

First UCC

Focus August, 2018

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
God is still speaking.

9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship



Circle #2 Mission Project-Summer

Summer break is almost over for our school children, but we must remember that many children count on receiving their meals at school. Items you may want to donate for the remaining weeks of summer break include; healthy snacks, juice boxes, fruit cups, mac and cheese, crackers, pudding cups, pop tarts. We would like to ask each member to bring food to make the "Little Red Wagon squeak LOUDER". Below are suggestions for each Sunday, or you can bring what you want. Thank you for your donations and your generosity!

August 5: Pasta & Sauce, Dried Beans

August 12: Breakfast items, Peanut Butter & Jelly

August 19: Can Goods, Vegetables

August 26: Juice Boxes

AUGUST USHERS

David Waller, Captain
Karen Alexander
John Isenberg
Brent Snipes
Susan Ward
Eric Webster

GREETERS

Aug 5 & 12

Joyce Trexler

Millie Campbell

Aug 19 & 26

Frances Wensil

Susan Ward

WELCOME to our new member.....

- ♦ On July 8th we were very happy to welcome into church membership ***Ethan Chirico***. Ethan is a 2018 graduate of Catawba College with a B.A. in International Affairs and Economics and a Minor in History. He is now enjoying his chosen career as a Salisbury Fireman.

Ethan's address is 200 Castlewood Drive Apt 835/200, Salisbury NC 28147 (252)-876-1071. e-mail is echirico13@catawba.edu

AUGUST LAY READERS

5, 12: Phyllis Little

19: Carolyn Cline

26: Brandy Jones-Neelam

The items you brought for the **Little Red Wagon** have been taken to Rowan Helping Ministries....a total of 66 pounds.. Thank you

First UCC Foundation is now accepting applications for the 2018 distribution. Deadline is August 15.

Carol's Corner

Dear Friends,

I've just started a book called **The Forgotten Desert Mothers**. These are women who were early followers of Jesus. In the early days of Christianity women had many roles to play within the community of faith. They followed Paul's words, "There is no such thing as Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female-for all are one in Christ" (Galatians 3:28). Both women and men were involved in evangelization and works of mercy to the poor, orphans and prisoners. Women held leadership positions. Evidence can be found on old tombstones. Even as Christianity gained acceptance women still played roles within the church especially as ascetics. However, as men grew less comfortable with women leaders and as Christianity became the state religion, women often chose an ascetic life within monastery walls or even in caves. Often, they would find a teacher they called an amma, another woman to disciple them.



Rev. Carol Hallman

I wanted to share with you the sayings of one of those women- amma Syncletica. She was born in Alexandria and grew up in a Christian family. Two of her brothers died young, her sister was blind. Upon her parent's death she sold everything she had and gave it to the poor. She then cut her hair as a sign of consecration and moved with her sister to the family tomb outside Alexandria. There she began her life as a desert ascetic.

Women came to her and listened to what she had to say; she reluctantly became their teacher. Some of her sayings still survive to this day. She said "In the beginning there are a great many battles and a good deal of suffering for those who are advancing towards God and afterwards, ineffable joy. It is like those who wish to light a fire; at first they are choked by the smoke and cry, and by this means obtain what they seek (as it is said, Our God is a consuming fire-Hebrews 12:24); so we must kindle the divine fire in ourselves through tears and hard work."

She knew that things changed. She knew that life could be and often was difficult. But she also knew that patience and endurance are qualities that are needed to live the life of discipleship.

And isn't that like life? There are times when life seems pretty easy but there are always changes that happen that make life challenging and sometimes downright difficult. We see things that are happening around us and we'd like to see them change but we don't even know where or how to begin. We feel that we can't make a difference. As followers of Jesus it is even more difficult because so often we feel as we are swimming against the current. What Amma Syncletica might do is remind us that we are not in this alone. We swim with others, we can rely on our fellow travelers on this journey to lead us in the path of love and compassion. When it feels as if we can't go on, we can hold onto one another and to God's presence, trusting that they will give us the strength we need. Whatever challenges you might be facing at the moment, it may not be today, and it may not be tomorrow but we do know with certainty that joy does come with the morning.

