

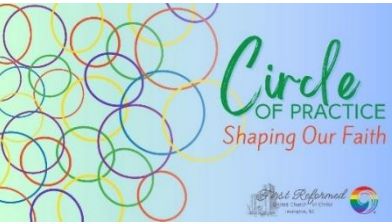
Sunday Announcements – September 2026

THANK YOU FOR SERVING

Liturgist: Dave Fulton **Greeter:** Zach Hedrick/Seth Poe
Sound/Streaming Team: Jeremy Peterson
Nursery: Kai Plummer **Ushers:** DJ Huffman

Would You Like to Help with Communion?

We are looking to expand our Communion Prep Team! Please scan the QR code to learn more about how you can get involved or ask Zach Hedrick.



WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here. **Please fill out a Communication Card** if you are new, have a question or prayer request, and drop into the offering plate.

FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IS AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

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.

JOINING THE CHURCH

If you feel led to become part of the mission and ministries of First Reformed UCC we hope you will consider joining this congregation. If you want to talk more about calling First Reformed your home, please fill out a Communication Card, or let one of the ushers or ministers know.

FIRST REFORMED UCC

104 East Center Street
Lexington, NC 27292
336-248-2617
www.frucc.org
facebook.com/firstreformeducc

First Reformed United Church of Christ

The love of God, the power to love others, and the ability to love ourselves.

September 6, 2026

The Worship of God

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Stand as you are able

Congregation responds in (BOLD)

Prelude

Gather Us In

arr. Bruce Tippet

*Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Elizabeth Horton

Introit

Draw the Circle Wide

Ellen Peterson

*Call to Worship

Dave Fulton

One: Come, as you are, People of God! Bring your joys, burdens, questions and hope!

Many: We come to worship the One who calls us, shapes us, and sends us.

One: The Christian life is not a race to the finish, nor a checklist to complete. Discipleship is a way of living, practiced as we say “Yes” to God.

Many: We come with different stories, experiences, and ways of seeing the world. Sometimes we do not always agree. And Yet...

One: Christ calls us not because we are the same, but because we belong to one another.

Many: Teach us to repair what is broken and have the hard conversations.

All: Gather us in, O God, and shape us into people who practice reconciliation.

*Hymn

Gather Us In

1 Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the dark-ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,
van-ish-ed a-way; see in this space our fears and our dreamings
yearn for your face. We have been sung throughout all of his-tory,
bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
light years a-way; here in this place the new light is shin-ing;
brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.
Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and
blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,
we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Joint Worship Service – Sept. 13, 2026

As part of our 125th Anniversary Celebration, St. Stephen UMC will join us for worship at First Reformed on Sunday, September 13. Rev. Arnetta Beverly will bring a special message. We will have special music by Ethan Lovell and Mike Price.

First Reformed UCC Youth Group

Starting Sept. 20th at 5:30pm-7pm.

Future Youth Group meetings will be on the first and third Sunday of each month. 5:30 – 7pm.

125th Anniversary Tee Shirts for Sale!

Deadline for orders is September 13th

Sizes XS – XL \$15.00 Sizes XXL and above \$17.00

See Dave Fulton to order yours today!

To purchase online go to www.frucc.org/give
(Meals & Payments)

Up-coming:

9-7 Labor Day - Church Office Closed

9-8 Board of Worship, 6:00pm – Parlor

9-9 Board of Evangelism, 5:30pm – Parlor

9-13 Consistory, following Worship – Parlor

9-12 Community Garden Workday, 10am-12pm

9-14 Stewardship Planning Meeting, 3pm - Parlor

9-16 NAMI Support Group, 1:00pm – Room 13

9-20 Youth Group Starts, 5:30pm – 3rd Floor Edu. Bldg.

9-23 Women’s Fellowship, 11:30am – Yarborough’s
Restaurant

9-25 Blowing Rock Retreat (9/25-9/27)

9-27 Intersections of Faith Bible Study, 4:00pm - Parlor

9-30 **CANCELLED - Red Cross Blood Drive**

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, 9/6 Holy Communion

9:30am..... Adult Bible Study – Parlor

9:30am..... Choir Practice – Choir Room

10:30am..... Worship Service - Sanctuary/YouTube

11:00am..... Faith Forward Baptist Church – Chapel

Monday, 9/7 Church Office Closed – Labor Day

Tuesday, 9/8

6:00pm.....Board of Worship - Parlor

Wednesday, 9/9

5:30pm..... Board of Evangelism – Parlor

Thursday, 9/10

4:30pm..... Nursery Volunteer Meeting

Saturday, 9/12

10am-12pm... Community Garden Workday

12-1:00pm..... Saturday Lunch Ministry

Sunday, 9/13 Special 125th Service

9:30am..... Adult Bible Study – Parlor

9:30am..... Choir Practice – Choir Room

10:30am..... Worship Service - Sanctuary/YouTube

Consistory Meeting following Worship

11:00am..... Faith Forward Baptist Church – Chapel

Prayer Concerns

Christie Plummer, Sylvia Walser, Aurelia Smith, June Grubb,
Susan Odom, MeLinda Mikaelson

