

# First UCC Focus

## February 2020



**9:45** Sunday School  
**11:00** Worship

### FEBRUARY SCRIPTURE

#### February 2

Micah 6:1-8  
 Psalm 15  
 1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
 Matthew 5:1-12

#### February 9

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)  
 Psalm 112:1-9 (10)  
 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)  
 Matthew 5:13-20

#### February 16

Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
 Psalm 119:1-8  
 1 Corinthians 3:1-9  
 Matthew 5:21-37

#### February 23

Exodus 24:12-18  
 Psalm 2  
 2 Peter 1:16-21  
 Matthew 17:1-9

### FEBRUARY USHERS

Jeff Bernhardt, Captain  
 Hunter Bernhardt  
 Tyler Bernhardt  
 Rodney Callaway  
 Sandy Wagoner

### FEBRUARY GREETERS

#### February 2 & 9

Patty & Mark Shuping

#### February 16 & 23

Frances Wensil & Susan Ward

### FEBRUARY LAY READERS

#### February 2

Phyllis Little

#### February 9

Kim Profit

#### February 16

Kim Profit

#### February 23

Donna Odrosky

### Painting The Stars

*“When I have a terrible need of --- dare I say, “religion”? --- then I go outside at night and paint the stars.” --- Vincent Van Gogh*


**WOW Wednesday** will meet through February 19. You are always welcome to participate in one or the remaining times. We are celebrating the communion of science and faith, *Painting the Stars* explores the promise of evolutionary Christian spirituality. Featuring over a dozen leading evolutionary theologians and progressive thinkers like Rachel Held Evans, Matthew Fox, Megan McKenna, Bruce Sanguin and John Shelby Spong. Remaining session titles for the group study will be:

February 5: Evolutionary Christianity

February 12: Imagining a Future

February 19: An Evolving Spirituality: Mysticism

Bible study is offered at **11:30 a.m.** or come for supper at **6:00 p.m.** Study begins at **6:30 p.m.** Please let the Church Office or Bobbie Troutman know if you will be attending the 6:00 meal. Invite your friends!



2	9:45	Sunday School	
	11:00	Worship & Communion	
3	7:00	Circle 7 Meeting	
4	11:30	Circle 4 Meeting	
	2:00	Circle 2 Meeting	
	6:00	SA Meeting	
	7:00	Circle 6 Meeting	
5	11:30	Bible Study	
	6:00	Bible Study	
	7:30	Chancel Choir	
9		<b>LITTLE RED WAGON SUNDAY</b>	
	9:45	Sunday School	
	11:00	Worship	
	4:00	Property Committee Meeting	
11	10:30	Meals on Wheels	
	6:00	SA Meeting	
	6:30	Families First	
12	11:30	Bible Study	
	5:00	EC Board Meeting	
	6:00	Bible Study	
	7:30	Chancel Choir	
13	11:00	Primetimers	
	5:00	Mission Committee Meeting	
16	9:45	Sunday School	
	11:00	Worship	
	12:30	Church Council Meeting	
	5:00	Worship Committee Meeting	
17		<b>PRESIDENTS' DAY</b>	
18	1:00	Bless These Stitches	
	6:00	SA Meeting	
	6:30	Families First	
19	11:30	Bible Study	
	6:00	Bible Study	
	7:30	Chancel Choir	
20	7:00	Church Women Board Meeting	
23		<b>FIVE ALIVE SUNDAY</b>	
	9:45	Sunday School	
	11:00	Worship	
24		<b>MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	
25	10:30	Meals on Wheels	
	6:00	SA Meeting	
	6:30	Families First	
26	7:00	Ash Wednesday Service	



## CAROL'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

I can't believe February is here. January went by in the flick of an eye. Before you know it, spring will be here. Well maybe, it depends on what the Groundhog says. It's a day we wait for with bated breath, will he or won't he see his shadow? Is spring going to be early or not?

Groundhog Day, February 2 basically falls midway between the winter solstice and spring equinox. In the ancient traditions of the Celts, it was celebrated as Imbolc which was a pagan festival that marked the beginning of spring. However, as Christianity spread throughout Europe, Imbolc evolved into Candlemas which was a feast that celebrated the presentation of Jesus at the Jerusalem temple. There were places in Europe where Christians believed that a sunny Candlemas meant another 40 days of cold and snow.

Germans developed their own take on this legend. It was only sunny if badgers or other small animals glimpsed their shadows. In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century when Germans spread throughout Pennsylvania, they brought this custom with them, choosing the native groundhog as the annual forecaster.

You may know that the first official Groundhog Day celebration took place in Punxsutawney, PA, the idea of a local newspaper who sold a bunch of people on this idea. They traveled to a place called Gobbler's Knob where the first Groundhog saw his shadow and became the bearer of bad news.

Nowadays there are Groundhog Day celebrations in many places around the country.

What interests me is how something that started out as a Pagan festival eventually morphed into a religious one and is now primarily a secular celebration, with some hoping for an early spring and others not. What other holidays can you name with a similar history?