Hope to see you in church!

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Carol

FIVE ALIVE: HELPING NEIGHBORS HELP THEMSELVES!

A client came in seeking assistance to stop eviction from his apartment. The client is a veteran living only on disability income. The client had been receiving rental assistance from the VA and was unaware the assistance had stopped. This put him behind on his rent. The client applied for rental assistance from the Community Acton Agency, but did not meet the income guidelines and was denied rental assistance from them. The landlord verified this information and is willing to work with him. The landlord will accept partial payment to avoid eviction. Rowan Helping Ministries wrote a voucher for that amount to keep the veteran in his home.

The Five-Alive Fund is **not** part of our church's budget. We rely entirely on your contributions each month to sustain this fund to aid families in our community and our church.

Backpack Sunday..... On August 26, Pastor Carol will Bless the Backpacks of all students, teachers and staff as the 2018-2019 school year begins. Bring your backpack and place it at the base of the altar, or bring up front during Time With Our Children.



Rowan Helping Ministries are in need of washcloths. They can be placed in The Little Red Wagon or you may take them to Rowan Helping Ministries.

A new/slightly used office desk has been purchased for the church office. The Habitat Restore no longer accepts office desks....so WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE THE NEW OWNER OF THE DESK from the church office???? It is **FREE** Please call the office or let someone know and arrangements will be made for you to get the desk.

AUGUST SCRIPTURE

- 5:** Psalm 51:1-12
2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15
Psalm 78:23-29
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35
- 12:2 Samuel 18:5-9,31-33
Psalm 130
I Kings 19:4-8
Psalm 34:1-8
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51
- 19:** I Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14
Psalm 111
Proverbs 9:1-6
Psalm 34:9-14
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58
- 26:** I Kings 8:22-30, 41-43
Psalm 84
Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18
Psalm 34:15-22
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69



All members of the church—whatever their needs are!



Weston's Word



What a joy it is to bring you all a report on behalf of the youth from this past month's mission trip. We had an absolute blast in Asheboro during July 5th-8th. A total of five youth and three adults attended the trip which was filled with service, retreat and enrichment. Special thanks to Ken Clapp and Black Lake Retreat Center for their hospitality and opportunities that they provided. Also we would like to thank the Church for the support that they provide to the youth and their mission trip. This year our activities included two enrichment sessions, volunteering at the local Christian Outreach Center, visiting with the kind folks over at Crossroads Retirement Community, maintenance at Black Lake, planting a garden, and we capped it all off with Sunday morning worship.

At the Christian Outreach Center we did some work for the thrift store that is operated by the ministry. It seemed that we came at the right time because many of the workers there seemed relieved when they saw us coming. At lunch that day we fed two homeless men that were at the park. With a smile on their faces they expressed their thankfulness for the food as well as their appreciation for our work at the COC. The same night we visited a local nursing home called Crossroads where we made many friends. One of the seniors that night told me that it was not very frequent that they had visitors. Our coming there really meant something to the people there. We had a pianist, a guitarist, some nappers, a former city councilman, and some other highly extroverted friends that we met that night. (You could tell that there was some excitement for us to be there.) It was really humbling to meet these seniors. You could tell they were excited at our being there! Many had no mobility, some had no family, and some were just in dire need of someone to talk to. We all take these basic everyday things for granted. It was comforting to know that for an afternoon some of those anxieties were relieved.

We also planted a flower garden at Black Lake. We turned a rocky, clay area into a wonderful area to pray, reflect, or simply look at some pretty flowers. For the rest of the summer and in the future, groups will be able to look at that area and appreciate it. We did some work on the Leonard Lodge where some upkeep was necessary. Some of the students did some things that they had never done before. The group became a bit handier, which I'm sure their parents were very thankful for. We capped off the trip with an intense 2 games of volleyball where team non-Leichman (with Kevin Sr.) defeated team Leichman. Despite being picked last, Kevin Sr's play was instrumental to their victory. He took home the game's MVP award.

