

First UCC Focus

May, 2019



9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship

MAY SCRIPTURE

May 5:

Acts 9:1-6, 7-20
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

May 12:

Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

May 19:

Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

May 26:

Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5
John 5:1-9

MAY USHERS

John Wagoner, Captain
Greg Alcorn
Henry Alexander
Tom Loflin
Patty Shuping
Janette Yost

MAY GREETERS

May 5 & 12
Karen & Henry Alexander
May 19 & 26
Phyllis Little and
Joyce Trexler

MAY LAY READERS

May 5
Phyllis Little
May 12
Phyllis Little
May 19
TBD
May 26
TBD



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*Give us a visit and
Invite others to
Take a look!*



- 1 11:30 Bible Study
- 6:00 Bible Study
- 7:30 Chancel Choir
- 2 **National Day of Prayer**
- 3 12:00 Church Women
United Luncheon
- 5 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship &
Communion
- 5:00 Worship Committee
- 7 2:00 Circle 2
- 7:00 Circle 6
- 8 11:30 Bible Study
- 6:00 Bible Study
- 7:30 Chancel Choir
- 9 5:00 Mission Committee
- 11 5:30 Derby Day Dinner
- 12 **Mother's Day**
Little Red Wagon Sunday
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship
- 5:00 Property Committee
- 14 10:30 Meals on Wheels
- 6:30 Families First
- 15 11:30 Bible Study
- 5:00 EC Board
- 6:00 Bible Study
- 7:30 Chancel Choir
- 16 11:00 Primetimers
- 19 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship
- 1:30 Confirmation
- 21 1:00 Bless These Stitches
- 22 11:30 Bible Study
- 6:00 Bible Study
- 7:30 Chancel Choir
- 23 6:00 PFLAG Meeting
- 26 **Five Alive Sunday**
- 9:30 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship
- 27 **Memorial Day Observed**
- 28 10:30 Meals on Wheels
- 6:30 Families First
- 29 11:30 Bible Study
- 6:00 Bible Study
- 7:30 Chancel Choir

PRIMETIMERS

Primetimers will meet on **May 9** in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00. Dan Mikkelson will present a program on the "Rhineland River Cruise" which he and Winnie took in December 2018 to celebrate their 30th Wedding Anniversary. Hosts are Larry Bolick and Rodney Callaway. Please join us for fun, food and fellowship.



CIRCLE MEETINGS

- Circle #2** Tuesday, May 7, 2:00 Fellowship Hall
- Circle #4** No Meeting
- Circle #6** Tuesday, May 7, 7:00 Fellowship Hall
Patti Marion, Hostess
- Circle #7** No Meeting



CAROL'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

In my one bathroom I have two stones on a tray. On each stone is a word. One contains the word “dream” and the other “peace”. They are reminders on the darkest of days that there are more people who work to bring light and hope, peace and healing in our world than there are those who bring darkness. When there is a mass shooting like what just happened in California at the synagogue or which happened at the Mosque in New Zealand not that long ago, they remind me that there is hope for a better future.

We find ourselves in the liturgical season of Easter. The “Alleluias” still echo in the sanctuary spaces. On Good Friday and Easter Saturday, the darkness did its worst, but Easter is the promise that love wins.

But we, as an Easter people, have a role to play in this story of hope and love, light, grace and promise. We need to Dream God’s dream. And more than that we have to work towards making this dream real. If I want peace, I have to work for peace. If I want love I have to live love. That’s where the proverbial rubber hits the road.

It means that I can’t sit back and let others do the heavy lifting, I have to speak out at injustice, I have to stand against intolerance and hate. I have to be willing to be spat upon and even, yes, crucified for following a man who challenges me to do only one thing, one almost impossible thing-love. Love the ones who love me back. Love the ones who challenge me. Love the ones who hate me. I have to dream God’s dream. I have to dream of peace, offering my life as sacrament to the One who gave everything so I would pay attention, and **know**. Know how much I am loved; how much you are loved.

