

First UCC Focus

November, 2018



9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship

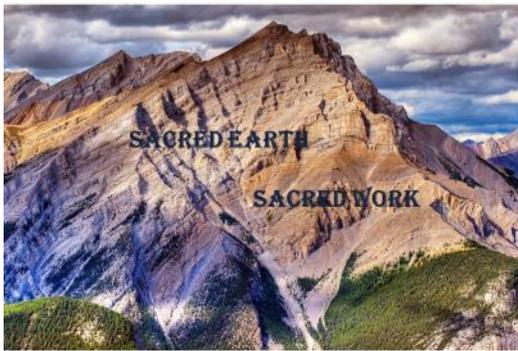
CHANGES FOR THE 2019 NEWSLETTERS.....

We will not be mailing copies of the church newsletters beginning with the January 2019 copy, due to extravagant postal increases on bulk mail. Copies of the newsletter will be sent to you via computer, just as you get Thursday Thoughts. **IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A COMPUTER and wish to continue receiving the newsletter via postal service, please let the church office know..... We WILL BE GLAD TO MAIL ONE TO YOU.** If you receive Thursday Thoughts, we have your e-mail address. Please call (or e-mail) the church office with your correct e-mail address so you will not miss a copy of the church news.

As always, there will be copies of the newsletter available in the

NOVEMBER USHERS

Paul Shrewsbury, Captain
Tony Hoty
Phyllis Little
Brent Snipes
Bobbie Troutman
Nate Wrights



We continue with our sermon series based on Sacred Earth, Sacred Work. With following themes:

November 4: Creative Vocation
November 11: Glorious Diversity
November 18: Healing Relationships

NOVEMBER GREETERS

November 4 & 11

Sandy & John Wagoner

November 18 & 25

Millie Campbell
Lucy Robinson

WOW Wednesdays: Come join us as we continue to study the book of Revelation. There are two gatherings, one meets at 11:30AM and the other meets at 6PM. The 6PM study will also provide supper. If you are planning on joining us for supper, please let Bobbie Troutman or the Church Office know the Monday prior the meeting. Here is a list of sessions and dates:

November 7th Revelation 15-18
November 14th Revelation 19-22

NOVEMBER LAY READERS

November 4 & 11

Glenda Shrewsbury

November 18 & 25

Weston Henderson

Church Office Hours
Church Office Hours are
Monday through Thursday 8-1

The items you brought for the **Little Red Wagon** have been taken to Rowan Helping Ministries....a total of 23 pounds.. Thank you

Dear Friends,

November brings one of my favorite holidays and while it is not technically a religious day it does remind me of the many scriptures in the Bible that remind us to give thanks. The theme is especially prominent in the Psalms. Psalm 9:1 "I will give thanks to you, God, with all my heart..."; Psalm 100 "I will enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise." It's easy to give thanks to God when things are going well but as you recall many Psalms begin with pain, suffering or even complaints but they all end in praise. The challenge for us is to offer praise even amid the darker times in our lives and so I got to thinking and wrote the following for you to reflect on. I hope you all have a good Thanksgiving.



Rev. Carol Hallman

Thanksgiving
A time to respond
To God's good gifts
To rejoice in the daily
Blessings which
In our
Hurry we often
Fail to see

We give thanks

For the changing
Seasons
The chill of fall
In the air as the
Leaves burst forth
In a riot of color
Offering God glory

The ice and snow
Of winters shorter days
And longer nights
Fields fallow lie
Sledding hills and
Hot cocoa before a fire

The gentle warming
Of the earth
That is spring
With its birdsong
And flowers budding
New life emerging

Summers heat brings

Longer days vacations
Time for families
And barbeques
Foe relaxation and renewal

Each season offering good things
For which to offer thanks
But what about—

As we give thanks for families
And friends,
Could we
Offer thanks for
The ones with whom we
Don't see eye to eye

Or offer thanks
For the illness that slows
Us down and causes us
To re-think priorities
Along with giving thanks
For good health
Or offer thanks
For taxes which
Pay for our roads
Our schools, our safety
And so much more

Giving thanks
For challenges
And struggles
For the good
The bad and all
That is in-between

[It may not feel
Like thanks]

But....
All that we have
All that we receive
All that we are
And all that we will
Ever be is because
Of God's love for us

So no matter the
Season
We never
Ever walk
Alone

Hope to see you all in church!

