

First UCC Focus

March, 2019



MARCH SCRIPTURE

March 3:

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

March 10:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

March 17:

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35
Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

March 24:

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Cor. 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

March 31:

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

MARCH USHERS

Paul Shrewsbury, Captain
Tony Hoty
Phyllis Little
Brent Snipes
Bobbie Troutman
Nate Wrights
March 31: Youth Ushers

MARCH GREETERS

March 3 & 10

Eleanor Peeler &
Daniel Artz

March 17 & 24

Frances Wensil &
Susan Ward

March 31

John & Lucy Robinson

MARCH LAY READERS

March 3

Lucy Bennett

March 10

Carolyn Cline

March 17

Leslie Dent

March 24

Patti Marion

March 31

Patti Marion



WWW.1STUCC.ORG



Please like and share the various activities that get put on facebook. This enables friends to see them if you share them.



The items you brought for the **Little Red Wagon** in February have been taken to Rowan Helping Ministries. Thank you for your generosity.

9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship



- 3 9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship & Holy Communion
- 12:30 Confirmation
- 4 7:00 Circle 7
- 5 11:30 Circle 4
2:00 Circle 2
5:00 Fastnachts Festival
5:30 Families First Programs & Services Board Meeting
Circle 6
- 6 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service
- 10 **Little Red Wagon Sunday Daylight Savings Time Begins**
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship
12:30 Confirmation
5:00 Property Committee
5:30 Lenten Meal
- 12 10:30 Meals on Wheels
6:30 Families First
- 13 5:00 EC Board
7:30 Chancel Choir
- 14 11:00 Primetimers at Wink's
5:00 Mission Committee
- 17 9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship
12:30 Church Council
5:30 Lenten Meal
- 19 1:00 Bless These Stitches
6:30 Families First
Chancel Choir
- 20 7:30 Chancel Choir
- 21 7:00 Church Women's Bd.
11:00 WNCA Church & Ministry
- 24 **Five Alive Sunday**
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship
12:30 Confirmation
5:30 Lenten Meal
- 26 10:30 Meals on Wheels
6:30 Families First
Chancel Choir
- 27 7:30 Chancel Choir
- 28 6:00 PFLAG Meeting
- 30 9:30 AAUW Brunch
- 31 **One Great Hour of Sharing**
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship
5:30 Lenten Meal

CAROL'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

A meditation for the journey into Lent.

Into Lent

On the mountain
The light still shines
Illuminating Jesus
Who he was
Who he is
It still shines on us
Stripping away
Our defenses
Our masks
Bare and exposed
We stand in the
Holy Presence

But it is not fear
That we feel
It is love
Love streaming
From the One
Who Was
And Is and
Will Be

It is good to
Be accepted
Despite the
Darkness within us
We relish standing
In God's light but...

We are forced
To climb down
From the mountain
With Jesus
To turn and face

The final journey
Walking with him
As he is tempted
Tossed and torn
As he continues
To preach and teach
Words that challenge
Even today

Finally, we sit
With him at table
Breaking bread
Pouring wine
Facing the darkness
Of a world that
Cannot stand fully
In the light

Pharisees plot
And plan
Judas' betrayal
In the garden

Soldiers arrest
We all scatter
The macabre farce
Of a trial

We gather
There at
At cross
On a hill
Called
Golgotha
We watch
We wait
As he breathes his
Last

We lean in
To catch his
Final whisper

"Father, forgive
Them
For they know
Not what
They have done"

I know that
journey is
but we do

We cannot stay
Here in the light

this way alone. We travel with each other and we travel with Jesus. I hope to see you all in church.

this Lenten
difficult,
not travel

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Carol

Circle Meetings

- Circle #2** Tuesday, March 5, 2:00, Fellowship Hall
Eleanor Peeler, Hostess
- Circle #4** Tuesday, March 5, 11:30, Jeter's Deli
- Circle #6** Tuesday, March 5, 7:00 Fellowship Hall
Sarah Schiemann & Sarah Shuping, Hostesses
- Circle #7** Monday, March 4, 7:00, Anne Palmer's House
Flo Peck, Hostess



PRIMETIMERS

Primetimers will meet on March 14 at Wink's BBQ
Restaurant, 509 Faith Road, at 11:00 for a Dutch treat lunch.

