MEMBERS OF THE ALTAR GUILD serving in August are Doris Jefferson, Linda Paul, Ellen Ritter, Nancy Sain, and Susan Taylor.

THE PRAYER REQUEST CARDS in the pews may be placed in the offering or in the Prayer Request Boxes in the reading area and the narthex area, or you may email the Prayer Ministry Team at prayer@frontstreetumc.org. We thank team member Sharon Beal, who will be in the Prayer Room on our behalf at noon to pray for requests given on the Prayer Request Cards.

STEPHEN MINISTRY: BRINGING CHRIST'S CARE TO ONE ANOTHER

We like to think of summer as being a relaxing, enjoyable time. But hurts, struggles, crises, and problems don't take a vacation. Many times our difficulties seem even worse during the summer because everyone else seems to be enjoying life while you are feeling down. If you are experiencing a difficult time—emotionally, spiritually, or relationally—you don't have to suffer alone. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for and encourage you, pray with and for you, and provide one-to-one Christian care to help you through whatever it is that you are facing. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers, and women are matched with female Stephen Ministers. It's free. It's confidential. And it will make a difference in your life!

To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Mike Mitchell (mmitchell.nc.usa@gmail.com) or Ed Moser (emoser42@aol.com).

AUGUST FOOD COLLECTION FOR EASTLAWN BACKPACK MINISTRY

In **August**, we are collecting the following items: canned veggies (any variety), canned meat, and granola bars. Please deposit donations on the bottom shelf of the Donation Center located in the Reading Area.

CEREAL SUNDAY

Today is Cereal Sunday at FSUMC! Please deposit cereal or other canned/dry goods on the top shelf of the Donation Center in the Reading Area. Feel free to drop off these items any time during the month.

CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY OF PASTOR STEPHAN AND HIS FAMILY

As many of you know, Pastor Stephan, along with Sierra, Gemma, and Ellie, will soon be leaving Front Street as they continue their journey as disciples of Jesus Christ. Pastor Stephan has been appointed to serve a new community in partnership with New Faith Communities of the North Carolina Conference—our denomination's church planting and renewal initiative.

We will celebrate Pastor Stephan's ministry among us on **Sunday**, **August 17**, during both worship services. A reception will be held in the Heritage Center during the Sunday School hour from **10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.**, and all are invited to attend. Please make plans to join us for this special time of thanksgiving and farewell.

ACOLYTE MINISTRY

We're restarting our Acolyte Ministry and invite all 4th & 5th graders (and anyone older who would like to serve) to join! Acolytes serve once a month at the 11:00 a.m. service, and training will be provided. Interested? Contact Melissa at melissa@frontstreetumc.org by **August 10** to get scheduled for training. Questions welcome!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FRESH MOBILE MARKET WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20 2:00-3:30 P.M.

We need helping hands to pack food, load cars, and direct traffic at our Fresh Mobile Market. Your time and energy make a direct impact—thank you for helping get food into the hands of the hungry!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE | SUNDAY, AUGUST 24 | 9:45-10:30 A.M.

Parents and kids—come check out what's new for the Sunday School year! Meet your teachers and get a sneak peek at what's in store. We'll begin together in Room 302 with an overview of the year ahead, followed by time to explore and connect.

Please note: There will be no Children's Sunday School on **Sunday, August 31**. **Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 7**.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 3, 2025

Sunday, August 3

9:00 Aldersgate Contemporary Worship
 9:45 Sunday School
 11:00 Traditional Worship Service
 6:00 Missions Team Meeting
 Aldersgate Hall
 Classrooms
 Sanctuary
 John Wesley Room

Monday, August 4

10:00 Teachers Meeting/Cynthia Powell Women's BS Room 401

Thursday, August 7

9:30 Prayer Team Meeting John Wesley Room

Sunday, August 10

9:00 Aldersgate Contemporary Worship
 9:45 Sunday School
 11:00 Traditional Worship Service
 Sanctuary

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS | SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

As a new school year begins, we want to send our students and teachers off with encouragement, love, and prayer. All students—from preschoolers to college students—as well as teachers, school staff, and administrators are invited to join us for our Blessing of the Backpacks on **Sunday**, **August 24** during both the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services.

Bring your backpack, briefcase, tote bag, or laptop bag and receive a special blessing as we lift up everyone heading back to school. This meaningful moment is a way for our church family to support and pray for all those involved in education as they begin a new year of learning and growth.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR REGISTRATION OPEN

Children's Choir resumes Sunday, September 7! Open to K–5th graders, with rehearsals Sundays from 9:30–10:00 AM in the Choir Room. The choir will be led by Interim Organist Tim Baker until a permanent Director of Music is appointed. Please register by August 24 at frontstreetumc.org/events.

