

First UCC Focus

May 2022



Sundays at 11:00
In-Person and Online Worship

<https://www.facebook.com/First.UCC.Salisbury>

MAY SCRIPTURES

May 1

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

May 8

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

May 15

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

May 22

Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5
John 14:23-29

May 29

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

WORSHIP WITH US

Please join us for online or in-person worship each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. If you are new to our services, **WELCOME**, if you are returning, **WELCOME BACK!**



www.facebook.com/First.UCC.Salisbury/

Our facebook page contains news, announcements, events and weekly online worship services.



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-5ySdEx2P5IbIN-EpWTOBQ>

Sermons will be available on YouTube on the Thursday following worship. You can also find the YouTube link on



- 1 11:00 a.m. Online & In Person Worship with Communion
- 3 1:00 p.m. Circle #7 Meeting
6:30 p.m. Circle #6 Meeting
- 4 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 8 11:00 a.m. Online & In Person Worship
Guest Pastor Larry Bolick
4:00 p.m. Property Committee
- 9 5:00 p.m. Families First
- 10 10:30 a.m. Meals on Wheels Deliveries
- 11 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 12 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. Mission Committee Meeting
- 15 11:00 a.m. Online & In Person Worship
12:15 p.m. Church Council Meeting
- 17 1:00 p.m. Bless These Stitches
- 18 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 21 10:00 a.m. Family Fun Birthday Party
- 22 11:00 a.m. Online & In Person Worship
- 23 5:00 p.m. Families First
- 24 10:30 a.m. Meals on Wheels Deliveries
- 25 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 26 6:00 p.m. PFLAG Meeting
- 29 11:00 a.m. Online & In Person Worship
- 30 MEMORIAL DAY, OFFICE CLOSED
5:00 p.m. Families First

Pastor Carol will be away from May 7-14.

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.

Visit Us
ONLINE

WWW.1STUCC.ORG

Did You Know ...
Our Website contains links to Bulletins and Newsletters, a link to send your offering to the Church through PayPal and other useful information. Check us out!



Come join us as
we celebrate and learn
about Pentecost

May 21st 10AM-12noon
RSVP 704 633-2723

CAROL'S CORNER

Friends,

One of the questions that I received from Sunday is this: “what does it mean to be created in God’s image?” What a great question. We say this a lot in the church, but what exactly does it mean?

This seems pretty fundamental. We first see it in the beginning of Genesis, “Let us make humankind in our image to be like us. Let them be stewards of the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, the wild animals, and everything that crawls on the ground. Humankind was created as God’s reflection, in the divine image God created them; male and female God created them.” One way to think about it is that we were created to be like God’s nature.

But then we have to ask, what is God’s nature? That begs the question of how we view God—is God all powerful, does God know everything, is God in charge of everything and does God manipulate the events of history? Without saying it too loud, I wonder if we see God as a perfectly good, exceedingly superhuman being.

Yet if we dive deeper into the attributes of God we find ourselves asserting a few other things. In Exodus 34:6 we find these words, “God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness.” In the Wisdom of Solomon, not a book within our Bibles but used by the early church, we read, “For God created humankind to be immortal and made them to be an image of God’s eternity. The righteous, because they are made in the image of God, can rest in the full hope of eternal life.”

Throughout scripture and in our own lives we are quick to give God human traits. Which I would suggest gets in our way of allowing the mystery be mystery. When we make God in our image we find a God who loves who we love, who dislikes what we dislike, who hates what we hate.

Which leads us back to what does it mean to be made in God’s image? Which leads to the question is what is the image of God? We have certainly done a good job of creating God in our image down through the centuries. We are called, I think to ask some questions like, is God out there beyond us, or within all of creation?

I also wonder if we answer this question differently depending where we are in life and on our journeys of faith. If I am a child, I very much see God like us. As an adult that changes. God is no longer the old man with the long white beard. We learn that everything is connected. The carbon atoms within us are billions of years old. That we don’t know everything and that there is much mystery to explore.

What does it mean to be created in the image of God-I guess I don’t fully have an answer for that...but it is something I ponder and wonder about. Personally, I lean on the attributes of love and wisdom and compassion. In which case, my responsibility is to live love, learn and share wisdom, and be compassionate.

See you in church as we continue our search for answers and we walk in faith together. Drop your questions in the offering basket or send a note to me or to the office.

Peace,

Pastor Carol



May

Meetings and Church Use...

