

# First UCC Focus March 2021



**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>

## MARCH SCRIPTURE

### March 7

Exodus  
Psalm 119  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
John 2:13-22

### March 14

Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21

### March 21

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalm 51:1-12  
Psalm 119:9-16  
Hebrews 5:5-10  
John 12:20-33

### March 28

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Mark 11:1-11  
John 12:12-16  
Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Mark 14:1-15:47  
Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

## Thursday Thoughts

If you haven't signed up for Thursday Thoughts, subscribe to our email list on our website or call the office with your email address. Thursday Thoughts contain special messages from Pastor Carol, First UCC news, links to meetings and notices of upcoming concerts and events.

**Information from our congregation is always a welcome addition to Thursday Thoughts. Please submit to the office by Wednesday a.m.**



**Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 14. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour.**



While the church building itself is closed we know that it is important to gather and stay connected during this time. We hope you will be able to join us for online worship on Sundays at 11:00. The link to our facebook page is:

[www.facebook.com/First.UCC.Salisbury/](https://www.facebook.com/First.UCC.Salisbury/)

"Always show kindness and love to others. Your words might be filling the empty places in someone's heart."  
—Mandy Hale



- 4 7:00 Task Force Meeting
- 5 **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**
- 7 11:00 Online Worship & Communion
- 11 6:00 Finance Committee Meeting  
7:00 Mission Committee Meeting
- 14 **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS**  
11:00 Online Worship  
4:00 Property Committee Meeting
- 17 5:30 EC Board Meeting
- 21 11:00 Online Worship  
12:30 Church Council Meeting
- 28 **PALM SUNDAY**  
**FIVE ALIVE SUNDAY**  
9:30 Easter Egg Hunt  
11:00 Online Worship

**MEETINGS WILL BE HELD BY CONFERENCE CALL OR ZOOM. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

 First United Church of Christ-Salisbury  
[www.facebook.com/First.UCC.Salisbury/](https://www.facebook.com/First.UCC.Salisbury/)



**Website:** [www.1stucc.org](http://www.1stucc.org)

## CAROL'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

Isaiah 49: 9b-10: “They shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them.”

These words by the prophet offered hope to a people in exile. A promise of future prosperity. I hear them today as the news of what has happened in the state of Texas still echoes in the news. People without. Without heat. Without food. Without water. A whole system that almost melted down. Lives lost. Overwhelming fear. And overwhelming heating bills.

During this Lenten season you received a calendar which shared information as we look to accept our OGHS- One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, this year by Easter. As I think about ways we can help with disasters like in Texas I want to lift up this offering. I also invite you to check out these sites to check out what is happening there in Texas and ways that you can help right now if you wish.

<https://www.ucc.org/disaster-winter-storms/>

<https://www.ucc.org/though-hit-hard-texas-churches-meet-community-needs-in-rare-winter-storm/?fbclid=IwAR2GrPj2aScaJM-76Bqv22pGby0mlibi5PF0aQdBagWos9QPy1pCbXcxUs>

OGHS monies go to help in places that lack health and educational resources and/or where disaster has struck. Monies from our OGHS funds have helped in so many people and in so many places. This offering is also collected by other denominations including the American Baptist Church, the Christian Church (Disciple of Christ), and Church of the Brethren. Please consider your giving to this important offering. It is a way to offer living water and offer hope around the world.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Carol



## ADOPTION OF REVISED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

At the Online Congregational Meeting on February 7, 2021, a vote was taken regarding the adoption of the Revised Constitution and ByLaws. The new onstitution and By-Laws were passed by deciding vote . If anyone would like a copy of the new document, please let the Church Office know.



### World Day of Prayer March 5, 2021

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

The symbol for World Day of Prayer was developed by the women of Ireland and adopted as the international logo in 1982. Its design is made of of arrows converging from the four points of the compass, persons kneeling in prayer, the celtic cross, and the circle, representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.

