



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA

*"To grow in faith, love and fellowship
as we serve God and all of our community."*

We are a bunch of seekers on a journey. We learn together and we serve together. We believe that God is love and that all persons are created in God's own image. We are people from all walks of life with varied life experiences doing our best to live out God's love in the world. So truly **"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here."**



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The Pastor's Pen

Happy Resurrection Day! Christ is risen indeed!

As we move away from the shadow of the cross, we enter Eastertide--the 50 day time to celebrate the resurrection, the ascension, and the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. And as we celebrate, we do so with the memory of the cross behind us.

On Palm Sunday, I preached on "A Tale of Two (or three) Donkeys". If you remember, we imagined the idea that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a lowly, humble donkey, while Pilate and the Roman soldiers rode to

Jerusalem on a different type of donkey: a giant, powerful war horse. We know that as Jesus looked over the valley at the base of the Mount of

Olives, he could see Jerusalem and what was ahead of him. And, yet, he chose to ride that humble donkey. He trusted that donkey to carry him down the steep and winding roads of the Mountain. As I was reading this week, I came across this

poem from the beloved poet, Mary Oliver. As you read it, consider the questions: what if we are the donkey? And what would it look like for us to "lift one dusty hoof and step, as he had to, forward.?"



“

The Poet Thinks About the Donkey”

by Mary Oliver

On the outskirts of Jerusalem
the donkey waited.
Not especially brave, or filled with understanding,
he stood and waited.
How horses, turned out into the meadow,
 leap with delight!
How doves, released from their cages,
 clatter away, splashed with sunlight.
But the donkey, tied to a tree as usual, waited.
Then he let himself be led away.
Then he let the stranger mount.
Never had he seen such crowds!
And I wonder if he at all imagined what was to happen.
Still, he was what he had always been: small, dark, obedient.
I hope, finally, he felt brave.
I hope, finally, he loved the man who rode so lightly upon him,
as he lifted one dusty hoof and stepped, as he had to, forward.
- Mary Oliver

May you find ways that you can engage with the church, the community,
and the wider world. And may your eyes be opened to the needs of
those around you as you embody the hands and feet of the risen Christ in
our world. As always, there are so many things happening at First Church
this spring, and I hope to see you there!

Blessings to each of you,

Pastor Anne

Weekly Scripture References | April Lectionary

April 2 Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17

April 2 Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4: 14-16; 5:7-9

John 18:1-19-19:42

April 4 Holy Saturday

Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24

Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16

1 Peter 4:1-8

Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

April 5 Easter

Acts 10:34-43 or Jer 31:1-6

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Matthew 29:1-10

April 12 Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

April 19 Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

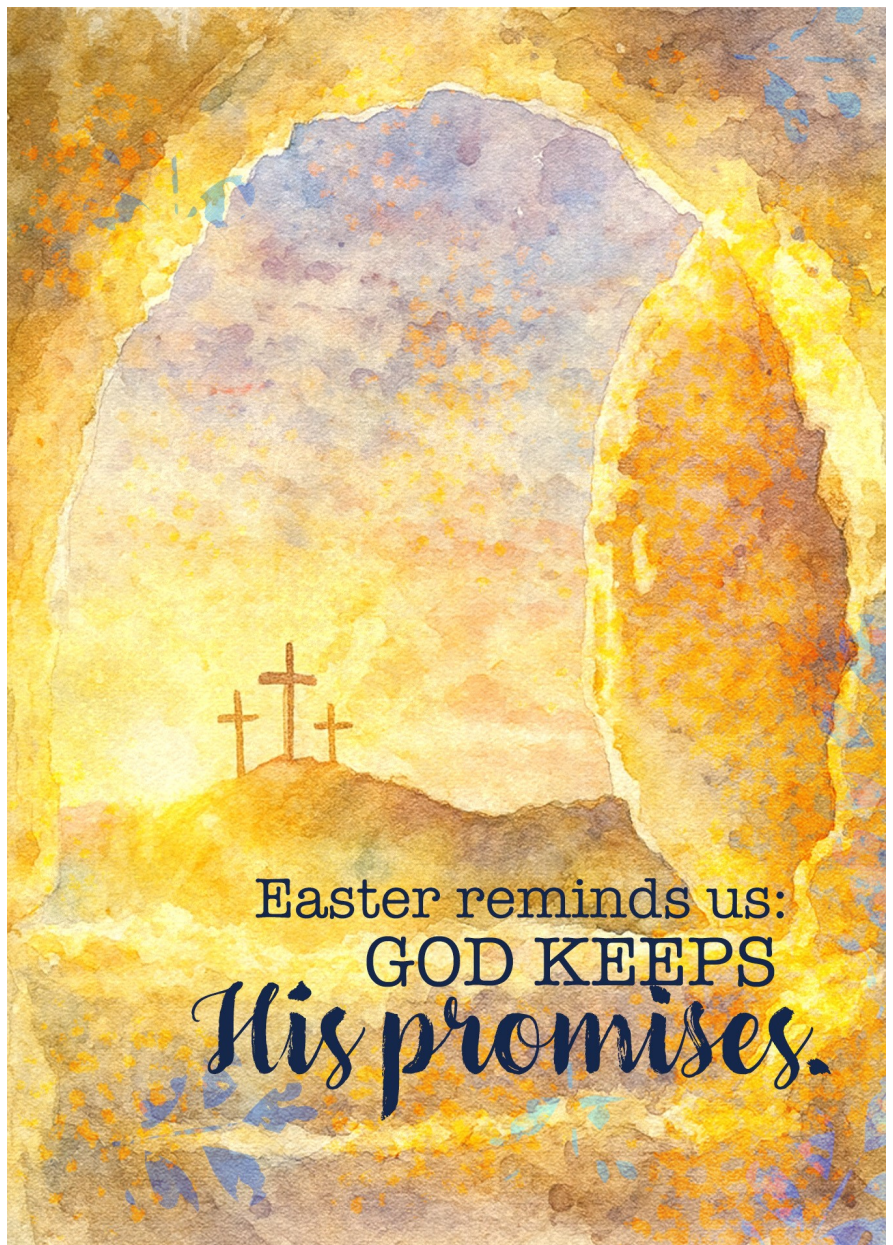
April 26 fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10



