

First UCC News

August 2025



First UCC Mission Statement

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

Worship

Sundays at 11:00
207 W. Horah Street
Salisbury, NC 28144

AUGUST SCRIPTURES

August 3

Hosea 11:1-11
Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

August 10

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

August 17

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

August 24

Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

August 31

Jeremiah 2:4-13
Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14



- | | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| 3 | 11:00 a.m. | Worship with Communion
Rev. Kerri Miller |
| 4 | 3:00 p.m.
5:00 p.m. | Transition Team Meeting
Mission Committee Meeting |
| 5 | 6:30 p.m. | Circle 6 Meeting |
| 6 | 5:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m. | WOW Wednesday Begins
Choir Rehearsal |
| 10 | 11:00 a.m.

1:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m. | Worship
Rev. Kerri Miller
Yard Sale Donations Deadline
Property Committee Meeting |
| 12 | 10:30 a.m. | Meals on Wheels Deliveries |
| 13 | 5:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m. | WOW Wednesday
Choir Rehearsal |
| 14 | 6:00 p.m. | Finance Committee Meeting |
| 16 | 7:30 a.m. | Yard Sale!! |
| 17 | 11:00 a.m. | Worship with
Rev. John Danner |
| 19 | 1:00 p.m. | Bless These Stitches |
| 20 | 5:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m. | WOW Wednesday
Choir Rehearsal |
| 24 | 11:00 a.m.

After Worship | Worship
Rev. Anne Tambling
Feasting on the 4th |
| 26 | 10:30 a.m. | Meals on Wheels Deliveries |
| 27 | 5:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m. | WOW Wednesday
Choir Rehearsal |
| 31 | 11:00 a.m. | Worship
Rev. Anne Tambling |

First UCC has been introducing Supply Pastors who have lead our Congregation for many Sundays. During the month of July we were led by Rev. Dr. Kenneth Clapp, Rev. Larry Bolick, Rev. Anne Tambling and Rev. David Kennedy. Copies of sermons are available from the Church Office.

August Supply Pastors:

August 3: Rev. Kerri Miller

August 10: Rev. Kerri Miller

August 17: Rev. John Danner

August 24: Rev. Anne Tambling

August 31: Rev. Anne Tambling

Thanks to those who have been our lay readers. Their work has gotten more hands on with coordinating the Worship with the Supply Pastors.

Continued thanks to Rev. Larry Bolick and Rev. Ken Clapp who have been doing visitations, have helped with worship and have answered questions from the Office.

Please join us for a Sunday! We hope to see you soon!



Desiree Artz, Brenda Bernhardt, Tyler Bernhardt, Rev. David Crook, Gerri D. Crummett (Donna Odrosky's sister), Maggie Derby (great grand daughter of Jim Weaver), John Drye (Ann Teague's cousin), Emily Faust, Jim Lyerly, John Marion, Shirley McNeil, Eddie Meeker, Doris Miller, Dan Morgan, Patsy Paxton, Paul Paxton, Cathy Robbins, Glenda Shrewsbury, Patty & Mark Shuping and family, Tom Troutman, Barbara Waller, Waylon Ward, Don Whitfield, Janette Yost.

If you know of anyone who should be added or removed from our prayer list, let the office know.

Transition Team Update

July 22, 2025

To: First UCC Congregation
From: Greg Alcorn, Council President
Re: Church Transition Team Update #6

We continue to make progress. Yesterday, the Transition Team and Council voted to accept an Intentional Interim Minister (IIM). Rev. Anne Tambling has accepted the position. She is trained in Interim ministry, lives in Winston-Salem and works for Catawba with their Clergy Network.

Her employment is anticipated to be short term and while it has not been stipulated that she cannot be a candidate for the position of 'settled pastor' it is not anticipated that she will fill that position.

She has been selected primarily because of her qualifications to assist the transition process and that will be her primary role. She will also lead worship and provide some pastoral care.

Please welcome Rev. Tambling. She starts August 1st with her first formal service on August 24th.