Families First Meetings:	Mondays at 5:00 p.m. (except the 1st Monday of the month)
Choir Rehearsals:	Wednesday Nights at 7:30 p.m.
Circle 7 Meeting:	Tuesday, May 3, 1:00 p.m. at Dawn Isenberg's Home
Circle 6 Meeting:	Tuesday, May 3, 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Property Committee Meeting:	Sunday, May 8, 4:00 p.m.
Meals on Wheels Deliveries:	Tuesdays May 10 and 24 at 10:30 a.m.
Finance Committee Meeting:	Thursday, May 12, 6:00 p.m.
Mission Committee Meeting:	Thursday, May 12, 7:00 p.m.
Church Council Meeting:	Sunday, May 15, 12:15 p.m.
Bless These Stitches:	Tuesday, May 17, 1:00 p.m.
Family Fun Day:	Saturday, May 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
PFLAG Meeting:	Thursday, May 26, 6:00 p.m.

Susan Trivette's Retirement

After 31 years of serving First UCC as our organist, **Susan Trivette** has announced her retirement. Her final service was on Sunday, April 24. Susan has been much more than an Organist. Over the years she has been Choir Director, played for Sunday School openings and Children's Pageants, provided music (organ, piano and/or flute) for weddings and funerals, accompanied and supported guest musicians, planned with the Worship Committee/Team, assisted and mothered the Catawba College Choral Scholars, lead the Primetimers and knitted with Bless These Stitches. (Her attendance record and early arrival has been perfect for many years!)

Interim Organist

We are pleased to announce that **Brian Sevison**, Choir Director of South Rowan High School, has agreed to serve as designated interim organist this summer. He will also lead our choir while Dr. Phillip Burgess takes his summer break. Please make Brian feel welcome at First UCC. This is currently a summer job for Brian, but if we are really *nice* to him, he could agree to stay after the school year starts again. "Go, Raiders!"



The Mission Committee is collecting School Back-Pack items for Rowan Helping Ministries through the month of May. Items that are needed are those that can be easily prepared at home, even by children: Chef Boyardee canned pasta all flavors (pop-top), mac and cheese cups, oatmeal packets assorted, chewy granola bars, chicken noodle soup (pop-top), and small Van Camp pork and beans (pop-top). We will resume regular collection of needed food items during the summer months.

Bless These Stitches

Bless These Stitches group will meet on May 17 (1:00-3:00) in the downstairs room across from the Fellowship Hall. We would love to have you join us. Lots of talk and fellowship available! If you have questions, please contact Carolyn Cline or Susan Trivette.

There are many crafts made by the group if you would like to purchase a homemade gift for someone. Most are located outside of the Church Office.

If you don't know how to knit or crochet and would like to learn, or just need to polish your skills, the group is willing to offer you guidance!



Join the Choir!
Rehearsals are held
Wednesday evenings at 7:30.
Your voice is welcome!

Thank you **Phillip Burgess**
for your service as our
lay reader along with your
Work as our Choir Director!



Kristen Symonds and Salem Fleming, students from Catawba College will continue to teach Children's Sunday School each Sunday morning beginning at 10:00 a.m. through the summer months.



Please Scan this QR Code with your camera to donate to First UCC

Thanks to Mark Schiemann, Leslie Dent, and Jeff Smith who make our facebook broadcasts happen!



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Brenda Bernhardt, Tyler Bernhardt, Steve Bowles, Rev. Warren Casiday, Gerri D. Crummett (Donna Odrosky's sister), Betty Diehl, Gary Hauze (no visits or phone calls, please), Nancy Hipp, John and Dawn Isenberg, Anne Kennedy, Jasmine Kirby and son Noah (niece and great nephew of Don Whitfield), Eddie Meeker, Megan Meredith, Dan Morgan (friend of Steve Bowles), Joseph Najarian (son of Dena & David Najarian), Pat Norris, Veronika Poliakova, Patsy Paxton, Mark Shuping, Sarah Shuping, Claire Skinner, David Waller, Waylon Ward, Frances Wensil, Sue Wood (sister-in-law to Larry Bolick).

If you know of anyone who should be added or removed 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 HELPING FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

EVICITION

The client is 38 years old. The household includes the client and her son, age 12. The client's job was terminated, and she has lost her income. The client does receive SSI disability income each month. She has been diagnosed with PTSD, but is not on any medication. She has had trouble in the past with money management and budgeting. It was recommended that she contact Operation Hope to help her with money management. To keep the client and her son in their home, Rowan Helping Ministries granted her a voucher to help with her rent. The client was happy she would be able to stay in her home and is solving her budget problems.