Remember that Winks serves a variety of foods and breakfast
can be ordered all day, so you will be sure to get what you are
craving for lunch.

Please come – eat and fellowship!



COUNCIL NEWS

Counsel met on Sunday, February 17. There were not enough present to constitute a quorum. The committee reviewed the budget and financial reports, heard from various committees and discussed the upcoming activities for the month.



LENTEN SERIES

Walking Through Holy Week A Sunday Night Lenten Series Starting March 10, 2019

Ever wondered what happened between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday? Come join us as we journey through Holy Week during lent. We will be examining what happened between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday during Lent. Each speaker will present the events of a different day of Holy Week.

- March 10 Rev. Dr. Edward Davis
—Monday of Holy Week
- March 17 Rev. Sharon Grant (Hood Seminary)
—Tuesday of Holy Week
- March 24 Dr. Barry Sang (Catawba College)
—Wednesday of Holy Week
- March 31 Lea Silverburg
—Thursday of Holy Week
(Talking about Seder Service)
- April 7 Rev. Carol Hallman
—Friday

Supper is at 5:30 p.m.. Speakers will begin at 6:00 p.m. Come and bring a friend.

WESTON'S WORD

This February we were very busy. From attending Catawba basketball games to our Youth Lunch, it was one of the more active months that we have had together. At the beginning of the month, we had a fun night of bowling, luckily for everyone else I was unable to bowl. We had an all youth usher team consisting of some very well-dressed folks. We attended Catawba basketball games as our very own Kevin and Steven Leichman played in the band. Please congratulate these two on their accomplishments. As one who has heard the Catawba band play for the last four years, I know that their presence has made an enormous difference.

Our largest event of the month was our Youth Luncheon fundraiser, where we raised over \$300. Thank you for your continuing support of our youth. A big thank you to Kevin Sr. and Mark Shuping for their cooking. Please let me know your ideas for future Youth Luncheons. Food and cooking abilities is one thing that this Church does not lack.

This month we wrapped up our Wednesday night Bible study on immigration. I thoroughly enjoyed Bobbie Troutman's cooking, hearing different opinions, learning more about the Bible, and the fellowship that this opportunity provided. Thank you to all who made every Wednesday night an absolute pleasure. I also thoroughly enjoyed the Church dinner for Catawba students. Special thanks to the musicians, cooks, and the celebration committee.

A special thanks to this Church for taking a leap of faith and allowing me to preach. This was truly a learning experience for me as I continue in my journey. Many of the things that I have learned I will take with me to Divinity School at Wake Forest this fall. Thank you to all who extend their support to me.

March is a very exciting month with many opportunities for our youth. We will begin with a Prayer Walk on March 10th. The Prayer Walk will begin following worship. On the last Sunday of the month we will have our all Youth Usher team in action. Catawba basketball games, with two of our own in the band, are always a must. Many of our youth will also be involved in various sports activities this spring as well. Many great things are taking place at First UCC.

Blessings,
Weston



Five Alive Fund: Helping Families in Our Community Through Rowan Helping Ministries

A client came to Rowan Helping Ministries seeking assistance with her first month's rent. The client is a 68 year-old lady on a fixed income. Her current landlord is no longer accepting Section 8 rental assistance. She has found a new place to move that will accept rental assistance, but she needed help with her first month's rent. Rowan Helping Ministries was able to assist her with a voucher that helped her make her first month's rent so she could move to affordable housing.

The Five Alive Fund is a non-budgeted mission activity of our church and relies entirely on contributions from our church members.

