

THE FLOWERS on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Noble and Elsie Bates by their family.

USHERS: Steve Smith, Jerry Smith, John Hudson, Vicky Gray and Ted Smith

PLATE ATTENDANT: Roy Bevan

GREETERS: Keith, Alisa, Matthew and Kelsey Johnson

ACOLYTES: Holt Biesecker and Kalyssa Hutchens

NURSERY {Birth through 6 years-old}: Amy and Birke McNeill

PRAYER CONCERNS: Jitter Yarbrough, Ernie Bonner, Sadie Bailey, Catherine Leonard, Velna Swing, Ronnie Durham, John Rollins, Elmer Morgan, Willie Ruth Leonard, Arlene Swing, Jacqueline Leonard, Frances Leonard, Juanita and Henry Beck, Ernestine and Henry Kennedy, Steve Murdock, Jules Bliss (Banks & Eulene's Grandson), Paul Stevens (Lisa Nelson's Cousin), Van "Buster" Conrad (Gray Family), Steve Myers (Jan Smith's close friend). To place a name on the prayer chain, please call Adena Wall at 249-1904 or the church office.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

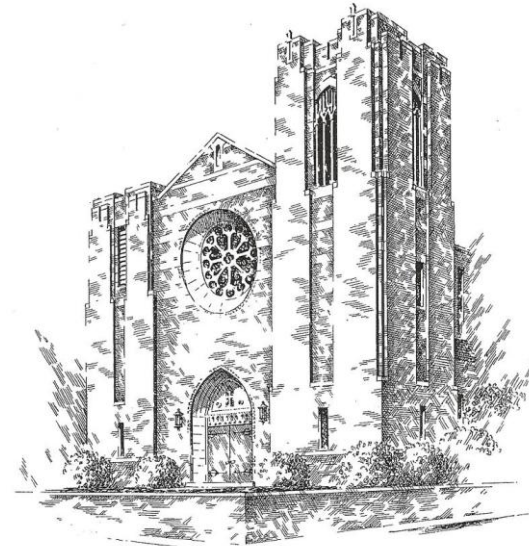
Sunday, March 21	9:45 a.m. ---SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR EVERYONE 11:00 a.m. ---WORSHIP SERVICE AND CHILDREN'S CHURCH NOON-4 p.m.-LABYRINTH WALK 6 - 8 p.m. ---Community Youth Group
Monday, March 22	11 - 2 p.m. ---LABYRINTH WALK 5 - 8 p.m. ---LABYRINTH WALK 6:30 p.m. ---Search Committee Meeting {New Way Classroom}
Tuesday, March 23	11 - 2 p.m. ---LABYRINTH WALK 5 - 8 p.m. ---LABYRINTH WALK
Wednesday, March 24	Noon-----Community Lenten Service {First UMC} Noon----- Friendship Club Luncheon and LABYRINTH WALK {FH} 5 - 8 p.m. ---LABYRINTH WALK 7:00 p.m. ---Adult Choir Practice {Education Bldg Choir Room}
Thursday, March 25	11 - 2 p.m. ---LABYRINTH WALK 5:30 p.m. ---YOGA Class 5 - 8 p.m. ---LABYRINTH WALK
Friday, March 26	-----Community Youth Group Overnight Lock-in
Saturday, March 27	10:30 a.m. ---Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, March 28	9:45 a.m. ---SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR EVERYONE 11:00 a.m. ---WORSHIP SERVICE, PALM SUNDAY COMMUNITY SERVICE

March 14, 2010	Attendance (Worship 131)	Offering Received \$3,142.00
March 15, 2009	Attendance (Worship 129)	Needed each Sunday to meet Budget \$5,581.00

Church Staff

Reverend Walter Patten, Ph.D., Intentional Interim Minister	(Cell #336-420-2728 Home #336-632-1985)
Cathy Waitman, Interim Director of Christian Education	Paul Freeman, Choir Director
Lee Ann Peele, Organist	Paula Lopp, Administrative Asst

First Reformed United Church of Christ



*Where People Discover - - -
The Love of God
The Power to Love Others
The Ability to Love Ourselves*

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Sunday, March 21, 2010

Service of Divine Worship

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Liturgist: Walter Hoffman

March 21, 2010

Silent Meditations: “Yes, in the Incarnation, Jesus died for sinners. Yet God would have become Incarnate for us even if we had not sinned, our sin not being the whole point of the Incarnation but rather God’s determination to be with us.”
--*John Duns Scotus*

An old *Peanuts* cartoon has Lucy standing in the outfield of Charlie Brown’s baseball diamond. As a fly ball sails toward her, she remembers all the other times she’s dropped the ball. You can guess what happens next. She drops this one, too. Then Lucy calls out to Charlie Brown, who’s standing there on the pitcher’s mound: “I almost had it, but then my past got in my eyes!”

