

First UCC Focus

April, 2019



9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship

APRIL SCRIPTURE

April 7:

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

April 14:

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Luke 19:28-40

April 21:

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
John 20:1-18

April 28:

Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 118:14-29 or
Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

APRIL USHERS

David Waller, Captain
Karen Alexander
Jo-Ann Hoty
John Isenberg
Susan Ward
Eric Webster

APRIL GREETERS

April 7 & 14
Jim & Bettie Lyerly
April 21 & 28
Sara Jean Propst and
Robert Propst

APRIL LAY READERS

April 7
Phyllis Little
April 14
Leslie Dent
April 21
Susan Ward
April 28
Susan Ward

APRIL

- 1 7:00 Circle #7
- 2 11:30 Circle #4
2:00 Circle #2
7:00 Circle #6
- 3 7:30 Chancel Choir
- 5-7 Mother's Retreat
- 6-7 Men's Retreat
- 7 9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship & Communion
- 9 10:30 Meals on Wheels
6:30 Families First
- 10 7:30 Chancel Choir
- 11 11:00 Primetimers
11:00 Church & Ministry Mtg.
5:00 Mission Committee Mtg.
- 14 **PALM SUNDAY AND LITTLE RED WAGON SUNDAY**
9:30 Breakfast and
Easter Egg Hunt
11:00 Worship
5:00 Property Committee Mtg.
- 16 1:00 Bless These Stitches
6:30 Families First
- 17 7:30 Chancel Choir
- 18 6:00 **MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE w/ SIMPLE MEAL**
- 19 7:00 **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**
- 20 Youth will attend BBall Game
Wake Forest v. NC State
- 21 **EASTER SUNDAY**
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship
- 23 10:30 Meals on Wheels
6:30 Families First
- 24 5:00 EC Board Meeting
7:30 Chancel Choir
- 25 6:00 PFLAG Meeting
- 27 Church Spring Cleaning Day
- 28 **FIVE ALIVE SUNDAY YOUTH SUNDAY**
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship
12:30 Church Council Meeting
1:30 Confirmation
4:00 Catawba Choral Concert
- 30 11:30 Circle #4 May Meeting
6:30 Families First



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



WWW.1STUCC.ORG



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

CAROL'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

We're almost there! Holy Week starts on April 14th, Palm/Passion Sunday. Because of our Lenten Sunday suppers, we have a better understanding of the events of Holy Week. We know that Jesus got himself into a bit of trouble with the religious leaders as he cast out the moneychangers from the temple, we know that he cursed a fig tree, and we talked about withering witnesses, we heard about silence and the need for it, and we heard about food and freedom and we'll hear about a Friday we call "good". We'll hear about rejection and betrayal, about love and promise all before that Sunday we call Easter.

But Easter is where we are headed with its bunnies and butterflies, Easter Eggs and baskets, but I caution us all not to take a short cut and avoid Holy Week. I think Easter without Holy Week is meaningless. If we don't walk with Jesus through the pain and suffering, through the rejection and lies, and the darkness we lose out on knowing that, when in our own lives, that we walk through pain and suffering, rejection and lies and even death we do not walk alone. To me that's a big piece of what Holy Week is about. It's about knowing the extent that God's love was willing to go, not just for me but you and you and you! God's love is so awesome, so magnanimous that God willingly allowed the Son to suffer and die...not to take our sins away but to stand in solidarity with us whom God loves.

Holy week is a study in both the worst of humanity and the best of humanity. It brings us face to face with the parts of ourselves that can identify with Judas who betrayed Jesus. It challenges us to think about all the things that we choose over living our faith in the world. It brings us face to face with Peter who denies him, not once, not twice, but three times. It challenges us to think about the times and the place and the things that cause us to deny our faith in the world today. It brings us face to face with the authorities with those who together found Jesus guilty enough to sentence him to death on a cross. We don't like to face that part of ourselves that colludes with the powers of the world today. Holy Week brings us face to face with the disciples who fled out of fear of the unknown. (Despite Jesus telling them that all this was going to happen.) We are them too. I believe to truly understand, to truly find our way to Easter we must walk through the "valley of the shadow of death" with Jesus and to see our faces illumined in the actions of that week. To acknowledge our part so that we might confess our failings to God in order so that our hearts might be fully open to receiving God's love that springs forth on Easter. Then truly we will know rejoicing and exceeding joy in the gift of God's love which cannot be destroyed, not even by death.

