

# First UCC Focus

## June 2020



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

**11:00 Online Worship Sundays**  
<https://www.facebook.com/First.UCC.Salisbury>

### JUNE SCRIPTURE

June 7

Genesis 1:1-2:4a  
 Psalm 8  
 Matthew 28:16-20

June 14

Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7  
 Romans 5:1-8

June 21

Romans 6:1b-11  
 Matthew 10:24-39

June 28

Psalm 13  
 Matthew 10:40-42



Worship 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/](http://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. If you are unable to join us live, you can watch any of our live events during the week by visiting the Church's page. This includes any story times or mini-concerts as well as worship services.



[WWW.1STUCC.ORG](http://WWW.1STUCC.ORG)



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

### REMINDER...

Even though the church is closed, there are still plenty of online events going on. There are story hours, mini-concerts and worship services on our facebook page. There are zoom check-ins to be sure we are all doing okay and zoom committee meetings. 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 on the website. The website and Facebook are always in need of pictures and news. Send us some social distancing and stay in place pics!

Bulletins and Newsletters can be downloaded from our website at [www.1stucc.org](http://www.1stucc.org). If you would like a printed copy of Pastor Carol's sermon, bulletin or newsletter, you may contact the church office and one will be printed and mailed to you.



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|----|--------------------------|---|
| 2  | 10:00                    | Online Story Hour with Pastor Carol           |
| 3  | 6:30                     | Online Bible Study                            |
| 7  | 11:00                    | Online Worship & Communion                    |
| 8  | 10:00                    | Online Mini-Concert Performed by the Websters |
| 9  | 10:00                    | Online Story Hour with Pastor Carol           |
| 10 | 6:30                     | Online Bible Study                            |
| 14 | 11:00                    | Online Worship                                |
|    | 4:00                     | Property Committee Meeting                    |
| 16 | 10:00                    | Online Story Hour with Pastor Carol           |
| 17 | 5:00                     | EC Board Meeting                              |
|    | 6:30                     | Online Bible Study                            |
| 21 | <b>FATHER'S DAY</b>      |   |
|    | 11:00                    | Online Worship                                |
|    | 12:30                    | Church Council Meeting                        |
| 23 | 10:00                    | Online Story Hour with Pastor Carol           |
| 24 | 6:30                     | Online Bible Study                            |
| 28 | <b>FIVE ALIVE SUNDAY</b> |   |
|    | 11:00                    | Online Worship                                |
| 30 | 10:00                    | Online Story Hour with Pastor Carol           |

Zoom Check-Ins will also be scheduled throughout the month and posted on Thursday Thoughts.



## CAROL'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

It was the best of times. It was the worst of times. Depending on who you listen to, on who you ask. It was the worst of times because you had to think through and plan any travels. You couldn't go to all the places you wanted, only essentials. For the young it truly was the worst of times because their parents didn't know how to handle being home with them all the time- and the abuse got worse with no outsider to see the bruises and scars. For the mentally ill and those who were alone and for those whose only contact was book club or church or card clubs, it was the worst of times.

For others though, it was indeed the best of times. Families got to spend more time together without having to run from sport to sport or class to class. People learned to bake and craft, play an instrument, read books, clean out rooms, and catch up on chores.

For others work remained essential. They stocked shelves, cleaned floors and bathrooms at stores and hospitals, they stood behind barriers bagging groceries and taking money, they drove semi's, donned PPE's and masks, prayed by the side of those dying from the disease, because their loved ones couldn't be there.

The earth got a rest and began to breathe. Skies cleared of pollution, but more plastic was generated as plastic bags became the only way to carry groceries home. Planes grounded. Cars driven less. No one in the oceans or at the parks. Animals spread further in their territory walking and ambling, less afraid amid the trees.

It would be nice to say that it was a time when all people came together but they didn't. Some thought this disease no big deal, maybe a little worse than the flu. The numbers of possible dead, well they seemed acceptable in order to continue to live the way they had been living. But others, well they came together, they began to see that the people that they had been taking for granted, the ones paid minimum wage as they rang up your groceries and cooked your food and served you were the ones needed in the middle of a Pandemic. Along with doctors, nurses, cleaning staff, teachers, we learned the value of each along the way.

Some wore masks to protect others for fear that they themselves could be carriers but others refused because they believed that they had nothing to fear and it was some political tom foolery that was all about politics and not science which they didn't believe anyway-the science that is.

After all, not everyone got sick, and of those who got sick just a few-a tiny portion- ended up in the hospital. Some died, but death happens. When you are out of work and not getting paid and you can't pay the rent, or utilities or put food on the table, the risk seems worth it. For others the walls begin to cave in, and you can't breathe, and the time goes so slow, every minute an hour, every hour a day, every day an eternity.

But if you are part of those impacted, whose loved one goes to the hospital and you can't be there and all you can do is wait, for phone calls, alternating between fervent prayers...arguing with God, yelling at God, beseeching God...

For the ones who gathered at gravesides with under 10 allowed including the preacher...to the ones grieving alone because they can't be with others...and the weeping and the wailing...and the wanting to die too...

