

First UCC News

September 2025



First UCC Mission Statement

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

Rev. Anne Tambling
Intentional Interim Minister

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

SEPTEMBER SCRIPTURES

September 7

Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Luke 14:25-33

September 14

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

September 21

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Psalm 79:1-9
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

September 28

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

September

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| 1 | | LABOR DAY
Office Closed |
| 2 | 6:30 p.m. | Circle 6 Meeting |
| 3 | 5:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m. | WOW Wednesday Bible Study
Choir Rehearsal |
| 7 | 11:00 a.m. | Worship with Communion |
| 8 | 6:30 p.m. | Circle 7 Meeting |
| 9 | 10:30 a.m. | Meals on Wheels Deliveries |
| 10 | 5:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m. | WOW Wednesday
Choir Rehearsal |
| 11 | 11:30 a.m.
6:00 p.m. | Primetimers
Finance Committee Meeting |
| 14 | 11:00 a.m.
4:00 p.m. | Worship
Property Committee Meeting |
| 16 | 1:00 p.m. | Bless These Stitches |
| 17 | 5:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m. | WOW Wednesday
Choir Rehearsal |
| 21 | 11:00 a.m. | Worship |
| 23 | 10:30 a.m. | Meals on Wheels Deliveries |
| 24 | 5:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m. | WOW Wednesday
Choir Rehearsal |
| 28 | 11:00 a.m.
After Worship | Worship
Feasting on the 4th |



From the Desk of Rev. Anne Tambling ...

Grace and peace to you!

For those that I haven't met, my name is Anne Tambling, and I am honored to serve as your interim minister during this important season of transition. This is an exciting time where we look towards the future and listen for the plans that God has for you as a congregation. This truly is also a sacred time—a chance to honor the past, embrace the present, and look with hope toward the future God is shaping for you. Times of transition can be uncomfortable and even scary, but it is also a time of hope and of dreaming...together. Over the coming months, we will walk this journey together: worshiping, sharing stories, asking questions, and discerning God's leading. We'll look at all of the reasons that you love this church and the ways that we can preserve the history and traditions and carry that into the future. We will explore who you are a congregation and a community and where God is calling you to be. I look forward to getting to know you—in the pews, at fellowship, and in the day-to-day life of this community—and to listening for the ways the Spirit is moving among us. Together, we will look to the future with prayer, joy, and trust in God's faithfulness. Thanks be to God!



Desiree Artz, Brenda Bernhardt, Tyler Bernhardt, Rev. David Crook, Gerri D. Crummett (Donna Odrosky's sister), Maggie Derby (great granddaughter 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.

Most Recent Transition Team Update

August 12, 2025

To: First UCC Congregation

From: Greg Alcorn, Council President

Re: Church Transition Team Update #7



Rev. Tambling has “hit the ground running” in her Intentional Interim Minister (IIM) role. She attended our August 4th meeting and laid out some ideas for moving our congregation through this transition phase.

This includes lots of soul searching, defining our Church Profile and eventually developing a Profile for the next Minister. In parallel to this process, the Team wants to see more details on the First Church at Catawba scenario.

To that end, a Task Force of three committee members has agreed to outline the Catawba College logistics and timing. This team is Rev. Ken Clapp, Kimberly Nelson and Rev. Tambling. They will report back to the Transition Team and we will update you.

Separate, but adjacent, to these activities is the discussion of how to best utilize the physical building and grounds. Our property has availability and opportunities for more activities. We will continue to explore possible uses but have no current ideas or timetables to share.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact any team member.

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.

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



Yard Sale

Our August yard sale was a success. Your donations brought in over \$1100 to benefit First UCC.

A huge thank you to Carolyn Cline, Linda Hauze, Patti Marion, Winnie Mikkelsen, Flo Peck, Sarah Schiemann, Ann Teague, Bobbie Troutman, who worked tirelessly to put the sale together, work the sale and clean up afterwards.

Some items which were not purchased at the sale have been donated to Habitat for Humanity, Nazareth Children's Home and the Salvation Army..

Feasting on the 4th Sunday, September 28 After Worship

Mark it on your calendars!
More information to follow.

September Meetings

Meals on Wheels Deliveries
WOW Wednesday Bible Study
Choir Rehearsals

Tuesdays September 9 and 23 at 10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Circle 6 Meeting
Circle 7 Meeting
Primetimers
Finance Committee Meeting
Property Committee Meeting
Bless These Stitches
Feasting on the 4th

Tuesday, September 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Monday, September 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Thursday, September 11 at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall
Thursday, September 11 at 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 14 at 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 16 at 1:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 28 after Worship

WOW Wednesday Bible Study

WOW Wednesday Bible Study has resumed on August 6 with a study on Acts of the Apostles using the study book "ACTS Catching Up with the Spirit" by Matthew L. Skinner. The author Skinner identifies six key themes that are central to understanding the message of Acts: 1. The Character of the Christian Message, 2. The Work of People (the church), 3. Living Faithfully, 4. The Role of the Holy Spirit, 5. Generous Unity, 6. Transformative Hospitality. This study is a call to action in which disciples find ways to put faith into action.

