

First UCC Focus

February, 2019



FEBRUARY SCRIPTURE

February 3:

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

February 10:

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

February 17:

Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

February 24:

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Cor. 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

FEBRUARY USHERS

Jeff Bernhardt, Captain
Hunter Bernhardt
Tyler Bernhardt
Rodney Callaway
Sandy Wagoner
Rebecca Schiemann Wrights

FEBRUARY GREETERS

February 3 & 10

Joyce Trexler and
Susan Legendre

February 17 & 24

Patty Shuping & Family

FEBRUARY LAY READERS

February 3

Susan Ward

February 10

Karen Alexander

February 17

Sandy Wagoner

February 24

Karen Alexander



The items you brought for the **Little Red Wagon** totaled 53.3 lbs. this month. They 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.

CHECK OUT OUR



WWW.1STUCC.ORG

Give us a visit and
Invite others to
Take a look!

9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship



3 9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship & Holy Communion
4 7:00 Circle 7
5 11:30 Circle 4
2:00 Circle 2
7:00 Circle 6
6 11:30 Bible Study
6:30 Bible Study
7:30 Chancel Choir
10 9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship
Little Red Wagon
12:30 Confirmation
5:00 Property Committee
12 10:30 Meals on Wheels
6:30 Families First
13 11:30 Bible Study
5:00 EC Board
6:30 Bible Study
7:30 Chancel Choir
14 11:00 Primetimers
6:30 AAUW
16 2:00 Youth Basketball
@ Catawba
17 9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship
12:30 Youth Luncheon
12:30 Church Council
19 1:00 Bless These Stitches
6:30 Families First
20 11:30 Bible Study
6:30 Bible Study
7:30 Chancel Choir
21 7:00 Church Womens Bd.
24 9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship
Five Alive Sunday
12:30 Confirmation
26 10:30 Meals on Wheels
6:30 Families First
27 7:30 Chancel Choir
28 6:00 PFLAG



Dear Friends,

I have been thinking a lot about this question: “What does it mean to be the body of Christ in our community?” I want to invite you into the discussion.

During the season of Epiphany, we have been learning more about the revelation of the identity of Jesus. The Magi see him as king, at baptism the dove descends, and God calls him, “my son the beloved”, at Cana we see him change water into wine, in his hometown we hear him telling folks that he has come to bring good news to the poor, to “proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Paul challenges us to accept our God given gifts but not to use them for our own advancement rather to help build the community. So, what does it mean to be the body of Christ in our community?

What are the needs here in Salisbury? Poverty, education, homelessness, domestic violence, child abuse, lack of employment, elder abuse, food insecurity? These are just some of the needs I’ve seen.

What are the gifts and graces we’ve been given, not for our use only but ones that can make a difference in our community? We’ve been told that we are a very hospitable church. Are there ways we expand our welcome? Our Foundation each year gives grants to agencies within the community who respond to the many needs here in Salisbury. Can we respond in other ways besides our financial gifts-like we do with our food collection for Rowan Helping Ministries?

What is your vision of who we can be as the body of Christ?

These are some of the challenges that all churches are facing these days. Attendance is down, younger folks are finding alternatives to church, and young adults who do come don’t tend to attend regularly. There are lots of things that compete for people’s attention and time. Some younger people don’t come because they’ve been hurt by the church or because they feel that the church is out of touch with the world today. When younger folks do become involved it’s usually because they are caught up in a cause, or a mission. Younger families that join the church are looking for churches that are more open to the inclusivity of God.

Churches used to be the heart beat of communities, but many churches stand empty throughout the week. How can we open our doors to meet the needs in our community? Who needs to know that they are welcome? There’s a church in Hagerstown (MD), it’s one of ours, but most people who don’t know it’s a church think it’s a museum. It’s a gothic structure and looks empty as people pass by. I’ve talked with a many people in Salisbury and when they ask where the church is I’ve gotten a quizzical look on occasion, “there’s a church there?” Despite our size, people sometimes don’t see us. How can we become more visible?

