

First UCC Focus

October, 2019



9:45 *Sunday School*
11:00 *Worship*

OCTOBER SCRIPTURE

October 6

Lamentations 1:1-6
Lamentations 3:19-26
Psalm 137
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

October 13

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Psalm 66:1-12
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

October 20

Jeremiah 31:27-34
Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8

October 27

Joel 2:23-32
Psalm 65
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

OCTOBER USHERS

Jeff Bernhardt, Captain
Hunter Bernhardt
Tyler Bernhardt
Rodney Callaway
Sandy Wagoner
Rebecca Schiemann Wrights

OCTOBER GREETERS

October 6 & 13

Rodney Callaway

October 20 & 27

Barbara & David Waller

OCTOBER LAY READERS

October 6

Weston Henderson

October 13

Donna Odrosky

October 20

Karen Alexander

October 27

Susan Ward



Thank you for your generosity
by contributing to the Little Red
Wagon and Mission Committee
school supplies campaigns
during the month of September.



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[first.ucc.salisbury](https://www.facebook.com/firstuccsalisbury)

OCTOBER

- 1 11:30 Circle 4
2:00 Circle 2
7:00 Circle 6
- 2 11:30 Bible Study
6:00 Bible Study Supper
6:30 Bible Study
7:30 Chancel Choir
- 5 WNCA Fall Association Meeting
- 6 9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship & Communion
Neighbors in Need Offering Collection
2:00 Blessing of the Animals Service
4:00 Fall Choral Concert at Catawba
- 7 7:00 Circle 7
- 8 10:30 Meals on Wheels
6:00 SA Meeting
- 9 11:30 Bible Study
6:00 Bible Study Supper
6:30 Bible Study
7:30 Chancel Choir
- 10 11:00 Primetimers
5:00 Mission Committee Meeting
- 13 LITTLE RED WAGON SUNDAY
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship
4:00 Property Committee Meeting
- 15 1:00 Bless These Stitches
6:00 SA Meeting
- 16 11:30 Bible Study
5:00 EC Board Meeting
6:00 Bible Study Supper
6:30 Bible Study
7:30 Chancel Choir
- 17 7:00 Church Women Board Meeting
- 20 FOUNDATION SUNDAY
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship
After Worship: Reception
After Reception: Church Council Mtg
- 22 10:30 Meals on Wheels
6:00 SA Meeting
- 23 11:30 Bible Study
6:00 Bible Study Supper
6:30 Bible Study
7:30 Chancel Choir
- 24 6:00 PFLAG Meeting
- 26 PFLAG Yard Sale
- 27 CATAWBA HOMECOMING
FIVE ALIVE SUNDAY
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship
5:00 Worship Committee
- 28 November Newsletter Deadline
- 29 6:00 SA Meeting
30 11:30 Bible Study
6:00 Bible Study Supper
6:30 Bible Study
7:30 Chancel Choir

CAROL'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

On October 6th we will be having our first Blessing of the Animals service at 2PM. You are invited to bring your animals or pictures of your animals that day. This will be an outdoor service so you may also wish to bring a blanket or chair to sit on. St. Francis of Assisi is the reason that churches offer an animal blessing service.

Francis was born in Assisi, Italy in 1182. His family were quite wealthy clothing merchants and he grew up in privilege. His father wanted him to become a businessman like him. When he was 19 Francis went off to war but was captured and taken prisoner. He was held in a dungeon for a year before his father paid the ransom and he was set free.

Over the next several years he began to have visions from God. Those visions changed his life. At first Francis thought God was calling him to take part in the Crusade, but then another vision told him to care for the sick and then finally Francis heard God calling him to "repair my church which is falling in ruins.". Francis gave all his money to the church. This did not go over well with his father, so he left home and took a vow of poverty.

From then on, he lived a life of poverty, preaching about the life of Jesus. Along the way he gathered followers. His one basic rule was to "follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and to walk in his footsteps." He and his followers traveled to Rome and got approval for their religious order. They became known as the Franciscan Order.

Francis was known for his love of nature and animals. There are many stories about St. Francis and his preaching to animals. One day, it is said that he was talking to some birds and they began to sing together. It was also said that he could tame wild animals.

I thought I'd share one story, it's probably the most famous one.

"Francis loved animals of all kinds. Travel after rain was extremely slow because he stopped and picked up worms along the path so that he wouldn't step on them. He fed and named the mice that lived in his monastic cell. It is said that the larks all sang to him on the night of his death.

But the most famous animal in his life was a wolf that terrified the people in the town of Gubbio. This wolf killed other animals and even devoured human beings. Even though everyone carried a weapon they found that their primitive clubs and spears were no match for the sharp teeth of the wolf.

One day St. Francis made a visit to Gubbio. Upon arrival the citizens warned him about the wolf, "Don't go outside the gate they said, the wolf will attack and kill you."

Francis said to the people, "Jesus is the Lord of all creatures." Then without any weapon he and companion walked out into the country. Some folks followed at a distance. Others climbed trees and stood on roof tops to watch.

