



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."**



Newsletter | August 2026

The Pastor's Pen

History of First Church Revisited

During the weeks and months leading up to the 130th Anniversary of First Church and 175th Anniversary of Catawba College on November 1st Homecoming Service at First Church, the Heritage Committee will be submitting History from both First Church and Catawba College in Thursday Thoughts and Monthly Newsletters. This week in Thursday Thoughts there will be a history of the first five pastors of Faith Reformed Church. The Reformed tradition goes back to the Protestant Reformation and Swiss Reformer Huldreich Zwingli, a Catholic Priest, who like Martin Luther, called for Reform in the Medieval Catholic Church. In the Cathedral of Zurich, he emphasized evangelical preaching, two Sacraments, Holy Communion and Holy Baptism. He debated with Luther that Holy Communion is a memorial of the Lord Jesus Christ's life, death on the Cross, and resurrection. He taught that the transformation at the time of Holy Communion happens in the Christians who are participating and not in the elements of bread and wine of Holy Communion like Luther taught. Today, the Reformed and Lutheran traditions agree that there is a mysterious "real presence" at the time of Holy Communion that is transformative and renewing to those who participate. The United Church of Christ is in full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, The Reformed Church in America, The Presbyterian Church USA, which all have roots in the Protestant Reformation and also the Christian Church Disciples of Christ with which the UCC shares Global Ministries. Full communion not only extends to Holy Communion but also to our ordained clergy which can serve across denominational lines without re-ordination. On Sunday, August 2, we will celebrate the joyful feast, Holy Communion, in which all are invited to this open communion for believers. Hope to see many of you at Worship and Holy Communion this Sunday, August 2 at First Church. Rev.

Larry Bolick

Weekly Scripture References | August Lectionary

August 2 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-31 and Psalm 17:1-7, 15

Isaiah 55:1-5 and Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

August 9 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 and Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

1 Kings 19:9-18 and Psalm 85:8-13

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

August 16 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 45:1-15 and Psalm 133

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 and Psalm 67

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

August 23 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 1:8-2:10 and Psalm 124

Isaiah 51:1-6 and Psalm 138

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

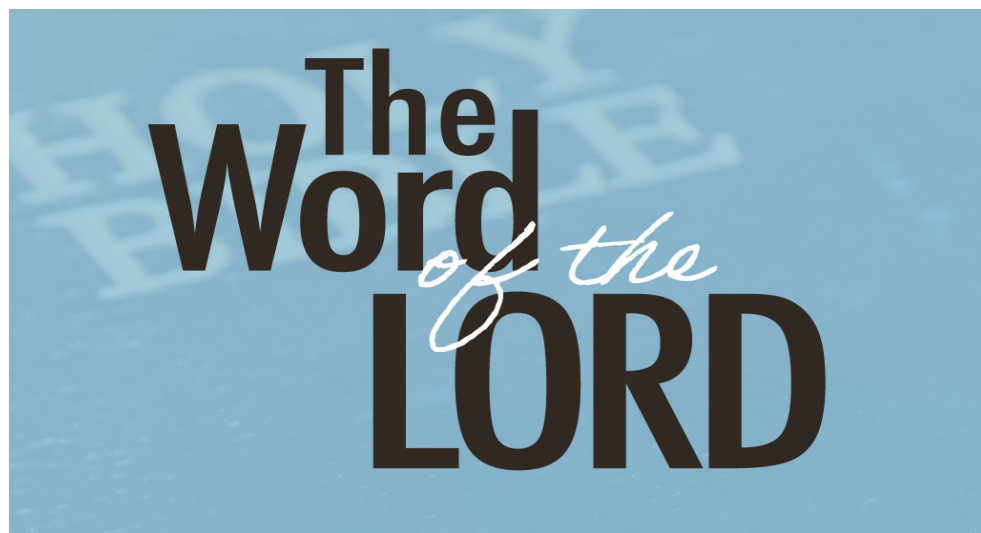
August 30 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3:1-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

Jeremiah 15:15-21 and Psalm 26:1-8

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28



UPCOMING EVENTS

2	10:30am 11:00am	Choir Meet & lead singing in service Worship Service/Installation of Church Council
3	6:30pm	Circle 7 Meeting w/ light refreshments
4	6:30pm	Circle 6 Meeting
9	10:30am 11:00am	Choir Meet & lead singing in service Worship Service
11	10:30am	Meals on Wheels Deliveries
13	11:30am	Prime Timers
16	10:30am 11:00am	Choir Meet & lead singing in service Worship Service
18	1:00pm	Bless These Stitches
23	10:30am 11:00am	Choir Meet & lead singing in service Worship Service
25	10:30am	Meals on Wheels Deliveries
30	10:30am 11:00am	Choir Meet & lead singing in service Worship Service
31	6:00pm	Heritage Committee Meeting



WOW Wednesday Bible Study

WOW Bible Study will not meet in August. We will continue a study in September with Rev. Dr. David Nelson.