When some forgot the great commandment, the one Jesus gave us on the night of betrayal and desertion...and yet that same night there was betrayal and there was denial...have we learned nothing since then...

And yet...on Easter morning when they went to the tomb...it was empty, he was risen. "O death where is your victory, O death where is your sting?". Love, O the amazing gracious love of our God, that love reigns, it continues to pour out for all of us. And we knew that whether it was the best of times or the worst that we were not alone...for we were reminded that in the end...love wins...

Continue to stay safe, wear a mask, socially distance, and wash your hands.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Carol





Tyler Bernhard's New Address is:

SN BERNHARDT, TYLER  
440 ROBERTS AVENUE  
PMB #1360  
PENSACOLA FL 32511

He would appreciate notes from his church family.



Glenda, Charles, Heather, Caleb, Amanda and Grandchildren would like to extend their thanks during this difficult time. From notes and phone calls to food and caring thoughts and prayers, our church family is sincerely appreciated.



On Monday, June 8, the Websters will perform a mini-concert on facebook live at 10:00 a.m. You can find the concert on First UCC's facebook page. If you are unable to watch it at 10:00, please be sure to view later in the week.



Javis Arey, Mary Austin, Mabel Barnhardt, Betty Bowles (mother of Steve Bowles), Julia Callaway, 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), Jimmy Mullis (friend of Daniel Artz), Joseph Najarian (son of Dena & David Najarian), Pat Norris, Roger & Betty Olson (Kim Proffitt's parents), Eleanor Peeler, Savannah Price (Larry Bolick's nephew's granddaughter), Glenda Shrewsbury, Sarah Shuping, Claire Skinner, Crystal Smith (niece of Bobbie Troutman), Nick Snipes, Jeff Watson (Larry Bolick's nephew), Don Whitfield (no calls please), 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.***



Although we do not officially have a Five Alive Sunday at this time, your contributions with a notation for the Five Alive Fund are always needed and appreciated. Giving to the Five Alive Fund is helpful at any time and is used to help those in our church and within our community.



UCC's Strengthen the Church Offering will continue to be collected during the month of June. The Offering furthers the work of our conference and the national UCC as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development and provide exciting new programs for youth and young

Even though there is no ...

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

...Chancel Choir practice, you can still sing

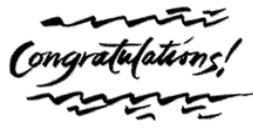
...Bless These Stitches, you can keep those needles going or sewing machines running

...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 or donate to your charity

...Church offering collection, you can still give by mail (207 W. Horah Street, Salisbury 28144), your online banking system (Pastor Carol knows the tricks of online banking) or paypal.



Congratulations to Lucy Bennett, who has been chosen by our Church Women's Board as 1st UCC's Outstanding Young Church Woman for 2020. Lucy will be honored with other young church women at the Salisbury-Rowan Church Women United's "pandemic delayed" May Friendship Day Celebration. It will be held at Moore's Chapel AME Zion Church, 500 Partee Street, on Friday, June 26, at 6:30 P.M. The Ecumenical Action Focus is The Good Shepherd Clinic.

Lucy Bennett is our 17th OYCW honoree. Congratulations to this special elementary school teacher/coach, 1st UCC Council Member, JRVC Summer Camp Counselor and JRVC Board Member.



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. 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. It is new technology and if you are feeling unsure of the process, please give Pastor Carol a call. 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!!

## FIVE-ALIVE: HELPING FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

The following is another success story made possible by contributions from individuals, organizations and **your own Five Alive Fund** to Rowan Helping Ministries.

A client came to Rowan Helping Ministries seeking assistance with his first month's rent. The client is a 60 year old veteran on a fixed income. He has been living in Greensboro with some other veterans. He has PTSD and is being treated at the Salisbury VA Hospital. The travel between Greensboro and Salisbury has caused problems with his PTSD. He has found an apartment in Salisbury and needed help with his first month's rent. He paid a portion of the rent and RHM issued a voucher that would pay the remaining balance. He will be sustainable going forward. He was excited to know he would have his own place and be near his needed treatment.

Your continued financial support for this worthy cause is appreciated.

## UCC 2020 NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT

Due to the unforeseeable impact of COVID-19, National Youth Event (NYE) at Purdue University is postponed until June 27-30, 2022. NYE has been working to offer meaningful and faithful virtual gatherings this summer. The 2022 event will include all seniors for whom this may have been your last NYE.

**June 28:** Will feature a video of CREATIVITY AND JUSTICE IN QUARANTINE.

**July 24-25:** An interactive experience: UNITE THROUGH THE EXTRAORDINARY! (More information and registration to follow and can be found on the NYE Website.)

For More Information:

[www.UCC.org/NYE](http://www.UCC.org/NYE)

<https://www.facebook.com/UnitedChurchofChrist/videos/1581930615307144/>



## MOTHER'S AND FATHER'S DAY RECOGNITION BULLETIN



This year Circle 7 will be preparing a combination Mother's Day and Father's Day Recognition Bulletin. Please mail or email your names and donation to the Church Office. Make your donation payable to Circle 7. Donations help fund many church projects. Circle 7 members wish all Mothers, present and past a very Happy 2020 Mother's Day!!! Thank you for your support of the bulletins in the past.