I know I’ve asked a lot of questions but if we want to remain vital, if we want to live out our calling as God’s people here in Salisbury, I believe we need to question and listen. I believe we need to open our hearts and minds to the voice of the God who is still speaking.

Hope to see you in church!

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Carol

Circle Meetings

- Circle #2** Tuesday, February 5, 2:00, Fellowship Hall
Glenda Shrewsbury/Sara Jean Propst Hostesses
- Circle #4** Tuesday, February 5, 11:30, Jeter’s Deli
- Circle #6** Tuesday, February 5, 7:00 Fellowship Hall
Millie Campbell, Hostess
- Circle #7** Monday, February 4, 7:00, Anne Palmer’s House
Janette Yost, Hostess



PRIMETIMERS

Primetimers will meet **February 14** at 11:00 in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be a Valentine’s program with stories by members about people they love. Hosts are Sara Jean Propst and Paul and Glenda Shrewsbury. Come share some love and some delicious food.



COUNCIL NEWS

As a way of improving communication with our members the Church Council will add a little information about their council meetings to our newsletter.

The Church Council met on Sunday the 20th following worship. We received the end of the year budget and we're pleased with what we received. Dennis Neelam's term on Council was filled by David Waller. The Church Council received a request from PFLAG to hold their meetings in the fellowship hall on the 4th Thursday of each month. The Church Council approved this request. The PRIDE Day Committee asked to rent the fellowship hall on May 18th-they'll be hosting an auction for PFLAG scholarships. The Celebration Committee is hosting a dinner and conversation on February 24th to reach out to Catawba students and others. The Property Committee has been busy and would remind everyone to let them know if there is anything amiss that needs attention. Missions Committee reminded everyone of the upcoming meal that we were providing at Rowan Helping Ministry the Saturday following our meeting. Christian Ed spoke of the success of our Children's Christmas Pageant collaboration with At the Cross Ministries. The Fellowship Committee provided a meal for Catawba Singers following their final practice for lessons and carols. Thanks was offered to Phyllis and Charlie Little for hosting the Christmas Eve Reception along with the women's circles who helped provide the food.



Five Alive Fund: A Thank-You Note From Rowan Helping Ministries

The following is copy of a letter with eye opening numbers from Rowan Helping Ministries thanking us for our continued support through our Five Alive Fund and the Little Red Wagon programs:

Because of your generous heart, basic needs will be provided, hope will be renewed and lives will be changed.

In the first three months of our fiscal year, our kind and caring donors, (including our own Five-Alive and Little Red Wagon programs), and volunteers made these things possible through their gifts:

-3,479 individuals received \$77,049 in financial assistance for rent, utilities, medicine and other critical needs;

-311 different guests were provide a safe place to spend the night in our shelter;

-22,626 meals were served to the hungry in Jeannie's Kitchen;

-3,329 visits were made to our Food Pantry, where 114,037 pounds of groceries were distributed;

-966 visits were made to our Clothing Center by people needing new or gently-used clothing.

Through your donations, you have allowed your heart to lead you in helping your neighbors in need. You are helping us feed the hungry, house the homeless and give hope to those working to build better lives.

*Sincerely
Karen Taylor
Resource Development Assistant*

WESTON'S WORD

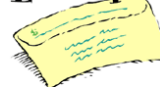
Many times we have seen bumper stickers which read "Jesus is the answer to your question". We have all kinds of questions we need answered for our lives and life's decisions, such as what is the meaning of life? Choosing a political candidate, why do good people suffer? Some questions we have on a daily basis are small questions like: should I hold the door open for this person? Is it right for me to drive 5 mph over the speed limit? Not very big questions but nevertheless questions we seek answers to. Some of the questions we ask have much clearer answers such as should I hold the door open for this person? Some are not so clear answers like why do good people suffer? We have answers for these in the Bible, but the Bible is a divine book written by humans. Sometimes we don't find clear answers to our questions and sometimes our questions are answered with other questions. Despite having our questions answered with other questions, which is a calling. People asked Jesus close to 200 questions, he only provides 3 direct answers to those questions. The rest he responds with another question. Jesus also asked over 300 questions in the Bible. Maybe the answers to our questions are questions. The questions of Jesus are something that we are called to answer. So maybe we through our actions are the answers to Jesus's questions.