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Carol

FIVE ALIVE: HELPING FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY!

JESUS CHRIST SAID: "LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THY SELF"
{A Message From the Five Alive Committee}

A client came to Rowan Helping Ministries to request assistance to keep her water from being disconnected. The client and her 4 children, ages 5-16, compose the household. In early June, her car caught on fire and was destroyed. All the family's ID's, social security cards, income information, etc. were in the car and lost in the fire. She has been having to pay someone for rides to work or walk. The client's insurance company confirmed the fire and loss of her car. Because of all this, her water bill has gone unpaid and her water was going to be disconnected. RHM assisted her with a voucher for the balance to stop the disconnection. The client was glad to know that she would continue to have water and get her life under control.

The Five-Alive Fund is not part of our church's budget. We rely on your contributions each month to sustain this fund to aid families in our community and our church.

NOVEMBER SCRIPTURE

November 4:
Isaiah 6:1-8
November 11:
Genesis 11:1-9
November 18:
1 John 4:7-21
November 25:
Daniel 7:9-10;
Revelation 1:46-48
John 18:33-37

Circle Meetings

Circle #2 Tuesday, November 6, 2:00, Fellowship Hall

Circle #4 Tuesday, November 6, 11:30, Jeter's Deli

Circle #6 Tuesday, November 6, 7:00, Fellowship Hall
Hostess Susan Legendre

Circle #7 Monday, November 5, 7:00, Fellowship Hall
Hostess: Lynn Bernhardt



Thank you, veterans!

On Veterans Day, November 11, we honor men and women who've served and sacrificed in one of America's armed services.

"Greetings,

I hope all things are going well in Salisbury. I was glad to hear that you evaded the worst of the current storm. I am getting along okay and learning to live alone.

I miss all of the members at First Church. We

truly enjoyed our years in Salisbury.



Weston's Word

Harvest Time

While fall began a few weeks ago, it did not truly feel like fall until the end of last month. When we think of fall typically we think of the weather and the pretty leaves. What fall means to the farmer is harvest time. Harvest time is when the farmer gets to finally cash in for all of the hard work that has been done. Jesus runs across farmers as he journeyed throughout his ministry. Matthew 9:35-38 reads "Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'"

Sometimes we feel like we are the farmers. We are well invested in something whether it is our jobs, school, or other activities we become the "sheep without a shepherd". Sometimes we are the shepherd with no sheep, devoting ourselves to a cause and not having the sheep to make things work. Nevertheless we all receive the laborers for our harvest. It does not happen on our time. In times like this where I find myself helpless, I ask myself what do I have for my harvest. After all, God gives us so many gifts. One of these gifts is to be laborers with another as God's people for God's will. It is not humanly possible for us to go through our everyday lives alone, no matter how independent we think we are. Like the motto of the United Church of Christ states "God is still speaking". This takes place through our interactions with one another, the laborers that each of us need. So during your harvest season, be a laborer and find the laborers that you need for your harvest.

Blessings,

-Weston

November 25 is Reign of Christ Sunday. Celebrating the Reign of Christ Sunday marks the end of Ordinary Time and serves as a prologue to the festivities of Advent. We celebrate Christ's role as Lord of all—the world, the church, and our lives.

This month we will observe Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving Day is our annual national holiday in the United States and Canada celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year. As we give thanks, let us also think of those in our community in need of our prayers and aid. This month's Little Red Wagon donation might consist of some of the thanksgiving foods we generally prepare, such as potatoes, corn, stuffing, peas and other items we all enjoy.

Thanksgiving is a time to share. A roasted turkey stuffed with care, potatoes, yams and buttered rolls are passed around in festive bowls. But first we thank our God above and share with others his great love. The dish served last is always best – a slice of pie for every guest.
 –MaryAnn Sundby

First UCC Birthday Calendar 2019

If you would like to participate in the 2019 First UCC Birthday Calendar, please fill out the form and place in an offering plate, give to Glenda Shrewsbury or any member of Circle #2. Required with this form is \$1.00 per name specified (friends, relatives) and \$2.00 per calendar ordered. PRINT the names and use numbers for birthdate, Month/Day (e.g. 7/6). This year we have included a memory option along with the honored. Please mark box with an "H" for honored or "M" for memory. Please include totals. We want to

"Thank You For Your Support"!