While it was a trip with a mission to serve, the enrichment and togetherness of the group shown. The group showed its ability to cooperate and serve God. It was our first mission trip together, the first of laughs, sharing, and building relationships for a lifetime. Thank you to the Church for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this trip. Thank you to the parents for sharing your kids with us for the trip. Thank you to the volunteers for their time invested. Most of all thank you to the youth who made this an enjoyable experience.

Blessings,

-Weston



On August 12th we will install the new church council members during worship. After worship all committee chairs and council members will gather for a simple meal and meeting. The new council members will begin in September but will stay for the lunch and meeting as we talk about planning for next year. **THIS MEETING WILL BE IN PLACE OF THE AUGUST REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING.**

Hot Topics for Hot Summer Nights

Beginning on August 8th Wednesday WOW will be gathering for a simple meal and Bible study. On August 8th we'll talk about Refugees, Immigrants and Illegal Aliens, the 15th will be talking about the Stewardship of Creation, the 22nd will be on Homosexuality and the Bible, and the 29th I'm still debating, so TBD! Come join us for food and fellowship!

Thank You to everyone who helped with Vacation Bible School on July 14. A total of \$237.73 was collected for Heifer International Haiti!

Actions in Faith & Justice Sponsors Free Documentary Film

On August 6 at Rowan Public Library's main branch, join Actions in Faith & Justice for a 6:30 free public screening of the award winning film, *An Outrage: The History of Lynching in the American South*. The film addresses lynching through the eyes of community activists, scholars and descendants of victims. The interviews highlight the deep, lasting effects of lynchings and their connections to the present.

More information can be found in the Salisbury Post future editions, and on the bulletin board outside the church office.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED 2018 HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

**Reaching for wholeness in Solidarity with
God's Creation.**

You are invited to: Salisbury Rowan Church
Women United Human Rights Celebration

When: August 3 @ 7 pm

Where: Sacred Heart Catholic Church
375 Lumen Christi Lane 28147

Action Focus: School Supplies for
Communities in Schools.

NEW ADDRESS

Tony & Jo Ann Hoty

13 Pickett Avenue

Spencer, NC 28159

AUGUST

2018

CWU	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 Chancel Choir	2 5:00 Mission Committee	3 7:00 CWU Human Rights Day @ Sacred Heart	4
5 9:45 SS 11:00 Worship & Holy Communion Dried Beans/PB & J	6	7 6:30-Circle #6	8 5:00 Executive Council 6:00 WOW Wednesday 7:30 Chancel Choir	9	10	11
12 9:45 SS 11:00 Worship Install Church Council Noon Council orienta- tion Meeting & lunch Little Red Wagon Breakfast Items	13	14 10:30 Meals on Wheels 6:30 Families First	15 6:00 WOW Wednesday 7:30 Chancel Choir	16	17	18
19 9:45 SS 11:00 Worship Can goods/Vegetables	20 6:30 Church Women's Board Newsletter Deadline	21 1:00 Bless These Stitches 6:30 Families First	22 6:00 WOW Wednesday 7:30 Chancel Choir	23	24	25
26 9:45 SS 11:00 Worship — Backpack Blessings 5-Alive offering Foundation Cmte Worship Cmte Pasta & Sauce	27 1st Day of Salis/ Rowan School	28 10:30 Meals on Wheels 6:30 Families First	29 6:00 WOW Wednesday 7:30 Chancel Choir	30	31	

Dear First United Family,

I ~~is~~ just wanted to say thank you for your support throughout the school year, as well as the rest of the year. It means the world to me and through your guidance I wish to become a person that you can all be proud of. I look forward to growing even further with all of you after graduation and beyond.

