

First UCC Focus

September 2021



Sundays at 11:00
In-Person and Online Worship

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

SEPTEMBER SCRIPTURES

September 5

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm 146
James 2:1-10, 11-13, 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

September 12

Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 116:1-9
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38
Exodus 13:17-17

September 19

Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22
Jeremiah 11:18-20
Psalm 54
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

September 26

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Psalm 124
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29
Psalm 19:7-14
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50



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!**



<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 our website.



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

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



Drive Through Food Drive
For RHM Food Bank

September 11
10:00-noon

Drop Off will be located in the back parking lot outside of the Fellowship Hall.



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!



- 1 7:30 Choir Rehearsal
- 5 11:00 Online and In-Person Worship with Communion
- 6 Labor Day
Church Office Closed
- 7 5:30 Celebration Committee Meeting via Zoom
- 8 7:30 Choir Rehearsal
- 9 6:00 Finance Committee Meeting
7:00 Mission Committee Meeting
- 11 10:00 Food Drop Off (10-noon)
- 12 11:00 **Little Red Wagon Sunday**
Online and In-Person Worship
4:00 Property Committee Meeting
- 14 6:00 Meals on Wheels Deliveries
Task Force Committee Meeting
- 15 5:30 EC Board Meeting
7:30 Choir Rehearsal
- 19 11:00 Online and In-Person Worship
12:30 Church Council Meeting
- 21 1:00 Bless These Stitches
- 22 7:30 Choir Rehearsal
- 26 11:00 **5-Alive Sunday**
Online and In-Person Worship
- 28 Meals on Wheels Deliveries
- 29 7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Neighbors in Need Offering:

The 2021 Neighbors in Need "Unfailing Love" offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. Neighbors in Need is part of the 5 for 5 offerings of the wider church. Our Church will collect the Neighbors in Need offering on October 3 as part of World Communion Sunday. Contributions can be made at any time.

CAROL'S CORNER

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord^[a] and ours:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my^[b] God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,.

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,^[d] by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters.^[e] ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

1 Corinthians 1:1-4a; 10-13

Jesus: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

Friends,

What is our purpose? Paul is speaking to people who are arguing over some very basic and simple, at least according to Paul differences. About who to listen to, who to follow. He tells them quite plainly that there is but one God, one Jesus. Sometimes we forget that, in the middle of all that is happening in our world. We forget whose we are. In forgetting whose we are, we also forget our purpose.

It's really quite simple Jesus says when asked the most important commandment, the most important thing that we can do. Love God. Love each other.

In order to love others, we have to love ourselves also. Yet I come back to this question. "what is our purpose as the Church-with a capital C?"

On August 29th we renewed our covenant to be church. What does that mean? It means we made promises to and with one another. It means that, with God's help, we will do our best to love one another, not just here in this building but beyond these walls in our community and world.

It means that we stand in solidarity, as Jesus did, with the poor, the lonely, the grieving, the lost, the marginalized. It means that we take time to analyze how the way of Christ is different from the way of our world. It means standing up and speaking out for the ones without voice. It means offering hope to the ones without hope. And it means sharing our time, our talent, and tithe to make our church and the world around us a better place. A place of equality, a place of caring, compassion, and healing. A place which acknowledges injustice and works for justice. Yet it is hard, as Paul says when we don't place our faith in Christ, and him crucified. That the cross is a message that seems foolish and the kin-dom that Jesus wants us to build seems so antithetical to the values of the world around us.

Yet we are called to Be the Church. You may have seen the sign. "Be the CHURCH. Protect the environment. Care for the poor. Forgive often, (that's a tough one!), Reject racism. Fight for the powerless. Share earthly and spiritual resources. Embrace diversity. Enjoy this life."

As we move through this month of September, I invite us all to be in prayer over what God is calling this church specifically to do. In what ways is God bringing us together? What gifts and graces are ours uniquely that can make a difference with each other, our community, and our world?"

Hope to see you in person or online.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Carol



SEPTEMBER

Meetings...

Choir Rehearsals:	Wednesday Nights at 7:30 p.m.
Celebration Committee Meeting:	Tuesday, September 7 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
Finance Committee Meeting:	Thursday, September 9 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
Mission Committee Meeting:	Thursday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom and in person
Property Committee Meeting:	Sunday, September 12 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom
Task Force Meeting:	Tuesday, September 14 at 6:00 p.m.
EC Board Meeting:	Wednesday, September 15 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
Church Council Meeting:	Sunday, September 19 at 12:30 p.m.
Bless These Stitches:	Tuesday, September 21 at 1:00 p.m.

Notes and News...

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 6 in observance of Labor Day.

Thank you to everyone who made the August Quest Sermon Series a success. Special thanks to Ken Clapp and Larry Bolick for their Travelogue presentation about the German Reformed Church history in this area. Thanks also to the Celebration Committee for their planning of meet-ups, zoom conversations and the Re-Covenanting Celebration Luncheon.

99 pounds of food was collected during the month of August for the *Rowan Helping Ministries Food Pantry*.