It's going to be a busy month, so buckle up, here we go! Hope to see you all in church.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Carol

CIRCLE MEETINGS

- Circle #2** Tuesday, April 2, 2:00, Fellowship Hall
Sara Jean Propst & Eleanor Peeler, Hostesses
- Circle #4** Tuesday, April 2, 11:30, Jeter's Deli
- Circle #6** Tuesday, April 2, 7:00 Fellowship Hall
Joyce Trexler, Hostess
- Circle #7** Monday, April 1, 7:00, Fellowship Hall
Dawn Isenberg, Hostess
- Circle #4** Tuesday, April 30 (May Meeting)

PRIMETIMERS

Primetimers will meet on April 11 in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00. Sara Jean Propst will present a program on "Growing Up at First Church." Please join us for fun, food and fellowship.



WESTON'S WORD

During the Lenten season, we often find ourselves in many different places. Our Lenten journeys may be at different places than where we would like them to be. We may not be happy with where we are or who we are in our spiritual lives. Often times we may beat ourselves up about where we are. The reality is we have a God who understands where we are at and where our hearts are. A scripture that speaks to the forgiveness and grace of God is in Romans 10:1-11, which reads "Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I can testify that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they have not submitted to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame."

Regardless of where we are in our spiritual journey, we have assurance of forgiveness and grace. This does not mean that our work is done and that we should become complacent with that. Sometimes I think we tend to become complacent. We should rather use God's gifts as motivation to the betterment of ourselves for God. This grace and forgiveness that we receive, did not come without great cost. It came because of Christ. Christ did not come to condemn us but to fulfill us, therefore we should not be focused on correction but fulfillment of ourselves and our callings.

We have an exciting month coming up for our youth. This is highlighted by Youth Sunday on April 28th. Please come out and support these youth as they lead our worship. Cade Bernhardt is in his senior season of baseball. As the weather warms up it is a wonderful time for us to catch a ball game. Steven Shuping was awarded his Eagle Scout award. Nick Snipes has passed the board of review for his Eagle Scout award. We have many exciting accomplishments and activities in the upcoming month!

Blessings,

-Weston

COUNCIL NEWS

Counsel met on Sunday, March 17. There were not enough present to constitute a quorum. The committee reviewed the budget and financial reports, heard from various committees and discussed the upcoming activities for the month.

Five Alive Fund: Helping Families in Our Community Through Rowan Helping Ministries

A client came to Rowan Helping Ministries because his water had been disconnected. He is on a fixed income. There was a leak which was confirmed by the City of Salisbury. This caused a large water bill that he could not pay. The leak was repaired, but not before his water was disconnected, because he could not afford to pay the bill. The City of Salisbury reduced the water bill and accepted a voucher from Rowan Helping Ministries to reconnect the water.

The Five Alive Fund is a non-budgeted mission activity of our church and relies entirely on contributions from our church members.

(April 2019)

Because Fibrant is discontinuing email services, our new email addresses are

pastor@1stucc.org or
office@1stucc.org.

There is also a link to contact us through the website at www.1stucc.org under the tab "Contact Us".

Check out the website, www.1stucc.org. You can find links to the Newsletter and Calendar and lots of other interesting things about our church community. If you see something on the site in need of editing, let us know.

We welcome news, events, prayer requests and notables at any time during the month. Thursday Thoughts, bulletins and the Newsletter are ongoing projects.



Congratulations to Steven Shuping and Nick Snipes who have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. When it becomes official, a presentation ceremony will be held at the Church.

APRIL HAPPENINGS

Pastor Carol has been called to jury duty beginning on April 1.

The annual Johns River Valley Camp Mothers' Retreat will be held April 5-7.

A Call to Greatness, a men's retreat at Black Lake Retreat Center will be held on April 6 and 7. By coming together as men of all generations, we can further our understanding of one another, ourselves and the world in which we live. There is no cost for the retreat. For more information or questions, contact Weston Henderson, whenders15@catawba.edu.

The Lenten Series ***Walking Through Holy Week*** concludes on Sunday, April 7 beginning with a Lenten Meal at 5:30. Our own Pastor Carol Hallman will discuss what happened on Friday of Holy Week. Reservations for the meal are appreciated and can be made by calling or emailing the Church office.