Name of Person Honored:

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Given By:

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In Memory of:

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# A NOTE OF



Thank you to all who made this thoughtful gesture happen. Here are two thank yous with pictures received from Novant Health:

Dear First UCC,  
Thank you so much for  
the delicious snacks. Our  
screening center teams  
were so appreciative of  
the thoughtful gesture.  
We are blessed to live in  
such a thoughtful community  
Sincerely - Kristen Thayer



Our families did a terrific job making cards for nursing staff and workers at our local Novant Hospital. Thank you for taking time to make all these lovely cards!

Pastor Carol thought our members living in Nursing Home and Assisted Living Settings would enjoy receiving cards from members of their church family. We know they miss the face to face contact with their friends and family. If you would like to help with this mission project I am making a list below of the people and providing some guidelines.

1. You may write the card to the person(s) if you want.
2. Please drop the cards at the church by Thursday, June 4.
3. Go between 8:30am and 11:30am. Use the side office door and Sue or Pastor Carol can let you put them inside the door.
4. If you cannot bring them to the church I'll be glad to come by your home and pick them up.
5. Pastor Carol and I will sort and deliver the cards to our members.

If you have any questions please email me or call at 980-234-2571.  
Thank you so much. Sarah Schiemann

Autumn Care  
Mabel Barnhardt  
Marie Cuthrell

The Meadows  
Julia Callaway

Oak Park  
Mary Austin  
Dan Dagenhart  
Eleanor Peeler

Trinity Elms  
Louise Craig

Trinity Oaks  
Mott and Jarvis Arey

## Changes Due to Pandemic

As you know we were supposed to have had elections for new council members by now. We had talked about it at Council and then the Pandemic forced us out of our space and we have not been able to meet together in person. Council has continued to meet via Zoom. At our most recent meeting we discussed the issue of elections and the difficulty in holding a congregational meeting anytime soon. Therefore, the Council decided that if those who are currently slated to leave would be willing to stay on for one more year that would provide the church with some needed stability as we find our way through this time of Pandemic. As we are also working on the by-laws and in the new by-laws it allows us to have a flexible number on Council, we would not replace Paul Shrewsbury's position at this time. Jeff Smith, who has been Vice-President, will move into the President's spot. Those who were slated to go off have agreed to share their gifts and graces for one more year. I hope that this meets with the congregation's approval. If you have any questions or concerns, (or if you had desperately hoped to receive a phone call to be nominated for Council!) please feel free to contact Pastor Carol or Jeff Smith.



### BIBLE STUDY

We have decided to continue to meet on Wednesday nights at 6:30PM for Bible study and invite anyone who would like to join us to do so. A link will be provided via email before each Wednesday night. We will be continuing our way through Mark's gospel.

June 3	Mark 9-10
June 10	Mark 11-12
June 17	Mark 13:1-14:11
June 24	Mark 14:12-15:15
July 1	Mark 15
July 8	Mark 16:1-8



**Special Thanks to Dr. Phillip Burgess, Susan Trivette, Jeff Smith and Mark Schiemann for their dedication to Sunday Morning Online Worship Services.**

### VOLUNTEERS WELCOME ...

If you have some or any technical experience, Jeff Smith and Mark Schiemann have been outstanding with producing Sunday's Online Worship Services. They might need a break with production and would be willing to share their capabilities with you. Just let Pastor Carol or the Church Office know!

### The Month of June ...

- June 1: National Say Something Nice Day
- June 2: National Leave the Office Early Day (!)
- June 3: National Running Day
- June 4: National Cheese Day OR National Cognac Day
- June 5: National Donut Day
- June 6: D-Day
- June 7: National Cancer Survivor's Day
- June 8: National Best Friends Day
- June 9: National Strawberry Rhubarb Pie Day
- June 10: National Iced Tea Day
- June 11: National Corn on the Cob Day
- June 12: National Peanut Butter Cookie Day
- June 13: National Weed Your Garden Day
- June 14: National Flag Day
- June 15: National Smile Power Day
- June 16: National Fudge Day
- June 17: National Eat Your Vegetables Day
- June 18: National Career Nurse Assistants Day
- June 19: National Wear Blue Day (Friday before Father's Day)
- June 20: Juneteenth
- June 21: Summer Begins (Longest Day of the Year)
- June 22: Father's Day
- June 23: National Onion Rings Day
- June 24: National Pink Day
- June 25: National Pralines Day
- June 26: National Strawberry Parfait Day
- June 27: Take Your Dog to Work Day (Friday after Father's Day)
- June 28: National PTSD Awareness Day
- June 29: Summersgiving (Saturday after Summer Solstice)
- June 30: National Logistics Day
- June 31: National Camera Day (take a pic!!)
- June 32: National Social Media Day