AT HOME

Marge Doty, Lib Hinkle, Carolyn Spivey, Deanna Michael,
Pattie Everhart

IN CARE FACILITIES

Peggy Bates – Grayson Creek, Welcome

Gennie Lou Byerly – Abernethy Laurels, Newton

Myrtle Latimer – Countryside Village, Stokesdale

Eulene Shepherd – Piedmont Crossing, Thomasville

FRIENDS

Gary Peterson (Father of Jeremy Peterson), Our Saturday
Lunch Guests

Thank you for giving to God through the ministries of the church! If you would like to give electronically, scan this QR code.



Litany of Remembrance and Reconciliation

One: This is a story about remembering the night when God’s people were delivered; their fear and uncertainty. Remembering families gathered around a table to recall that God heard the cries of the oppressed and set them free.
Many: We remember, O God.

Scripture Reading

Exodus 12: 1-14, Pew Bible Pg. 57

Dave Fulton

One: God of Exodus, God of liberation, God who makes a way where there seems to be no way; In the scriptures, You tell the people to remember so they will know *who* they are and *how* they are called to live.

Many: Help us remember what oppression does, so we never become comfortable with it. Shape us into disciples who stand with those who are hurting and excluded.

One: The old hymn reminds us we are not the first generation to gather around the memories of those who have gone before us. Hear the question that has carried our ancestors:

Soloist:  Will the circle be unbroken By and by, by and by?

One: Teach us to remember what the world would rather forget: Those whose stories have been pushed aside, whose suffering was overlooked, whose names did not make it into the history books. We cannot undo what has happened.

Many: But we can choose what we do next. We can tell the truth. We can say, “I was wrong.” and, “How can I make this right?” Shape us into disciples of reconciliation. With generations of our faith we pray for the future:

Soloist:  In a better home awaiting In the sky, in the sky?

One: We remember the places where the circle has been broken – relationships fractured, families divided, communities wounded, words that cannot be taken back. Where there is injustice, give us courage to seek what is right. Where there is guilt, give us humility to make amends. Where there is distance, give us a way to cross it.

Many: God of mercy, meet us in what is broken. There are hurts we carry. There are hurts we have caused. Sometimes we cannot even tell where the breaking began. We carry this hope with us:

ALL:

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Will the Circle Be Unbroken". It features a Chorus section with two staves of music. The lyrics are: "Will the cir-cle be un-bro-ken By and by, by and by? In a bet-ter home a-wait-ing In the sky, in the sky?". The music is in a key with three flats and a 4/4 time signature.

One: Reconciliation does not mean pretending nothing happened. It means refusing to let hurt have the final word. It means choosing healing over winning, relationship over resentment, and love over division.

Many: God, widen our circle. Keep us in your circle of grace. Where we have built walls, give us courage to open a door. Where we have held tightly to hurt, give us grace to loosen our grip. Where we have caused harm, give us humility to repair what we can. Where reconciliation is not yet possible, give us wisdom, patience, and peace.

ALL:  Will the circle be unbroken...?

One: We will keep practicing faith by saying “Yes” when you call; trusting that wherever we are, there You are. We remember the ways we have fallen short, and the grace that meets us there. We believe You will still make a way just as you did generations ago.

Many: For the Circle of Christ does not keep people out; it keeps making room... for repentance and forgiveness, for differences and reconciliation. Help us to practice faith until Your love reaches every broken place and until we remember we belong to one another, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Invitation to Give Tithes and Offerings and Pass the Peace of Christ

*Doxology

OLD HUNDRETH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication and The Lord’s Prayer

Dave Fulton

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Special Music

Amazing Grace

arr. Bruce Tippette

Scripture Reading

Matthew 18: 15-20, Pew Bible Pg. 895

Rev. Elizabeth Horton

Sermon

Circle of Practice: Shaped by Reconciliation

Rev. Elizabeth Horton

Liturgy of Holy Communion

*Hymn

Draw the Circle Wide

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Draw the Circle Wide". It features two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are: "Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. No one stands a-lone, we'll stand side by side. Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. Draw the wide. Draw the cir-cle wide, draw it wid-er still. Let this be our song: no one stands a-lone. Stand-ing side by side, draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. Draw the wide. Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide." The music is in a key with two sharps and a 4/4 time signature.

*Benediction

Rev. Elizabeth Horton

Postlude

Voluntary in D

arr. Bruce Tippette