

First UCC Focus

June, 2019



9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship

JUNE SCRIPTURE

June 2:

Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 97
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26

June 9:

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:14-17
John 14:8-17, (25-27)

June 16:

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

June 23:

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a
Isaiah 65:1-9
Psalm 22:19-28
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

June 30:

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21
Psalm 16
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62

JUNE USHERS

Jeff Bernhardt, Captain
Hunter Bernhardt
Tyler Bernhardt
Rodney Callaway
Sandy Wagoner
Rebecca Schiemann Wrights

JUNE GREETERS

June 2 & 9

John & Lucy Robinson

June 16 & 23

Eleanor Peeler and Daniel Artz

June 30

Bobbie Troutman

JUNE LAY READERS

June 2:

Kim Profitt

June 9:

Leslie Dent

June 16:

Carolyn Cline

June 23:

Susan Ward

June 30:

Susan Ward



The items you brought for the **Little Red Wagon** in May have been taken to Rowan Helping Ministries. Donations totaled 84 pounds. Thank you for your generosity.



WWW.ISTUCC.ORG



- 1 12:00 Circle #7
- 2 **RECOGNITION OF H.S. GRADUATES and NICK SNIPES EAGLE SCOUT AWARD PRESENTATION**
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship & Communion
12:00 Congregational Meeting
- 4 11:30 Circle #4
2:00 Circle #2
6:30 Circle #6
- 5 11:30 Bible Study
6:00 Bible Study
- 6 6:30 Christian Ed Meeting
- 9 **PENTECOST and CONFIRMATION**
LITTLE RED WAGON SUNDAY
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship
12:00 Picnic
5:00 Property Committee Meeting
- 11 10:30 Meals on Wheels
6:30 Families First
- 12 5:00 EC Board
- 13 11:00 Primetimers
5:00 Mission Committee
- 16 9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship
12:00 Congregational Meeting
12:30 Church Council
- 18 1:00 Bless These Stitches
6:30 Families First
- 22 Salisbury Pride Day
- 23 **FIVE ALIVE SUNDAY**
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship
- 25 10:30 Meals on Wheels
6:30 Families First
- 27 6:00 PFLAG Meeting
- 30 9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship

CIRCLE MEETINGS

- Circle #2** Tuesday, June 4, 2:00 Fellowship Hall
- Circle #4** Tuesday, June 4, 11:30 Salad Luncheon at home of Sandy Wagoner
- Circle #6** Tuesday, June 4, 6:30 Salad Supper in Fellowship Hall
Frances Wensil and Susan Ward, Hostesses
- Circle #7** Saturday, June 1, 12:00 Lunch at Country Club

CAROL'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

One final holy day before Ordinary Time arrives. Pentecost, the birthday of the church. You are invited to wear flame colors that day and to stay after worship for food and fellowship. In light of Pentecost I thought I'd share this:

It must have been quite a sight

fire
Flames
Tongues as of fire
Languages of all the nations

The disciples filled
With the Spirit
The flames dancing
In the breeze

Bewildered crowds
Gathered for celebration
Of the Festival of Weeks
The harvest gathered and offered
To God

Each one heard
Good news
In their own language
Amazed and astonished
They wondered
Aren't these all Galileans?
This cacophony of sound
We each hear in
Our own language

What might this mean?

Others though sneered
They are filled
With new wine and
They would not believe

But Peter
Filled with the Holy Spirit
Could not keep silent

He told of God's love
And of Jesus his friend
He told of grace offered
And one who willingly
Gave his life
For all

And that day
The day the wind blew
And the Spirit danced
The Church was founded
On the rock as
Jesus promised so long ago

Hope to see you all in church!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Carol