Preparation for Worship

Prelude

*Chimes Sounding the Hour

*Time of Greeting and Announcements

(Special word from Amy McNeill about signup for the Blowing Rock Church Retreat)

Choral Call to Worship

Solemn Declaration and Choral Amen

Praise to God

*Hymn

“Be Thou My Vision”

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

*Responsive Call to Worship

Liturgist: Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve, and press with vigor on;

People: A heavenly race demands your zeal, and an immortal crown.

Liturgist: A cloud of witnesses around holds you in full survey;

People: Forget the steps already trod, and onward urge your way.

Liturgist: O Savior, shown the way by you, I have my race begun;

People: And, crowned with victory, at your feet I’ll lay my honors down.

*Gloria Patri

*Opening Prayer (unison)

(Derived from Philippians 2:1-2)

Liturgist

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind; in the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer for the Confession of Sin (Derived from Philippians 2:3-11)

Liturgist

The Apostle Paul teaches that we are to do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than ourselves. Forgive us, Lord, for we have frequently done things through such motives, in quests for short-term benefit and gain, failing to regard others as better than ourselves. Paul teaches us to look not to our own interests, but to the interests of others. Forgive us, Lord, that too often our own interests have filled our vision, blinding us to the needs of others. We pray, Lord, that the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus, who did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, humbling himself and becoming obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. As God now exalts him, may we do the same, confessing that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God, the Father. Amen.

The Kyrie and Assurance of Pardon - - - Amen Sung

Witness of Faith

The Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

Children’s Moment

Anthem

“Alleluia”

Causey

Proclamation of the Word

The New Testament Reading (Liturgist)

Philippians 3:4b-14 {Page #1070 of Pew Bible}

Sermon

...STRAINING FORWARD TO WHAT LIES AHEAD...

Response Through Dedication

Invitation to Give

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

*The Doxology and Offertory Prayer (unison)

Liturgist

Gracious Lord, because Christ Jesus has made us his own, may we forget anything we have done which keeps us from claiming him for our own and strain forward to what lies ahead, pressing toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Jesus Christ, that in the very giving of these gifts your very will for us and others may be fulfilled; in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Preparation for Obedience in the World

*Hymn

"Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve"

(Sung to the Christmas tune of, "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night")

Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve, and press with vigor on;

A heavenly race demands your zeal, and an immortal crown, and an immortal crown.

A cloud of witnesses around holds you in full survey;

Forget the steps already trod, and onward urge your way, and onward urge your way.

For God's all animating voice still calls us to the race;

And God's own hand still gives the prize with never-ending grace, with never-ending grace.

O Savior, shown the way by you, I have my race begun;

And, crowned with victory, at your feet I'll lay my honors down, I'll lay my honors down.

*Responsive Call to Dedication

Liturgist: And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

People: Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

*The Benediction

*Postlude

*Those who are able please stand

WE WELCOME VISITORS who are attending our service of worship today. **EVERYONE** is requested to sign the attendance pad found at the end of each pew. We request visitors also to note their addresses and telephone numbers.

Friendship Club Members

Friendship Club members will meet in the fellowship hall Wednesday, March 24th at **11:00 a.m.** for a business meeting and program, provided by June Grubb, on the origin and purpose of the Labyrinth.

We will dismiss at 11:50 to travel to First United Methodist Church for the noon Community Lenten Service. Following the service we will stay at First UMC for the lunch (\$5.00 each). After lunch we will return to our church fellowship hall where the afternoon has been reserved for Friendship Club members to walk the Labyrinth.

Labyrinth Information

The **LABYRINTH COMMITTEE** is providing hosts who will greet and assist people as they come to walk the Labyrinth this week.

SIGNUP SHEETS are located outside the church office. The labyrinth will be open for walking during the following hours:

Sunday, March 21 st	Noon to 4 p.m.		
Monday, March 22 nd	11 a.m. to 2 p.m.	and	5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Tuesday, March 23 rd	11 a.m. to 2 p.m.	and	5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Wednesday, March 24 th			5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Thursday, March 25 th	11 a.m. to 2 p.m.	and	5 p.m. to 8 p.m.