Deadline to turn in form: Friday, November 30

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name _____
	Birthday ____/____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Name _____
	Birthday ____/____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Name _____
	Birthday ____/____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Name _____
	Birthday ____/____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Name _____
	Birthday ____/____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Name _____
	Birthday ____/____

Number of names _____ @\$1 each _____ =\$ _____

Number of calendars _____ @\$2 each _____ =\$ _____

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

If you have any questions, please call Glenda Shrewsbury @ 704-637-6683.



2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship & Holy Communion Annual Meeting Covered Dish Luncheon Property Committee	5 12:00 Families First 7:00 Circle #7	6 11:30 Circle #4 2:00 Circle #2 7:00 Circle #6	7 11:30 Bible Study 5:00 Executive Council 6:00 Bible Study 7:30 Chancel Choir	8 11:00 Primetimers 5:00 Mission Committee 6:30 AAUW Mtg.	9	10
11 <i>Veteran's Day</i> 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Little Red Wagon After Worship: Church Council 1:30 Confirmation	12	13 10:30 Meals on Wheels 6:30 Families First	14 11:30 Bible Study 6:00 Bible Study 7:30 Chancel Choir	15 7:00 Church Women's Board	16	17
18 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Budget Vote After Worship Hanging of the Greens Lunch	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 1:00 Bless These Stitches 6:30 Families First	21 7:30 Chancel Choir	22 THANKSGIVING Office Closed	23	24
25 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Five Alive After Worship: Confirmation Reign of Christ	26	27 10:30 Meals on Wheels 6:30 Families First	28 7:30 Chancel Choir	29	30 6:00 Hood Seminary Lessons & Carols	



Daylight Savings Time in November 4.

Sunday, November 4, we will observe All Saints Day. Protestant Churches use this Sunday to remember those who have passed away in the past year. This year we remember: John Walser, Paul Propst, Mark Alexander, Juanita Lagg, Joe Lyrly, Marjorie Karabatsos and Shirley Fisher.

Annual Meeting—Following Worship on **November 4** there will be a covered dish lunch in the Fellowship Hall followed by distribution of the 2017-2018 Church Yearbook. The proposed 2019 Church Budget will be presented at this time. (The budget will be voted on at a called congregational meeting on **November 18**.) Plan to come and bring your favorite dishes and desserts. Church Women will provide fried chicken and baked ham, drinks and paper goods.

Cyndi Osterhus will present the program for *Primetimers* on **Thursday, November 8 at 11a.m.** The title of her program is “Experiences With the Teacher In the Space Program.” Cyndi is a retired public school teacher and professor at Catawba College. All are welcome to join us in the Fellowship Hall for the program and a covered dish lunch.

Mark **November 18th** on your calendar! Following Worship and after the Budget Vote, we will join for our annual Hanging of the Greens. Lunch will be provided for those decorating.

It is a tradition of the Hood Seminary to hold an **Annual Lessons and Carols** service. This service follows an abridged version of the standard readings and songs which originated at King's College, many years ago. Pastor Carol has been invited to be the speaker for this year's program in the Aymer Center on **Friday, November 30, 2018, 6:00 p.m.**



- December 2: First Sunday of Advent
Blue Christmas Service 4:00 p.m.
- December 9: Lessons & Carols and Christmas Caroling
One Church One Child Gifts Due in Church Office
- December 16: Christmas Pageant

First United Church of Christ
207 West Horah Street
Salisbury, NC 28144

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit Number 26

Resident Pastor: *Rev. Carol Hallman*
Organist: *Susan Trivette*
Choir Director: *Dr. Phillip Burgess*
Youth Director : *Weston Henderson*

Church Office: *(704) 633-2723* **Website:** *1stucc.org*
Facebook: *First United Church of Christ-Salisbury*
Sunday Worship: *9:45 Sunday School / 11:00 Worship*



NOVEMBER