Soon the wolf appeared. When he saw Francis, he broke into a run with his mouth open. Francis made the sign of the cross Francis made the sign of the cross and called out, "Brother Wolf, in the name of Christ, I order you to not hurt me or anyone."

As soon as Francis had made the sign of the cross, the wolf closes its jaws and stopped running. When Francis called the wolf to him he lowered his head and lay down at the saint's feet, as though it had become a lamb."

Francis made a deal with the wolf, as long as the wolf promised not to hurt anyone the townspeople would feed him. The wolf kept his promise and two years later he died, and the people mourned the loss of their new friend because the wolf's peaceful nature and patience reminded them of the virtues of St. Francis.

On October 6th, Churches around the world will celebrate something that St. Francis of Assisi started almost 800 years ago: blessing our animals. So, come join us and celebrate the amazing gift of our animal companions at 2PM. All are welcome here!

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Carol

First UCC



As most of you may now know, Church Council has received and accepted Weston Henderson's resignation as Youth Director of First UCC.

October Circle Groups

Circle 2:

October 1 2:00 Oak Park
Hostess: Marianne Orr

Circle 4:

October 1 11:30 Jeter's Deli

Circle 6:

October 1 7:00 Fellowship Hall
Hostess: Patty Shuping

Circle 7:

October 7 6:30 Dinner at The Palms
Meeting begins at 7:00.
Hostess: Kim Profit



There are many dates available this fall for altar flowers. Altar flowers are a wonderful way to honor and remember those special people in your lives in addition to providing beautiful arrangements to our Sanctuary. The sign-up book is in the back of the Sanctuary or you can call the Church Office to reserve a date.



The *Neighbors in Need Annual Offering* will be received during worship on Sunday, October 6. Two-thirds of the offering supports UCC ministries for peace, justice and compassion through local church grants. The other one-third is used for Council for American Indian Ministries to support pastor's salaries and special grants to 20 Indian Congregations located in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, and Minneapolis, Minnesota.

PRIMETIMERS

Primetimers will meet **Thursday, October 10** at **11:00** in the Fellowship Hall. Kristen Trexler from Novant Health will present a program on the new Wallace Cancer Center at Rowan Regional. Hosts are needed for the meeting. Flo Peck will have devotions. Come learn, enjoy the fellowship and share some delicious food.



A *Blessing of the Animals Service* will be held at the Church on **Sunday, October 6** at **2:00 p.m.** Weather permitting, it will be held outside. In case of bad weather it will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Animals must be kept in the immediate control of the owner at all times.

FIVE ALIVE FUND: HELPING FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

The client has a daughter, age 7, and a son, age 5 months. She is seeking assistance with her first month's rent. The client has never been to Rowan Helping Ministries for help before. She has been living with her mother but needs her own place. The client has a job and has found a place to rent. She paid the deposit and part of the first month's rent. The client brought the receipt for these payments to RHM. Rowan Helping Ministries helped with the balance towards her first month's rent. The client was excited to know she would have a place for her children to live.

You can contribute to this worthy cause any Sunday!

100% of your contribution goes to help citizens of the Salisbury/Rowan area and our church family with unexpected short term emergencies.

Blowing Rock Conference Center is sponsoring a complimentary weekend, **November 15-17** that includes free two nights lodging and 3 complimentary meals, Saturday breakfast and lunch and Sunday breakfast.

The annual Century Club Dinner and Meeting will be Saturday from 11 am – 2 pm. The Century Club project for 2019-20 is the renovation of four cottages built in 1960's. Reservations for the weekend are made with Amy Stamey, Reservations Coordinator, at 828.295.5066 or astamey@brccenter.org.

Rev. Larry Bolick is President of BRCC Board of Directors and invites members of First UCC to join him at his table on Saturday for Century Club Gathering.

WEDNESDAY

On **October 2** we will be starting **WOW Wednesday**. We will be studying the book of Job. There's a lot we don't know about Job or this particular book, but we do know that when we read Job, we are reading a type of legend, fable or a folktale, so it's decidedly more myth than history, and myth in the best sense—an account of what never was but always is. It's a timeless story about humankind and what it is like to be human and to wrestle with all the vagaries and challenges of this world. It would be good if you could start reading. Lessons will be as follows:

October 2nd Job 1-3	October 23rd Job 32-37
October 9th Job 4-27	October 30th Job 38-42:6
October 16th Job 28	November 6th Job 42:7-17

Bible study will be offered at **11:30 a.m.** or come for supper at **6:00 p.m.** and we'll begin at **6:30 p.m.** Please let the Church Office know if you will be attending the 6:00 meal. Invite your friends!