WOW Wednesday Bible Study meets from 5:30-5:45 pm to share food together; 5:45-6:45 pm to engage in a study of The Acts of the Apostles with discussion. Participants are invited to bring food to share and a canned food item for the Blessing Pantry.

Dates in September:

September 3: DISCERNMENT AND CHANGE Acts 15:1-21; Acts 21:1-6
September 10 : OPPOSITION Acts 1:15-20; Acts 5:17-42
September 17: OPPOSITION Acts: 8, 9-24; Acts 25:1-12
September 24: SAINTS AROUND THE EDGES
Stephen Acts 6-7
Tabita (Dorcas) Acts 9:36-42
Barnabas Acts 4, 9, 11



First UCC 5-Alive Fund



The Crisis Assistance Network at Rowan Helping Ministries gives assistance to clients with emergency needs such as food, utilities, medications, housing, and clothing. Volunteers work with staff to interview clients, assess their needs and eligibility, and determine available resources.

Originally its own non-profit entity, Food for Thought came under the Rowan Helping Ministries umbrella in August 2017. Using existing resources, the program grew from 634 children to 769 in its first year. In a typical school year, more than 100 students are served, with plans to target the 1200 most critical students at risk of food insecurity, as identified by the Rowan-Salisbury County School System.

Through the 5-Alive Fund at 1st UCC, members are able to support these programs at Rowan Helping Ministries as well as members of our church who find themselves in need of financial assistance.

Primetimers

The Primetimers did not meet in August due to the Church Yard Sale Set-up for August 16. A number of Primetimers were involved in working the Yard Sale who are also Circle members. Thanks for their faithful participation.

The Primetimers will meet on Thursday, September 11 at 11:30 am with a catered meal of baked chicken, gravy, rolls, crème potatoes, green beans, corn, tea, water and desserts prepared by Debbie Suggs. The cost for the meal will be \$12 per person which includes the cost for the meal and an offering for the treasury. The Program will be a report of the Rowan County Community Health Needs Assessment for 2025-27, presented by Kristen Trexler Reavis, Community Engagement Novant Rowan and Huntersville Medical Centers and Courtney Meece, Healthy Rowan Director. We anticipate that Rev. Anne Tambling, Intentional Interim Minister, will be present as well to lead in a Devotional Message. Please let Sue Legendre, Church Office Manager (704-633-2723) or Larry Bolick (828-612-8146) know by Monday, September 8 if you plan to attend and bring a guest.

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee members met with Rev. Anne Tambling on Monday, August 4th to plan the mission ministry for the next several months. The RHM Shelter Meal on June 28 served 125 meals. We anticipate one or two more meals served this calendar year, coordinated by Dr. Ken Clapp, church members and Catawba Students.

A contribution of \$300 from First Foundation Grant was delivered to Community In Schools of Rowan County and \$300 mailed to RHM Food Pantry in July. There remains \$300 in 2025 to assemble Church World Service Kits. It was decided to sponsor a CWS Assemble Hygiene Kits Party in October. CWS sends Boxes of items to be assembled into kits. Funding will be sought from Church Donations, Groups, Global Ministries Matching Grant of \$250. Depending upon the amount raised, boxes of Hygiene Kits will be purchased and assembled. The cost per box is \$168 for 24 kits per box, plus \$2 per kits for processing fee. The Assembled Kits will be delivered to a CWS Depot for pick-up.

The Blessing Pantry is stocked two times weekly. Larry Bolick purchased and stocked the Pantry in August and Linda Hauze in September. The Mission Committee has a monthly budget of \$160 to purchase and stock items. Donated items may be placed directly in the Pantry or in the bin in the vestibule. Thanks to WOW Bible Study Members who are bringing canned items for the Pantry on Wednesdays.

The Little Red Wagon will resume the collection of items for RHM Food for Thought Backpack Program for school children of Rowan County. Items need to be simple to prepare foods or nutritious snacks for children/youth to prepare at home over the weekend.

A First Foundation application for 2026 was submitted for the same purposes of 2025: RHM Food Pantry, CISRC School Supplies, RHM Shelter Meals, and CWS Kits equally divided.

The Annual Neighbors In Need Offering for UCC Local Grants and Council on American Indian Ministries (CAIM) will be received on Sunday, October 5, 2025, World Communion Sunday. Promotion materials will be ordered through the church office.

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 on September 16.

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*** will begin collection for the Rowan Helping Ministries Food for Thought Backpack Program. A reminder about the what the program is: On Fridays, backpacks are sent home with children filled with items that are easy for a child to open and prepare during the week-end. On Mondays, the backpacks are returned to the school to be filled for the following weekend. We will be collecting non-perishable food items that a child is able prepare as a meal or eat as a snack. .

Suggestions include:

- Mac & Cheese cups
- Canned ravioli or franks & beans
- Cereal cups (individual serving size)
- Oatmeal
- Pudding cups
- Fruit cups
- Granola bars

You may drop off your donations at the Church anytime during office hours or on any Sunday morning!



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.



**YOUR GIVING
MATTERS!**