

**Service of Worship**  
**March 2, 2025 | 10AM**



**First Christian Church**  
**(Disciples of Christ)**  
**Wilson, NC**

# First Christian Church at Worship

March 2, 2025

† At this sign you are invited to rise in body or spirit.

CH indicates Chalice Hymnal (red hymn book)

CP indicates Chalice Praise (purple hymn book)

Welcome and Announcements

Chiming of the Trinity

Sharing the Light of Christ

Jackson Childers, Acolyte

Prelude

**Jubilation** by Jason D. Payne

Casey Childers, organ

†Call To Worship

Alysun Skinner

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble.

**People: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

Leader: Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. . . .

**People: The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.**

Leader: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. . . .

**People: Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.**

Leader: He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

**People: Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

†Opening Hymn of Compassion ***O for a World***

CH #683

vs. 1 ALL, vs. 2 solo, vs. 3 ALL, vs. 4 solo, vs. 5 ALL

vs 1 **O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways, where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.**

vs 2 O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved, where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

vs 3 **We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.**

vs 4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

vs 5 **O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace, Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.**

†Praying Together

led by Alysun Skinner

**The challenges of our lives seem enormous – even insurmountable. And when we consider what we might do, we seem small – even inconsequential. So this morning we come to you asking for inspiration and courage and faith. Inspire us to commit to and act on the small difference we can make:**

**May we bring peace through small acts of gentleness and reconciliation;**

**May we bring wealth through small contributions and collaborations;**

**May we bring safety through small acts of consideration and acceptance;**

**May we bring wholeness through small acts of care and service.**

**And in the small ways, O God, may our small difference make a big contribution to your saving work in our world. Amen.**

Children's Moment

Terry Shackelford

(Following the children's moment, children pre K-5th grade are invited to stay in worship and enjoy a Children's Activity Bag.)

Prayer Concerns

Beth Williams

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Jamie Brame

Hymn of Prayer

***Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***

CH #305

O Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your spirit in this place;  
Lord listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. (repeat)

Scripture	Genesis 1: 1-6; 26-27	Alysun Skinner
Sermon	<b>“In The Beginning.....”</b>	Rev. Brame
Anthem	<b><i>If Ye Love Me</i></b> arr. Joel Raney My peace I give you, my peace I leave with you, and I will comfort you in times of trouble. And if you love me, if you love me, if You Love me, keep my commands. Though I may leave you, I will return for you, I’ll go prepare for you a place beside me. Because I live, you too, shall live. I bring you peace that the world cannot give.	Chancel Choir
Minute For Mission		Kathy Sandifer
Offertory	<b><i>Breathe</i></b> arr. Craig Curry	Casey Childers, piano
†Doxology		TUNE: LASST UNS ERFREUEN
	Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!	
†Blessing the Gifts		Rev. Brame
Invitation to Communion		Rev. Brame
Communion Prayer		Beth Williams
Serving the Sacraments	<i>(The Bread and the Cup will be served to you in the pews. We will take them together when the Minister speaks the Words of Institution.)</i>	
Music for Communion	<b><i>Breathe</i></b> by Michael W. Smith	Encounter
Words of Institution		Rev. Brame

†The Lord's Prayer

led by Rev. Brame

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

†Hymn of Sending Forth

***Community of Christ***

CH #655

Community of Christ, who makes the cross your own,  
live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:  
the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong,  
whose children are of every race and every song.

Community of Christ, look past the church's door  
and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor.  
Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street,  
take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor's feet.

Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound-  
cry out for justice and for peace the whole world round:  
disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy,  
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.

When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done,  
the climate of the world be peace and Christ its sun;  
our currency be love and kindness our law,  
our food and faith be shared as one for ever more.

†Benediction

Rev. Brame

†Postlude

Casey Childers, organ

***Toccata on "LEONI"*** arr. Michael Burkhardt

*All music in this service is streamed by permission  
through CCLI Streaming License #11144405 and One License Streaming License #A-72572*

*Postlude Etiquette—As worship ends, it's not necessary for you to sit and listen to the  
postlude, but please be respectful of those who do care to enjoy it.*

## In Our Prayers

Joyce Avery (Gilda Cauley's aunt); Keith Barnes; Martha Beland; Donahue Bottoms, Jr. (Dalen Bottoms' son); Allyson Branch; Paul Brewer; Michelle Brooks (friend of Christy Webb); Tracey and Tom Brown (friends of Robby and Ethan Boyette); Beverly Carter (Wendy Wingrove's sister-in-law); Gilda Cauley; Freddie Deans; Mary Louise Gray; Marion Griffin; Nell Griffin; Mandy Harris-Howell; Phoebe Hayes; Shirley Hayes (Kathy Proctor's stepmother); Alj Jefferies; Lynn Kyle (friend of Libby Daniell); Larry Mitchell (Gilda Cauley's friend); JoJo Near; Sue Newcomb; Wayne Perry; Brenda Proctor (mother of Christy Proctor); Evelyn Quinn (friend of Shannon and Sara Jones-Eatmon); Judy Rains; Janet Robbins; Kathy Sandifer; Jo Shackelford; Terry Shackelford; Tony Snider (Bob & Leslie Kendall's friend); Jeremy, Amanda and Hudson Luke Sutton; Troy and Leigh Ann Tatum; Deanna Ujlaki.

