

First UCC Focus

April 2020



Church Council has cancelled all activities, gatherings and meetings at the time of publishing. Meetings scheduled at this time are for conference call only.

11:00 Online Worship

<https://www.facebook.com/First.UCC.Salisbury>

APRIL SCRIPTURE

April 5

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Matthew 21:1-11

April 12

Jeremiah 31:1-6
Matthew 28:1-10

April 19

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
John 20:19-31

April 26

1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35



Services will continue to be live on facebook at 11 a.m. each Sunday morning. The link to facebooklive is:

www.facebook.com/First.UCC.Salisbury/

You do not have to join facebook to see the video. While church itself is closed we know that it is important to gather and stay connected during this time so we hope you will be able to join us live on our facebook page: First United Church of Christ-Salisbury.



- 5 PALM SUNDAY**
11:00 Online Worship
- 9 MAUNDY THURSDAY**
5:00 Mission Committee Meeting
7:00 Maundy Thursday Service
- 10 GOOD FRIDAY**
7:00 Good Friday Service
- 12 EASTER SUNDAY**
11:00 Online Worship
- 15 5:00 EC Board Meeting**
- 19 11:00 Online Worship**
12:30 Church Council Meeting
- 26 11:00 Online Worship**
- 27 May Newsletter Deadline**

MEETINGS BY CONFERENCE CALL



For those who have not joined us yet, Zoom is a chance for us to meet online and touch base with each other. There will be meetings scheduled and posted on Thursday Thoughts and reminder emails sent prior to meetings. It is new technology but we are all learning as we go. Please give a meeting a try. You'll be surprised at the people you see online! Just click on the link in the invitation received from Pastor Carol. If you have problems logging on, give her a call. Someone can walk you through the online process. It is not as intimidating as it sounds!!

RE M I N D E R ...

Please keep the Church Office up to date on prayer requests, news and upcoming online meetings to be included in Newsletters, Thursday Thoughts, bulletins, Facebook or the website. The website and Facebook are always in need of pictures and notables. Send us some social distancing and stay in place pics!



Like and share the various posts on facebook.
This enables friends to see them if you share them.



CAROL'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

The following prayer I offer you as we move into April, as we move from Lent into the season of Easter. It's a reminder that we never walk alone, that God is ever-present, even when we can't see.

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
I arise today.

St. Patrick's Breastplate, an Irish Blessing

We think of Lent as a time of giving up, but I imagine that we never imagined that our Lent this year would turn out the way it has. A pandemic, schools closed, stores closed, physical distancing, online worship, it's been a challenging season. And as I write this, I am not sure when this season will end.

But one thing I do know. Easter is coming.

We may not see it today. We may not see it tomorrow. But Easter is coming.

The early disciples didn't expect it. In the time of their deepest pain, their deepest grief, they thought everything was over. The powers of the world had won. Death was real, they could taste it in their mouths.

On Easter Sunday morning, Mary or several women went to the tomb. And it was empty. Empty. What did they do? Jump up and down for joy because Jesus rose? No, for they still didn't get it. It took time and several encounters with the risen Christ before joy filled their hearts.

The calendar says April 12 is Easter but that's just a date on a page. It may not feel like Easter has yet arrived, but if I know one thing, I know that God is present in my going in and my coming out, in my days and in my nights, and in our lives as they unfold.
It may not feel like Easter, but I know this, Easter is coming!

May God continue to hold us all in love and grace during this time of physical distancing. May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Carol

Easter Bible Quiz

How much do you know about Easter?
Take this Easter Bible quiz to find out!