PRIMETIMERS

The program for Primetimers on June 13 at 11 am will be "Church Music: Gospel, Traditional and Contemporary," presented by Rev. Larry Bolick, Mr. Brian T. Russell and Mrs. Flo Peck. Mr. Brian Russell is a graduate of Belmont Abbey College and Wake Forest University Divinity School and has led Contemporary Worship at First Lutheran Church, Greensboro for five years, and presently leads Contemporary Worship at Memorial UMC, Thomasville at 8:45 am on Sundays and then drives to Grace Lowerstone Church, Rockwell, where he has been pastor for the past year and a half. He is an Associate Member of First Church and is a Minister in Discernment of Western North Carolina Association Church and Ministry Committee. He has just recently been approved to have an Ecclesiastical Council Gathering for Ordination into the UCC. Pastor Carol serves as his MID advisor and mentor. Brian is the author of a book titled, "The Contemporary Worship Handbook."

The June 13th meeting will be our annual "Picnic" of hot dogs and hamburgers provided by Mike Rhodes in honor of his parents Herb & Janet Rhodes. Hosts will be Jim & Shirley Trexler and Joyce Trexler. Please come and enjoy the program, picnic lunch and fellowship!

Mission Committee for June

The Mission Committee met on Thursday, May 9 and discussed plans for May and June. When the application for a UCC grant is processed and received, Church World Service Kits will be assembled with matching funds from the Lenten Coin Offering. The May projects included the Catawba Soul Campaign, the Little Red Wagon for food for Rowan Helping Ministries, and the collection of hygiene items for the Family Crisis Center and Shelter.

June projects will be the Little Red Wagon and serving a meal for the Night Shelter guests at Rowan Helping Ministries on Saturday, June 15 at 7 pm. In the past, a total of 60+ guests have been served a hot meal with desserts. Many guests came back for seconds. The approximate cost for the meal is \$75-100.

The Annual Strengthening the Church Offering will be received on Pentecost, June 9. Grants are given for new church starts and renewing churches as well as grants for local churches and conferences for creative outreach ministries for a just world. For the next several years, the offering will also support the youth and young adult ministries in the UCC and the UCC National Youth Event in 2020.

The Mission Committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, June 13 at 5 pm. Thank you to all who donated hygiene items to Rowan Crisis Council this past month.

Five-Alive Fund: Helping Families In Our Community

Each month Rowan Helping Ministries receives a donation from our church through our Five Alive Fund. These donations are used to help citizens in the Salisbury-Rowan area and our church family who are in need of financial help.

A client came into Rowan Helping Ministries seeking help with his monthly rent. The client was 48 years old and employed parttime. He injured his left foot February 4th. The client's foot was broken and required surgery. He went back to work on March 30th doing light duty. Due to being out of work for almost two months, he had gotten behind on his rent and needed help to avoid eviction. To keep him in his home, Rowan Helping Ministries provided a voucher that helped him with his rent. The client was excited to know that he still had a home.

Your donation to our Five-Alive Fund is always appreciated.

WESTON'S WORD

The month of June is now upon us and it shows how quickly time goes by. I can personally attest to time going by very quickly in the events and anniversaries in this past month. It is hard to believe that my four years of college flew by as quickly as it did; it is even harder for me to believe that I have been a part of this community of faith for a year now. It shows that time flies by when we are having fun. I have certainly had fun with my college years and the past year spent with you all. As I reflect on the past year with you all, I am reminded of goodness, grace and kindness that this congregation has shown me. I cannot justly show you all the gratitude and support that you have shown me in the past year. All I can say is thank you and that is all that I can do.

The grace and love that this Church has shown me reminds me that there are many positives in the world. The society that we live in today focuses more on inadequacy and the negatives in life. What society does not recognize is that there are positives and the blessings right around us. Here are some current facts and statistics that can remind us of God's hope in our world.