## Homebound

Dalen Bottoms; Sherry Brenner; Hazel Byers; Gilbert Ferrell; Nell Griffin; Judy Harris; Wimpy Jefferson; Anne Sharpe; Kathleen Ujlaki; A.J. Walston.

*(If you have prayer requests, you may fill out a prayer request card, located in the pew racks, and place it in the offering plate. They will be collected and given to the Elders.)*

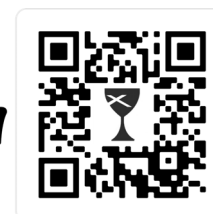
Tithes and Offerings are received with thanks and gratitude into the ministry of FCC! These gifts may be left in the offering trays or may be sent to:

First Christian Church of Wilson  
PO Box 2702, Wilson, NC 27894  
Online: [www.fccwilson.org/giving-options](http://www.fccwilson.org/giving-options)  
Text FCCWILSON to 73256



## Visiting? Welcome!

We are an open and inclusive Disciples of Christ congregation who welcomes all to God's table and service. Let us know you are with us! We will hopefully get a connection card to you, but if we miss you, they are located in the back of the church! Also, feel free to scan the QR code and share info there. We love saying "welcome" around here!



*Welcome to FCC!*



We invite you to an evening of fellowship, warmth and welcome at First Christian Church on Thursday, March 6. First Christian is a safe space for all and welcomes anyone seeking to share and explore the radical love of God.

Beginning with a potluck at 6PM, everyone can sit and catch up with one another and even meet someone new. If you are unable to bring a dish, come anyway! then at 7PM we will hear the words of inclusion and God's love for all by Bobby Jo Valentine.

Bobby Jo Valentine's music exists outside the lines of any genre, but the music's thoughtful, spirit focused lyrics and catchy melodies reach listeners across all walks of life. The poetic nature and spiritual focus of his stories and songs has resulted in notable awards and a growing, loyal following around the country.

He's found a voice with original, hopeful songs about the gentle everyday spiritual awakenings of an openhearted life. Growing up and emerging out of a Baptist Church of strict lines and sharp edges, Bobby Jo Valentine has emerged into a larger, kinder, more welcoming faith...one that is excited to learn, open to growth, and focused on love. Along with theatres, house concerts, and many other kinds of stages, Bobby is often invited to offer his stories and songs at faith communities around the nation.

Among others, he has been invited to perform for The Wild Goose Festival, the international Emerge Conference, and the 2017 General Synod of the United Church of Christ. His music has won Song of the Year twice at West Coast Songwriter's Association, and his work has appeared on radio, TV, and feature films. He has performed artist residencies, hosted songwriting workshops, and been involved in helping communities of all types use their spaces and voice in more creative and powerful ways. Bobby currently hails from Northern California, and is ecstatic any time he can discuss the big questions, challenge the easy answers, and inspire people to move closer to love.

You can hear music, watch performances, and get information on catching a show at [www.bobbyjovalentine.com](http://www.bobbyjovalentine.com)



Finally, beloved ...

whatever is commendable ...

think about these things.

Philippians 4:8



## **WEEK OF COMPASSION UPDATE FROM BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC**

Roughly four months out from the storm, and the needs across the impacted communities are staggering. During my visit this week, I was struck by how much debris is still along the rivers and roads, as well as the scale of destruction to people's homes and livelihoods. We heard repeatedly about the dire need for financial assistance and rental assistance as folks are also dealing

with the loss of income and general impact to the economy. Many folks are still in hotels, as rental options are quite limited. I took great encouragement, though, in the passion and commitment of local residents and organizations, as well as the level of coordination and collaboration happening across Buncombe County (which is where my visit was focused).

Week of Compassion has provided grants to 5 Disciples households affected by the hurricane, as well as grants to Christmount to help with repairs and to assist the residents who live on property.