APRIL CALENDAR

3/30-4/2 STATIONS OF THE CROSS

9:00am-12:00pm

1 STATIONS OF THE CROSS

5:30pm

WOW Bible Study - Light Dinner

6:00pm

Stations of the Cross

2 MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00pm

Service of Holy Communion

5 EASTER SUNDAY

6:30am

Easter Sunrise Service/Bell Tower

10:00am

Choir Practice

11:00am

Worship Service

7 9:00am-2:00pm

Transition Team Retreat

6:30pm

Circle 6 Meeting

8 5:30pm

WOW Bible Study Cancelled

9 11:30am

Prime Timers

12 10:00am

Choir Practice

11:00am

Worship Service

13 6:00pm

Circle 7 Meeting

14 10:30am

Meals on Wheels Deliveries

15 5:30pm

WOW Bible Study Cancelled

16 5:00 pm-8:30pm

The Order of the Blue & White/

19 10:00am

Choir Practice

11:00am

Worship Service

21 1:00pm

Bless These Stitches

22 5:30pm

WOW Bible Study Resumes

28 10;30am

Meals on Wheels Deliveries

29 5:30pm

WOW Bible Study

WOW Wednesday Bible Study

No bible study on April 8th and April 15th.

The WOW Bible Study will begin a new study on April 22, using *Brian McLauren's Life after Doom: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart*. The book "Blends insights from philosophers, poets, scientists, and theologians, Life After Doom explores the complexity of hope, the necessity of grief, and the need for new ways of thinking, becoming, and belonging in turbulent times." The beginning of a new study is a great time to join the group, which meets at 5:30 for a potluck snack supper with the study beginning at 6:00. All are welcome and we hope you will join us! Copies of the book may be ordered from Amazon or your local bookstore, or you may request one from the office.

Bless These Stitches

Members of Bless These Stitches work together and at home! There are many knitted and crocheted items on the shelf outside of the office ready to go to their new homes. If you know someone who would benefit from this mission, who would appreciate knowing that someone is thinking of them and praying for them, please take a comfort item and deliver it to them as an extension of our ministry. If you are planning to give an item as a personal gift or for personal use, a donation is appreciated. Donations are used to purchase materials to further the ministry of Bless These Stitches and additional funds go towards Capital Improvement Projects.

We now include adding hats and scarves to our blessing pantry during the cold winter months. If you knit or crochet, want to learn, or want to share in fellowship with other needleworkers, join us on the third Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm!

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| \$3.00.....Dishcloths | \$10.00.....Scarves |
| \$5.00.....Small Hats | \$10.00.....Large Hats |
| \$10.00.....Small Shawls | \$20.00.....Large Shawls |
| \$20.00.....Small Throws | \$35.00.....Large Throws |

Prime Timers

The Prime Timers met on Thursday, March 12 with a delicious country style steak meal, prepared by Bobbie Troutman. Ms. Kate Rice, Director of Development of Partners In Learning presented an update on the new capital funds campaign to relocate the Partners In Learning Center, near Novant Rowan to the new location on MLK Blvd. by adding six new classrooms and a new mental health center for children and their families. Construction will begin soon.

