

First UCC Focus

January, 2019

JANUARY SCRIPTURE

January 6:

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

January 13:

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 20:

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

January 27:

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

JANUARY USHERS

John Wagoner, Captain
Greg Alcorn
Henry Alexander
Tom Loflin
Patty Shuping
Janette Yost

JANUARY GREETERS

January 6 & 13
David & Barbara Waller
January 20 & 27
Bobbie Troutman &
Patsy Paxton

JANUARY LAY READERS

January 6
Kim Profitt
January 13 & 20
Glenda Shrewsbury
January 27
Susan Ward

9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship



- 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY
- 2 7:30 Chancel Choir
- 6 9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship & Holy Communion
12:30 Soup Lunch and "Undecorating"
- 8 10:30 Meals on Wheels
11:30 Circle 4
2:00 Circle 2
6:30 Circle 6 at DJs
6:30 Families First
- 9 7:30 Chancel Choir
- 10 11:00 Primetimers
5:00 Mission Committee
6:30 AAUW
- 13 9:45 Sunday School
10:00 Celebration Committee
11:00 Worship
Little Red Wagon
12:30 Confirmation
4:00 Property Committee
- 15 1:00 Bless These Stitches
6:30 Families First
- 16 11:30 Bible Study
5:00 EC Board Meeting
6:30 Bible Study
7:30 Chancel Choir
- 20 9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship
12:30 Church Council
6:30 Families First
- 22 10:30 Meals on Wheels
6:30 Families First
- 23 11:30 Bible Study
6:30 Bible Study
7:30 Chancel Choir
- 27 9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship
Five Alive Sunday
12:30 Confirmation
- 29 10:30 Meals on Wheels
6:30 Families First
- 30 11:30 Bible Study
6:30 Bible Study
7:30 Chancel Choir



The items you brought for the **Little Red Wagon** have been taken to Rowan Helping Ministries. Thank you for your generosity.



Please like and share the various activities that get put on facebook. This enables friends to see them if you share them.

Dear Friends,

A New Year dawns
It's never been before
Never will be again
Each day the sun rises
Each night the sun sets

Filling chapters
In our lives
In the life of the world
Before us the Light
Of Lights leads

In between
Writing on the pages
Of each day are
Choices, actions, words

Guiding us in
Paths of Love
Righteousness
Leading us toward
Wholeness

We choose the paths
We follow
The people we see
The work we do
The recreation
Renewal
That we take

This question to ask
As we begin is
This:

What is the story
We want our lives to tell?

It's never too late, with God's help, to change our stories, to walk with God, to follow the star which leads us to the manger and beyond. So, as we enter this New Year, let us ponder in our hearts the story we want to share and the story we want our lives to tell.

I hope it will be a story of love, compassion, mercy and forgiveness, all grounded in God's love and grace for us.

Happy New Year!

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Carol

Circle Meetings

Circle #2 Tuesday, January 8, 2:00, Fellowship Hall

Circle #4 Tuesday, January 8, 11:30, Jeter's Deli

Circle #6 Tuesday, January 8, 6:30, DJs Restaurant

Circle #7 No January Meeting

PRIMETIMERS

Primetimers will meet **January 10 at 11:00** in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be by Rev. Galen Hahn, a graduate of Catawba College Class of '69 and Yale Divinity School Class '72. He is the author of Finding My Field: Lessons Learned Through Migrant Ministry, 2018. Rev. Hahn is a native of Fredrick, MD where he was a confirmed member of a Grace Reformed UCC and is presently a member of Heidelberg UCC, Thomasville. He and his wife Sandy retired to Piedmont Crossing Retirement Community in 2012. Come join us for the program and stay for the covered dish lunch. Hosts are Larry Bolick and Ted and Carolyn Cline.

Please join us on **Sunday, January 6th** after worship for a soup luncheon followed by taking down the Christmas decorations.