Valentine's Day is also this month and it is another holiday that has religious overtones in its history also. The legend of St. Valentine is always an interesting one to read.

At the end of this month, whether spring comes early or not, though begins the season of Lent. Plan to join us for a service of ashes on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>.

In the meantime, whether you are hoping for the Groundhog to see his shadow or not, I hope to see you in church!

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Carol

## **February Circle Group Meetings**

### **Circle 2:**

February 4, 2:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall  
Hostesses: Glenda Shrewsbury and Sara Jean Propst

### **Circle 4:**

February 4, 11:30 a.m. at Jeter's Deli

### **Circle 6:**

February 4, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall  
Hostess: Millie Campbell

### **Circle 7:**

February 3, 7:00 p.m., at Anne Palmer's Home



## **SPOTLIGHT**

Submitted by Patty Shuping

*Stephen Leichman has been attending First UCC since he was a baby. He is 16 years old, and currently a Junior at North Rowan High School. He is Captain of the North Rowan Drumline. Stephen has been a member of the marching band for 4 years. He enjoys playing the out with his drums, listening to music, going to the gym, and hanging friends and family.*

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

There are many dates available for altar flowers. The flowers are a wonderful way to honor and remember those special people in your lives in addition to providing beautiful arrangements to our Sanctuary on Sundays. The sign-up book is in the Narthex or you can call the Church Office to reserve a date. The cost for 2 bouquets is \$45.

## **FIVE ALIVE: HELPING NEIGHBORS HELP THESELVES!**

A client came to Rowan Helping Ministries seeking assistance with his first month's rent. The client is a former shelter guest that moved out after finding housing. He is on a fixed income and has struggled paying the bills in his apartment after the shelter. The Salisbury Housing Authority contacted the client to inform him that there was an opportunity for affordable housing for him. To avoid reverting back to homelessness, the client accepted the affordable housing. The client paid a portion of the rent amount and RHM helped with the remaining balance. He will be sustainable going forward because his rent is income based with water included. He was excited to know that he will not be homeless again.

100% of your contribution goes to help citizens of the Salisbury. Rowan areas and our church family with unexpected, short term emergencies.

## **PRIMETIMERS**

**PrimeTimers** will meet **Thursday, February 13** at 11:00 in the Fellowship Hall. The program "Heart Health and Stroke Prevention for Seniors" will be given by Laura Emery, BSN, RN with Atrium Health/ Faith Community Health Ministry. Laura Emery has been with Atrium Health since 2012. She will be doing blood pressure checks between 10:40 and 11:00 a.m. Hosts are Larry Bolick and Flo Peck. Come join us for this timely program and stay for a delicious covered dish lunch.

## **REMINDER ...**

Please keep the Church Office up to date on prayer requests, happenings and upcoming events to be included In Newsletters, Thursday Thoughts, bulletins, Facebook or the website. The website and Facebook are always in need of pictures and notables! Remember to like and share the various activities that get put on Facebook. This enables friends to see them if you share them.



Congratulations go out to **Brandi & Dennis Neelam** on the birth of **Ashwin James Neelam**. Ashwin was born on January 28, 2020 at 3:52 a.m. and weighed 8 lbs. 14 oz.

A Celebration of Life for **Matt Newton** will be held at First UCC on **February 1 at 12:00**, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall. Visitation with the family will be in the Fellowship Hall from 11:00 until the time of service. Please keep family and friends in your prayers. The address for Jeff Newton is: 3621 Brackenridge Lane, Fuquay-Varina, NC, 27526.

**Karen Alexander** will be the guest speaker for the **Annual Meeting of the Salisbury-Rowan Unit of Church Women United**. The meeting will take place on **Sunday, February 2 at 3:00 p.m.** at First Presbyterian Church, 308 West Fisher Street, Salisbury. The meeting's agenda will include installation of officers and representatives and adoption of the 2020 Budget followed by refreshments at the conclusion of the meeting.

The **Ash Wednesday** service will take place on **February 26 at 7:00 p.m.**

On **February 28 at 6:00 p.m.**, the Mission Committee will be preparing a meal at Rowan Helping Ministries. Volunteers are welcome!

Don't forget **Chancel Choir**. Choir meets each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. New voices are welcome!

**Bless These Stitches** meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:00 . **February 18** will be the next meeting. Please join us for crafting and conversation!

**WOW Wednesdays** continue through February 19 at 11:30 and 6:00.

Thank you for your generosity by contributing to the **Little Red Wagon** in January.



**March 1** is the first Sunday in Lent. Lenten meals begin on Sunday night, March 1. Sunday night meals are in the planning stage. There will be programs following supper with some thought provoking guest speakers. More information will be coming.

The **Salisbury-Rowan Unit of Church Women United** will meet for the Annual Prayer Breakfast on **Friday, March 7 at 9:00 a.m.** at Milford Hills United Methodist Church, 1630 Statesville Boulevard, Salisbury.