CHURCH WOMEN UNITED
2019 World Community Day

**THE
TIME IS
NOW!**
"Resolve to Love"

You Are Invited

WHERE: Gethsemane Baptist Church
719 Caldwell St., Salisbury, NC 28144
WHEN: November 1, 2019 at 12:00 Noon
Reservations Required — Tickets \$8.00
Contact Flo Peck or the Church Office for Tickets
Ecumenical Action:
Bring Toiletries for Family Crisis Council

Council Notes submitted by Glenda Shrewsbury, Council President

First Church Family from Church Council

We wanted to thank the Celebration Committee for the idea of the worship on August 18 First Church at Catawba and August 25 Catawba at First Church. The idea started to roll first to Church Council, to Catawba, to Women's Board, members of the First Church Family, etc. August 18 at Catawba worship and attendance was great. On August 24, big tent, rented tables and chairs on the outside were set up serving tables, tables and chairs, tablecloths, decorated being ready for Sunday. August 25, when Paul and I pulled up in the back of our church — I will not name folks due to leaving someone out—but you know who you are—we saw the big tent and tables, someone frying outside, members working to help folks take their food in so they could go to worship, making sure that everything was the way it was supposed to be and making sure there was enough food. Folks in the kitchen were fixing extra large bowls of foods, keeping food warm or cold and making sure it got where it was supposed to be. Getting close to the time to serve putting food on the table. We had 106 people for worship and there were 4 large boxes of chicken that Celebration Committee had ordered that came in. A large pan of ham was brought out of the kitchen which was by the women's board. Dinner and social time was enjoyed by all. Still there was more work to do after dishes were taken off from the table, being washed folks helping put up tables, chairs, big tent, table and chairs taken down and put on a trailer to be taken back where they came from. Thank you to the Celebration Committee for doing the good work on this project and we will be waiting for the next. Thank you to all church family for the covered dishes that they made that were so good.

Thank you again.

I want First Church Family to understand that there are folks in our church working every day and one of them is Property Committee Chair Mark Schiemann, who comes by every day, checks doors, and walks around in the church to make sure everything is okay. If there is a project that needs to be done he will get it done and there is a list that is long. If you can help him on any of these projects or if you want to be on the Property Committee, please contact Mark.

The Church Council wants you to know that if you feel like that you could be a benefit on a certain committee, please contact the committee chair so that they can get you on the committee list.

Thank you from the Church Council,

Glenda

Welcome Catawba Choral Music Scholars

Dr. Phillip Burgess, Choir Director, has selected the following Catawba College students for the 2019-2020 school year: **Alana Cooper**, soprano, from Mount Pleasant, NC, a junior majoring in Music Education with a minor in Worship Arts. **Sarah Botts**, alto, from Birmingham, Alabama, a senior majoring in Accounting with a minor in Music Business Administration. **Chandler Fields**, tenor, from Pleasant Garden, NC, a sophomore majoring in Musical Theatre. **Matthew Windsor**, bass, from Mooresville, NC, a senior majoring in Musical Theatre. **Zack Karvon**, bass, from Concord, NC, a senior majoring in Theatre Arts. **Clay Brown**, bass, from Lansing, Kansas, a freshman majoring in eSports Management with a minor in Music.

These students join Rev. Larry Bolick, Carolyn Cline, Pastor Carol Hallman, Dan & Winnie Mikkelson, Flo Peck, Kim Proffitt, and most recently: Ellen Kesler, Ann Teague and Don Whitfield.



It is fall and time for all **Circle Groups** to begin again. Circle 2, 4 and 6 will meet on **Tuesday, October 1**. Circle 4 will meet at Jeter's Deli at 11:30 a.m. Circle 2 will meet at Oak Park at 2:00 p.m., Circle 6 will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m. Circle 7 will meet on **Monday, October 7** at 7:00 p.m. ***If you are not already a part of a Circle Group, any group that meets your schedule welcomes you.***

Don't forget **Chancel Choir** meets **Wednesday evenings** at 7:30 p.m.

Bible Study begins on **Wednesday, October 2** with study groups at 11:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. for supper followed by study.

The **WNCA 2019 Annual Gathering** will take place on **October 5** at Abernethy Laurels Retirement Center in Newton, NC.

Neighbors in Need Offering will be collected during worship on World Communion Sunday, **October 6**.

Blessing of the Animals will be held on **Sunday, October 6** at 2:00 p.m. at the Church.

Catawba's Fall Choral Concert is scheduled for **Sunday, October 6** at 4:00 p.m. at Catawba College.

Primetimers will meet **Thursday, October 10** at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Foundation Sunday Service will be held on **Sunday, October 20**.

Catawba College's **Homecoming Sunday** is **October 27**.

Worship Committee meets **October 27** at 5:00 p.m.

First UCC's Committees need you! You will receive information soon about the various committees and their goals. You don't need an invitation to join a committee that interests you, contact the Church Office or the Committee Chairperson to find out when the next meeting will be.

Bless These Stitches meets on the **third Tuesday** of each month at 1:00 p.m. If you knit, crochet or craft, or would like to learn, you are invited to stop by for crafting, fellowship and conversation. If there is a need for an evening group and two or more committed members are interested, Bless These Stitches would be willing to hold an evening session as well. Contact Sandy Wagoner for more information.

The **November Newsletter Deadline** is **October 28**.



Mark your calendar for **First UCC's Annual Meeting and Lunch** following worship on **November 3**.

