as if presuming to know what the other person had to say.

Too often it seems that we talk past each other and thus fail to listen to the truth that others speak to us. But is this evidence of Christ being formed in us?

I would offer that one of the greatest services we can give to one another is the gift of listening. Indeed listening serves as one of the foundational elements of Christian community. Just as our love for God begins with learning to listen to God's Word and Holy Spirit, so too is the beginning of love for our neighbors found in learning to listen to them.

In an examination of Christian service in his seminal work Life Together, theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer argues, “[Christians] forget that listening can be a greater service than speaking. Many people seek a sympathetic ear and do not find it among Christians, because the Christians are talking even when they should be listening. But Christians who can no longer listen to one another will soon no longer be listening to God either; they will always be talking even in the presence of God. The death of the spiritual life starts here.”

continued

# A LOOK AHEAD:

## KNOWING CHRIST

### WORSHIP @ HOME

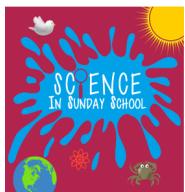
The service is available on Facebook and YouTube. The links can be found on our website. Visit [www.frontstreetumc.org](http://www.frontstreetumc.org) and click on the green "worship @ home" image.



## GROWING IN CHRIST

### SCIENCE IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Don't forget to join Ms. Marcy each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for *Science in Sunday School* on our Facebook page or YouTube channel. Each video focuses on one aspect of the creation story, incorporating cartoons, experiments, stories, songs and puppets, as well as things children can make at home.



Video 1: Overview of Creation (June 21)

Video 2: Space (June 28)

Video 3: What the Land Produces- featuring special guest Rett Davis (July 5)

If you have children or grandchildren aged Preschool – 5th grade, be sure to check out these videos. Missed a week or two? Find past and current videos at [www.frontstreetumc.org](http://www.frontstreetumc.org).

## SHARING CHRIST

### CEREAL AND CANNED GOODS FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army needs support from our community to meet the daily needs of the vulnerable populations. Your donations will help them respond to those in need.

We continue to collect cereal and canned/dry goods for the Salvation Army. Please feel free to drop off these items any time during the month. You may deposit cereal or other canned/dry goods in the tubs in the cabinet in the Welcome Center or call Betty Huneycutt (336-212-0704) for porch pick up.



Giving  
Hope  
Today

Thank you for your continued support of stocking the food pantry at the Salvation Army.

## ALLIED CHURCHES

As many of you are aware, ACAC continued to persevere through the pandemic and never closed their doors. ACAC remained business as usual and continued the pursuit of "Ending Homelessness and Hunger in Alamance County." Their community kitchen (Joe's Diner) made the first big change due to the corona virus by switching from a restaurant style setting to an all carryout meal service. Due to the change to carryout only, ACAC will continue to need carryout trays and prepackaged plastic ware to continue to serve the community. For those interested in donating, Carolina Restaurant Supply here in Burlington has partnered with ACAC to keep items on hand for our supporters to purchase. Of course, there is always Amazon or just go to their website or social media pages to donate.



To view an community update of all that is going on at ACAC from Jai Baker, Executive Director, please visit [bit.ly/3iAUnWB](https://bit.ly/3iAUnWB).

## Thank You

Thank you for your support of Family Abuse Services. We really appreciate your donation of household items. Your kindness does not go unnoticed. Due to your generous contribution, we are able to better serve our clients in the community. We hope to continue our relationship with you in the future.

Thank you again,  
Family Abuse Services Team

*Circle#2 members filled three (3) "Launch Baskets" to the brim, and delivered them to Family Abuse Services in June.*

## Prayers

- **William and Beth Inabnit** upon the death of her father, David Hacker, on 6/18
- **Howard and Rebecca Miller** upon the death of her brother, James Edgar "Jim" Lewis, on 6/7
- **Tom and Carol Sineath** upon the death of his sister, Bronna Graham, on 6/23
- **Sue Watson** upon the death of her husband, Dr. Robert Watson, on 6/20

## FINANCIAL GIVING UPDATE AS OF 6/30/2020

YTD Actual Giving – \$536,177.70

YTD Budgeted Giving - \$632,011.38

## 3 WAYS TO GIVE



TEXT

Text \$ amount to  
336.489.4483



ONLINE

[www.frontstreetumc.org/  
give](http://www.frontstreetumc.org/give)



MAIL

PO Box 2597  
Burlington, NC 27216

## STAFF

**Senior Pastor**  
Ross Carter

**Pastor of Discipleship**  
Patrick Murphy

**Youth Minister**  
Chris Huneycutt

**Director of Children's Ministry**  
Marcy McAdams

**Minister of Visitation**  
Leslie Peavy

**Organist/Director of Music**  
Matt Brittain

**Choirmaster**  
Laura Sam

**Director of Aldersgate Music**  
Clay Stevenson

**Finance Manager**  
Tammy Page

**Administrative Assistant**  
Pamela Shields

**Communications Coordinator**  
Joanna Strelow

**Building Superintendent**  
Jackie Long

**Maintenance**  
Joe Peloquin  
Zach Mace

**Playschool/Babies Morning Out Director**  
Rebecca Hurdle

**Afterschool Director**  
Catherine Mills

Dear Front Street Family,

I want to begin by thanking everyone who responded to the recent survey on moving toward face-to-face gathering at Front Street. Your input was invaluable to the work of our church's COVID Task Force.

