



FRUCC September 2026

Newsletter

Join Sunday Worship on
YouTube:

http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHfZFOjObXH_br8E-UG_gTA

Welcoming Statement

If you are searching for a place to experience God's wonderful and inclusive love, we invite you to join us at First Reformed United Church of Christ in Lexington, NC.

Following the example of Jesus, we believe that God's love, Christ's church, and the power of the Holy Spirit are for all people.

We believe our unity as one body in Christ transcends worldly differences. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

First Reformed United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming congregation. This means 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.

We affirm and celebrate the diversity of God's children as a blessing. We welcome you to First Reformed United Church of Christ.

Dear First Reformed Family,

September always feel a little like a reset. Summer winding down, routines returning. A sense we're stepping into a new season together. There's a lot happening at First Reformed for us to worship, connect, serve, and grow.

On September 6, we'll finish our series, **Circle of Practice**. We've explored ways our faith is not formed simply by a checklist of beliefs, but by the practices we return to again and again. This Sunday will be marked by Holy Communion, and with a *special surprise* created by the artistic and talented mother daughter duo, *Carolyn Robbins and Ellen Peterson*. I'm so grateful for them and for the ways so many people share their creativity for God's glory.

As a part of our **125th Anniversary Celebration**, September 13 we'll host a joint worship service with our neighbor, the historic St. Stephen UMC. Rev. Dr. Arnetta Beverly will be a guest speaker, sharing her beloved wisdom and humor. Also, will be special saxophone music spanning generations: Ethan Lovell and Mike Price. Thanks to the Anniversary Committee for their organization and creative ideas!

It's been several years since First Reformed has had a formal youth group. This changes on September 20! Our middle and high school and friends are invited to gather from 5:30-7pm on the 3rd Floor of the Education Building. And will be led by Heaven Zagura and assistant. This is an important step for our church.

We want our young people to have a place to ask questions, build friendships, have fun, explore faith and know they belong. I hope our whole congregation will support Heaven and our youth as this ministry gets started.

Our Thriving Church Process continues work behind the scenes. The Grant Writing and Signage teams are both moving forward, thinking creatively how we can better support the ministries and efforts of the church. Infant/toddler care is being managed by our current Faith Formation/Congregational Life Board Chairs.

I continue to be in **awe** of the many ways this God works through this congregation – reaching out to each other and to the wider community. New challenges as we move forward are: keeping communication open and clear; showing grace when it doesn't happen like we wish, and always looking for ways to make the situation better.

Finally, there is still a bit of room for the weekend retreat at the Blowing Rock Conference Center Sept. 25-27. I hope you can come, even if for the day!

September is full; but we are a church that is learning, growing, and being led by the God who continuously calls us. There is a place for you here.

I'm grateful to serve with you.

Rev. Elizabeth Horton

The Month Ahead – September 2026

- 9-1 Men's Brotherhood, 6:30pm - Yarborough's
- 9-2 Finance Meeting, 3pm - Parlor
- 9-4 FRUCC Game Night, 6pm – Fellowship Hall
- 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
- 9-25 Blowing Rock Retreat-Leaving
- 9-27 Blowing Rock Retreat – Return
- 9-27 LBQTQA+ Bible Study, 4:00pm - Parlor
- 9-30 **Red Cross Blood Drive**, 2-7pm – Fellowship Hall

Fellowship Hall Scheduled Events

- 9-19 Setup 2:00pm – Faith Forward Sunday Event
- 9-20 Faith Forward Anniversary Event, 8am-3pm
- 9-25 Setup/Saturday Event, 6:30pm – Rev. Beverly King
- 9-26 Event (Shower) 1:30-6:30pm – Rev. Beverly King

Sunday Gathering and Practice Times to Remember

- *Sunday Worship: *Begins at 10:30am in Sanctuary*
- *Choir Practice: *9:30am in Choir Room of Sanctuary*
- *Pick-up Choir Practice: *10am/designated date, Sanctuary*

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Meets in the FRUCC Parlor - 9:30am

GENESIS: A Beginner's Guide to the Beginning

Sept. 6 – Oct. 11, 2026

Join us as we participate in a six-Sunday discussion of Amy-Jill Levine's new book *GENESIS: A Beginner's Guide to the Beginning*, where we will look at six stories in Genesis: the creation of humanity and the subsequent events in Eden; Cain & Abel, Noah, the flood and its aftermath; Abraham's almost-sacrifice of his beloved son Isaac; Jacob's dream of a stairway (it's not a ladder) to heaven; and Mrs. Potiphar's sexual harassment of Joseph. The people in these stories are not perfect. They lie and blame others for their actions; they deceive and betray; they murder and engage in human trafficking. They are humans at their best and their worst. They are invitations to discussion.

