

First UCC News

March 2025



Sundays at 11:00
In-Person and Online Worship

[Youtube.com/@1stUCCSalisbury/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@1stUCCSalisbury/streams)

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

MARCH SCRIPTURES

March 2

Exodus 34:29-35
 Psalm 99
 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
 Luke 9:28-43a

March 5 ASH WEDNESDAY

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
 Isaiah 58:1-12
 Psalm 51:1-17
 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 9

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
 Romans 10:8b-13
 Luke 4:1-13

March 16

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
 Psalm 27
 Philippians 3:17-4:1
 Luke 13:31-35

March 23

Isaiah 55:1-9
 Psalm 63:1-8
 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
 Luke 13:1-9

March 30

Joshua 5:9-12
 Psalm 32
 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

*Worship
with us*

Join us for Worship
 Sunday mornings
 Online or in person Worship
 11:00 a.m.

[Youtube.com/@1stUCCSalisbury/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@1stUCCSalisbury/streams)

Although you may be worshipping
 with us online, your offering can be
 dropped off at the Church during the
 week or 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 or you
 may donate directly through PayPal.



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



**YOUR GIVING
MATTERS!**

Lenten
Series

Our new Lenten Worship Series
 begins on Ash Wednesday,
 March 5. We hope you will be able
 to join us.

Remember!
Time Changes
March 9!

MARCH

- 2 11:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
- 3 6:00 p.m. Circle 7 Meeting
- 4 6:30 p.m. Circle 6 Meeting
- 5 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
7:00 p.m. Worship
- 9 **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**
11:00 a.m. Worship
4:00 p.m. Property Committee Meeting
- 11 10:30 a.m. Meals on Wheels Deliveries
- 12 6:00 p.m. WOW Wednesday
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 13 11:30 a.m. Primetimers
5:00 p.m. Mission Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting
- 16 **SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Council Meeting
4:00 p.m. Family Fun Day
- 18 1:00 p.m. Bless These Stitches
- 19 6:00 p.m. WOW Wednesday
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 23 **THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Feasting on the 4th
- 25 10:30 a.m. Meals on Wheels Deliveries
- 26 6:00 p.m. WOW Wednesday
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 30 **FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**
11:00 p.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Fellowship on the 5th



CAROL'S CORNER

Friends,

This will be our last Lenten journey together. In some way that is appropriate. Lent is central to the story of who we are as God's people. It served the purpose in the early church of teaching the faith to new believers and to help others who had strayed find their way home. It was the time when a broad swath of stories were told in order to deepen the faith of the faithful. And it was all in preparation of the joy-filled celebration of Easter.

It can be a time for us to renew and deepen our faith as well. To immerse ourselves in the stories of faith and ponder what it means to follow Jesus, to walk with Jesus to cross and beyond.

Epiphany ends with Jesus on the mountain in what we call the Transfiguration. There he met with God and with Moses and Elijah to ponder the next steps of his ministry. We are told that when he came down off that mountain, he turned his face towards Jerusalem. And the cross.

The message that Jesus shared with the people was not welcomed by everyone. Many on the edges of society saw it as good news, but to the ones who had power, who were in control, his words were an affront to all they thought, all they had been taught, and all they believed, and challenged the way they lived and treated others. He was attacking their very way of living.

He kept going because this was what he felt was what God needed for him to do, his purpose if you will.. He kept going because we needed to know how much we are loved. He kept going because of love.

This Lent we will be taking a journey with Jesus as he moves ever so closer to the cross. We start Lent actually a little bit back in time, to the story of Jesus temptation in the dessert. On the second Sunday of Lent we hear that already there are those who want Jesus dead. On the third Sunday Isaiah reminds us of God's providence and Jesus offers a parable of a fig tree and a watchtower. The Fourth Sunday we revisit the Forgiving Father parable that Jesus tells. An important one, on the way to Jerusalem that reminds us of our God's amazing love and the importance of grace and forgiveness. On the 5th Sunday we know that death is coming soon. At the home of Lazarus, Mary takes nard and anoints Jesus. The storm clouds are gathering. On Palm/Passion Sunday it becomes real. Jesus challenges the powers and principalities of the world as he enters Jerusalem on that donkey and we are reminded again of the arrest and the realities of Good Friday. We revisit that again during the week, as we gather at table to remember the final meal and the great commission that we are given as followers of Jesus. The week ends in darkness and despair.

But we know something they didn't. We know Sunday's coming. We know that no matter what happens in our world, whatever horrible things happen to us, we are not alone. We know that we walk through the darkness with the one who knows us better than we even know ourselves.

In the end we are not a people of the crucifixion. We are people of the resurrection, so the future that God holds for you is still there. Listen for God's still speaking voice as we journey. Learn from his life and ministry. And know Sunday is coming.

Hope to see you in church.

Peace,

Pastor Carol

March

Meetings and Other Events...

Meals on Wheels Deliveries	Tuesdays March 11 and 25 at 10:30 a.m.
WOW Wednesdays	Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal	Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Circle 7 Meeting	Monday, March 3 at 6:00 p.m.
Circle 6 Meeting	Tuesday, March 4 at 6:30 p.m.
Property Committee Meeting	Sunday, March 9 at 4:00 p.m.
Primetimers	Thursday, March 13 at 11:30 a.m.
Missions Committee Meeting	Thursday, March 13 at 5:00 p.m.
Finance Committee Meeting	Thursday, March 13 at 6:00 p.m.
Church Council Meeting	Sunday, March 16 after Worship
Family Fun Day	Sunday, March 16 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Bless These Stitches	Tuesday, March 18 at 1:00 p.m.
Feasting on the 4th	Sunday, March 23 after Worship
Fellowship on the 5th	Sunday, March 30, time to be determined

Family Fun Day

Come join the fun on Sunday, March 16 at 4:00 p.m. There will be scriptures, crafts, snacks and fun. All ages are welcome! Please RSVP to Pastor Carol by March 11.

