



First UCC News

April 2024



Sundays at 11:00
In-Person and Online Worship

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

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



April

APRIL SCRIPTURES

April 7
Psalm 133
John 20:19-30

April 14
1 John 3:17
Luke 24:36-48

April 21
Psalm 23
John 10:11-18

April 28
Psalm 22:25-31
John 15:1-8

Visit Us
ONLINE



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

Our facebook page contains news, announcements, events and weekly online worship services.

WWW.1STUCC.ORG

You can find links to Bulletins and Newsletters, a link to send your offering to the Church through PayPal and other information on our website...

- 1 OFFICE CLOSED**
- 2** 6:30 p.m. Circle 6 Meeting
- 7** 11:00 a.m. Worship with Guest Pastor Rev. Dr. Kenneth Clapp
- 8** 6:00 p.m. Circle 7 Meeting
- 9** 10:30 a.m. Meals on Wheels Deliveries
- 11** 11:30 a.m. Primitimers
5:30 p.m. Mission Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting
- 14** 11:00 a.m. Worship with Guest Pastor Rev. Larry Bolick
4:00 p.m. Property Committee Meeting
- 15** 5:00 p.m. Families First
- 16** 1:00 p.m. Bless These Stitches
- 21** 11:00 a.m. Worship with Guest Pastor Rev. Dr. Kenneth Clapp
- 22** 5:00 p.m. Families First
- 23** 10:30 a.m. Meals on Wheels Deliveries
- 24** 5:30 p.m. EC Board Meeting
- 25** 6:00 p.m. PFLAG Meeting
- 28** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- 29** 5:00 p.m. Families First

Pastor Carol will be away from 4/6 through 4/21. There will be no Bible Study during that time. Bible Study will resume on April 28.

If you are in need of pastoral care, you may contact Rev. Larry Bolick, Rev. Dr. Kenneth Clapp or Rev. Kendra Joyner-Miller whose numbers and emails are located in the Church Directory.

Although you may be worshipping with us online, your offering can be dropped off at the Church during the week or sent 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!



Sunday Mornings:

**Bible Study
9:30 a.m.**

**Online and In Person Worship
11:00 a.m.**

Children's Sunday School available

CAROL'S CORNER

Happy Easter! Oh, I know, you are saying Easter is over. We already celebrated it, it's time to move on. Except it's not. The Easter season lasts until Pentecost. This means that our paraments stay white (some churches use gold). These colors symbolize joy. The stories we'll hear in worship will all have something to do with resurrection and our call to live Easter.

I was reading an article by the theologian John Dominic Crossen and he was talking about Easter being a metaphor. A metaphor is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or actions to which is it not literally applicable according to the dictionary. Yet just because Easter is a metaphor doesn't mean it's not real.

Easter becomes real when we live it out. When we put the flesh and bones on it, if you will. Easter makes a difference when we take to heart the teachings of Jesus. When we live out of love for one another, when we forgive, even when we don't want to. When we look for places of agreement, and agree to disagree agreeably where and when we can't.

Ester is about hope. Even though there are wars, death, dying, famine on the wide scale and illnesses and poverty and struggle on the personal side, Easter provides hope. The possibility to make and be a difference in this world. We may not be called to settle wars around the world but we can, because we are loved, because we follow the one who gave his life for us, make a difference in our families and our communities.

Easter does not end death, but it does offer life. It reminds us that we are beloved. Each and everyone of us is precious to the One who created us, who gave us life and breath and who walks with us even today. Even when we don't or can't see it.

Easter is about saying "yes" to the vision of life and community that was offered to us by Jesus. A new community, the kin-dom of love and grace.

A kin-dom where Judas would be, could be forgiven, where Peter is re-affirmed, and where all are indeed welcome. A kin-dom that we learn about from the teachings of Jesus, who was born, lived, and died willingly for us to know that there is a different way to live, a life of abundance and blessing.

Happy Easter!