It’s not easy. We live in a Good Friday World. But I know, deep in my heart, that if we dream together, if we work together, if we pray together, if we love together we can, we will make a difference in the world in which we live.

Happy Easter! Hope to see you all in church!

Peace,

Pastor Carol

Five Alive Fund: Helping Neighbors Helping Themselves!

A client went to Rowan Helping Ministries seeking assistance with her first month’s rent. The household consists of the 27-year-old client and her children. During September-November, 2018, the client and her children lived in a shelter. They are currently living with her parents, but cannot stay with them for long. She found employment in December, 2018 and recently received her first paycheck. She brought in the receipt showing she paid the deposit and part of the rent. She needed help with the remainder of the first month’s rent. Rowan Helping Ministries helped by providing a voucher towards the balance on the first month’s rent.

The Five Alive Program is a non-budgeted mission of our Church and relies on your financial support each month.



Bible Study begins on Wednesday May 1 and will continue each Wednesday until **June 5**. There will be groups meeting at 11:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The evening group will begin with supper. The study series will focus on “**#METOO Moments from the Bible**”. Please join us.

WESTON'S WORD

April was an eventful month for our youth. We had a blast with the various activities in which our youth were involved. Most notably, we had youth Sunday on April 28th. Our Youth did an awesome job leading us in worship. We also attended a Wake Forest Baseball game on April 20th. This has been a challenging time for our youth, as there are many transitions taking place. Many scholarship applications, decisions, and studies in preparation for their futures have taken much time and effort. The time dedicated to academics over the past month by many of our youth has made me very proud.

We have many decisions to celebrate. Steven Shuping is going to attend Catawba College in the fall. He plans to major in business. Cade Bernhardt plans to attend Rowan Cabarrus Community College. He plans to study information systems. Kevin Leichman is taking the steps toward making a decision on his college future. When you see these young men, please congratulate them on this accomplishment.

This time of transition reminds us of the seasons of life. God has plans for us and we must follow that plan as it comes to us. The reality is, we are always in a time of change. From our births to our deaths, God has something for us at that time. It could be a calling to go to college like some our youth are experiencing; it could be a call to a particular job, or a call to volunteer, whatever it may be God will have something for us. We have a God that is still speaking even when we are not listening. Sometimes we need to stop and take a break to hear God's word.

Looking forward to this month and the coming months, we have many activities that await us. June 2nd we will celebrate our seniors for graduation Sunday. The following week, June 9-14 will be our mission trip to John's River Valley Camp.

In addition, I would like to extend a personal invitation for the high schoolers to DISCOVER for the weeks of July 7th-12th or 14th-19th. The middle school week will be July 21st-26th. The cost for registration for DISCOVER is \$25. The theme this year will be Story, the stories of the Bible and our own personal story. I will be a part of the DISCOVER team this summer and I hope to see the youth there!

God Bless,

-Weston

YOUTH SUNDAY — APRIL 28, 2019



Here are just a few pictures from Youth Sunday. Many more can be found on our website photo gallery.

Mission Committee Meets and Sets Goal for 2019

The Mission Committee met on Thursday, April 11 and set mission committee outreach projects for 2019. On March 31, One Great Hour of Sharing was received for world relief. Thanks to the generosity of members and friends of First Church \$1,017.00 was received. There are four All Church Offerings received each year: One Great Hour of Sharing; Strengthening the Church on Pentecost, June 9; Neighbors in Need on October 7; and Christmas Fund on December 22 and/or Christmas Eve. First UCC has been recognized as a 5 for 5 Church for many years by receiving these four offerings annually and for giving annually to Our Church's Wider Mission.

April is Prevent Child Abuse Month so Prevent Child Abuse Rowan Pin-Wheel Gardens of HOPE have been placed in the church yard, which "symbolizes the carefree spirit of great childhoods that all our children deserve."

The Lenten Coin Folders were received on Easter, April to be divided matching a UCC grant up to \$250 for Church World Service Kits and to assist in the sponsorship of meals at Rowan Helping Minister Shelter Meals.