The Prime Timers will meet on Thursday, April 9 at 11:30 am for a meal prepared by members of Prime Timers. The menu will be baked ham, fried chicken, potato salad, vegetable salad, baked beans and desserts. Dr. and Mrs. David Nelson, President and First Lady of Catawba College, will present a program on their recent tour in Scotland. The JOY Club of Mt. Zion UCC has been invited to attend. Prime Timers are invited to share a love offering.



Take a Blessing, Leave a Blessing, Be a Blessing

The Blessing Pantry located near the driveway into the parking lot on Church Street is an outreach to the neighboring community. Members of the Mission Committee continue to monitor the box and add items at least once a week, but demand is great and it is usually emptied in a couple of days.

How can you participate?

Bring your contributions to the Church office during office hours. You can also add items directly to the Blessing Box or make a monetary contribution to help the Mission Committee to keep the pantry supplied.

Thank you for supporting this important effort to be an active presence in our neighborhood every day of

Little Red Wagon

The items donated to the Little Red Wagon are given to Rowan Helping Ministries Food for Thought Backpack Program. Items may be placed in the Little Red Wagon or dropped off at the First UCC Church office during weekly office hours.

Suggested Items for the Blessing Pantry	Suggested Items for the Little Red Wagon
Canned meats (chicken, tuna, ham, Spam) Hearty soups with pull tab Chef Boyardee canned meals Canned fruits and vegetables Peanut butter and jelly, bread Dried goods (noodles, cereals, beans) Personal hygiene products Baby care items (wipes, snack pouches) Can openers Spices Exclude items that may perish in weather conditions.	Mac & Cheese cups Canned ravioli Individual cereal packs Oatmeal/grits Pop Tarts Pudding cups Fruit cups Granola bars Lance crackers (variety packs) Microwave meals (shelf stable soups, pasta, etc.)

Requests for Thoughts & Prayers

God has blessed creation with a great variety of gifts and gathered all people into one family, so that in sharing, we might strengthen and be strengthened by one another. We gather in our hearts and minds

Desiree Artz, Tyler Bernhardt, Rev. David Crook, Gerri Crummett (Donna Odrosky's sister), Maggie Derby (great granddaughter of Jim Weaver), Emily Faust, Emily Hauze (Linda Hauze's daughter-in-law), Cathy Hedrick (John Marion's sister), Jim Lyerly, John Marion, Shirley McNeil, Eddie Meeker, Dan Morgan, Paul Paxton, Glenda Shrewsbury, Bobbie Troutman, Tom Troutman, John and Sandy Wagoner, Barbara Waller, Waylon Ward, Sandra Wrights (Nate Wrights' mother), Janette Yost., Joyce Trexler, Susan Trivette, Ronnie Dunn (Lisa Shuping Dunn's husband & Sarah Schiemann's brother in law)

Grant these prayers, O God, gathering into your arms all the peoples of the world, so that in your embrace we may find blessing, healing, peace, and the fullness of our inheritance.

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee met on Thursday, March 12 at 1:15 pm. Rev. Dr. Ken Clapp will coordinate a Rowan Helping Ministries Shelter Meal on Wednesday, March 18 with the volunteer help of Catawba College Men's Cross Country Team and Robert Propst. Church members who volunteered desserts were Linda Hauze, Flo Peck, Sarah Schiemann and Ann Teague. Over 100 meals were prepared for RHM Shelter Guests, Staff and volunteers. Special thanks to Dr. Clapp for coordinating this meal. Linda Hauze will purchase food and personal care items for The Blessing Pantry in March; Larry Bolick will do so in April. The Committee will explore another CWS Kits Packing Party, assembling Period Packets in April or May by apply for a UCC Global Ministries Grant of \$250, matched by \$300 1st Foundation Grant Funds and other donations. The cost for a case of supplies is \$162.50, which will assembly 10 packets. The Annual One Great Hour of Sharing Offering for Disaster Relief and Recovery will be received on Easter, April 5. Thank you for your generosity. Here is the link for the OGHS video for 2026: https://youtu.be/4_GIXO-kyOw?si=bsEIN5vg07PfGb6V



Bible Quiz



According to Matthew's account, something remarkable happened to the earth on the day Jesus was crucified and again on the morning when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary visited the tomb. What occurred on both days?

- A. There was a flood on both days.
- B. There was an earthquake on both days.
- C. There was a huge fire on each day.
- D. There was complete darkness on both days.



6th Frances Wensil

7th Caleb Shrewsbury

10th Lucy Robinson

13th Dan Mikkelson

21st Robert Propst

24th Susan Trivette

25th Jonathon Shuping



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