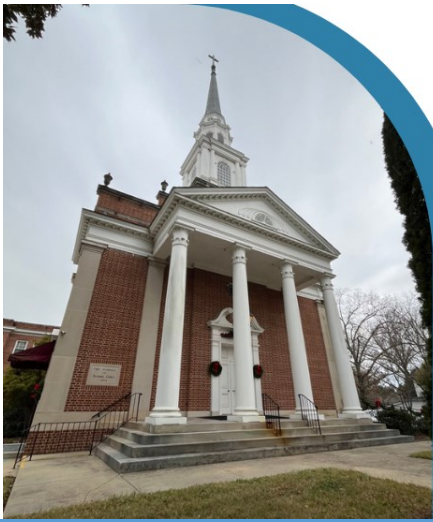


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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."**



What's INSIDE

Newsletter | MAY 2026

- 1 The Pastor's Pen
- 2 Pastor's Pen Cont.
- 3 May Scriptures
- 4 Calendar of Events
- 5 Bulletin Board
- 6 Bulletin Board
- 7 Prayer List
- 8 Committee Report
- 9 Committee Report
- 10 May Birthdays

The Pastor's Pen

Grace and peace to you!

As the temperatures heat up and the spring flowers are in full bloom, we have a lot happening at First Church! On Sunday, May 3, we will recognize our college seniors, including Teresa Greene, who has been such an integral part of our congregation over the last four years. Since it is the first Sunday of the month, we will also participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The following Sunday on May 10, we will celebrate Mothers and those who serve in that role during worship. And on May 24, we will have a time to celebrate the memory of those who have served this country in wartime and thank those who continue to serve.

We also have a tremendous opportunity on May 17 as Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson will be joining us. Rev. Thompson is the United Church of Christ General Minister and President/CEO. She will be preaching at the 11:00 service and the time will follow with a general Q and A session, as well as a meet and greet time. I hope you'll be able to join us that Sunday as she shares a word with us!

Cont.

MAY

When you get a chance, take some time to thank the members of the Transition Team for all of their hard work! We are working diligently on the church profile with the goal of completion by August 31. Thanks also to each of you that have participated in Table Groups over the last several months and are completing the take home surveys. Surveys will be available on Sunday morning for those who have not received them. When we have all of the results and comments tabulated, we will share our findings with the congregation. Your voice is incredibly important as we prepare for the next minister that is called to lead this church! Hope to see you in worship this month!

Blessings,

Pastor Anne

**GOD IS PRESENT
IN YOUR ORDINARY.**



Weekly Scripture References | MAY Lectionary

May 3 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

May 10 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:15-21

May 17 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

May 24 Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21

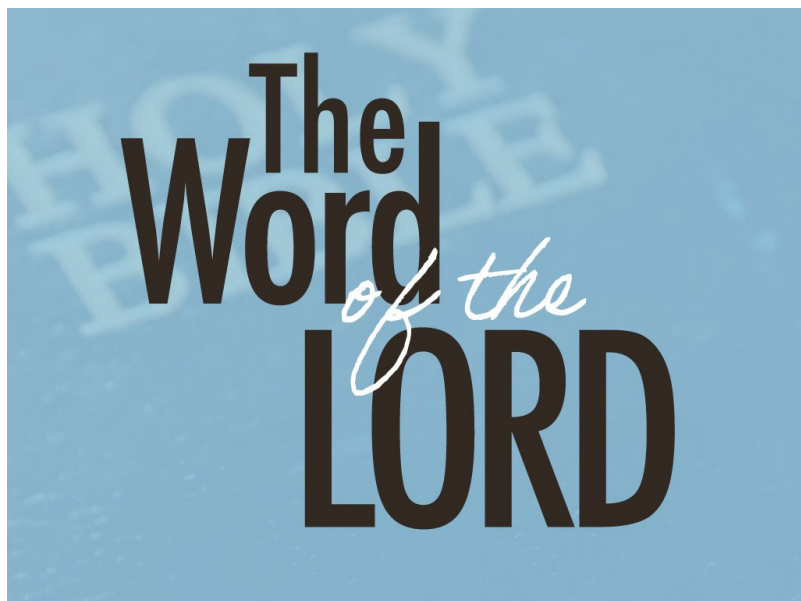
John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

May 31 Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2;4a and Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20



upcoming events

3	10:00am 11:00am	Choir Practice Worship Service Lay Reader - Teresa Greene
4	6:00pm	Circle 7 Meeting
5	6:30pm	Circle 6 Meeting
6	2:00pm 5:30pm	Transition Team Meeting WOW Bible Study
10	10:00am 11:00am	Choir Worship Service/ Mother's Day Lay Reader - Carolyn Cline
12	10:30am	Meals on Wheels Deliveries
13	5:30pm	WOW Bible Study
14	11:30am	Prime Timers
17	10:00am 11:00am	Choir Practice Worship Service Lay Reader - Susan Ward
19	1:00pm	Bless These Stitches
20	5:30pm	WOW Bible Study
24	10:00am 11:00am	Choir Practice Worship Service Lay Reader - Carolyn Cline
26	10:30am	Meals on Wheels Deliveries
27	5:30pm	WOW Bible Study
31	10:00am 11:00am	Choir Practice Worship Service Lay Reader - Linda Hauze