Special thanks, again, to Rev. Dr. Clapp and Rev. Bolick for providing worship and visitation during this transition. Rev. Tambling will provide worship and visitation going forward, except for after-hours visitation.

A list of answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) is now available. Hopefully the questions/answers will be updated as the Transition Team continues its work. The FAQs will be in the Narthex and in the monthly Newsletter.

Calling an Intentional Interim is a nice milestone. Now more exploration focused on our church's future can occur.

Council minutes: Council voted to approve Rev. Tambling as our Intentional Interim. We also agreed to extend the Council terms of the current members and NOT add new members until next year. We may need a Congregational vote on this decision. If so, we will announce at church during our oral updates and in writing.

We welcome all questions and/or comments.

If you have any questions or suggestions for the Transition Team, we invite you to contact one of the members below. Concerns and suggestions are welcome at any time.

Don Whitfield
Phyllis Little
Shirley McNeil
Greg Alcorn
Ken Clapp
Carolyn Cline
Lynn Bernhardt
Dan Mikkelsen
Mark Schiemann
Larry Bolick
Rev. Anne Tambling

Feasting on the 4th Sunday, August 24 after Worship

Join us on August 24 as we welcome Rev. Anne Tambling back for her first Sunday in the pulpit as Intentional Interim Minister. What better way to welcome her than through the fellowship of our congregation as we share a covered dish meal. Entrees will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

We hope to see you there!

SUMMER MONTHS BRING LESS MEETINGS..

Meals on Wheels Deliveries	Tuesdays August 12 and 26 at 10:30 a.m.
WOW Wednesday Bible Study	Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.
Choir Rehearsals	Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Transition Team Meeting	Monday, August 4 at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Mission Committee Meeting	Monday, August 4 at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Circle 6 Meeting	Tuesday, August 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Property Committee Meeting	Sunday, August 10 at 4:00 p.m.
Yard Sale Deadline for Items	Sunday, August 10 at 1:00 p.m.
Finance Committee Meeting	Thursday, August 14 at 6:00 p.m.
Yard Sale!!!	Saturday, August 16 from 7:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
Bless These Stitches	Tuesday, August 19 at 1:00 p.m.
Feasting on the 4th	Sunday, August 24 after Worship (Covered Dish Meal)

AUGUST 16



The First UCC Yard Sale will be here before we know it. It is only a few weeks away. Set-up has already begun! Please keep in mind that our Church can benefit from those items you no longer need or use. All proceeds from the sale will go to First UCC. Drop off times will be during office hours. If you need help bringing in items or need to have some items picked up, please call Carolyn Cline or the Church Office.

The Deadline for receiving items will be Sunday, August 10 at 1:00 p.m. No items will be accepted after that time.



WOW Wednesday
Bible Study
Begins

August 6 at 5:30 p.m.
Please bring a shareable snack.

First UCC 5-Alive Fund



Ian came to Rowan County from West Virginia with a dream—to build a home by hand on a piece of land he purchased. Brick by brick, he worked to make that dream a reality, but the costs quickly exceeded his savings. Soon, he found himself living in a tent on his own land, without a vehicle and with no way to store food.

Desperate and hungry, Ian turned to the internet in search of help. That search led him to Rowan Helping Ministries.

Ian was connected to the Food Pantry at RHM and Project DASH, a partnership with DoorDash that brings food from the RHM Pantry directly to those who cannot travel. This partnership ensures that those in our community who are elderly, disabled, or without reliable transportation can still access the food they need even when they can't come to us. When the food arrived, he hadn't eaten in two days.

"It literally saved my life," Ian says.

1st UCC's 5-Alive Fund donates monthly to Rowan Helping Ministries. Please consider a gift to Five-Alive to help Ian and others like him who face struggles daily.