### In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Mary Austin, Mabel Barnhardt, Brenda Bernhardt, Betty Bowles (mother of Steve Bowles), Destony Bowles, Julia Callaway, Gerri D. Crummett (Donna Odrosky's sister), Sarah Hall (friend of Bobbie Troutman), Gary Hauze (no visits or phone calls, please), Harry & Nancy Hipp, Dawn Isenberg, Anne Kennedy, family of Nancy Knight, Johnnie Lippard (friend of Steve Bowles), Diane Lockhart (Radell Lockhart's mother), Dan Morgan (friend of Steve Bowles), Joseph Najarian (son of Dena & David Najarian), Pat Norris, Flo Peck, Liam Pocock (Pat Norris' grandson), Savannah Price (Larry Bolick's nephew's granddaughter), John & Lucy Robinson, Glenda Shrewsbury, Sarah Shuping, Claire Skinner, Crystal Smith (niece of Bobbie Troutman), Nick Snipes, Jeff Watson (Larry Bolick's nephew), John and Sandy Wagoner, Waylon Ward. ***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.***



### FIVE ALIVE: A THANK YOU NOTE FROM ROWAN HELPING MINISTRIES

The following is a copy of a letter that was received recently from Rowan Helping Ministries thanking us for our continued support:

*Last year was a very tough year for all citizens in our community as the COVID crisis impacted us on so many levels. But the bright spots for our agency and the clients we served were our compassionate donors who, despite their own COVID-related challenges, continued to provide financial support for our important programs. Because of you, our doors remained open so that we could help those needing the most basic of services during this terrible pandemic.*

*Last year, our caring donors and thoughtful partners made these things possible:*

- 3,178 households received \$1,320,256 in financial assistance for rent, utilities, medicine and other critical needs,
- 550 different guests were provided a safe place to spend the night in our shelter,
- 61,566 meals were served to the hungry in Jeannie's Kitchen,
- 3178 households visited our Food Pantries, where 1,430,771 pounds of groceries were distributed,
- 33,350 Food for Thought food bags were given to food insecure
- Rowan County students each week, including summer months, so they would have enough to eat,

*Thank you for helping to sustain the unique spirit of giving that exists in Rowan County and for partnering with us to help our neighbors in need.*

*Thank you for your generous support , amazing partnership, and continued prayers.*

*Sincerely*  
**Kyna S. Grubb**  
**Executive Director**



Thank you for your participation in the the Mission Committee's drive through food drive. The donations will benefit Rowan Helping Ministries Food Bank.





### ***Special dates at a glance ...***

***Communion Sunday: March 7***

***World Day of Prayer 2021 is on Friday, March 5.***

***Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 14.***

***Children's Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 28 at 9:30 a.m.***

### ***Meetings...***

Task Force Committee Meeting: Thursday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m.  
Finance Committee Meeting: Thursday, March 11 at 6:00 p.m.  
Mission Committee Meeting: Thursday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m.  
Property Committee Meeting: Sunday, March 14 at 4:00 p.m.  
EC Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 17 at 5:30 p.m.  
Church Council Meeting: Sunday, March 21 at 12:30 p.m.

### ***Notes ...***

Our new facebook technology system is in place and was used this past Sunday morning (2/28/21) for the first time. It is with gratitude that we now have this new technology in place received from the generosity of an anonymous donor.

The most recent ***Annual Report/Church Directory*** can still be obtained from the Church Office.

***Quarterly Contribution Statements*** will be emailed or mailed shortly after April 1.

Thank you to ***Phillip Burgess*** who has been providing beautiful altar flower arrangements for Sunday services.



## **One Great Hour of Sharing**

**Lenten and Easter Offering April 4, 2021**

This year our Lenten/Easter Offering will be for One Great Hour of Sharing, received on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021. In the Lenten Worship Bags, there is a calendar for One Great Hour of Sharing Offering and a box for the collection. You determine your units in quarters, dimes, nickels or even dollars. If you are not using the collection box, please be generous in your Easter Gift to One Great Hour of Sharing and donate online, mail or drop off to the church office.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee-immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery like the UCC response in Texas and Oklahoma due to the severe winter storms.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including healthcare, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response and recovery networks, your contributions to Once Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniments and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

The theme for OGHS in 2021 is "Let Love Flow." And love will flow from you to those in need through your OGHS Annual Gift Offering this Easter.

Thank you for your generosity.