Your contributions to our Five Alive Fund is always appreciated, and 100% is used to help citizens of the Salisbury/Rowan area or our Church family with unforeseen short term emergencies.



Discover is an overnight summer immersion experience for rising 7th graders through rising college freshmen, planned and facilitated by Catawba College Faculty, Staff and Students.

The program emphasizes **Christian Faith Development** approached through community building, conversation, time in creation, scriptural exploration, and theological reflection. **Theological Reflection** activities help Discover participants put their life story, experiences, and questions into conversation with scripture and wisdom from their religious traditions. **Vocational Discernment** activities give participants a chance to think about their calling, explore their gifts and passions, and consider how they might spend their, "one wild and precious life." (Mary Oliver)

High School Session: July 10-15 at Catawba College, open to current students in grades 9-12.

Middle School Session: July 17-22 at Black Lake Retreat Center for current students in grades 6-8

For more information, visit: <https://catawba.edu/academics/programs-centers/lilly-center/discover-program/>



From Calendar Sponsored by
Circle 2

May 1	Hayley Michaels
May 2	George Blossey Cathy Robbins
May 4	Kat White
May 5	Sally Blossey Grayce Pittman
May 11	Radell Lockhart
May 17	Anelise Roy
May 19	John Polese
May 20	Laney Payne
May 24	Pat Beck Dottie Dees
May 28	Phyllis Little Bobbie Troutman
May 30	Susan Ward Johnny Trexler
May 31	Henry Alexander

Mother's Day is observed on Sunday, May 8

Mothers have raised us, educated us, loved and cared for us. We owe our entire existence to our mothers. Countries and cultures all over the world have one day in the year dedicated to the celebration of mothers and all that they do for us. It is about having the qualities of love, compassion, kindness, selflessness and wisdom. There are many women in your life who make you feel special time and again. Why not thank them on mother's day. Mother's Day is not just about the lady who helped you see the light of day, it is also about all those kind-hearted souls who contributed towards making you the person you are today.

[Excerpts taken from FernsnPetals, www.fnp.com]



Johns River Valley Camp is will be providing Outdoor Ministry opportunities during the summer of 2022. Camps will be provided for Campers grades 4-12. The dates are as follows:

Middle/Senior (7-12): June 19-June 24

Middle/Senior (7-12): June 26-July 1

Junior (4-6): July 10-July 15

The Church office has brochures if you would like to learn more, or visit www.jrvcc.org.

Mission Committee Report

The Mission Committee did not meet in April due to Maundy Thursday Service but will meet on Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 7 pm. The Committee promoted the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering for World Disaster Relief and Refugee Resettlement and Humanitarian Aid for Lenten and Easter Offering on April 17. Thank you for your generous support to this annual offering of the UCC. To date \$2035 has been received. The UCC Humanitarian Relief for Ukraine Emergency Appeal are helping fund registration points at border crossings, where refugees can be referred for protection and psychosocial care and financial aid. For those who are interested in helping with the refugees of Ukraine there is more information about the UCC wider church appeal: <https://www.ucc.org/ucc-appeal-helps-provide-safe-spaces-for-ukraine-women-and-children>

The Committee is continuing to promote the School Backpack Program with Rowan Helping Ministries in May and will resume regularly requested items in June and July for The Little Red Wagon. Items needed for the School Backpack Program are ones that can be easily prepared at home, even by children: Chef Boyardee canned pasta all flavors (pop top), mac and cheese cups, oatmeal packets assorted, chewy granola bars, chicken noodle soup (pop-top), and small Van Camp pork and beans (pop top). Thanks to all who made donations in the month of April. 68 pounds of food was delivered to Rowan Helping Ministries this month.

The Annual Strengthen the Church Offering will be received on Pentecost Sunday, June 5 for Building Up the UCC for leadership development, new churches, youth ministry and innovation in existing congregations.

UCC Appeal

Contributions to the United Church of Christ's Ukraine Emergency Appeal are helping fund registration points at border crossings, where refugees can be referred for protection and psychosocial care and receive financial aid. For those who are interested in helping with the refugees from Ukraine here is more information about the UCC wider church appeal:

<https://www.ucc.org/ucc-appeal-helps-provide-safe-spaces-for-ukraine-women-and-children/>

Strengthen the Church Offering

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. **By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.**

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Our Church will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, June 5, 2022.