The Cancer rate in the United States has dropped 27% in the last 25 years
The global suicide rate had dropped 29% since 2000
Leprosy has almost been eradicated
Millennials are the least likely age group to drink and drive
The ozone hole over Antarctica has shrunk to its smallest size since 1988
The United States poverty rate is at its lowest rate since 2008
Rates of violent crime has dropped by 50% since 1990
Carbon Monoxide emissions are down 77% since 1990

Source: Forbes and Good News Network

I hope that this is helpful. While we do live in a world of hurt, we also live in a world that is hopeful, a hope that God gives to us despite our struggles and pain. Hopes for prosperity, better ecology, relationships, and improvement of everyday lives is what God gives us even when the situation seems hopeless.

God Bless,
Weston

Catawba College Soul Campaign

When the Catawba Soul Campaign was presented in May, there were two announcements that we can celebrate at First Church in the Soul Campaign. First, a major gift has been provided from the estate of Juanita Fisher Lagg, a life-long member of First Church, for the Chapel Organ Renovation Fund. Mrs. Lagg was a student at Catawba in the 1940's before marrying Dr. Elmer Lagg. The estate gift assures the completion of the Organ Fund to pay for the renovated, enhanced organ which was used for Baccalaureate Service on May 10. Secondly, an anonymous gift of \$250,000 to the Lilly Center Endowment has been named the Dr. Kenneth Clapp Endowment, which will be matched by gifts from alumni and friends of Catawba in honor of Dr. Ken Clapp, Senior Vice-President and Chaplain at Catawba and a member of First Church for the past 30 years. Information on the Soul Campaign and pledge forms are available in the church vestibule.

CATAWBA



Sr. High Youth:
July 7-12 OR July 14-19
Jr. High Youth:
July 21-26



Discover is a summer program for middle and high school students to engage in a week of theological study, careful reflection, and spiritual growth. This summer's theme is "Story." What stories are we telling, sharing, and living? How do these stories impact who we are and how we live out our faith? Contact Weston Henderson for more information.

Thank you to Circle 7 for the purchase of 70 bales of pine needles for the church grounds. Thanks to Carolyn Cline for scaring away the squirrels and birds from the planters with her special combination of Spanish moss and red pepper flakes!

On **Saturday, June 1**, Nazareth Child & Family Connection will be celebrating its 113th year of serving children and families in need throughout North Carolina. Fun Fest is its largest fundraiser of the year. Tickets are on sale for a drawing for cash and prizes and can be purchased online or in the Church Office. You do not need to be present to win. For more information about Fun Fest visit www.nazcfc.org.

Circle #7 will meet at noon on Saturday, **June 1**, at the Country Club of Salisbury.

There will be a congregational meeting after Church on **June 2** to receive nominations and to lift up nominations for next year's Church Council. On **June 16** there will be an additional congregational meeting after Church to vote on nominations for Church Council.

At the beginning of worship on **June 2** we will recognize our high school graduates. There will be an Eagle Scout Award presentation for Nick Snipes on the 2nd as well.

The deadline for the Father's Day bulletin is **June 2**.

Bible Study concludes on Wednesday, **June 5**. You can still take in the last night of the series entitled **"#METOO Moments from the Bible"**. There are two groups that meet at 11:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The evening group will begin with supper. If you'd like to stop by for supper and bible study, please let the Church office know.

The UCC Strengthen the Church offering will be collected on **June 9**. Each Pentecost we celebrate the church as we have known it, the church we are, and the church that we can be, together, seeking to build a just world for all, leaning closer to the world that God imagines for our communities. One of the ways our covenant is lived out tangibly is through Strengthen the Church offering.

Salisbury Pride Day is being held on Saturday, June 22. First UCC will again have a booth at the event. We need volunteers! Details to follow ...

During the months of June and July the Mission Committee will be collecting kid-friendly food contributions for Rowan Helping Ministries. Contributions may be placed in the room adjacent to the vestibule.