WOW Wednesday Bible Study

The WOW Book Study will be studying the book *Life After Doom: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart* by Brian D. McLaren. Pastor Anne Tambling will be leading this study on Wednesdays in May with 5:30-6:00 pm Shared Foods and the study time from 6-7 pm. Even though the central focus of this book is on climate change, it also touches on spiritual, social and justice issues in the care of the earth and her inhabitants.

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 hosted the JOY Club of Mt. Zion UCC on April 9 with a program by Dr. and Mrs. David Nelson on their trip to Scotland on behalf of Catawba College and its student exchange program with University of Glasgow. The Prime Timers donated one case of CWS Period Packs for \$162.50.

The Prime Timers will meet on Thursday, May 14 at 11:30 am with a catered meal prepared by Debbie Suggs. The cost per person will be \$12 per person. Larry Bolick and Sarah Schiemann will have a program on the Heritage of the Church, to begin the celebration of the 130th Anniversary of First UCC and to prepare for a Heritage Booklet with memories of “What First Church means to me?”

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.

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
<p>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</p> <p>Exclude items that may perish in weather conditions.</p>	<p>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.)</p>

PRAYER

list...

Desiree Artz, Tyler Bernhardt, Sally Cline Blossey, Larry Bolick and family, Rev. David Crook, Gerri D. Crummett (Donna Odrosky's sister), Maggie Derby (Jim Weaver's great-granddaughter), Ronnie Dunn (Sarah Schiemann's brother-in-law), Emily Faust, Emily Hauze (Linda Hauze's daughter-in-law), Laura Lashley (friend of Lucy Carte), Renee Leonard (John Marion's sister), Sarah Locklear, Jim Lyerly, Ava Mann (Alonzo Surratt's sister), John Marion, Shirley McNeil, Eddie Meeker, Dan & Winnie Mikkelson, Dan Morgan, Ken Pardue (John Marion's cousin), Paul Paxton, Glenda Shrewsbury, Patty & Mark Shuping and family, Bobbie Troutman & Patsy Paxton's family, Alonzo Surratt, Tom Troutman, John and Sandy Wagoner, Barbara Waller, Waylon Ward, Sandra Wrights, Janette Yost

For prayer concerns, reach out to Rev. Anne Tambling.

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*

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee will continue to receive food items for The Blessing Pantry, providing \$160 per month from the Mission Budget and Donations. Larry Bolick purchased food items for April and Rebecca Wrights will purchase food for May. Items may be placed directly in The Blessing Pantry or left in the Fellowship Hall or bin in the vestibule. We will continue to collect food items for RHM "Food for Thought" School Back Pack Programs.

The Mission Committee sponsored the CWS Packing Party for 70 Period Packs on Thursday, April 30 from 7-8 pm with members and Catawba College students. The project was financially supported by First Foundation, Circle 6 & 7, Prime Timers, and UCC Matching Funds Grant of \$250. A very special thanks to Rhonda Smith, office manager, who has helped with the orders of these cases and receiving them at her family's home.

Efforts will be made to sponsor another RHM Shelter Meal in June.





Celebrate Our Heritage

Heritage Committee has met on two occasions to review the recent history of the church and to sponsor a Heritage Booklet among members of “What First Church Means to Me?” The Heritage Booklet will be shared with Prime Timers, Circles, Choir, WOW students and other groups to receive articles for the Heritage Booklet.

To our surprise, The Reverend Doctor Karen Georgia Thompson, President and Executive Minister of the United Church of Christ will be our guest speaker/preacher on Sunday, May 17 during worship. Also, accompanying Dr. Thompson will be Rev. Dr. Eddie Weathers, Temporary Interim Minister of Southern Conference and Rev. Belinda Sledge, SOC Minister of Finance and Consulting. There will be a Q & A at the end of the service. The

Heritage Committee will take this opportunity to “Kick-start” the Celebration of the 130th Anniversary for First UCC, chartered in 1896 and the 175th Anniversary of Catawba College, begun in 1851 in Newton. Catawba College closed in Newton in 1923 and reopened in 1925 in Salisbury with the help of the Salisbury Community and First Church members. Both Pastor Anne Tambling and Dr. David Nelson will be participating in the service on May 17.



May 2	Cathy Robbins
May 2	George Blossey
May 5	Sally Blossey
May 5	Grayce Pittman
May 28	Phyllis Little
May 28	Bobbie Troutman
May 30	Susan Ward
May 31	Henry Alexander



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