

First UCC News

June 2025



First UCC Mission Statement

*"To grow in faith, love and fellowship
as we serve God and all of our community."*

Worship

Sundays at 11:00
207 W. Horah Street
Salisbury, NC 28144

JUNE SCRIPTURES

June 1

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

June 8, Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:14-17
John 14:8-17, 25-27

June 15, Father's Day

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

June 22

1 Kings 19:1-15a
Isaiah 65:1-9
Psalm 22:19-28
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

June 29

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20



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| 1 | 11:00 a.m. | Worship with Communion
Rev. David Crook |
| 2 | 6:00 p.m. | Circle 7 Meeting |
| 3 | 2:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m. | Transition Team Meeting
Circle 6 Meeting |
| 4 | 5:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m. | WOW Wednesday
Choir Rehearsal |
| 8 | 11:00 a.m.
4:00 p.m. | Pentecost Sunday
Worship, Rev. David Crook
Property Committee Meeting |
| 10 | 10:30 a.m. | Meals on Wheels Deliveries |
| 11 | 5:30 p.m. | WOW Wednesday |
| 12 | 11:30 a.m.
6:00 p.m. | Primetimers
Finance Committee Meeting |
| 15 | 11:00 a.m.
12:00 p.m. | Worship, Father's Day
Rev. David Crook
Council Meeting |
| 17 | 1:00 p.m. | Bless These Stitches |
| 18 | 5:30 p.m. | WOW Wednesday |
| 22 | 11:00 a.m.
12:00 p.m. | Worship
Rev. Andrea Mitchell
Feasting on the 4th |
| 24 | 10:30 a.m. | Meals on Wheels Deliveries |
| 25 | 5:30 p.m. | WOW Wednesday |
| 29 | 11:00 a.m. | Worship
Rev. Andrea Mitchell |

Next Council Meeting
Sunday, June 15
After Worship

May 21, 2025

To: First UCC Congregation
From: Greg Alcorn, Council President
Re: Church Transition Team Update

Our second meeting included updates on our first meeting's action items and a deeper conversation about our gifts and challenges.

Our list of gifts was very gratifying. We celebrated our ministries and talents. Such as our Choir, UCC Identity, worship, the Foundation, volunteer efforts, church and community connections, our financial situation and our activities.

Our challenges include low attendance, reliance on a few members and the underutilization of our building and grounds.

We reached out to the incoming Western Association conference minister, Rev. Tom Warren. He also serves as Sr. Pastor at Peace Church in Greensboro. He was supportive of our transition approach and said our situation was NOT unusual. He agreed to follow our process closely and help where possible. We also discussed calling an Intentional Interim minister to support our worship and pastoral care needs with more consistency.

The committee decided to meet at Catawba's Chapel on June 3rd at 2:00. The purpose of the tour is to explore possible worship and/or partnerships with Catawba and First Church.

Stay tuned for more formal communication as we explore possible usages of the building and direction of our church.

We invite you to share any suggestions you may have with Church Council or Pastor/Parish Relations Committee. Concerns and suggestions are welcome at any time.

Our 2024-2025 Council:

Don Whitfield
Phyllis Little
Shirley McNeil
Greg Alcorn
Ken Clapp
Carolyn Cline
Lynn Bernhardt

Pastoral/Staff Relations Committee:

Dan Mikkelsen
Greg Alcorn
Ken Clapp

The June Council Meeting will be on June 15 after Worship. Copies of approved monthly Council Minutes are available on the bulletin board outside of the Church Office. Minutes may also be emailed upon request.

First UCC will be introducing Supply Pastors who will be leading our Congregation. We were pleased to have filled our May month with Rev. Melissa McQueen-Simmons, Rev. Liz Colton and Rev. Phil Norwood. June Supply Pastors will be Rev. David Crook and Rev. Andrea Mitchell.

Please join us! Our congregation remains the same, you will see many of the same faces and maybe some new ones.

If you have worshipped with us before, welcome back. If you would like to give a Sunday morning a try, welcome!!

Supply Pastors for June

June 1	Rev. David Crook
June 8	Rev. David Crook
June 15	Rev. David Crook
June 22	Rev. Andrea Mitchell
June 29	Rev. Andrea Mitchell

Special Thanks

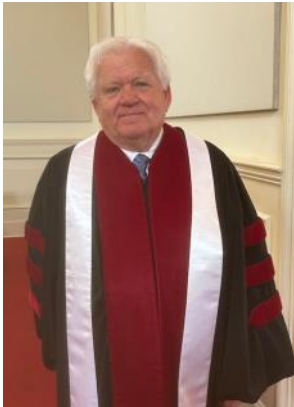
A heartfelt thank you to Rev. Larry Bolick and Rev. Ken Clapp who have been doing visitations and have helped with worship. Thanks from the office for your continued guidance as well.



Rev. Liz Colton was with us for two Sundays in May. If you would like copies of her sermons, please contact the Church Office or Larry Bolick.



Rev. Melissa McQueen Simmons was with us on April 27 and May 18. If you would like copies of her sermons, please contact the Church Office.



Rev. Phillip Norwood joined us for Worship on May 25 and was able to stay for Feasting on the 4th for fellowship with our congregation after. If you would like a copy of his sermon, please contact the Church Office or Larry Bolick.



A Message from the Office Secretary...