Primetimers

Nine members of Primetimers traveled to Blowing Rock to visit and worship at Mt. Bethel Church, built in 1880's. The land where the church was erected was deeded by Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Kluttz in 1883 for the purpose of a Reformed Church. The Congregation dissolved in the 1920's and when Blowing Rock Assembly Ground was purchased, Mt. Bethel was restored to serve the need for summer services for Reformed Churches of the Southern Synod. In 2017, Mt. Bethel was deeded to Andrew Critcher, the great grandson of Jacob and Mary Kluttz for restoration and preservation. Andrew met and worshipped with us and joined us for lunch at Blowing Rock Conference Center. He shared what he has done in recent years toward the preservation of the property. Now, Andrew makes Mt. Bethel available during summer months to UCC Churches for Sunday Service free of charge upon reservations through him.

After a delicious lunch, we toured Blowing Rock Corriher Lodge and portions of campus including The Ken Clapp Gymnasium. During the winter months, 10 rooms in North Wing Lower Floor of Corriher Lodge were renovated, which we saw one of the newly renovated rooms. The Upper Floor of North Wing will be renovated this coming winter.

The Primetimers will not meet in August, but members will assist with the set up and helping with the Church Yard Sale on Saturday, August 16 from 7:30-2 pm.

The next meeting for Primetimers will be Thursday, September 11 at 11:30 am for a catered meal and program. We are considering an invitation from Dr. Ken Clapp in October to hear about his new cookbook and prayer book that has been published and to enjoy some of the foods for lunch of his college student recipes. Date and time are yet to be determined.

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee will meet on Monday, August 4 from 5-6 pm in Fellowship Hall with Rev. Anne Tambling, Intentional Interim Minister. At this time, the Committee will make plans for the next two months. Plans are in the making to sponsor CWS Kits with donations for Service Kits that are used in times of disaster and misplacement of victims. The First Foundation Grant for this year will provide \$300 in CWS Service Kits that will be purchased in the name of First Church along with other donations.

In June, a gift of \$300 was donated to Community in Schools of Rowan County for School Supplies. In July, a gift of \$300 was donated to RHM Food Pantry. Both of these gifts were made possible by the First Foundation Grant for Mission Ministries. Again, this fall the Mission Committee will apply for another First Foundation Grant for ministries in 2026.

The Blessing Pantry is being used as items are replaced several times a week. In July, Rebecca Wrights shopped for items and replenished the Blessing Pantry, using the budgeted amount of \$160 per month for purchases. Thanks to all who contribute items for the Pantry either by placing items directly in the Pantry or in the bin in the narthex.

Members of the Mission Committee are Larry Bolick, Chair, Linda Hauze, Flo Peck, Bobbie Troutman and Rebecca Wrights. If others desire to serve on the Mission Committee, please contact Larry Bolick (828.612.8146) for an orientation of how you can best help in this ministry. The Committee meets every other month for an hour planning session.

Bless These Stitches

Those in the Bless These Stitches group have been working not just at our meetings but at home as well. There are lots of knitted and crocheted items on the shelf outside the office that are ready to go to their new homes. If you know someone who would benefit from this mission, who needs to know that someone is thinking of them and praying for them, take a comfort item and deliver it to them as an extension of our ministry. If you need something for your personal use or for a gift, a donation is appreciated. There is a suggested price list posted in the area. Donations are used to purchase more yarn to further the ministry.

If you knit or crochet, want to learn, or just want to share fellowship with other needleworkers, join us on the third Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m.!

The next meeting will be August 19.

***Take a Blessing,
Leave a Blessing,
Be a Blessing***

A Blessing Pantry has been placed on our church property as an outreach to the neighboring community. It is located near the driveway into the parking lot on Church Street, just north of Monroe Street.

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.

Popular items include:

Canned meats (chicken, tuna, ham, Spam)
Healthy soups
Beef stew
Chef Boyardee canned meals
Pop Tarts are appreciated
Canned fruits and vegetables
Peanut butter
Dehydrated foods like noodles, cereals, and dry beans
Personal care products, including baby wipes
Inexpensive can openers for cans without pop-tops



Excluded items include those in glass packaging and fresh items that are perishable in the weather conditions.

How can you help?