Continued >

Join us as we explore the Bible's first stories of creation, conflict, judgment, and mercy. In these stories, we may be reminded of people we have known; we may be reminded of ourselves!

Joint Worship Service

Sunday, September. 13, 2026

As part of our 125th Anniversary Celebration, we will join St. Stephen UMC for worship at First Reformed on Sunday, September 13. Rev. Arnetta Beverly bring a special message.



LGBTQIA+ Intersections of Faith

Bible Study, the 4th Sunday of the Month in the Parlor - 4PM

Come join in an open dialogue on what it means to be a Christ-follower and a person in the LGBTQIA+ community. First Reformed folks can share stories, ask questions, grow in faith both in our own journeys as well as a congregation. Snacks will be served. All are welcome.

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! Next Meeting Sept. 1st Yarborough's Restaurant.

Women's Fellowship Group

All women of the church are invited!

Each month Women's Fellowship meet on the fourth Wednesday at 11:30am for lunch, devotions, and fellowship at Yarborough's Restaurant. All women of the church are invited! Come join in on the fun! Next meeting Sept. 23rd – Yarborough's Restaurant.



Youth Group

First Reformed UCC Youth Group

Starting Sept. 20 at 5:30pm

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



MUSIC AT FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY – Sept. 20, 2026 Pick-up Choir

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

ALL ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

Participants meet in the Sanctuary at 10am for a brief practice session.

If you would like to join the Sunday morning choir, or you play an instrument and would like to share your talent during worship service, please contact our Choir Director, Ellen Peterson.



**Come join us Friday,
September 4th**

from 6-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for

GAME NIGHT!

Engage in fun games and fellowship!

Bring Board Games to Share



Get Involved in Sunday Worship Ministries

Sunday Greeters: Be that smiling face that welcomes our members and visitors to First Reformed on Sunday mornings.

To Volunteer Contact:

Shannon Myers: shannonraemyers@gmail.com

Ushers: Ushers are an important component to our Sunday services. They give out bulletins, help visitors with questions, assist those in need, and take up offering.

To Volunteer Contact:

Eddie Yates: bbqman46@gmail.com

DJ Hoffman: [see on Sunday mornings](#)

Liturgists: At FRUCC, our liturgists lead various aspects of our Sunday services. Please consider serving as liturgist.

To Volunteer contact:

Rita Lohr: rlahr@triad.rr.com

Choir: Bring your beautiful voice to our sanctuary and join the choir, which is open to anyone interested in singing on its scheduled Sunday each month. Pop-up choir meets before worship for a quick practice of the hymn for that Sunday.

To be a part of the choir contact:

Ellen Peterson: ellenrpeterson@gmail.com

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.



First Reformed UCC Ministries

Community Garden Partners with Saturday Lunch Ministry on Tomato Sandwich Giveaway

Submitted by Edgar Miller

On August 8, the First Reformed UCC Community Garden partnered with the Saturday Lunch Ministry to purchase 100 pounds of homegrown tomatoes from four local farmers at the Lexington Farmers Market. Saturday Lunch volunteers sliced all the tomatoes and included them in the nutritious lunch of beef stroganoff and corn.

In addition to the 170 full meals served, Community Garden and Saturday Lunch volunteers served 60 tomato sandwiches to “dine-in” guests, renewing the pre-pandemic Great Tomato Sandwich Giveaway. Guests were offered packets of Duke’s or Hellman’s mayonnaise, and according to an unofficial poll, Duke’s prevailed by a two-to-one margin.

Before lunch, kids from Anything for Our Youth (AfOY), a garden-partner organization, worked in the garden weeding and picking tomatoes, watermelons, peppers, and green beans. AfOY leader Tina Royal also donated \$150 toward the purchase of tomatoes for the Saturday Lunch on behalf of the organization. Thank you so much, Tina and AfOY!

As summer winds down, we will begin transitioning to the fall garden, including planting cover crops and harvesting okra and green beans—and maybe a few apples and figs—from the recently planted fruit trees.