For the past three years, First Church has participated in the United Church Homes Services Philanthropy Luncheon for the support of the four ministries in Davidson County: Carolina Senior Care, Carolina Senior Living, Piedmont Crossing Retirement Community and Kids Only Daycare. This year Mr. and Mrs. Greg Alcorn, Rev. Larry Bolick, Dr. Ken Clapp and Mrs. Flo Peck represented First Church at the Luncheon which again raised over \$40,000 in contributions and sponsorships. Greg Alcorn has served for years on the Board of Directors of UCHS; Larry Bolick, on the Foundation Trustee Board for UCHS and Ken Clapp, on the Advisory Council of Piedmont Crossing.

The upcoming projects in May is to introduce the Soul Campaign of Catawba College which will be Kicked-off on Youth Sunday, April 28 on the Discover Program of The Theological Institute attended by Steven Shuping for the past three years and the Lilly Center Program which Youth Director Weston Henderson has participated for his four years at Catawba College as a student. The other parts of the Soul Campaign include a Maintenance Endowment for the Omwake-Dearborn Chapel, a gift to Catawba from the churches and individuals of the Old Southern Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the renovation of the organ. Two other parts of the Soul Campaign are the new Catawba College Clergy Network, which has been underwritten by a new Lilly Grant of 1 million dollars and the Lilly Center Endowment for Spiritual Life Enrichment opportunities for students and faculty (1 million dollar goal).

In May, along with the food items for the Little Red Wagon for Rowan Helping Ministries Food Pantry, the mission committee will be collecting personal hygiene items for the Family Crisis Center and Shelter participants.

COUNCIL NEWS

Council approved Families First for the next 14 week program beginning on May 14. The committee looked over the budget and financial reports. Council approved co-sponsoring a music/arts camp with St. John's on July 20-August 2. We now have a nomination committee to fill new council spots.

LESLIE DENT



Leslie will be honored by First UCC Salisbury for Young Church Women United at the Salisbury/Rowan CWU May Friendship Day Luncheon being held Friday, May 3rd at 12noon at Trinity Presbyterian Church 300 S Caldwell Street, Salisbury, NC

Leslie started attending First UCC in Salisbury in 2013. She is involved with Celebration Committee, Education Committee and Church Council. Leslie and Radell live in Salisbury with their beautiful 3 year old daughter, Penelope. Leslie keeps very busy in her career as well; Assistant Athletic Trainor at Catawba College since 2011 and in 2018 became a Mary Kay Independent Sales Director. Leslie is a pleasure to work with on church activities and is always ready to help with any aspect of involvement in our church family.



YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

Each month Patty Shuping will focus on one of our youths to introduce to our readers so that they may get to know our young members better. This month Steven Shuping, a Carson High School's Senior, is in the spotlight... Patty will be contacting you to collect information about your children. You can give her the information at church or by email.

Below is a little about Steven Shuping.

Steven Shuping is a Senior at Jesse Carson High School. He is the youngest son of Mark and Patty Shuping and of Christian and Jonathon Shuping. He will graduate June 8, 2018. During his years at Carson he has maintained good grades, Captain on the Varsity Football team, a tenor drummer for the Marching Band, member of Key Club, Interact, and History clubs. This past summer he was chosen to be a part of Tar Heel Boys State Leadership at Catawba College where he was chosen as mayor of his town helping strategize and maintain a good budget for his town and help other municipalities with their Financials. He has been a part of Discover Camp at Black Lake Asheboro through Catawba College for three years. A part of our Youth Group being a part of mission trips, locally, at JRVC, and Black Lake. He has been an acolyte, usher, nursery helper, Christmas caroler since age 7 for the Shut Ins, helps with youth meals, and other duties to help our church and his Community. He is a Crosby Scholar 7 years doing Community service in the Salisbury area. Helps with Toys for 8yrs helping kids in our Community. He has achieved the Rank of Eagle Scout the Highest Rank in the Boys Scouts at the end of February 2019. His Eagle Scout Project was renovating the inside, of the Scout Hut at Dan Nicholas Park Salisbury. He replaced all windows with custom windows, primed and Painted all the walls, fixtures etc., cleaned and painted the floors, and replaced all lights and electrical fixtures. Steven also works part time for Harris Teeter as a Produce Clerk.

