

First UCC Focus

September 2022

Sundays at 11:00
In-Person and Online Worship

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

SEPTEMBER SCRIPTURES

September 4

Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Philemon 1:1-21
Luke 14:25-31

September 11

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:9-10

September 18

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Psalm 79:1-9
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

September 25

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31



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

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

Visit Us
ONLINE

WWW.1STUCC.ORG

Our Website contains links to Bulletins and Newsletters, a link to send your offering to the Church through PayPal and other useful information.

Although you may be worshipping with us online, your offering can be dropped off at the Church during the week or sent to the Church at:

First United Church of Christ
207 W. Horah St.
Salisbury, NC 28144

There is a link on our website to donate online to UCC or you may donate directly through PayPal.



You can scan this QR Code with your camera to donate to First UCC



**YOUR GIVING
MATTERS!**



- 4 11:00 a.m. Online & In Person Worship with Communion
- 5 Office Closed
- 6 6:30 p.m. Circle 6 Meeting
- 7 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 8 11:30 a.m. Primetimers
6:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. Mission Committee Meeting
- 11 11:00 a.m. Online & In Person Worship
- 12 6:00 p.m. Circle 7 Meeting
- 13 10:30 a.m. Meals on Wheels Deliveries
- 14 5:30 p.m. EC Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 15 5:30 p.m. Church Women Board Mtg.
- 18 11:00 a.m. Online & In-Person Worship
12:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting
- 20 1:00 p.m. Bless These Stitches
- 21 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 22 6:00 p.m. PFLAG Meeting
- 25 11:00 a.m. Online & In-Person Worship with Rev. Larry Bolick
- 27 10:30 a.m. Meals on Wheels Deliveries
- 28 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Pastor Carol will be away from
September 20-October 3



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!** We've missed you!

CAROL'S CORNER

Friends,

Seasons come and Seasons go. I remember a song that my siblings used to play, it was a 45 and they played it on a record player. It was called "See You in September" sung by a group called The Happenings. You can check it out here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JQS6H2AXdM>

It is from 1959 and originally recorded by a group called The Tempos. Basically, it is a song about summer vacation and about hoping to reconnect in September but for many it also became a song that meant more. For some young men in those days were going off to fight a war in Vietnam this song took on deeper meaning. Women hoped and prayed that their boyfriends would return home safely.

I thought about that song as we move into this new season. For many families this is the season of school. Summer vacations and fun are over. No more beach trips or mountain excursions it is time to get back to work and school.

I remember those days when Daniel would be back in school, (of course he is in some ways still in school but in a different role these days!). That would also bring the season of soccer. For some it brings football or lacrosse or baller, art or music lessons. It is a change from the carefree days of summer to a new routine. The days begin to grow shorter. Less light reminds us of the seasons changing too.

On September 21st the Autumn Equinox arrives. This is traditionally known as the stepping stone between light and dark, meaning at this time of year, there is an equal amount of both. It is a time for harvest, when people would gather, store, and start to preserve all of their food to keep them going during the year.

We sometimes forget how the seasons determined the lives of our ancestors. How their rhythms guided and led them through their days. As people living following the industrial revolution, we tend to lose the sense of importance these transitions bring.

Off the land we are not always aware, except in a peripheral way of the changes of the world around us. And our "busy-ness" often keeps us from fully living in the moment of these changes.

I am encouraging us to take a moment each day, just one, more if you can manage but at least one to fully breathe in the presence of God, open your senses of sight and smell, touch and taste. Look at your children or grandchildren and know that this very moment is as quick as a blink of the eye and not too many years hence they will be grown and on their own. Dig deep into this moment, give thanks for the blessing it brings. Imprint it on your soul.

At this moment give thanks for the breath you breathe and the creation that enfolds you. Be one with it, for just that moment. May that moment bring your joy and may it inform your days.

Peace,

Pastor Carol

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Michael, Avery and Ian Artz, Brenda Bernhardt, Tyler Bernhardt, Nancy Baker Blackwell (friend of Shirley McNeil), Steve Bowles, Rev. Warren Casiday, Gerri D. Crummett (Donna Odrosky's sister), Dan Dagenhart, Betty Diehl, Winston Ezzell (Carrie Webster's father), Gary Hauze (no visits or phone calls, please), Nancy Hipp, Anne Kennedy, Jasmine Kirby and son Noah (Don Whitfield's niece and great-nephew), Jim Lyerly, John Marion, 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, Romas & Sarah Shuping, Claire Skinner, David & Barbara Waller, Waylon Ward.

Prayers for those recently impacted by violence throughout our country and the world

Pray for members of our community who experience food insufficiency and high costs of living as well as folks suffering from mental illness and health issues.

Continue to keep the people of Ukraine and Russia in your prayers.

Pray for the people in Afghanistan.