The next Community Garden workday is scheduled for **10 AM–12 PM on Saturday, September 12.**



First Reformed UCC Clothing Ministry

Submitted by Heaven Zagura

We have had quite a few children and teenagers come through this month for back to school clothes!

We are really in need of men’s clothes (especially smaller sizes). Shirts, pants, shorts, hoodies, and jackets are all in high demand. Also, we need toiletries for people coming through.



First Reformed UCC Saturday Lunch Ministry

Submitted by Bob Saylor

In August 2026, we served **718 meals** to our Saturday Lunch friends. We are also grateful to welcome new volunteers: John and Barbara from FUMC Lexington, and Francesca, who recently moved from New York.

We are very thankful to Journey Church of Lexington for providing lunch on 8/29/26, and to the Lexington Rotary Club, who will be providing lunch on 11/14/26. In addition, we were blessed in August with a large donation of food items from the Wyndham Golf Tournament in Greensboro, NC, for which we are deeply grateful.

During these extremely hot and humid days, we need bottled water to help keep our guests hydrated. If anyone is able to donate a case or more of bottled water, it would be greatly appreciated.



We need donations of bottled water



First Reformed UCC Charles England Ministry

Submitted by Patti Lovell

First Reformed kicked off the 2026–27 year by serving breakfast for the Charles England Elementary School faculty and staff on their first day back, August 3, in the Media Center. Volunteers included Judy Heffner, Elizabeth Horton, Rita Lohr, and Doris Sink, who assisted with setup and serving.

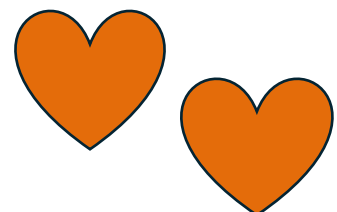
School supplies donated by First Reformed family and friends were blessed during Worship on Sunday, August 30. Afterwards they were packed into vehicles and delivered to CEES on Monday, August 31 around 10:00am. Thank you to all who volunteered.

A start date for packing weekly Food Backpacks has not yet been set. We can begin collecting single-serving, pop-top, nonperishable food items now. A shopping list will be available to help guide purchases. Monetary donations are welcome. Checks should be made to First Reformed UCC, with CEES on the memo line.

After initial testing in September, the CEES Leadership Team has requested volunteers to work with students in reading. Details are being finalized and will be shared as soon as they are available. If you are interested, contact Patti Lovell.

Pasts CEES volunteers who wish to volunteer in 2026–27, have no background paperwork required, simply let Patti know you are returning as a volunteer. New volunteers must complete a Volunteer Background Form, provide two forms of picture identification, and pay a \$15 processing fee. Patti will have forms available and can take them to the school for anyone who would like to participate.

The CEES faculty and staff are excited to welcome First Reformed back for year three of our partnership. We look forward to all that this new year will bring for both the school and our congregation.



Lexington Pride First Reformed UCC

Submitted by Shannon Myers

FRUCC had a blast as a sponsor of Lexington Pride Festival on 8/29/26. We were happy to see members of our congregation come out to show support of this special event. Our presence was received with many warm welcomes, and heartfelt conversations were had throughout the day. A ton of fun little gifts and goody bags were given out. We also had an "Affirmation Station" where people could spin for a positive affirmation to take with them. Thank you to everyone who showed up and showed out in the best way!



September Birthdays

- 9-2 Dave Fulton, Joe Kiser
- 9-4 Henry Crouse
- 9-5 Kyndell Lovell
- 9-8 Alyson Bustamante-Cruz
- 9-10 Eddie Miller
- 9-12 Lee Jessup
- 9-15 Andy Sink
- 9-16 Barbara Sink, Addie Walser
- 9-17 Lynn Brown, Stephen Wall
- 9-19 James Atkinson
- 9-20 Glenyce Fulton, Matthew Johnson
- 9-21 Susan Pascarella
- 9-24 Alice Gray, Jordan McCarn
- 9-26 Mark Smith, Becky Poetzinger
- 9-27 Rita Lohr
- 9-28 Elliott Smith
- 9-30 Kelly Greathouse

September Anniversaries

- 9-5 Dave & Glenyce Fulton
- 9-18 Eddie & Susan Miller
- 9-19 Johnny & Lynn McCarn
Tony & Lee Ann Peele
- 9-20 Brad & Molly Robertson