1. **When Jesus died, which of the following things did NOT happen?**
 - a. the dead came to life
 - b. there was an earthquake
 - c. there was a flood that covered the earth
 - d. the veil of the temple was torn
2. **Who asked Pilate for Jesus' corpse and put it in his own tomb?**
 - a. Joseph of Arimathea
 - b. Paul
 - c. Mary Magdalene
 - d. Zebedee
3. **What was placed in front of the door of the tomb to close it?**
 - a. a fence
 - b. a stone
 - c. a blanket
 - d. a wall
4. **On what day was Jesus' resurrection?**
 - a. the fourteenth day
 - b. the same day as his crucifixion
 - c. the tenth day
 - d. the third day.
5. **Who did not see the empty tomb?**
 - a. Mary Magdalene
 - b. Joseph
 - c. John the Beloved
 - d. Peter
6. **What was found in the tomb?**
 - a. Jesus' burial clothes
 - b. a sparrow
 - c. a vase full of water
 - d. a growing lily
7. **Who did Mary Magdalene think Jesus was when she first saw Him after He had risen?**
 - a. one of the Twelve Apostles
 - b. the gardener
 - c. Pontius Pilate
 - d. a shepherd
8. **Which of these things did Jesus NOT say to Mary?**
 - a. "Go to my brethren"
 - b. "Touch me not"
 - c. "Blessed art thou among women"
 - d. "Mary"
9. **Which of the Twelve Apostles did not believe that Jesus was risen?**
 - a. Simon Peter
 - b. John the Beloved
 - c. Thomas
 - d. Andrew

Answers are on page 4.

I am a Child of God

- *God gives my life purpose and meaning.*
- *I know where to go when I need answers.*
- *He gives me strength and comfort in times of challenge.*
- *God grants me wisdom and courage when I need it most.*
- *He surrounds me with people who will help me, encourage me, and enlighten me.*
- *With God, all things are possible.*
- *The more I pray, the more I discover the many depths of God and His word.*
- *God blesses me with love, joy, peace, and so much more.*
- *I know God has plans for me of a bright and bountiful future.*
- *God provides me with all I really need in life.*

Positive Promotions, Inc.



Javis Arey, Mary Austin, Mabel Barnhardt, Betty Bowles (mother of Steve Bowles), Julia Callaway, family of James Clary, Gerri D. Crummett (Donna Odrosky's sister), Marie Cuthrell, Sarah Hall (friend of Bobbie Troutman), Gary Hauze (no visits or phone calls, please), Harry & Nancy Hipp, Johnnie Lippard (friend of Steve Bowles), Dan Morgan (friend of Steve Bowles), family of Robert Morgan, Jimmy Mullis (friend of Daniel Artz), Joseph Najarian (son of Dena & David Najarian), Pat Norris, Roger & Betty Olson (Kim Profit's parents), Eleanor Peeler, family of Paul Shrewsbury, Sarah Shuping, Claire Skinner, Crystal Smith (niece of Bobbie Troutman), Nick Snipes, Janette Yost. ***If you know of anyone who should be added or deleted from our prayer list, be sure and let the office know. If you have prayer concerns, please text, call or email Pastor Carol.***



A post from a Tennessee

Pastor:

I trust God...and I wear my seatbelt.

I trust God...and I wear a motorcycle helmet.

I trust God...and there are enough life jackets in my boat for everyone on board.

I trust God...and I use oven mitts with really hot dishes.

I trust God...and I lock my house at night.

I trust God...and I have smoke detectors in my house.

I trust God...and I take my prescribed medicines.

I trust God...and I will follow the best guidelines to share the task of flattening the curve.

Acting with caution and wisdom does not indicate a lack of trust in God.

(adapted)



WWW.ISTUCC.ORG

Easter Bible Quiz Answers

1.c.

2.a.

3.b.

4.d.

5.b.

6.a.

7.b.

8.c.

9.c.

How did you do???

Even though there is no

....Physical Church Service, you can still watch online and continue your prayers

....Chancel Choir practice, you can still sing

....Bless These Stitches, you can keep those needles going

....Circle Groups, you can still contact one of your Circle sisters

(or anyone else who needs to hear your voice)

....Five Alive Sunday, you can still donate

....Red Wagon Sunday, you can still set aside some non-perishables for when there is one

....Church offering collection, you can still give (207 W. Horah Street, Salisbury 28144)

