



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 | Finding Lenten Hope

Grace and peace to you!

The season of Lent is a season of shadow and surrender. It is a time of dying to self so that we might truly live in Christ. Lent has little meaning if we see it as private effort alone; it comes alive when we understand our personal calling as part of Christ's greater mission. Our fasting, prayer, and self-denial are not spiritual exercises for their own sake, but a way of turning back to the path God sets before us instead of choosing our own. Likewise, our introduction of new spiritual practices during these 40 days are ways that we are intentional in turning to God as we journey towards the cross.

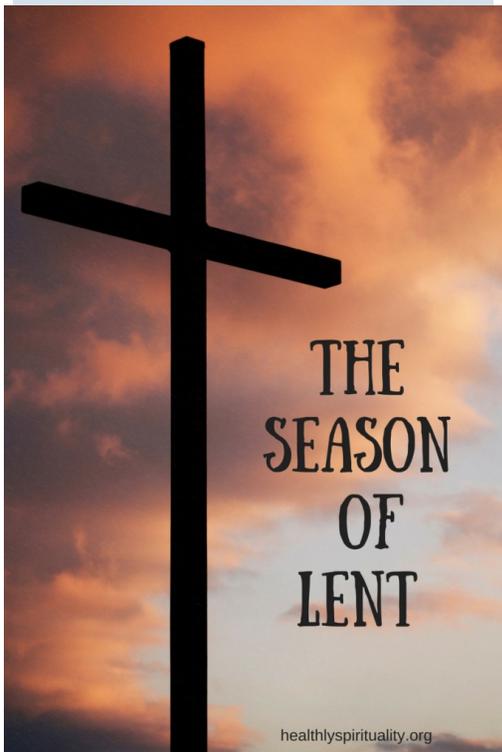
Part of turning to God means listening to what God is calling us to do and to be. There are moments when we glimpse clearly who God is calling us to be and what we are meant to do—only to find that sense of mission threatened, altered, or even undermined by others. Circumstances beyond our control threaten to take us off the path where we feel God is leading us. In this, we are not alone. This is the pattern we see in Jesus. His mission to heal, forgive, and reconcile led not to applause, but to betrayal and the cross.

If you are struggling because your deepest hopes seem to be fading, if you fear failure, or feel that your work is being undone, take heart. The Lenten journey is not truly a journey unless it leads us to the cross—the place where we must give up certainty and accept mystery, where our need to control must yield to trust. The cross is both an obstacle and an invitation, drawing us into places of vulnerability, change, and holy uncertainty. I invite you to accept the invitation that the cross offers as you journey in this Lenten season.

If we shrink back from what is difficult or unfamiliar or if we refuse the challenge of transformation, we risk hiding through Lent rather than being shaped by it. But if we dare to ask God what is being asked of us in this sacred season, we may begin to see signs—through restless nights and quiet mornings, through sorrow and through joy.

Each of us is on a particular path. And when we allow God to lead us through Lent—here and now, in this time and place—that journey will not only transform our own hearts, but become a source of strength and encouragement for others as well. May God richly bless your Lenten journey!

Pastor Anne



Weekly Scripture References | **March** Lectionary

March 1 Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-7 or Matthew 17:1-9

March 8 Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

March 22 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

March 29 Sixth Sunday in Lent

Palm/Passion Sunday
(Liturgy of the Palms)
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Matthew 21:1-11

(Liturgy of the Passon)

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54



MARCH CALENDAR

1 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

10:00am Choir Practice
11:00am Worship Service

26:00pm Circle 7 Meeting

36:30pm Circle 6 Meeting

45:30pm WOW Bible Study

72:00am **REMEMBER TO SPRING FORWARD**

8 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

10:00am Choir Practice
11:00am Worship Service

10 10:30am Meals on Wheels Deliveries

11 5:30pm WOW Bible Study

12 11:30am Prime Timers

15 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

10:00am Choir Practice
11:00am Worship Service

17 1:00pm Bless These Stitches

18 5:30pm WOW Bible Study

22 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

10:00am Choir Practice
11:00am Worship Service
12:00pm Feasting on the 4th
following worship

24 10:30am Meals on Wheels Deliveries

25 5:30pm WOW Bible Study

29 SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT

PALM SUNDAY

10:00am Choir Practice
11:00am Worship Service



Spring forward in faith!
CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS and
join us on time for worship.



Bulletin Board

First UCC and Flo Peck were honored by Meals on Wheels in November 2025!

Flo Peck was recognized at the November MOW Appreciation Luncheon as the Outstanding Volunteer from the Salisbury delivery route.

The legacy and story of Meals on Wheels of Salisbury began in August 1976, when the first volunteers rode on a church bus to test drive the very first delivery route. Riding on the bus and representing First United Church of Christ was Flo Peck! Since that first bus ride, Flo not only delivered meals, but also has served on the MOW board of Directors and has encouraged other church members deliver meals and to help with special projects for the meal recipients.

First UCC's partnership has been woven into the history of Meals on Wheels since that very first bus ride and is recognized as one of the Legacy Churches in the Meals on Wheels organization.

Thank you to ALL of the Meals on Wheels volunteers both past and present!



WOW Wednesday Bible Study

The WOW Bible Study continues through March. Participants will share a snack meal from 5:30-6 pm and ready through Romans from 6-7 pm. The anticipated schedule for meals/meetings are as follows:

March 4 Romans 9-10; March 11 Romans 11-12; March 18 Romans 13-14; March 24 Romans 15-16
New participants are invited to attend in session on Wednesdays in Fellowship Hall.

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 will meet on Thursday, March 12 at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall for a country style steak meal, prepared by Bobbie Troutman. The cost is \$12 per person. The program will be presented by Ms. Kayelin Rice, Director of Development for Partners in Learning, who will share their story and introduce their Capital Funds Campaign. Please call Larry Bolick by March 8 to let him know if you plan to attend.

Fourteen Prime Timers joined The Joy Club of Mt. Zion UCC, China Grove on February 25th for a joint meal and program on nutrition for older adults by Dr. Carol Cheatam, UNC Nutrition Research Center, Kannapolis. While there, we had the opportunity to tour the sanctuary with their beautiful stained-glass windows and History Room.



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

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. Amen.

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee will meet on Thursday, March 12 at 1:15 pm, following Prime Timers in Fellowship Hall. They are helping to sponsor a Rowan Helping Ministries Shelter Meal on Wednesday, March 18 at 5:30-8 pm. Dr. Ken Clapp will coordinate the meal with Catawba students. Larry Bolick will coordinate donations of desserts for the meal. The Blessing Pantry was stocked with items by Rebecca Wrights in February and donations from other members of First Church. The Little Red Wagon continues to collect snack food items for RHM "Food for Thought" Backpack Program to provide weekend foods for school age children/youth. The Annual One Great Hour of Sharing will be received on Easter, April 5. Thank you for your generous support for UCC Global Ministries and Disaster Relief and Recovery. Here is a link to learn more about OGHS <https://youtu.be/4GIXO-kyOw> OGHS offerings help to rebuild from disaster, feed the hungry, provide clean water to the thirsty, empower the oppressed and restore hope. Please give generously.





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DURING THIS LENTEN SEASON,
***we praise God for
his righteous Son,***
who perfectly kept all of God's commandments
for us and paid the full price
for our disobedience.