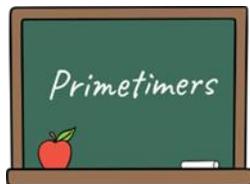


FIVE-ALIVE HELPING FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Rent

A lady approached Rowan Helping Ministries seeking living quarters for her family. The client's household includes the lady and her two daughters, ages 6 and 13. They lived in Greensboro for 8 years until a man tried to rob her. The client no longer felt safe living there. She moved back to Salisbury so her children could stay with her mother until she found a place to live. She has been sleeping in her car. Rowan Helping Ministries' Outreach program worked with the client to find a place to live. RHM assisted the client with a voucher to pay towards the first month's rent. The client was able to move into her new home with her daughters. The family was excited to find a safe place that they could finally call home.

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.



Thursday, September 8 at 11:30 am

On **Thursday, September 8 at 11:30 a.m.**, pork barbecue and chips and will be provided from College Barbecue by Mike Rhodes. Please come prepared for an offering for treasurers. Sandy Combs, Program Director for Meals on Wheels for Rowan County will present the program.

R.S.V.P. to the Church Office by Wednesday, September 7, if you plan to attend. Guests are always welcome.



From Calendar Sponsored by
Circle 2

September 2 Ronnie Dunn
September 3 Carrie Webster
September 7 Stephanie Leichman
September 12 Joyce Trexler
September 16 Daniel Trivette
September 17 Ewan Bolick
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 Greg Alcorn
Michelle Preslar



Mission Committee Focus: Rowan Helping Ministries Food for Thought Program

The Food For Thought Program is a children's backpack program. On Fridays, backpacks are sent home with children filled with items that are easy for a child to open and prepare during the weekend. On Mondays, the backpacks are returned to the school to be filled for the following weekend.

Food item suggestions:
Mac & Cheese Cups
Canned Ravioli or Frank & Beans
Cereal Cups (individual serving size)
Oatmeal
Pudding
Fruit Cups
Various Granola Bars

You may drop off your donations at the Church anytime during office hours or on any Sunday morning!

Mission Committee News

The Mission Committee met on Thursday, August 11 at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

The meal for Rowan Helping Ministries Shelter Guests was postponed from August to September, and we will invite others to prepare the meal with Millie Campbell at an appropriate Saturday evening.

The Drive-Thru Drop Off on July 30 and Little Red Wagon for July for RHM Food Pantry collected and delivered 188 pounds plus donations of cash. Thanks to Shirley McNeal and Flo Peck for delivering the items. The next Community Drive-Thru Food Drive will be Saturday, November 5 from 10-12 noon. In September for Little Red Wagon, we will again emphasize food items appropriate for Food for Thought, School Back Pack Program of Rowan Helping Ministries for school aged children.

An application has been made to City of Salisbury for an outdoor "Little Food Pantry," which will be constructed and placed on Monroe Street for church members and residents of the community to stock food items and for anyone to use.

The School Supplies for Community In Schools of Rowan County was dedicated on Sunday, August 14 during worship and delivered to CISRC office on Monday, August 15. We have requested \$200 of the 2022 Mission Committee Grant to be sent to CISRC for school supplies.

Neighbors In Need Offering will be received on Sunday, October 2 and Larry Bolick will share a presentation on Sunday, September 25. Bulletin inserts will be used and mailed out with the weekly mailing of bulletins several Sundays in September and October 2.

An application for the Mission Committee ministries to First UCC Foundation has been made to include Rowan Helping Ministries Food Pantry, Food For Thought School Backpack Program; RHM Shelter meals as well as school supplies for Community In Schools of Rowan County and Public School Teachers' Appreciation for 2023.

Larry Bolick has agreed to chair the Mission Committee next year. The next meeting will be Thursday, September 8 at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Bless These Stitches

The Bless These Stitches Group will meet on Tuesday, September 20 at 1:00 p.m. at the Church. Please join us if you can for crafting and fellowship. 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.

If you are needing a handmade gift for someone, there are many crafts for sale that can be found in the hall outside of the Church Office or something specific might also be arranged.

Join the Choir

Choir meets for rehearsals each Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. New voices are always welcome!

Council Members Needed

Church Council is looking for 2 new members. Meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday of each month after worship and are held via Zoom and in-person. If you would like to become part of council, please let the Church Office or Leslie Dent know.

Special Thanks to All of Our Volunteers

We have a special group of volunteers at our Church that produce the online Worship services on Sunday mornings, weed gardens, change paraments, donate their time to Meals on Wheels deliveries, watch children for Sunday School, are lay readers, are council members, offer words and notes of encouragement, sit on committees and so much more!

That's what Church Fellowship does!

We are blessed to have every one of you!



In 2022, the Neighbors in Need "BEHOLD!" offering focuses on economic justice. With inflation impacting all of our households. One-third of the offering supports Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Justice and Witness Ministries use two-thirds to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations and support various justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Neighbors in Need is part of the 5 for 5 offerings of the wider church. Our church will receive the offering on October 2nd, 2022, as a part of World Communion Sunday, though contributions may be received at any time..

S-R Church Women United
55th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, September 25, 2022

3:30—5:30

Soldier's Memorial AME Zion Church
306 North Church Street, Salisbury