Thank you to all the members of the church for the cards, pictures, love + prayers during this surgery and recovery time. I have my special blanket I will carry with me to the hospital next week. I hope to be with you all soon!

with love,
Ammi



Javis Arey, Mary Austin, Mabel Barnhardt, Kay Bassinger (Linda Thompson's mother), Gene Beck (Weston Henderson's grandfather), Robin Blackwell (Daughter of Sara Jean Propst), Julia Callaway, Jim Clary, Marie Cuthrell, family of Jean Dagenhart, Marvin Feezor (friend of Henry Alexander), Joyce Harris (friend of Martha Haun), Martha Haun, Gary Hauze (no visits or phone calls, please), Harry & Nancy Hipp, Connie King (sister of Don Whitfield), Winnie Mikkelson, Elender Morgan (friend of Jeff Smith), Pat Norris, Patsy Paxton, Rev. Don Scott, Pat Shoe, Paul & Glenda Shrewsbury, Patty Shuping and family, Zach Shuping, Waylon & Susan Ward. **If you know of anyone who should be added or deleted from our prayer list, be sure and let the office know.**



Circle 7 congratulates these 1st UCC Connected High School Graduates and will honor them on Sunday, June 2nd at the beginning of worship.

Cade Bernhardt, son of Jeff & Lynn Bernhardt and grandson of Brenda Bernhardt will graduate from West Rowan High School. He plans to attend RCCC to study cyber security. At WRHS he ran cross country and played baseball. His favorite class was Bible. Cade was one of ten to receive the Falcon Success Award. He also received a Salisbury Rotary Scholarship and the WRHS Athletic Booster Scholarship. At First UCC he has been an acolyte, soundboard worker, helper with youth meals and enjoyed a youth trip to Black Lake.

Kevin Leichman II, son of Kevin and Stephanie Leichman graduated from North Rowan High School. He was active in marching band, pep band and the theater program having recently played Zazu in "The Lion King, Jr". In the community, Kevin has performed at the Norvell, Polar Express, and with PPT. He used his talents with percussion to help with Catawba's Marching and Pep Bands and Wind Ensemble. At 1st UCC he has been an acolyte, helped with youth meals, a whiz with the sound system, the Council Youth Representative, been part of Youth Sundays, attended NYE in '16, General Synod in '17 and will go again this summer to GS. He has decided to attend Catawba and major in Music Education. We look forward to having him perform in our sanctuary this summer and beyond.

Carrie Morgan, daughter of Jeff & Cindy Morgan will graduate from Gray Stone Day School. Carrie will attend RCCC and study radiology.

Steven Shuping, son of Mark & Patty Shuping and grandson of Romas & Sarah Shuping and Pat Shoe will graduate from Carson High School. An active participant in sports, band and clubs at Carson, he will attend Catawba College and major in business. He received his rank of Eagle Scout in February 2019. At First UCC he has been an acolyte, usher, nursery helper, Christmas caroler, helper with youth meals, and ALWAYS present.

Isabella Almazan, daughter of Daniel and Cindy Almazan, granddaughter of Henry & Karen Alexander, graduating from Carson High School, will be going to Savannah College of Art and Design. She has had various art exhibits in Salisbury.

Rebecca Blossey, daughter of George & Sally Blossey, granddaughter of Ted & Carolyn Cline, will graduate from Paxon School of Advanced Studies in Jacksonville, Florida. She received a silver cord for a 3.5 GPA. Rebecca enjoyed sculpture and biology classes and was on the bowling and soccer teams. Rebecca plans to attend the University of North Florida and then transfer to Ross University to become a veterinarian.

Congratulations also to

Jason Bost, son of Chris Bost, grandson of John & Patti Marion, will graduate from York Comprehensive High School in York, South Carolina. Jason is in the top five of his class and plans to transfer from York County Community College to Clemson University. Sister, **Amanda** has her CAN and is finishing her second year at YCCC.

Dakota Brewer, son of Kim Pittman and Josh Brewer, grandson of John & Patti Marion.



Pastor Carol will be on vacation June 24-July 11.