Don't forget ***Primetimers*** on April 11 at 11:00 for fine food and fellowship.

Mark your calendar for April 14, Palm Sunday: 9:30 annual breakfast and Easter egg hunt; 11:00 Palm Sunday Worship.

Holy Week Services include Maundy Thursday Service with a simple meal, April 18 at 6:00 p.m., Good Friday Service, April 19 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday's Easter Service, April 21 at 11:00 a.m.

The youth will gather to attend the Wake Forest v. NC State basketball game on April 20.

Put your working clothes on and join us for **CHURCH SPRING CLEANING** for the building and Church grounds on April 27.

Youth Sunday is April 28.

Church Council will meet on April 28 after worship. Please note the meeting change date due to Easter.

Confirmation class will continue beginning on April 28 around 1:30 p.m., following council meeting.

Catawba College Choirs will present a spring choral concert at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 28, 2019. Under the Direction of Dr. Phillip E. Burgess, Associate Chair of the Music Department and Director of Choral/Vocal Studies, the Catawba Singers, PopAC and Chamber Choir will present a varied program of choral music.

Circle #4's May Meeting will be held on Monday, April 30, at 11:30 at Jeter's Deli.

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



Bible Study begins on Wednesdays from May 1 to June 5. There will be two groups meeting at 11:30 a.m. or 6:00 p.m. The evening group will begin with supper. The study series will focus on **"#METOO Moments from the Bible"**. Please join us for an interesting series.

Daughters mark your calendar for the annual ***Daughters Banquet*** to be held on May 11. More details to follow.



MEET DONALD WHITFIELD FIRST UCC'S NEWEST MEMBER

Donald Whitfield has recently transferred his membership to First UCC. The First UCC Community welcomes him. Here is a little bit about Don...

“I was born in Roxboro, Person County, NC. My two brothers, my sister, and I grew up in the Burlington, NC area (Pleasant Grove community). We all attended Eastern Alamance High School. When I was in high school, Rev. Harold Holste, was my minister at Long’s Chapel UCC.

My college years were at NC State where I earned a BS in Math Education. I taught 6th grade math for two years at Greer Middle School, Greer, Greenville Co., SC.

Next, I joined the US Air Force. I got to go to officer training in San Antonio, TX. First duty station was Keesler AFB in Biloxi, MS, and stayed 3 years as an instructor. Then on to Lindsey AS, Wiesbaden, Germany. Two years that I will remember for the rest of my life – wunderbar! I had the rank of captain while there.

I came back home in September 1986. I worked a lot of temp jobs and lived in Concord, Charlotte, Burlington, Greensboro, Kannapolis, and finally in Rockwell! Twenty-eight years and counting. I have planted more trees, flowers, and bushes than I can count.

I worked at Sun-Drop Bottling Co. in Concord for 25 years until we closed in Nov. 2016. Cheerwine bought the franchise and continues to provide Sun-Drop to our four counties: Cabarrus, Rowan, Stanly, and Iredell. I worked as one of the bookkeepers handling sales invoices and accounts payable, always lots of numbers.

Now, I still work at my same desk for a new business, King Bee Vending/Ventures, owned by the family that previously owned Sun-Drop. I will be here until I retire...

I came to First UCC as part of my plan to do more activities in Rowan Co. and Salisbury when I do retire. I have always visited the Salisbury library, especially the third floor history room. Family genealogy has been a hobby for many years. Other interests are my cats and crocheting and knitting.

Thanks again to Pastor Carol and the whole family at First UCC for being so welcoming. I am home.”

- WHO: Salisbury Rowan CWU
- WHAT: MAY Friendship Day Luncheon/Program
- WHERE: Trinity Presbyterian Church
300 South Caldwell Street
- WHY: To honor Outstanding Young Church Women, especially **LESLIE DENT** from 1st UCC
- WHEN: Friday, May 3rd 12 noon-1 pm.

Ticket Reservations \$8.00 by Sunday, April 28th from church office or Flo Peck.



NOTECARDS

A box has recently been found with beautiful tatted notecards crafted by Claire Lorencz. They were originally donated to be used as a fundraiser for the next church craft fair. You can find the box containing the cards outside of the Church office. The cost of each card is \$3.00 for card and envelope.