CELEBRATION COMMITTEE NEWS

On February 24th the Celebrations Committee held their first Catawba Connection Dinner. 45 people gathered for food, fellowship and conversation. Thanks to all our church members who helped with cooking, set-up and clean-up. The goal of these dinners is to build connections between students and faculty at Catawba College with our Church. Sunday evening Rev. Hallman shared a short message and lead us in a brief conversation. This was followed by the Worship Arts group from Catawba who provided music. The next dinner will be during Lent. We hope to have a very large group here that night. As part of our Lenten series Dr. Barry Sang from Catawba will be our speaker on March 24th. All are welcome to join us as we reach out to our neighbors.



Chancel Choir rehearsals are on Wednesday nights at 7:30.

WNCA presents "Stuff Happens! The Church @ Ground Zero" on **March 2 from 9:00-3:00** at Abernethy Laurels in Newton. This seminar is based on how you and your church can respond effectively in crisis. There will be a panel discussion about disaster and disaster response, workshop opportunities and engaging worship. The cost is \$10.00.

Mark your calendar for **March 5 from 5:00-7:00**. This will be the first *Fasnachts Festival* celebration in the Fellowship Hall. A fasnacht is a fried doughnut of German origin served traditionally in the days of Carnival and Fasnacht or on Shrove Tuesday. Fasnachts were made as a way to empty the pantry of lard, sugar, fat, and butter, which were traditionally fasted from during Lent. Come and enjoy the fun!

Our Lenten journey begins on Ash Wednesday, **March 6 at 7:00 p.m.** when we gather in the sanctuary to worship and receive ashes. Come and join us.

Daylight Savings Time begins on **March 10**. Spring Forward!

The Youth Fellowship will participate in a prayer walk on **March 10 after worship**.

The Sunday Night Lenten Series "Walking Through Holy Week" begins **March 10 at 5:30** in the Fellowship Hall. The First Series Speaker will be Rev. Dr. Edward Davis. Dinner on the 10th, organized by Circle 6, will consist of chicken pie, carrots, slaw, homemade desserts and a beverage. Please fill out the reservation form and return it by **Tuesday, March 5** if you plan to attend. Reservations can always be made in the Church Office by Tuesday as well. Reservation forms for all Lenten Series meals can be found in bulletins, at the back of the church, outside the church office and in the back of this newsletter! Hope to see you there.

Don't Forget *Primetimers* at Wink's on **March 14 at 11:00**.

Bless These Stitches meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1:00. Crafters, mark your calendar for **March 19**.

Our Website address is www.1stucc.org. Please check it out. You can find links to the Newsletter and Calendar and lots of other interesting things about our church community.

Please keep the Church Office up to date on prayer requests, news, events and notables to be included in Newsletters, Thursday Thoughts, bulletins, on facebook or the website. The website and facebook are always in need of pictures and notables!

The "lost & found" basket is growing! If you have misplaced something, stop upstairs. If you are in need of a pair of readers for the service, stop and pick up a pair.



Spring Cleaning Day will be
April 27
Mark Your Calendar!

A Call to Greatness

All men are invited to join us for a men's retreat at Blake Lake Retreat Center, www.blacklakecenter.org, on April 6th and 7th. By coming together as men of all generations, we can further our understanding of one another, ourselves, and the world in which we live.

There is no cost to this retreat. Please plan to arrive by 10 a.m. on April 6th. We will conclude shortly after lunch on April 7th. For further information or questions contact Weston Henderson, whenders15@catawba.edu.

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Stacy Erb, Connie w. King (sister of Don Whitfield), Harvey Morgan (friend of Jeff Smith), Kim Profitt (Kim's father is not well), Paul and Glenda Shrewsbury, Patty Shuping and family, Waylon & Susan Ward and our members, family and friends of First UCC. Also needing prayers are the many afflicted by illness and impacted by acts of violence in our area and around the world.