Pastor Carol

I received a thriving grant this past year that is enabling me to take an unusually long continuing education trip. I leave April 6th for Istanbul, Turkey. I will be returning on the 21st. There I will get to experience the Hagia Sophia and Tokapi Palace and explore the history and heritage of the many civilizations that have occupied this region. Including the Christian heritage. After leaving Istanbul I will be heading to the coast to the ancient city of Smyrna (modern day Izmir) and onto Ephesus, one of the apostle Paul's stomping grounds. Ephesus is also known for its Ottoman Christian Architecture. Along the path we will be stopping at a loggerhead turtle rescue and following the silk road until we end up in Cappadocia where we will find many early Christian rock hewn churches. I look forward to sharing tales of my journey and pictures when I get home. I will hold you all in prayer while I am away and I covet your prayers for my journey. See you soon!

Pastor Carol

April

Meetings and Other Events...

Meals on Wheels Deliveries	Tuesdays April 9 and 23 at 10:30 a.m.
Circle 6 Meeting	Tuesday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m.
Circle 7 Meeting	Monday, April 8 at 6:00 p.m.
Primetimers	Thursday, April 11 at 11:30 a.m.
Finance Committee Meeting	Thursday, April 11 at 6:00 p.m.
Mission Committee Meeting	Thursday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m.
Property Committee Meeting	Sunday, April 14 at 4:00 p.m.
Bless These Stitches Group	Tuesday, April 16 at 1:00 p.m.
EC Board Meeting	Wednesday, April 24 at 5:30 p.m.
PFLAG Meeting	Thursday, April 25 at 6:00 p.m.
Bible Study Resumes	Sunday, April 28 at 9:30 a.m.
Church Council Meeting	Sunday, April 28 after Worship

Highlights of March Thursday Thoughts

We have had some amazing substitute organists and pianists during the month of March. We thank **Laurie Klaus, Don Simmons and Mary Kaye Bennett** for stepping in. We are happy to report that Laurie Klaus will be our Guest Pianist during the month of April.

Pastor Carol will be away from April 6 through April 21. Please join our Worship with the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Clapp on Sunday April 7 and April 21 and with Rev. Lawrence Bolick on April 14. If you are in need of pastoral care, you may contact Rev. Larry Bolick, Rev. Dr. Kenneth Clapp and Rev. Kendra Joyner-Miller. Their numbers and email addresses are in your Church Directory.

The next **Bible Study** will held on April 28. at 9:30 a.m. The scripture for discussion will be Exodus 14:1-31.

The Salisbury Post recently reported that the First Annual Building Brighter Futures Award was presented to **Greg and Missie Alcorn** at the 9th annual Smart Start Rowan's Dr. Shirley P. Ritchie Champion for Young Children Celebration on March 12. The award was presented to both salute and express gratitude to the recipients for all they have done for the organization.

Keep **Millie Campbell** in your prayers. She has moved to Pruitt Health — Town Center, Harrisburg. Please send notes of encouragement to 4310 Hampton Road, Salisbury, 28144.

Anne Greenland Kennedy passed away on March 4. Condolences go out to her family and those close to her.

Christian and Miranda Shuping are proud parents of a son, Wyatt Arthur Shuping. **Patty & Mark Shuping** are very proud first grandparents and **Romas & Sarah Shuping** are new great grandparents.

News from **Lucy Robinson** with our heartfelt Congratulations: Her second great grand baby was born on March 17, Emilia Lane, 8 lbs, 1oz. Owen Scott is now at 3 lbs, 11 oz! As Lucy says, these babies are "True blessings!"

Primetimers met on Thursday, March 14 with a luncheon provided by Mike Rhodes, son of Mr. & Mrs. Herb Rhodes. The program was presented by Rev. Misty Polston-York, Chaplain for Carolina SeniorCare, Lexington. Please consider joining the group next month on Thursday, April 11 at 11:30 for a meal, fellowship and a program provided by Rev. Kendra Joyner-Miller.

Circle 7 will meet at 6:00 pm on Monday, April 8th at the home of Dawn and John Isenberg for a light supper. Please text a reply of YES or NO to her number in the circle booklet.