**Touching DC
With Love**

Touching Davidson County With Love

TOUCHING DAVIDSON COUNTY WITH LOVE signup sheets are in the narthex. This year the leaders are trying to organize better by assigning set jobs to churches. The signup sheets are designed for a certain number of painters, yard workers, etc. from each church. If you have questions, please contact **Edgar Miller** at 336-899-0660 or edgarmiller@earthlink.net. (**NOTE:** Monday through Friday the sheets will be located on the table outside the church office.) Signup deadline is Easter Sunday, April 4th.

Easter Egg Hunt

Children, ages toddler through 5th grade are invited to the Easter Egg Hunt **Saturday, March 27th 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.** Activities will begin at 10:30 a.m. and include games, snacks, prizes, and of course an egg hunt. Church members plan to come and invite guests!



Palm Sunday



All churches in Lexington are invited to participate in a Community Palm Sunday Celebration. Some churches outside the immediate downtown area will meet at First Reformed UCC. The procession from the church will begin at 11:45 a.m. and end at the Old Courthouse where a brief service will be held that will consist of a Palm Sunday litany, hymn, and brief homily presented by Reverend Patten. NOTE: Palm branches will be provided for our worshippers to wave during the procession. Please plan to participate in this inspirational service.

United Church of Christ congregations of the **Davidson/Forsyth District** will gather at 7 p.m. March 28th, at Hedricks Grove United Church of Christ for a Palm Sunday Service of Worship. Confirmants from all churches will be recognized in the service. The speaker for the evening is Reverend Emmett Floyd, Transitional Interim Southern Conference Minister. A joint choir will meet at 5 p.m. to rehearse special music. There will be a reception following the evening's activities.



Donations Appreciated!

Women's Life Fellowship is hosting a Spring Silent and Live Auction Luncheon on Sunday, April 18th. All proceeds will benefit community mission work.



Silent Auction: Please let us know about any new or gently used items you can donate. The starting bid for all items will be \$10. If you want to donate something, please email kivi@ecoscribe.com or call Kivi Miller at 336-899-0660 with the item name, and a very brief description.

Live Auction: We will also have a live auction of special services, skills, talents, or lessons from your church family and friends. Can you donate some of your time to teach someone how to do something (or to just do it for them)? Could you and some of your friends offer a garden makeover or host a dinner party for the highest bidder? Get fun and creative and offer up some of your time and talents for the live auction.

Please let Kivi know what you can contribute to either the silent or live auction as soon as possible. Items identified by Wednesday, March 24th will appear in the April issue of *First News*.

Blowing Rock Church Retreat

FRIDAY, JUNE 4TH – SUNDAY, JUNE 6TH



The *second annual* First Reformed UCC church retreat is not that far away! There are twenty rooms reserved. Everyone who attended last year's retreat had a wonderful and relaxing weekend; if you have any hesitations contact one of them. We had a wonderful time of fellowship and connected with people we really didn't know that well before the retreat.

I strongly urge everyone to consider coming this year. If money is an issue holding you back, come see me, we will make it happen!! Fees for the entire weekend are:

Lodging: \$157.00 (2 people per room). Meals: ages 13 and up \$45.00; 5-12 years \$28.50; and 4 years and younger free. **A deposit of \$85.00 per couple and \$50.00 per individual is due by Sunday, March 28th.** Checks can be made payable to First Reformed UCC with '**Retreat**' written on the memo line. Payment can be placed in the offering plate, brought to the church office or given to Amy. If you have questions or need more information, contact Amy McNeill (243-1420).

Board of Community Outreach

The Board of Community Outreach has invited **Dr. Ken Clapp, Vice President and Chaplain at Catawba College** to speak at their meeting on Tuesday, March 29th at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Dr. Clapp will share some information about ways that our church and the college can partner in mission and outreach work. This meeting is open to anyone who may have an interest in hearing Dr. Clapp.

Easter Lily Order Form

White Easter Lilies are an ancient symbol of the resurrection and our sanctuary will be adorned with the beautiful cross of lilies on Easter Sunday morning. The cost of each plant is \$9.00. Lilies can be picked up immediately following the worship service. To purchase a lily in honor or memory of someone, fill in the appropriate spaces and place in the offering plate or call the church office at 248-2617. **DEADLINE TO ORDER IS MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2010.**



In Loving Memory of

By

In Honor of

By