The Nursery is now open and we continue our search for volunteers to help during worship. Information will be shared on nursery protocols to those withing to help. For more information, please contact the Church office.

If you are wanting to learn some new skills, if you are looking for ways to help at church, the *Tech Crew* might just be for you. Contact Jeff, Leslie or Mark for more information.

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 news to the office by Wednesday morning.



CHOIR REHEARSAL

Choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, September 1 at 7:30 p.m. All voices needed! Please join us.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Family of Mary Austin, Mabel Barnhardt, Brenda Bernhardt, Meeta Bond (friend of Bobbie Troutman), Destony Bowles, Julia Callaway, Gerri D. Crummett (Donna Odrosky's sister), Leigha Davenport (6-year-old daughter of Susan Ward's friend), Gary Hauze (no visits or phone calls, please), Nancy Hipp, John & Dawn Isenberg, Anne Kennedy, Jasmine Kirby and son Noah (niece and great nephew of Don Whitfield), Johnnie Lippard (friend of Steve Bowles), Charlie Little, Diane Lockhart (Radell Lockhart's mother), Dan Morgan (friend of Steve Bowles), Jimmy Mullis (friend of Daniel Artz), Joseph Najarian (son of Dena & David Najarian), Pat Norris, Glenda Shrewsbury, Sarah Shuping, Claire Skinner, Nick Snipes, Mark Sokolowski, 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.



From Calendar Sponsored by
Circles 2 and 4

- September 2 Ronnie Dunn
- September 3 Carrie Webster
- September 7 Stephanie Leichman
- September 12 Joyce Trexler
- September 16 Daniel Trivette
- September 18 Bettie Lyerly
- September 19 Carolyn Cline
Traci Nolen
- September 23 Eleanor Alcorn
- September 24 Chris Kennedy
Penelope Bolick
- September 28 Patsy Paxton
Braydan Shrewsbury
- September 29 Kate Shirley
- September 30 Michelle Presler
Greg Alcorn



Little Red Wagon items for Rowan Helping Ministries will be collected each Sunday of the month for those attending worship. If you are not yet attending in-person worship, items can be dropped off at the Church during office hours. Items collected will be delivered monthly. **99 pounds of food was collected during the month of August.** RHM's Food Pantry Wish List includes: Pasta, Canned Soups and Vegetables, Instant Potatoes, Small Canned Tomato Products as well as non-perishable food items.



FIVE-ALIVE
HELPING FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Rent

A Client is seeking assistance to stay in his home. The client is a 20 year old father with a 5-month old son. For the past several months, his hours have been cut from 40 hours per week to only 20 hours per week. He is looking for additional work. He is not getting any child support. He provided proof of the decrease in hours and income to RHM. Rowan Helping Ministries granted him a voucher to cover his rent. The client was happy to know that he could continue to provide a home for his son.

REMEMBER:

The fourth Sunday of each month is set aside for the collection of donations to our 5-Alive Program, but your contribution to this worthy cause is accepted any Sunday!

100% of your contribution goes to help citizens of the Salisbury/Rowan area and to our Church family.

From the Mission Committee ...

The Mission Committee met on Thursday, August 19 and made plans for the next weeks and into the fall months.

The Little Red Wagon food items will be delivered at the end of the month to give folks the opportunity to bring items throughout the month even though Little Red Wagon Sunday is the 2nd Sunday of each month.

The school supplies for Community in Schools for Rowan Country were dedicated on Sunday, August 29 and items will be delivered that week or shortly after Labor Day.

The next Drive By Community Food Drive for Rowan Helping Ministries will be Saturday, September 11 from 10—12 noon at the back entrance/parking lot.

The Annual Neighbors In Need Offering will be received on Sunday, October 3 for UCC local church grants for local ministries and for the Council for American Indian Ministries grants.

If we have volunteers available, the committee will sponsor a Saturday evening meal in November at Rowan Helping Ministries Night Shelter for overnight guests.

The Annual UCC Offering for Veterans of the Cross-Christmas Fund will be in December.

Star gifts will be sponsored for members to provide a gift for a child thru Rowan County Department of Social Services.

The next meeting time will be Thursday, September 9 at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Covid Task Force News ...

The Covid Task Force is aware that we are seeing an uptick of cases in Rowan County and in North Carolina. Mainly these are in unvaccinated individuals. We also know that at least some of these cases are the Delta Variant which has involved some breakthrough cases among those vaccinated. At this time the Task Force continues to urge caution to our members and while those vaccinated are not required to wear masks we do encourage those who aren't to wear one. Our own church groups have the opportunity at this time to choose to return to meeting in person. So far Bless These Stitches is the only group which has chosen to begin again but other groups might want to talk among themselves to see how they are feeling about in person meetings.

During the month of August we have reopened the nursery and Sunday School. We want to remind members that those who are 12 and under are not vaccinated yet. We urge caution around the vulnerable ones in our midst. Again, masks are not required are strongly encouraged. If you are around the children you might want to mask up either way or if not at least ensure that you keep your social distance. We do encourage all members to honor individual decisions and personal spaces during this time. Please, do be especially cautious around our children. Thank you.