Cathy Robbins' brother-in-law, Thomas Honeycutt, passed away last week. Please keep Cathy and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Prayers for a safe journey go out to Karen Alexander as she travels to India.



Walk MS Fundraiser

Diagnosed April 2013 with Multiple Sclerosis, an illness that is different for everyone it touches and unfortunately has no cure, can come with its challenges.

Having family, church family, work family, friends and a terrific medical team make it more manageable. MOVE FORWARD FOR MS is my Walk MS team that I established in 2017 and serve as Team Captain.

I along with my Team Members will be participating in Walk MS on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at NC Research Campus for Rowan / Cabarrus counties.

All tax deductible donations for Walk MS can be made in cash, by check to National MS Society as well as On-line at

www.nationalmssociety.org (Donate Now-Susan Ward-NC)

All donations will be much appreciated.

I will be collecting cash and check donations through Sunday, March 31st, 2019.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

In Christian Love, Susan Ward



Thank you for your prayers and concerns during Paul's surgery and now in his recovery.

—Glenda & Paul Shrewsbury



There is a sign-up book in the Narthex to reserve altar flower arrangements. We are fortunate to have Rebecca Schiemann to provide us with beautiful arrangements. A date can be reserved for a special day or a special memory. You can also contact the Church Office to reserve a



Thank you to all who donated hats, scarves and gloves to the Family Crisis Council this past month. Many people will be blessed by your generosity and caring.



March 10, 2019

Lent is a time of journey, reflection, and ritual. We remember the journey of the Israelites out of Egypt and into the desert. We remember Jesus' journey into the wilderness to be tempted. Our own lives reflect those journeys — journeys with others, passages through challenging times.

What might be some practices or rituals of gratitude in response to all God gives and

Provides.

From Season's of the Spirit
Woodlake Publishing

LENTEN MEAL RESERVATIONS

Meals will be prepared by the Fellowship Committee and hosted by the Women’s Circles, Celebration Committee/Upper Room Sunday School Class and Youth. Everyone will remain at the tables until the entire service is completed. “Reservation slips” will be published in the Sunday bulletin during Lent as well as the newsletter. ***Please remember*** to clip off the proper reservation slip and place it in the collection plate or call the Church Office **by Tuesday noon**, before the meal you plan to attend.

LENTEN SUPPER RESERVATIONS 2019

Time: 5:30 P.M. Cost: \$6.00 Age 7-12 \$3.00 0-6 Free Family Maximum \$15.00

LENTEN SUPPER RESERVATION for March 10 - Host Circle #6

There will be _____ attending the Lenten Supper on March 10. Please reply by Tuesday, March 5.

Menu: Chicken Pie, Carrots, Slaw, Homemade Desserts and Beverage.

SIGNED _____

LENTEN MEAL RESERVATION – March 17 – Host Circle #7

There will be _____ attending the Lenten Supper on March 17. Please reply by Tuesday, March 12.

Menu: Vegetable Soup, Cheese Toast, Seasonal Fruit, Homemade Desserts and Beverage.

SIGNED _____

LENTEN MEAL RESERVATION – March 24

Hosts Celebration Committee/Upper Room Sunday School Class

There will be _____ attending the Lenten Supper on March 24. Please reply by Tuesday, March 19.

Menu: Baked Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Homemade Desserts and Beverage.

SIGNED _____

LENTEN MEAL RESERVATION – March 31 - Host Circle #2 and Circle #4

There will be _____ attending the Lenten Supper on March 31. Please reply by Tuesday, March 26.

Menu: Baked Chicken, Gravy, Rice, Broccoli, Rolls, Homemade Desserts and Beverage.

SIGNED _____

LENTEN MEAL RESERVATION – April 7 - TO BE ANNOUNCED

There will be _____ attending the Lenten Supper on April 7. Please reply by Tuesday, April 2.

SIGNED _____