This past month we had our belated Christmas party. It was a wonderful time of fellowship with one another. Special thanks to all who made that a wonderful event. In the month of February we have some great opportunities for our youth. On the 16th we will go to a Catawba Basketball game. The 17th will be a youth lunch which is open to the congregation, cost is by donation. The following Sunday on the 24th I am preaching. The same evening the Celebration committee has put together an event for students which I am very excited about. February should be a great month with a multitude of opportunities!

-Weston



Offering Envelopes



Some offering envelopes remain 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.



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

Our youth group will be getting together on February 16 at 2:00 p.m. to attend a basketball game at Catawba.

Join us on Sunday, February 17 after worship for a fundraiser lunch presented by our Youth.

The Rev. Colleen Samson will be installed in her role as WNCA's Associate Conference Minister. A service of installation and reception will be held on February 17 at 3:00 in Catawba College's Peeler Crystal Lounge. All are welcome. RSVP by February 14.

The Celebration Committee and Upper Room are getting more organized for the first Sunday night for Catawba dinner and program. The dinner and program will be held on February 24 from 5:30-7:30 in the Fellowship Hall. After a wonderful home cooked meal the program will consist of a Rob Bell video and breakout sessions. Let someone on one of the committees know if you plan to attend.

Congratulations go out to ...

... Greg Alcorn, one of the recipients of the Humanitarian Award presented at the 42nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration and Humanitarian Awards held at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church.
... Hunter Bernhardt who was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2018 semester at Catawba College.

WOW Wednesday Bible Study has begun but feel free to join the group. The groups meet Wednesdays at 11:30 and 6:30. Both the morning 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. Please 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. Just let Bobbie Troutman or the Church Office know if you plan to come in time for supper.

Please keep the Church Office up to date on prayer requests, happenings and upcoming events to be included in Newsletters, Thursday Thoughts, bulletins or the Website. The website and Facebook are always in need of pictures and notables!

The "lost & found" basket is growing! 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.



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

SALISBURY/ROWAN UNIT

ANNUAL **PRAYER** BREAKFAST

MOORE'S CHAPEL AME ZION CHURCH

500 PARTEE STREET, SALISBURY N.C.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019; 9:00 A.M.

REV. ROBERT KELLEY, JR; HOST PASTOR

MRS. VICKIE KOTLARZ; UNIT PRESIDENT

MRS. MANIE RICHARDSON; CELEBRATION CHAIR

REV. DONNA CUTHBERTSON; SPEAKER

~Join us as we lift up the name of Jesus~

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6 (ESV)

Please contact your CWU church representative for ticket information. A donation of \$8 is requested and deadline for reservations is February 25, 2019

Focus Area-**Rowan Helping Ministry**; Items needed include canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, shower shoes, deodorant & wash cloths

VALENTINE FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Cabbage always has a heart

Green Beans string along.

You're such a cute **tomato**,

Will you **peas** to me belong?

You've been the **apple** of my eye,

You know how much I care,

So **lettuce** get together,

We'd make a perfect **pear**.

Now, something's sure to **turnip**,

To prove you can't be **beet**,

So if you **carrot** all for me,

Let's let us **tulips** meet.

Don't **squash** my hopes and dreams now,

Bee my **honey** deer;

Or tears will fill **potatoe's** eyes

While **sweet corn** lends an ear.

I'll **cauliflower** shop and say

Your dreams are **parsley** mine.

I'll work and share my **celery**,

So be my valentine.

—Anonymous Author

Contributed by Flo Peck