SR-SWU May Friendship Day Celebration will be held virtually on **Friday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m.** Kristen Trexler will be honored as our 2022 Outstanding Young Church Woman. She is an active member of her grandmother Joyce Trexler's Circle #6 and has also previously helped with VBS as well as a Primetimer's program on Novant Health Wallace Cancer Center. Some of the previous 18 honorees are Lucy B, Leslie, Carrie, Rebecca and Stephanie. The link for the virtual MFD celebration may be obtained from Flo Peck, church rep.

Our help is needed for the Ecumenical Action focus for MFD, which is the non-profit Good Shepherd Clinic. Supplies needed are toilet tissue, paper towels, copy paper, handi wipes, gift cards to Amazon or Office Depot to purchase supplies. Ecumenical Action Co-Chairs will be receiving donations on Wednesday, **May 4 from 4:00-5:30** in the parking lot of the Salisbury YMCA.



Congratulations to Abby Skibsted and Robert Parks, Catawba College Choral Scholars, who will graduate on Saturday, May 7! Both of them had solos in the recent Our Song VII Concert at Catawba.

Soprano Scholar Abby will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She has a major in Theatre Arts with a minor in Special Subjects K-12. Her favorite classes were Business of Acting, Directing 1, Theories of Teaching and Learning. Her favorite Catawba organization was The Blue Masque Hall of Fame. She plans to teach in a high school theater program and to continue acting in local theater groups. Abby has performed many roles at Catawba and some at Lee Street Theater and is helping with Carson High School's drama department.

Tenor Scholar Robert, who also sang with us in 20-21, will graduate with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree having majored in Musical Theater. His favorite class was the Catawba Singers, and his favorite organization is The Blue Masque. Robert likes to make art happen with wonderful people and plans to work locally for two years prior to getting a Master's of Fine Arts in Filmmaking.

Here are some May Days and Dates to Remember:

May 1: May Day.

May Day is a public holiday in some regions, usually celebrated on 1 May or the first Monday of May. It is an ancient festival marking the first day of summer, and a current traditional spring holiday in many European cultures. Dances, singing, and cake are usually part of the festivities.

May 2: Brothers & Sisters's Day

This day is dedicated to the people who made your childhood memorable — your siblings. It is the day to reflect on the best times. Call your sibling and let them know you are thinking about them.

May 3: National Teachers Day

Teachers' Day is a special day for the appreciation of teachers, and may include celebrations to honor them for their special contributions in a particular field area, or the community in general.

May 5: Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo is an annual celebration held on May 5, which commemorates the anniversary of Mexico's victory over the French Empire at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. 10 fun facts about Cinco de Mayo may be found here:

<https://www.parents.com/fun/parties/special-occasions/fun-facts-about-cinco-de-mayo/>

May 7: National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer is an annual day of observance held on the first Thursday of May, designated by the United States Congress, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation".

May 8: Mother's Day

Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family or individual, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated on different days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March or May.

May 12: International Nurses Day

An international day observed around the world on 12 May (the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth) of each year, to mark the contributions that nurses make to society.

May 13 Blame Someone Else Day

Observed on the first Friday the 13th of each year.

May 18: Visit Your Relatives Day

It is a day dedicated to spending time with your loved ones and cherishing family time. With the advent of the digital age, while it has become easier to connect with our relatives, the fast pace of our lives has added to the distance even more.

May 26: Ascension Day

Ascension Day is one of the earliest Christian festivals, dating back to the year 68. According to the New Testament in the Bible, Jesus Christ met several times with his disciples during the 40 days after his resurrection to instruct them on how to carry out his teachings. It is believed that on the 40th day he took them to the Mount of Olives, where they watched as he ascended to heaven. Ascension Day marks the end of the Easter season and occurs ten days before Pentecost. Depending upon the phases of the Moon in a particular year,

May 27: Sun Screen Day

National Sunscreen Day is a reminder to make sure you are properly protecting yourself from the sun, such as by keeping out of the rays at the hottest time of the day (11 am – 2pm), drinking plenty of liquids and wearing sun screen. The day has been designed to make sure that people are aware of the importance of wearing sun screen.

May 30: Memorial Day

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.

Want to exercise but don't have time to go to the gym? Want to watch TV or read a book while you exercise? A DP Pacer stationary bike – with speedometer, and book rack attached.

Call Carolyn for further information
704-213-4425 .