There was an Easter Egg Hunt after Worship on Palm Sunday, March 24. Thanks to Susan Ward and Pastor Carol for the pictures!



Kitchen: If you use the kitchen freezer, please be sure that it is locked when you are through. The freezer does not make a proper seal without it being locked. If you are needing ice, the ice machine is not working. You will need to provide your own.

The metal shelves in the Decorating Room are in need of replacement. If you have any shelves you'd like to donate, see Mark Schiemann.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Brenda Bernhardt, Tyler Bernhardt, Millie Campbell, Rev. Warren Casiday, Gerri D. Crummett (Donna Odrosky's sister), Leigha Davenport & family (friends of Susan Ward), Betty Diehl, Stacy Erb, Roger Hogendorf (grandson on Linda Hauze), Emily Hauze (daughter-in-law of Linda Hauze), Cathy Hedrick (John Marion's sister), Jasmine Kirby and son Noah (Don Whitfield's niece and great-nephew), Rick Lockhart (Radell Lockhart's uncle), Jim Lyerly, John Marion, Shirley McNeil, Eddie Meeker, Dan Morgan, Pat Norris, Patsy Paxton, Glenda Shrewsbury, Patty & Mark Shuping and family, Romas & Sarah Shuping, Claire Skinner, Molly Tripp and Baby Owen Scott (Lucy Robinson's granddaughter and great-grandson), Tom Troutman, Barbara Waller, Waylon Ward, Eric Webster, Janette Yost, the people of Ukraine, people of Israel and Palestine.

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

Mission Committee News

The Mission Committee met on Thursday, March 14 at 5:30 pm and reviewed plans for the next two months. The One Great Hour of Sharing Annual Offering for disaster relief, recovery and international mission project grants, will be received on Easter, March 31. Brochures on OGHs Annual Offering were in the bulletins for several Sundays in March.

There will be a Drive-By Food Collection on Saturday, April 27 from 10 am -12 noon, and we will be advertising this collection to the West Square Community surrounding First Church.

A date will be selected in May for another RHM Shelter Meal, and volunteers will be recruited for this meal.

Going through Chuck Carte, a teacher at Carson High School and Kristen Symonds, a 1st Grade teacher at North Rowan Elementary School, arrangements will be made to recognize teachers, staff and administrators with light refreshments on a school day in May at these two schools.

Strengthen the Church Annual UCC Offering will be on Pentecost Sunday, May 19 for Leadership Development, new churches, youth ministry and innovation in existing congregations.

The next Mission Committee Meeting will be May 8 at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. If there is anyone who would like to join the Mission Committee to plan and implement the mission ministries of First UCC, please contact Larry Bolick, Chair, at 828.612.8146.

Primitimers

The Primitimers for folks 50 years and older meets monthly on the second Thursday of each month at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall for a meal and program. Thanks to Mike Rhodes who provided a delicious College Barbecue Meal for our March 14th Meeting and to Patti and John Marion who hosted the meeting with the help of other members, over twenty folks enjoyed the meal, decorations and desserts.

The April 11th Meeting will be hosted by members and Mrs. Pat Beck has graciously provided the Hamburger Meal from Hendrix, Salisbury. Please call the church office by Tuesday, April 9th if you plan to attend. The devotions and program will be presented by Rev. Kendra Joyner-Miller, Campus Minister and Chaplain of Catawba College, and Director of the Lilly Center of Vocation and Value. Kendra graduated from Catawba College Class of 2011 and Yale Divinity School Class of 2014, and she is a member of First UCC and ordained into Christian Ministry in 2014 at First Church. She is married to Rev. Daniel Joyner-Miller, Senior Minister of St. John's Lutheran Church, Salisbury, and they have two young daughters, Jo and Eliza.

At the May 9th Meeting, the Primitimers will have a Fun and Games Program with gifts and a catered meal yet to be determined.

Church Council Notes

We invite you to share any suggestions you may have with church council, the pastor or Pastor/Parish Relations. We will be placing a suggestion box outside the office and welcome you to use it. We ask that these are signed by those sharing them so that we can ensure that there is a proper response. Concerns and suggestions are welcome at any time.