-Tyler Bernhardt

Looking Up

World-renowned cosmologist Stephen Hawkins (1942-2018) stated: "Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious." His sentiment is especially fitting for August, when many people try to count the falling stars of the Perseid meteor shower. As a self-proclaimed atheist, Hawkins relied on science to answer "what makes the universe exist." Yet many Christians believe that while science shows how things happen or were created, our faith tells who made them so.

Deuteronomy 4:19 declares: "And when you look up to the sky and see .. The heavenly array — do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshiping things the LORD your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven." We can be grateful for the work of scientists and the wonders their study reveals, but instead of "bowing down" to nature, we worship its Creator and Ruler — the Lord of heaven and earth.

God Sighting

A God Sighting is evidence of God and His power in action. It could be an encouraging word, something as simple as beauty in God's creation around you, or the awesome volunteers at Vacation Bible School. I want to thank the following people for making our 2018 VBS a great experience for all the children, youth and adults involved. I am thankful for the special gifts each shared.

Bible Discovery - ***Pastor Dee Ellison and Pastor Carol Hallman***

Cast Away Sing and Play / Sail Away Send Off / Set Builder-

Dan Mikkelson or Gilli-Dan

Spotlight VBS - ***Winnie Mikkelson***

Technical Facilitator (and many other tasks all week) - ***Mark Schiemann***

Tropical Treats – ***Romas & Sarah Shuping, Glenda & Paul Shrewsbury***

Flo Peck (and lots of other extra help)

Registration - ***Frances Wensil***

Preschool Tidepool -

Lizzy Roy, Valerie Samaroo, April Pittman, Maggie Leichman

Imagination Station and decorated classrooms – ***Rebecca Wrights***

Ship Wreck Games – ***Dennis Neelam, Caleb Shrewsbury***

Kid Vid Cinema - ***Weston Henderson***

Crew Leaders - ***Jeff Smith, Patty Shuping, Stephanie Leichman***

Assistant Crew Leaders - ***Grayce Pittman, Stephen Leichman, Menelik Smith, Kwesi Smith, Jabori Hogue, and Asantwa Smith***

Special Others - ***Nate Wrights*** (helped in many ways all week)

Kevin Leichman, Jonathon Shuping, Ambrosine Julian

A Special Thank You to all those who helped us set up and clean up from the Sunday lunch.

CONGRAULATIONS TO.....

Karen Alexander for receiving an honorary doctorate degree from Invertis University in Bareilly, India,. The degree was presented during Invertis University's fourth convocation on April 18.

Daniel Hallman for being selected as Teacher of the Year at Danville Alternative School, Danville, VA. Daniel was elected by his co-worker/teachers for this award during his 3rd year of teaching.

Dr. Phillip Burgess, Choir Director at First UCC and associate chairman of the Music department and director of vocal-choral activities at Catawba College, was the recipient of the Kenneth Clapp Tri-Delta award. This award is presented annually to a member of the faculty who demonstrates dedication, devotion, and dependability.

Ethan Chirico was presented with the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award at the Catawba College Convocation. This award is given in recognition of fine spiritual qualities.

Leslie Dent, a preceptor in the Athletic Training education program at Catawba, was honored as the recipient of the Louise Tucker staff Council Award. This award is given to a staff member who demonstrates outstanding work ethic and performance in their area, with nominations made by members of the faculty and staff and the recipient is selected by a vote of the Staff Council.

First United Church of Christ

207 West Horah Street

Salisbury, NC 28144

NONPROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Permit Number 26

Resident Pastor: *Rev. Carol Hallman*

Organist: *Susan Trivette*

Choir Director: *Dr. Phillip Burgess*

Youth Director : *Weston Henderson*

Church Office: *(704) 633-2723* **Website:** *1stucc.org*

Facebook: *First United Church of Christ-Salisbury*

Sunday Worship: *9:45 Sunday School / 11:00 Worship*