Don't forget Primetimers on **Thursday, January 10** at 11:00.

Bless These Stitches will meet on **Tuesday, January 15** at 1:00.

Chancel Choir rehearsals are on **Wednesday nights** at 7:30.

Special thanks to Phyllis Little for placing bookmarks in the pews to remind us of all the monthly happenings at First UCC.



Frances Bernhardt has recently passed away. Services will be held on Saturday, January 5 at 11:00 a.m. at Somerset Funeral Home. Visitation will take place prior to the service. Details will follow.

Remember in your prayers this month:

Weston Henderson, the Jeff Varner family, Waylon & Susan Ward, those impacted by the many acts of violence in our area and around the world, and members, family and friends afflicted by illness.

Sympathies are extended to David Najarian and his family on the death of his father; Doris Spencer on the death of her sister, Jane Miller; and Janette Yost on the death of her brother, Tommy Stoner.



We hope to include a Youth Corner in upcoming newsletters, we welcome updates on your children's and students' activities and accomplishments.

Keep the Church Office up to date on notable happenings for the February newsletter.

Let the office know of changes that should be made to our new UCC Focus format.



The basket containing reading glasses has now grown into the "lost & found" basket. Some items were found in the fellowship hall after Christmas Eve service, including a key and phone charger. There is also a lightweight jacket here. If you have misplaced something, stop upstairs. If you are in need of a pair of readers for the service, stop and pick up a pair.

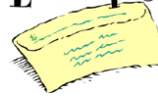
FIVE-ALIVE FUND: HELPING FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY.

The following is another success story made possible by contributions from individuals, organizations and **our own Five Alive Fund** to Rowan Helping Ministries.

A client came to Rowan Helping Ministries seeking help with his first month's rent. The household consists of the client and his friend. Both are former shelter guests. The client moved out of the shelter and was renting a room.. The landlord there stole the deposit and his food stamp card. Then the landlord threw them out on the streets. The client found an apartment where the rent includes water and electricity. The new landlord will let them make weekly payments for the rent. The client just got a job and his friend has a job. They will be self supporting going forward. Rowan Helping Ministries helped with a voucher that will be applied to the first month's rent. The landlord will let them move in after he gets the voucher.

With the onset of Winter and the hardships it will bring, will you please continue to make your donation to our **Five Alive Fund** program at our church?

Offering Envelopes



Offering envelopes are in the Narthex. Let the office know if you would like envelopes but were not assigned a box.



For special honors and memories, please sign up for Altar Flowers. The book is in the Narthex.

WOW Wednesday is starting up again on **Wednesday January 16th**. Both the 11:30AM group and the evening group will be focusing on the theme "Becoming the Church Together: Immigration, the Bible, and Our New Neighbors" which is a curriculum developed by the North Carolina Council of Churches. The question we seek to answer is how the Bible addresses the issue of modern day immigration.

All are welcome to come join us as we focus on this important issue. A quick reminder that if you join us in the evening we eat together at 6PM and start our study at 6:30PM.

First UCC Church Family & Friends,

The power of prayer is amazing. Thank you doesn't seem to be enough. Waylon's illness and hospitalization has been an experience that I wish on no one. We have certainly seen firsthand what prayer, the fight for survival and medical technology can accomplish. This is a journey; one that continues and will continue as his body heals and gains strength back. Eighteen days in the hospital ICU and on regular hall (December 2-20) and dialysis the day following discharge from the hospital then 3 days a week. Then the phone call on Jan 2 that his lab results are improved enough to discontinue dialysis. Many prayers answered and we ask that prayers please continue. There is still an enormous amount of testing and recuperating to be done but in this New Year we are blessed.

Waylon & Susan Ward

Thank you to the Church and members for all of the cards and gifts I received during this special season.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Carol

Thank you to the Church and members for remembering me this Christmas season. Your encouragement since I began here has been sincerely appreciated.

With gratitude, Sue Legendre