After meeting a few times, we believe we have come up with a reasonable plan. I'm proud of the way the group worked together toward a consensus decision. Although everyone was not of the same mind on the issues, everyone listened to one another, honored each other's opinions, and chose to compromise where necessary in order to arrive at a consensus that is best for the whole congregation. Upon reflection, I believe leaders in our community, state, and nation could learn a great deal from your brothers and sisters who serve on this committee. Please join me in thanking them for their work.

The following is an outline of the plans made by our Task Force.

**Worship:**

- The team decided that we would resume in-person worship once the State moves to Phase 3. Since we may have already recorded the service during the week that the announcement is made, we will begin the Sunday following the first full week following the announcement of the opening of Phase 3. For example, if the movement to Phase 3 is made on July 17, our first Sunday in the church would be July 26.
- We will begin with one service in the sanctuary at 11:00 a.m. Once we are able to get a better handle on the number of people who actually attend worship, we will be able to better evaluate the need for more than one service. But we thought it best to begin simply.
- We will continue to offer live-streaming of the service, just as we did prior to the pandemic. Of course, if you have a temperature, do not feel well, have a cough or cold, or if you have come into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID, please stay home and watch the service online.
- Everyone will be asked to wear a mask. If the state is still requiring them, we will, too. If the state makes them optional, we will re-evaluate our position at that time.
- Spacing between family units will be 6 feet; and, we will utilize every other pew. (That means that some people may not be able to sit in their usual pew. But be assured, the Holy Spirit will find you in your new spot.)
- The congregation will be asked not to sing. We have removed the hymnals, etc., from the pews to discourage cross-contamination. However, we will work to print the lyrics to the hymns in the bulletin so that we can all read the meaningful words while the music is played. Perhaps we will gain a new appreciation for the theology contained in our hymns as we read them with new eyes.
- We will not have a choir. However, our music leadership will work toward having soloists or duets.
- There will be no children's sermon during worship, so as to avoid the close grouping of the children.
- Offering plates will be placed at the doors to the sanctuary so that our gifts and tithes may be placed in them upon entering or leaving.
- We will have bulletins. Ushers/Greeters wearing gloves will pass them out as people enter the worship space.
- There will be no fellowship time, nor a receiving line at the door, following the service.
- Hand sanitizer will be placed in strategic places throughout the building. The first places you will find it will be the sanctuary narthex and the portico entrance near the office. Extra masks will be there, too.
- Until we can discern a safe way to have Communion, we will be fasting from that holy meal.

### **Church Office:**

- The church office has already opened Monday -Friday from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- Since we are still in Phase 2, visitors are asked to wear masks and use sanitizer.
- There is a table inside the building entrance nearest the office with sanitizer and masks, if you have forgotten yours.

### **Small Groups:**

- During our present Phase 2, small groups like Sunday School Classes, Bible Studies, etc., may meet in-person. They will be scheduled into the largest spaces we have available so that the 6-foot physical distancing requirement can be observed. Please contact Pamela in the church office to schedule a space. Please give the number of people you expect so she can schedule a space large enough for the group.
- Another great option for small groups is to utilize one of the church's 3 Zoom accounts. We already have three classes joining together on Zoom. If you would like to have your group utilize that option, please contact Patrick or Ross.
- Small group members will be asked to sanitize their meeting space at the end of their meeting. Appropriate products will be provided.
- At this time we will not be allowing groups outside the church use of the building.

### **Children & Youth:**

- Youth Group doesn't normally meet during the summer. Please check the normal places for information and updates from Chris.
- At this time, Marcy is providing children's Sunday School online. We know your kids will enjoy the experience she is providing.
- As we resume in-person worship, there will be no nursery. Families are invited to bring their children to worship. If there becomes a great need for a nursery, we will re-visit that decision, keeping in mind the challenges with spacing issues and sanitizing toys, etc.

### **General Cleaning of the Building:**

- We know that our custodial staff does a great job keeping the building clean on a normal basis.
- During the week, the church will be cleaned and sanitized, paying particular attention to high-touch surfaces. (e.g., light switches, doors, etc.)

This is the starting point in our plan. Be assured that we will be constantly assessing and evaluating the whole situation, and making improvements or changes as needed.

I want to again express my appreciation to the COVID Task Force for their work. And I want to also thank our congregation for your flexibility, patience, prayers, and grace as we continue to live together through this ordeal.

On behalf of the COVID Task Force, and Pastor Patrick,  
I wish you God's blessings,

Pastor Ross