Bring your contributions to the church and place them in the box provided in the Narthex. This bin will distinguish items intended for the Blessing Box from donations for the Little Red Wagon and Rowan Helping Ministries.

You can also add items directly to the box.

Or make a monetary contribution to help the Mission Committee to keep the pantry supplied.

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

—Linda Hauze for the Mission Committee

Little Red Wagon

The ***Little Red Wagon*** continues to collect for the Rowan Helping Ministries Food Pantry. The Backpack program has ended until September 1 but they are still in need of non-perishable food items that are easy for a child, a family or an elderly person to prepare or have as a snack. This is a critical time of year for collections as children are out of school for the summer months. We tend to not think of some of the elderly who might not be able to open some containers or prepare meals as easily as they used to. You may bring donations to the Church during office hours or place in the wagon in the Narthex on Sunday mornings.



Your offering is a critical part of the Church's ability to function. Offerings can be dropped off at the Church during the week or mailed to the Church at:

First United Church of Christ
207 W. Horah St.
Salisbury, NC 28144

There is a link on our website to donate online to First UCC. You may also donate directly through PayPal.



You can scan this QR Code with your camera to donate to First UCC.



"Summary of General Synod 35, July 11-25 in Kansas City, MO"

Just shy of 2,000 United Church of Christ clergy and laity gathered for the denomination's General Synod, a week of worship, discernment, and action on matters of deep spiritual and moral importance. Over several days of prayerful listening and engaged debate, the Synod considered and voted on 11 powerful resolutions that reflect our shared values of justice, compassion, and faithful witness in the world.

Among the highlights: the Synod celebrated 25 years of Our Whole Lives (OWL), our denomination's life-affirming sexuality education program, and overwhelmingly affirmed its continued ministry in interfaith collaboration. Delegates also adopted a resolution recognizing the importance of continually evolving language around mental health, encouraging churches to break stigma and foster inclusion.


Two historic resolutions established full communion with both the Evangelical Church of the Union in Germany and the Iglesia Evangélica Unida de Puerto Rico — partnerships rooted in shared theology, mutual respect, and global solidarity. Another significant vote formally recognized the needs and gifts of small town and rural churches, granting them official standing within the wider church's life and leadership.

True to our justice-seeking identity, the Synod also took bold stands on global and domestic human rights. Delegates called for an end to the genocide in Palestine, affirmed human rights in the Philippines, and decried persecution of Christians in India. Two additional resolutions urged the federal government to restore full funding and autonomy to USAID and the Voice of America, recognizing their importance in global development and truthful media.

Perhaps one of the most visible acts of public witness was the Church's protest against federal attacks on immigrants, migrants, and refugees — a deeply faithful expression of our call to "welcome the stranger." That resolution, too, passed with clarity and conviction.

Closer to home, a resolution to consolidate all four UCC Conferences in Pennsylvania into one unified Keystone Conference passed, reflecting the evolving nature of church structure in response to shifting needs. However, not all proposals moved forward — notably, a major change to the UCC's bylaws did not pass, leaving space for continued dialogue and discernment.


General Synod is where the Holy Spirit moves among us — not always with easy agreement, but always with faithful engagement. The Church is alive, dynamic, and committed to doing God's work in this world. May we continue to live into these resolutions with courage and compassion in our local ministries.

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, INC.**
CWU Celebrations 2025
Human Rights Day

God's Daughters Living Powerful Lives

Celebrations 2025 Theme Scripture
"Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised."
Proverbs 31:30 (NLT)

**Help Others
At All Times**
People Helping People

**Human
Rights
Day
2025
Celebration**
Psalms 82:3

YOU'RE INVITED!

DATE: August 1, 2025
TIME: 6:30 PM
LOCATION: Trinity Presbyterian Church
300 S. Caldwell St. Salisbury, NC 28144

FOR MORE INFORMATION

POINT OF CONTACT:
Ann Lanear Salisbury-Rowan Unit of CWU
PHONE: 252-903-7244
EMAIL ADDRESS:
elaneer@aol.com

Covered Dish/Public is invited
Focus Area/Communities in Schools

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