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.

CELEBRATE



Circle 7 congratulates these 1st UCC Connected Catawba College Graduates and will honor them on Sunday, May 5th at the beginning of worship.

Hunter Bernhardt, son of Jeff & Lynn Bernhardt and grandson of Brenda Bernhardt will graduate with a B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in Information Systems. Hunter hopes to obtain a job in the Information Technology field.

Tyler Bernhardt, son of Jeff & Lynn Bernhardt, grandson of Brenda Bernhardt will graduate with a B.A. in Administration of Justice. Tyler is considering a career in the military or law enforcement.

Weston Henderson, 1st UCC's 2018-19 Youth Leader, will graduate with a B.A. in Religion and Philosophy. He plans to enter Wake Forest Divinity School.

Greg Florio, Catawba College Choral Scholar for one year, will graduate with a B.A. in Music Education and Music Performance. Greg plans to attend Winthrop University.

Kevin Kent, Catawba College Choral Scholar for two years.

Katie Zobel, Catawba College Choral Scholar for two plus years will graduate with a B.A. in Music Education.

Charles Karvon, Catawba College Choral Scholar for one semester

Daniel Morrison, Catawba College Choral Scholar for 1.5 years.

Congratulations also to

Joshua Schiemann, son of Mark & Sarah Schiemann, grandson of Romas & Sarah Shuping, will graduate May 5th with a Doctorate in Physical Therapy from East Carolina University.

Daniel Hallman, son of Pastor Carol Hallman, received a master's degree in Educational Administration.

MAY EVENTS

Thank you to all who participated in CHURCH SPRING CLEANING DAY!

Thursday, May 2 is National Day of Prayer. All Americans regardless of their confession are called to turn to God in prayer and meditation on this day.

There will be a recognition of college graduates on **May 5th** during worship.

The Salisbury-Rowan Choral Society presents "Way Off Broadway!" a concert of your favorite musical numbers on **May 11 at 7:00 p.m.** at St. Luke's Episcopal Church Parish Hall and **May 12 at 4:00 p.m.** at Milford Hills Methodist Fellowship Hall.

The Daughter's Banquet will be held on **Saturday, May 11**. "Derby Day" (referencing the Kentucky Derby), will begin with doors opening at 5:00 and a themed dinner being served at 5:30. **NO tickets sold at the door.**

May 12th is Mother's Day.

The employees of the Salisbury Post Office and the Rowan County United Way will participate in the 27th annual letter carriers' nationwide food drive "Stamp Out Hunger". Locally, all collected donations are given to the Salvation Army, Rowan Helping Ministries, and the China Grove Main Street Mission; providing them with their largest annual volume of donated goods to support their efforts to assist the neediest in our community. Please put your non-perishable donation in a bag by your mailbox on **Saturday, May 11**, and the post office will deliver it to a local food bank.

Don't forget Primetimers on **May 16 at 11:00.**

Armed Forces Day is **May 18** and Memorial Day will be observed on **May 27**. Remember to thank our past and present military for their service.

Bless These Stitches will be crafting on **May 21 at 1:00.**

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



There are many dates available after June 1 for altar flowers reservations. What a wonderful opportunity to honor and remember those special in your lives.



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



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, Dan & 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), Elender Morgan (friend of Jeff Smith), Pat Norris, Laura Poole (friend of Patty Shuping), Rev. Don Scott, Pat Shoe, Paul & Glenda Shrewsbury, Patty Shuping and family, Zach Shuping, Donnie Troutman, Waylon & Susan Ward. ***If you know of anyone who should be added or deleted from our prayer list, be sure and let the office***