Throughout the summer, we are scheduled to co-host volunteer teams with Christmount, and the schedule is almost full! Details about what work teams will do are still in development, but we've committed to supporting the service-learning trips Christmount hosts as well as hosting additional teams with a more "traditional" mission trip schedule. We anticipate spring groups will primarily focus on repairs on the Christmount campus, with teams doing more work in the community as partners get organized to receive volunteers for things like waterway restoration and home repairs/rebuilds.

We have also awarded a grant to a project led by Mennonite Disaster Service and Lutheran Disaster Response called [Bridging Together](#) – to repair or replace approximately 5000 private bridges that were destroyed in the region. We hope to have volunteer engagement with this project as well. Our primary focus and investment will be on rebuilding, so identification of local partners and planning for response will take some time, but we laid some great groundwork this week, and I anticipate our engagement will span the next several years.

Be on the lookout for communication from the Regional Disaster Response Team, as Annell George-McLawnhorn was part of many of the meetings this week, and we identified several ways for the churches of the Region to continue supporting recovery.

Thank you for being part of this ministry – it is an honor to be in the good work together.

Rev. Caroline Hamilton-Arnold (she/her)

Associate Director, Domestic Disaster Response

Week of Compassion, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada

### **JUSTICE & ADVOCACY MINISTRY**

The Compassion & Service team invites you to join us in considering the question: **What does it mean to work for justice as a disciple of Jesus?** In coming weeks we will be sharing a short series of emails that look at Disciple and ecumenical resources for reflection, conversation, and action. To join the list to receive these emails, [SIGN UP HERE](#) or email [TerryShackelford@gmail.com](mailto:TerryShackelford@gmail.com). If you need hard copies of some of this info, call or text Terry at 252 218 1371.

### **THE RED TUB MISSION**

The red tub in the narthex is currently awaiting your gifts of:

**Staple Food Items for Hope Station Pantry** see suggested list in the Bell

**Facial Tissue for Hearne School** 200+ count boxes are ideal



# 2025 Spring Religion Lectures

Monday, March 3  
Howard Chapel, Barton College



**Thedford G. and  
Woodrow W. Sprinkle Lecture**  
2:00 p.m., Howard Chapel

*Finding Our Way From Pulpit to  
Public Square: Three Images and  
Six Crucial Questions*

Featured Lecturer

**Dr. Richard W. Voelz**

Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship  
Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA



**E.G. Purcell, Jr. Lecture**  
3:15 p.m., Howard Chapel

*Re-Embodying Biblical Prophecy*

Featured Lecturer

**Dr. Anthea Portier-Young**

Associate Professor of Old Testament  
Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC

For additional information, please contact Dr. Rodney A. Werline  
at (252) 399-6454 or [raverline@barton.edu](mailto:raverline@barton.edu).

## Church Calendar

### Sunday, March 2 Week of Compassion

10:00am	Worship
11:11am	Sunday Morning Small Group "What If Jesus Was Serious?"
11:15am	Disciples Class

### Monday, March 3

11:00 am	Mobile Music Ministry with Wimpy Jefferson, 1505 Kenan St. NW
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### Tuesday, March 4

10:30 am	Staff Meeting
2:00 pm	CWF in the Parlor
5:30 pm	Encounter
6:30 pm	Chancel Ringers

### Wednesday, March 5 Ash Wednesday

6:15pm	Ash Wednesday Service
7:00pm	Chancel Choir

### Thursday, March 6

6:00pm	Potluck Dinner
7:00pm	Concert by Bobby Jo Valentine

### Sunday, March 9 Week of Compassion

10:00am	Worship
11:11am	Sunday Morning Small Group "What If Jesus Was Serious?"
11:15am	Disciples Class

## First Christian Church Welcomes Rev. Jamie Brame

On Sunday, February 23 First Christian Church voted unanimously to call Rev. Jamie Brame as our Interim Minister. Many of us know Rev. Brame from his previous service to us as an interim. He starts his ministry today, as he brings us his message, and will be in the office on Monday. Expected working hours will be: Sunday-Wednesday, 30 hours per week.

## First Christian Church

P.O. Box 2702 · Wilson, NC 27894 | 207 Tarboro Street NE · Wilson, NC 27893

Tel: 252-237-4125 | Website: [www.fccwilson.org](http://www.fccwilson.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FCCWilson](http://www.facebook.com/FCCWilson) Instagram: @fccwilsonnc

Rev. Jamie Brame *Interim Minister*

Casey Childers *Organist and Minister of Music* ([musicminister@fccwilson.org](mailto:musicminister@fccwilson.org))

Charles Cauley *Interim Office Administrator* ([officestaff2@fccwilson.org](mailto:officestaff2@fccwilson.org))

Connie Farris *Financial Secretary* ([bookkeeper@fccwilson.org](mailto:bookkeeper@fccwilson.org))