For more info, contact Ms. Melissa at 336-227-6263 or melissa@frontstreetumc.org.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The following dates are available to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one: **August 10, 24, and 31.** Please contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 or Idrose4717@gmail.com for details or to sign up.

LIVE-STREAMING

We are pleased to be able to live-stream our 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services each week for the benefit of those who are not able to be physically present. For those who would prefer to not be on camera, we endeavor to make the back half of the sanctuary a non-video zone. If you have any questions about this service, please feel free to speak with Pastor Ray or Pastor Stephan.

FRONT STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Mission:

Knowing Christ • Growing in Christ • Sharing Christ



Pastors

Rev. Ray Warren Rev. Stephan Margeson

Children's Minister Melissa Miller

Worship and Family Minister Josh Abraham

> Youth Minister Chris Huneycutt

Minister of Visitation Leslie B. Peavy

Interim Organist/Director of Music
Tim Baker

PO Box 2597 Burlington, NC 27216 Church Office: (336)-227-6263 www.frontstreetumc.org

Follow Us







THE WORSHIP OF GOD AUGUST 3, 2025 EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST COMMUNION SUNDAY

Welcome to the traditional worship service of Front Street! Please take a moment to fill out the attendance pad found at the end of each pew. You can receive a digital worship kit by texting "Worship" to 833-337-8517. During the worship service we invite you to stand as you are able (indicated by *) and join your voice in reading, singing, or praying the **bold** text. As you prepare for worship, please feel encouraged to say hello to your neighbors, or spend a moment in solitude with God.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

GATHERING AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS

PRELUDE SerenataIgor Stravinsky
Ernie Baker, oboe

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Welcome, God, to this place we have come to worship you!

People: We are overwhelmed today to be in your presence, to listen to you, and to be loved by you.

Leader: Welcome, stranger, to this place open for all!

People: We are blessed and greater because you have brought us new life just by showing up.

Leader: Welcome, me, to this place I have come with all of myself, hopeful and lost!

People: We are complete because together we encompass the fullness of life.

All: So with all God's people gathered, we are ready to sing, pray, listen, and be sent. All for the greatness of God's Kingdom!

* OPENING HYMN UMH No. 159 Lift High The Cross CRUCIFER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Good God, you speak good words to make good people. Our ears are open today to hear your will. Open our hearts and minds to accept you today and walk with you tomorrow. For your goodness we pray. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 95:1-7

(Please read the bold aloud with the lay speaker.)

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to

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him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed. O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!

SCRIPTURE READINGS Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 OT Page 616
Philippians 2:5-11 NT Page 197

SERMON "How to Hold Things with Open Hands"

Rev. Stephan Margeson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Thank you for your support of the mission and ministry of the church. If you would prefer to make your contribution via Text-to-Give, just text your offering amount to FSUMC's dedicated number, 336-489-GIVE (4483).

OFFERTORY

Panis Angelicus

Cėsar Franck

Dale LaRue Bailey, soloist sung in Latin

The bread of heaven becomes the bread for people.

* DOXOLOGY LASST UNS ERFREUEN

All Singing: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! UMH No. 94

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (based on the *Prayer of Serenity* by Reinhold Niebuhr)

(Please read the bold aloud with the minister.)

Lord of peace,

Jesus greets every one with "peace be with you." For all the things in our lives we cannot change—our losses, other people's choices, change itself—forgive us for fighting, complaining, and forgetting that our will is not yours. Put peace in our hearts to accept what we cannot change, in the knowledge that Christ is present with us.

Lord of courage.

The Holy Spirit invites us into spaces we've never been. For all the things in our lives we can change—our attitudes, acceptance of others—forgive us for standing in stale waters expecting to be made clean. Put courage in our bones to move and stretch with the Spirit that guides us.

Lord of wisdom,

You know all things because you created all things. For all the things in our lives that we can and cannot change—things within and outside of us—forgive us for listening to the world, which often teaches us wrong thoughts. Put wisdom in our minds to know your good Word, that what you have set before us is all we need.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving
The Lord's Prayer
The Sharing of Bread and Cup

UMH No. 17 (Musical Setting A)

If you are unable to come forward for communion, please acknowledge an usher to be served where you are seated.

Communion Music Adagio Benedetto Marcello

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN UMH No. 363 And Can It Be SAGINA

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Fugue in d minor

Johann Sebastian Bach

THANK YOU for adding to our worship of God today. Make sure to say hello to a greeter or Stephen Minister or usher with a name tag. Peace be with you.

Young Disciples on Communion Sunday: Today, we celebrate communion, and there is no formal children's church during this service. All children are invited to remain in the service to participate in communion (i.e. community). The nursery will remain open for children up to age 5.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in honor of our 51th wedding anniversary on August 4, 2025 by Mike and Margaret Mitchell.

WE THANK John Lewis for serving as Lay Reader during this service.