Our 2023-2024 Council members are:

Don Whitfield
Patti Marion
Donna Odrosky
Bobbie Troutman
Phyllis Little
Shirley McNeil
Greg Alcorn
Ken Clapp
Carolyn Cline.

Pastoral/Staff Relations Committee members are:

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 Bless These Stitches Group will meet on Tuesday, April 19 at 1:00 p.m. Besides the handwork that gets done, there is plenty of fellowship and conversation. Please consider joining us. Skills are not required, just the willingness to try knitting or crocheting. Patterns, yarn and instruction are available.

If you are in need of a handmade gift for someone, there are many crafts for sale at the Church or something specific might also be arranged.

There are LOTS of new items that have been added to our collection. Please stop by the Craft Corner outside of the Church Office and check them out.

We'd love to see you on the 19th.





Johns River Valley Camp is now offering Summer Camps for 2024.
Middle/Senior (Grades 7th-12th)
 Classic Camp: June 16-21, 2024
 Adventure Camp (June 23-28, 2024)
Junior (Grades 3rd-6th)
 Classic Camp: July 7-12, 2024
 For more information: <https://www.jrvc.org/summer-camps>
 Contact Pastor Carol for scholarship opportunities.

UNSCRAMBLE THESE NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS

Write the name of the New Testament book under each scrambled word.

- | | |
|------------|-------------------|
| 1. TMOITYH | 11. HEISNASEP |
| 2. TEPRE | 12. MOANRS |
| 3. TTHAMWE | 13. THISANINCRO |
| 4. CTAS | 14. TAAALGNIS |
| 5. MEAJS | 15. LATEVERNOI |
| 6. DJEU | 16. LEMONIHP |
| 7. OJNH | 17. BREWSHE |
| 8. KARM | 18. HESSSTANAINOL |
| 9. KULE | 19. HPIANPLIPSI |
| 10. TUIT | 20. LOOCSISASN |

FIND SOME HIDDEN BOOKS IN THESE SENTENCES.

The names of New Testament books are found in the sentences below. Underline the letters that spell out each book.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Here are the facts. | 5. Is this a markdown sale? |
| 2. Buy that small ukelele. | 6. I met my cousin Hiram at the well. |
| 3. She brews a good cup of tea. | 7. After playing the trumpet, Eric sat down. |
| 4. We like grape jam especially well. | 8. I am Arkansas bound tonight. |

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Thanks to Flo and Phyllis for adding fun and games to our Newsletter.
 Contributions are ALWAYS welcome!



Taking Action to Conquer Stress April 20, 2024 9:45 AM - Noon

Part of the WNCA W.I.S.E. Commitment
 with Keynote Speakers

Alyson Breisch-Minister for Health and Wellness Southern Conference, UCC
 On Stress & Stress Management
 and
 Marikey Abuzuaiter-Greensboro City Council Woman -At Large
 Taking Action to Fight Gun Violence

WNCA Spring Education Event - *Taking Action to Conquer Stress*
 Join us for meaningful dialogue on the number #1 requested topic: Stress Management, including a segment on Taking Action to Fight Gun Violence, a major stressor of our time. This webinar features comprehensive talks and question/answer sessions with our speakers on stress, stress management, and up to date information on how we can fight gun violence in our communities.

Only \$10 to attend and all are welcome!

18+ under are encouraged to attend free of charge!

Whoever came up with this one must have had some Divine guidance!

Although things are not perfect
Because of trial or pain
Continue in thanksgiving
Do not begin to blame
Even when the times are hard
Fierce winds are bound to blow
God is forever able
Hold on to what you know
Imagine life without His love
Joy would cease to be
Keep thanking Him for all the things
Love imparts to thee
Move out of "Camp Complaining"
No weapon that is known
On earth can yield the power
Praise can do alone
Quit looking at the future
Redeem the time at hand
Start every day with worship
To "thank" is a command
Until we see Him coming
Victorious in the sky
We'll run the race with gratitude
Xaiting God most high
Yes, there'll be good times and yes some will be bad, but...
Zion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!