Feasting on the 4th

On Sunday, March 23, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall following worship for a covered dish meal.

Fellowship on the 5th

On the 5th Sunday of the month we will gather together to share in fellowship. This month the 5th Sunday falls on March 30. Please contact Pastor Carol if you are interested in sharing that time with us.

The Month of April ...

Dates to Remember:	April 6	FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
	April 13	PALM/PASSION SUNDAY
	April 17	MAUNDY THURSDAY
	April 18	GOOD FRIDAY
	April 19	HOLY SATURDAY
	April 20	EASTER SUNDAY

Prayers ...

Henry Alexander, Desiree Artz, Brenda Bernhardt, Tyler Bernhardt, Gerri D. Crummett (Donna Odrosky's sister), Maggie Derby (great granddaughter of Jim Weaver), Stacy Erb, Rick Lockhart (Radell Lockhart's uncle), Jim Lyerly, John Marion, Shirley McNeil, Eddie Meeker, Doris Miller, Dan Morgan, Patsy Paxton, Glenda Shrewsbury, Patty & Mark Shuping and family, Romas Shuping, Tom Troutman, Barbara Waller, Waylon Ward, Eric Webster, Frances Wensil, Janette Yost.

If you know of anyone who should be added or removed from our prayer list, let the office know. If you have prayer concerns, please text, call or email Pastor Carol.

Primetimers

The Prinetimers had a delicious meal on February 13 which was prepared by Debbie Suggs and a fun time playing "Bible" Bingo.

They will meet on Thursday, March 13 at 11:30 am for a program by the Phoenix Readers on Dr. Seuss books. They will join the Prinetimers for a meal, catered by Debby Suggs, chicken and dumplings and vegetables. Desserts and beverages will be provided by Prinetimers. The Meal will be served around 11:30 am as usual followed by the program at 12:15 am. An anonymous donor is providing the meal for everyone, however an offering will be received for the Treasury.

Please let Sue Legendre know in the church office by Monday, March 10 if you plan to attend.

5-Alive

Robert, a US Army vet who spent most of his post-military years working in construction, struggled with addiction and lived in a crumbling apartment with no water, heat or electricity.

On the brink of homelessness, he reached out to Rowan Helping Ministries where he enrolled in their VA GPD program and moved into transitional housing at Eagle's Nest III.

His case manager helped Robert connect with the VA to access military benefits he had earned but never fully received. He began attending substance use disorder support groups and working through recovery.

Through RHM's New Tomorrows program, Robert discovered more resources including computer and life skills classes.

He is now living in a new apartment and will enroll in community classes in the spring to earn his CDL license.

Your monthly contributions to 1st UCC's 5-Alive will help others like Robert find the resources they need to turn over a new leaf.

Council

We invite you to share any suggestions you may have with church council, the pastor or Pastor/Parish Relations. Concerns and suggestions are welcome at any time.

Our 2024-2025 Council members:

Don Whitfield
Phyllis Little
Shirley McNeil
Greg Alcorn
Ken Clapp
Carolyn Cline
Lynn Bernhardt

Pastoral/Staff Relations Committee members:

Dan Mikkelson
Greg Alcorn
Karen Alexander
Ken Clapp

Copies of approved monthly Council Minutes will be made available on the bulletin board outside of the Church Office. They can also be emailed upon request.



Bless These Stitches

The folks of Bless These Stitches have been working away, and there are lots of warm and cozy 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, and 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, or want to learn, or just want to share fellowship with other needleworkers, join us on the third Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.!

The next meeting will be March 18.

Cleaning Robots



Watch for cleaning robots that sometimes run throughout the building. If it is running near where you are meeting, please press the "home" button on top and it should retreat to its base.

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee sponsored an evening meal at Rowan Helping Ministries Shelter on Tuesday, February 25 with Rev. Ken Clapp, coordinating the meal with volunteers from Catawba College students and members of First UCC. Desserts were provided by First UCC Members. Thanks to all who participated.

A special thanks to Linda Hauze who has been coordinating the supply of items for The Blessing Pantry in February with donations from First UCC members. Donated food items may be placed in the bin in the vestibule as members come to church on Sundays or placed directly in The Blessing Pantry. Larry Bolick will coordinate items in March. All donations are appreciated. Pastor Hallman placed on the West Square Facebook Page an announcement about The Blessing Pantry for neighbors to donate items or to take from The Party.

We will continue to donate to RHM "Food for Thought" School Back-Pack Program with donations to The Little Red Wagon in the vestibule.

The Lenten/Easter Offering will be received again this year on Easter, April 20 for One Great Hour of Sharing for Disaster Relief through Global Ministries of the UCC/Disciples of Christ.

The Mission Committee will meet on Thursday, March 13 at 5 pm to plan for the next several months of outreach mission projects.

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.

Installed in November and initially stocked with items from the December drive-by food collection and donations from members through the holidays, the pantry needs ongoing support from members and friends to keep it supplied. Each month a member of the Mission Committee takes responsibility for checking it at least twice a week and keeping it stocked, 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
- 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? If you are able, place donations directly in the box whenever you're in the area. No need to bring items into the church.

Can't do that? Then bring your contributions to the church and place them in the box provided in the Narthex.

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

