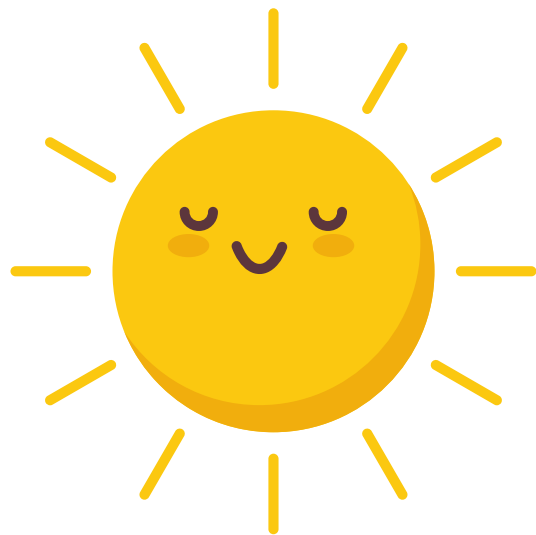




Weekly Newsletter

JULY 17, 2026

UNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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"Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid." - Frederick Buechner

I shared this quote during the sermon on Sunday, but I wrongly attributed it to Jurgen Moltmann, a contemporary of Buechner's. I'm including it here not just to correct myself, although that's always a good idea. Buechner invites us to see the world as it is and to engage with it fully in spite of what may seem overwhelming.

In the face of this we can easily give in to one of two temptations, or sometimes both. We can decide to look away because it is all just too much. We may choose to bury our head in the sand rather than face the terror but we miss the beauty. Fear can convince us that it is better and easier to just not know.

On the other hand, we can give in to the temptation to fix everything. When we see so much that is terrible we feel like we have to do it all.

And that can be overwhelming, because we know we can't do it. In the same way that fear can convince us to look away it can also convince us that we have to fix everything.

Both of these temptations move us away from faithfulness, which is the essential path of discipleship to Jesus Christ. Buechner's quote is a signpost along that way. It reminds us that we are being faithful even when bad things happen. It reminds us to look for the good and beautiful things as well. It reminds us that fear may try to make us turn aside or turn back altogether.

There is much that is terrible in the world. But God has also planted beauty, in the world and in each of us. When we remain faithful to who God has made us to be we can help bring more beauty and goodness in the world.

Thankful for all of the goodness you all share with me.

Pastor Ben

BIBLE READINGS THIS WEEK

20. Proverbs 19-21
21. Proverbs 22-24
22. Proverbs 25-28
23. Proverbs 29-31
24. Ecc. 1-3
25. Ecc. 4-6
26. Ecc. 7-9

Serving in Worship

Rev. Ben Moore
Elder: Amanda Talbert, Lisa Altizer
Media: Nicole Altizer
Worship Leader: Kelly Evans
Deacons: Wendy Clark, Dwayne Dickerson, Katie Lemmon, Cody Evans
Music: Praise Team
Accompanist: Gina Rhea

Upcoming...

7/18 Community Table 4-4:30pm Lemmon Team
7/19 Worship 11am
7/19-24 Triple 2 Camp
7/20 Brown Bag Bible Study 12-1pm at UCC (Matthew 13:31-33)
7/22 Lunch Bunch 12 noon at Sal's JR
7/24-26 Family Camp

WORSHIP JULY 19

Announcements/Greeting
Children's Blessing
Music Meditation

***Call to Worship**

Leader: As the seeds were scattered over the mountains

People: And have brought forth fruit for all people

Leader: Let us be planted in your good soil

People: And persevere to bear fruit for your world!

***Opening Hymn** no. 618 (1,3,4)
"How Firm a Foundation"

***Opening Prayer**

Special Music

Scripture Matthew 13:24-30
Good News "The Good We Can Do"

Prayer for the People/Lord's Prayer

Moment of Gratitude
Prayer for Offering

Invitation to Communion

Communion Hymn no. 393 (all)
"One Bread, One Body"

Prayer for Bread and Cup

Words of Institution

Share in Communion

Prayer After Communion

Invitation to Discipleship

***Hymn of Invitation** no. 628(all)
"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

***Closing Prayer**

***Going Forth** "Weave" no. 495
*Weave, weave, weave us together,
Weave us together in unity and love.
Weave, weave, weave us together,
Weave us together, together in love.*

*denotes standing, if able

Church Members:

New Concerns:

Susan Barton, Ken Bratton, Ruth Hinkley, Betty Jones, Lauren and Addisen Lawson, Joe Marshall, Sandy Pascoe, Alban and Phyllis Shumate, Brittney Stike, David and Angela Thompson

Long-Term: Frances Carter, Johnny and K.C. Cole, Sharon Dodson, Alice Gallimore, Glenn and Karen Johnson, Jessica Jonas, Tenny Jones, Max Mottesheard, Richard Sandoe, Aubrey Scaletta and family, Danielle Shelton, Phyllis and Alban Shumate, Keith Whitt

Community Friends: Hope Aidam, Teddy Altizer, Pamela Bartle, Larry Beverley, Matt Byrd, Becki and Addy Calfee, Douglas Chapman, **Family of Vince Clark**, Carly Sandoe Cole and family in Dubai, Lucy Coleman, Mike Crews, Kem Darden, Lt. Ken Forbes and all military in the Middle East, Catherine Fox, Jerry Gill, Phillis Grubb, Toby Hedge, Ricky Jackson, David Johnston, Rosemary Kesling, Jeff Lovvorn, Jeff McConnell, Dori Meginle, Joey Murphy, Renie Price, Wayne Queen, Harold Rhodes, Kay Snider, Mary Ann Tate, Pam Thomas, **Family of Kate Vicars-Soloway**, Amanda and Alex Wilkens and family

Shut-ins:

Delilah McConnell - Commonwealth, Christiansburg
Betty Wilson - Kroontje Health Care Center
Doyle Barton - Kroontje Health Care Center
Annie Akers - Heritage Hall

If you need specific prayer, send an email to:
prayers@unitychristianchurchradford.org