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
2 – 7 PM
FRUCC Fellowship Hall



In Memory of Gary Wayne Bates

*Donald Timian
James & Libby Swicegood
Donna McGranaghan
Cliff & Paula Lopp
Tom & Mary Hathaway
Robert & Debra Forcht
James Cox
Richard & Amy Josey
Thomas & Joyce Phillip
John Potts & Jeanette Neal
David & Belinda Thomas*



**On the 3rd Wednesday of each month
from 1:00-2:30pm
NAMI IN-PERSON SUPPORT GROUP
MEETINGS**

Family Support Group meetings at First Reformed UCC in Lexington, NC. Meetings will be held in the Education Building located at

75 N. Salisbury Street, Lexington NC

NAMI Connection is a support group for adults diagnosed with mental health conditions. Facilitated by trained peers, it encourages safe, confidential sharing in a flexible group setting.

These meetings are via Zoom. To register, visit our Calendar;

<https://naminwpiedmontnc.org/calendar/>,

and click on a Connection meeting of your choice. Use the “Register” link to enter your information. This will get you to all scheduled meetings for that entry. Email:

ncpsstraining@gmail.com opm

- Every Thursday from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.
- Every Sunday 6:30- 8:00pm Young Adult Connection (18-40 years of age)
- 3rd Wednesday monthly from 6:00 to 7:30pm
- Every Thursday from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Prayer Concerns

Sylvia Walser, Robb Saunders, 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

Church Office Hours

Office Closed to public Monday – Tuesday

Wednesday - Friday

9:00am-1pm Walk-in's Welcome

1-2pm Lunch

2 – 5pm **Please call ahead or
make an appointment**

Phone: 336-248-2617

104 East Center St., Lexington, NC 27292

Join us for worship Sunday's at 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Horton

elizabeth@frucc.org 336-972-8895

Minister of Congregational Care

Rev. June Grubb 336-248-5668

Choir Director

Ellen Peterson ellen@frucc.org

Pianist/Organist

Bruce Trippette bruce@frucc.org

Church Administrator

Jackie Mock jackie@frucc.org

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Men's Brotherhood Meeting 6:30pm Yarborough's Restaurant	2 Finance Meeting Parlor – 3pm	3	4  6pm Fellowship Hall	5 Saturday Lunch Ministry 
6 Holy Communion 9:30am Adult Bible Study & Choir Practice 10:30am Worship Faith Forward Bapt. Church - Chapel	7 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Labor Day 4-6pm FRUCC Clothing Ministry NO Open Hands Meal	8 Board of Worship 6pm Parlor	9 Board of Evangelism 5:30pm Parlor	10	11	12 Saturday Lunch Ministry  Community Garden Workday 10am-12pm
13 9:30am Adult Bible Study & Choir Practice 10:30am Worship <i>Consistory Meeting following Worship</i> Faith Forward Bapt. Church – Chapel	14 Stewardship Planning Meeting 3:00pm - Parlor 4-6pm FRUCC Clothing Ministry 5pm Open Hands Meal	15 Faith Forward Bapt. Church – Revival Chapel	16  1pm – Room 13 Faith Forward Bapt. Church – Revival Chapel	17 Faith Forward Bapt. Church – Revival Chapel	18	19 Saturday Lunch Ministry  Faith Forward Bapt. Setting up in FH for Anniversary Sunday 1:30pm
20 Pick-up Choir 9:30am Adult Bible Study & Choir Practice 10:30am Worship Faith Forward Bapt. Church – FH Youth Group 5:30pm	21 4-6pm FRUCC Clothing Ministry 5pm Open Hands Meal	22	23	24	25 Blowing Rock Retreat Leaving Rev. Beverly King Faith Forward BC Setting up for Shower - FH 1:30-5:30pm	26 Saturday Lunch Ministry  Rev. Beverly King FH Event 1:30-6:30pm
27 Return Blowing Rock 9:30am Adult Bible Study & Choir Practice 10:30am Worship Faith Forward Bapt. Church - Chapel LGBTQIA Intersections of Faith Bible Study 4pm	28 4-6pm FRUCC Clothing Ministry 5pm Open Hands Meal	29	30  RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE 2-7PM	RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE 2 – 7 PM FRUCC Fellowship Hall		