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



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

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

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 Only Nonperishable items.	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.)



The 5-Alive Fund helps neighbors in the Salisbury-Rowan community who are facing financial crisis through Rowan Helping Ministries.

The fund also serves our own church family by providing support to First UCC families and individuals in times of need.

Over the past 12 months, 5-Alive has helped several members of our church community. None of this would be possible without your generous contributions

Any questions about 5 Alive can be sent to the church office or directly to Ann Teague.



PRAYER

list...

Desiree Artz, Tyler Bernhardt, Rev. David Crook, Gerri D. Crummett (Donna Odrosky's sister), Maggie Derby (great granddaughter of Jim Weaver), Emily Faust, Emily Hauze (Linda Hauze's daughter-in-law), Sarah Locklear, Jim Lyerly Family, John Marion, Shirley McNeil, (Terra Bella), Eddie Meeker, Dan Morgan, Paul Paxton, Glenda Shrewsbury, Tom Troutman, Barbara Waller, Waylon Ward, Sandra Wrights, Janette Yost, Sally Cline Blosssey, Renee Leonard (John Marion's sister), Dan & Winnie Mikkelson, Ken Pardue (John Marion's cousin), Alonzo Surratt & his sister Ava Mann, Pat Shoe (Patty Shuping's Mom), Amber Smith (Rhonda Smith's daughter in law), Marsha Beaver (Ann Teague's Friend), Bruce South (Rhonda Smith's friend), Donna Odrosky, Sydney Honeycutt-(Sarah Shiemann's niece), Frances Wensil Joyce Trexler, Diane Reavis Smith, Family of John Paxton, John Isenberg, Erin Isenberg, John Isenberg Family

For prayer concerns, reach out to Rev. Larry Bolick, 828-612-8146. To add or remove from the prayer list, please contact Rhonda at office@1stucc.org or 704-633-2723.

*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*

Prime Timers

The Prime Timers will meet on Thursday, August 13 at 11:30 am for a meal of hamburgers, chips and homemade ice cream. Participants are asked to make a donation of \$10 a person. Please let Larry Bolick (828.612.8146) know if you can attend by Monday, August 10 by 12 noon. Larry Bolick will be sharing a document entitled "The Talk" which helps organize end-of-life decisions for seniors. The next Prime Timers Meeting will be Thursday, September 10 when we will ask participants to share memories and stories from being a member of First UCC.

Missions Committee

The Mission Committee will meet on Thursday, August 13 at 1:15 pm, following Prime Timers Meeting. The Mission Committee sent \$375 to Community In Schools and Rowan Helping Ministries Food Pantry each. We have continued to fill The Blessing Pantry twice weekly with food and personal care items. Donations are always appreciated. Linda Hauze purchased food items in July. We will also review an Annual Report of the Mission Committee to be submitted for the Annual Reports.

US 250 Kindness

In Partnership with UCC, First Church is participating in US 250 of Kindness to celebrate 250th Anniversary of USA . Each day is an opportunity to show kindness to others. In June, First Church provided food items to The Blessing Pantry two/three times each week with nearly \$100 each week of food items provided by Mission Committee and Church members. On June 27, First Church will provide a meal for 90 RHM Shelter Guests. Each WOW Wednesday Study is an opportunity to share food with each other around Table. During the month, cards, phone calls and visits made among members to encourage members and friends of First UCC and give prayerful, spiritual support of kindness. Five-Alive was active in providing special financial support to those in need in our larger community. Feasting on the Fourth is all a generous sharing of food and hospitality for those who attend these monthly gatherings. Little acts of kindness are demonstrated in just being a good neighbor. Sign up for US 250 Kindness.

<https://www.ucc.org/the-united-states-of-kindness/>



TRANSITION TEAM/CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

July 28, 2026

To: First UCC, Salisbury Congregation

From: Greg Alcorn, Council President

Re: Transition Team and Council update

The Transition Team has almost finished the required Church Profile for calling our next minister. A milestone for the congregation and the Team!

The Profile includes church descriptions, historical data, vision for the future and a variety of details. The document is over forty (40) pages!! The congregation was instrumental in collecting opinions, values and attributes of our church. It's a good read and we can be proud of our past, present and future.

After we complete the final touches, the Profile will be sent to the Western Association office for review. After that process, the Profile will be available for distribution within and outside the United Church of Christ. Every member can also have a copy.

Our goal is start advertising in September. The Search process has no timeline except how the Holy Spirit will lead us.

Many thanks to Pastor Anne on shepherding this process. As Intentional Interim Minister, this process was a key element of guiding us to our next chapter. Stay tuned.

Our Council has continued to meet for general discussions and specific votes. On August 2nd, we will install Robert Propst and Ann Teague as new Council members. Special thanks to Don Whitfield, who was Council President in 2024-25 and is rolling off in September.

The Council's next project is to review the updated Constitution to present to the membership.

We welcome any questions or comments.



Celebrate Our Heritage

First UCC Celebrates 130 Years in 2026

HOW OUR CHURCH GOT IT'S START

The desire for a Reformed Church in Salisbury grew in the hearts of eight people destined to become the charter members of the church which was first names Faith Reformed Church of Salisbury. The committee in charge of organizing a church in Salisbury included the Reverends J.M.L. Lyerly, A. Shulenberger, J.C. Leonard and P. Barringer. This committee met in Salisbury on May 7, 1896, with the Rev. A.C. Whitmer, Supt. of Home Missions of the Salisbury Area. Reverend J.M.L. Lyerly and Reverend J.C. Leonard were the two at the organizational meeting. (Reverend J.M.L Lyerly was a brother to Miss Margie Lyerly's and Miss Frances Lyerly's Daddy's Daddy)

On April 28, 1896, the Board of Missions purchased a lot at the corner of West Horah and South Church Street. On May 12, 1897, the church bought the property from the Board of Missions.

On June 28, 1896, an organizational meeting was held in the home of F. Monroe Holshouser (grandfather of Katharyn Weaver). Charter members in attendance included Mr. & Mrs. F.M. Holshouser, Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Corriher, Mr. M.D. Lefler, Mrs. John Odell, Mrs. Cora Earnhardt and Dorsett Holshouser.

The first deacon elected was H.C. Corriher, who also served as the first secretary. The first deacon elected was H.C. Corriher, who also served as the first secretary. The first elder elected was M. D. Lefler.

The group first met in rented space in the YMCA. A short time later, they built a temporary chapel on the Horah Street side of lot at an approximate cost of \$150.

Records show that a lady friend loaned the church its first organ. Then, in the fall of 1906, a pipe organ was bought.

On September 2, 1897, the cornerstone was laid for what was described as a "one room brick church, with pulpit in a recessed area at front. The choir loft was to the left of the pulpit. There was recessed room for organ bellows, two entrances and a belfrey over corner door." The financial cost estimate for the church was \$3,000, but the actual cost was \$5,000, and this was without a Sunday School room finished and with no furnace. Gifts from the Classis were \$500, gifts from Salisbury citizens amounted to \$800 and stain glass windows were given from people throughout the area in memory of loved ones.



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, INC.

CWU CELEBRATIONS 2026

SHELTER ME

See, Hear, Respect, Protect

Psalm 24:1 (NIV)

"The Earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."

YOU'RE INVITED!



SEE & HEAR

Theme: Truth is Power

Human Rights Day

Proverbs 31:8-9 (NIV)

Proverbs 23:12 (NIV)

CWU 2024-2028

Priorities #2 & #3

Freedom & Justice:
Human Trafficking

Quality & Equity
in Public Education

DATE: August 7, 2026

TIME: 6:30 PM

LOCATION: Trinity Presbyterian Church

300 S. Caldwell St. Salisbury, NC 28144

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT: Ann Lanear

PHONE: 252-903-7244

EMAIL: elaneer@aol.com

Focus Area/Communities in School

Sponsored by Church Women United, Inc. (CWU)

475 Riverside Dr., Suite 1374 - New York, NY 10115 - 212.870.1030 - www.churchwomenunited.net

Agreed to Differ - Resolved to Love - United to Serve



Congratulations to Kristen & Eric Reavis on the birth of Emerson Joyce Reavis on July 8, 2026. She weighed 5lbs. 10 oz & 19 1/2 inches.

Emerson is the Great-Granddaughter of Joyce Trexler.

Congratulations to Eleanor Alcorn Desmond and Connor Desmond on the birth of John "Johnny" Miller Desmond on July 18, 2026. He weighed 7 lbs & 20 inches.

Johnny is the Grandson of Greg & Missie Alcorn.



We're Updating Our Church Directory

The **Annual Church Directory** will be printed in October for distribution at the Annual Meeting on **Sunday, October 11**. Please send to the church office any updates on addresses, phone numbers and emails. Also, all reports need to be turned into the office by the first week of September to be included in the Annual reports.



AUGUST

Birthdays

2nd—Lynn Bernhardt

13th—Katie Appenheimer

13th—Colin Barber

21st—Larry Bolick

28th—Linda Hauze

30th—Lydia Price



FIRST UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST
SALISBURY, NC

207 West Horah Street
Salisbury, NC 28144
www.1stucc.org

First Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
City, ST
Permit # 000

Hello August