I was recently appointed administrative rights to the Church's Facebook Page. I am not well-versed in the aspects of posting to social media. Please bear with me as I continually try to keep things up to date on the site! I welcome pictures, notices, etc. Just send them to the office email and I'll try to get them loaded.



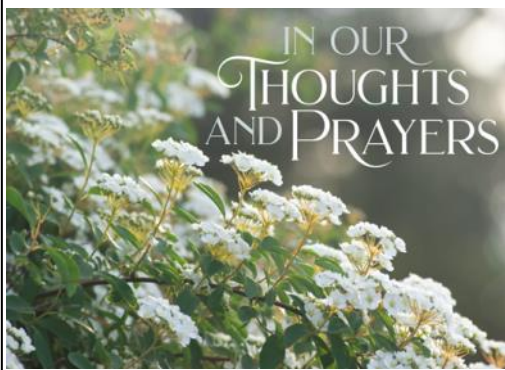
If you are involved in any First UCC meetings or gatherings and have your phone with you, please snap a picture for the Newsletter or Facebook Page and forward them along to the office.

Special thanks to Susan Ward for submitting pictures.

We are hoping to have the Church website running up to date again. Many photos in the gallery are VERY old. Not that we don't like to look back at 2019 but we need some new entries. So here's hoping everyone uses their phones to snap those pictures!

WHAT'S GOING ON IN JUNE?

Meals on Wheels Deliveries	Tuesdays June 10 and 24 at 10:30 a.m.
WOW Wednesdays	Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.
Circle 7 Meeting	Monday, June 2 at 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Transition Team Meeting	Tuesday, June 3 at 2:00 p.m., Catawba College
Circle 6 Meeting	Tuesday, June 3 at 6:00 p.m., Salad Supper, Fellowship Hall
Choir Rehearsal	Wednesday, June 4, 7:00 p.m. (Last rehearsal until July 23.)
Finance Committee Meeting	Thursday, June 8 at 4:00 p.m.
Primetimers	Thursday, June 12 at 11:30 a.m.
Council Meeting	Sunday, June 15 at 2:00 p.m.
Bless These Stitches	Tuesday, June 17 at 1:00 p.m.



Desiree Artz, Brenda Bernhardt, Tyler Bernhardt, Gerri D. Crummett (Donna Odrosky's sister), Maggie Derby (great granddaughter of Jim Weaver), Stacy Erb, Emily Faust, Rick Lockhart (Radell Lockhart's uncle), Jim Lyerly, John Marion, Shirley McNeil, Eddie Meeker, Doris Miller, Dan Morgan, Patsy Paxton, family of Sara Jean Propst, Glenda Shrewsbury, Patty & Mark Shuping and family, Tom Troutman, Barbara Waller, Waylon Ward, Don Whitfield, Janette Yost.

If you know of anyone who should be added or removed from our prayer list, please let the office know.

First UCC 5-Alive Fund



For Robert and Marie, the past few years have been anything but easy. Together for 12 years, they have faced life's toughest challenges side by side, including periods of homelessness, when they lived together in their car.

This past winter, their car was no longer a safe place to live. On the coldest nights, when temperatures dropped below 20 degrees, they took refuge in the Rowan Helping Ministries Warming Station, where they were grateful for a warm place to rest and volunteers who welcomed them without judgement. In February, determined to create a fresh start for themselves, they took the next step together and moved into our shelter.

As a team, Robert and Marie embraced every opportunity to rebuild their lives. Robert took part in RHM's RCCC Employability Lab & Computer Skills class, which helped him secure a full-time job that would allow the couple to move forward with their goals. He also found relief through our De-Stress Yourself sessions, where he learned new techniques to help him manage stress. Meanwhile, Marie drew strength from our Health and Hope class, finding comfort in the supportive community she found there. She also gave back by participating in the Adopt-A-Street program, helping to keep the sidewalks around our campus clean.

After months of hard work and with the support of our Choosing Home program, Robert and Marie secured financial assistance that allowed them to move into their own apartment. For the first time in years, they have a place to call home, which means everything to them.

Thank you to all who regularly contribute to the 5-Alive Fund at 1st UCC. The fund's monthly gifts to Rowan Helping Ministries enable folks like Robert and Marie rebuild their lives.

Primetimers

The Primetimers met on Thursday, May 9 with Rev. Dan Joyner Miller, Senior Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church sharing about his Miller family heritage in Central Pennsylvania within the Menonite tradition and later the Lutheran tradition. A special thanks to Bobbie Troutman who prepared a delicious meal for us and others who provided desserts.

The Primetimers will meet on Thursday, June 12 at 11:30 am with a catered meal prepared by Debbie Suggs. The menu will be hamburgers and hot dogs, chips, beverage and dessert. The suggested amount for the meal is \$10 per person. The program will be "Fun and Games." Please call the church office by Tuesday, June 10 to make reservations to attend.

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee met on Thursday, May 9 to make plans for the next several months. Due to a donation of \$1000 to purchase food items for the Blessing Pantry, committee members will now purchase a total of \$160 per month of food items for the Pantry. Larry Bolick will make purchases in May and August, Linda Hauze in June, Rebecca Wrights in July. Usually, food items are placed in the Pantry two times each week. Thanks to Linda Hauze who designed a sheet of information of where folks may seek food donations and meals at RHM. Volunteer donations may be placed in the Pantry anytime when members and friends drop items off in the Pantry or place in the bin in the vestibule on Sundays.

During the summer months, we will continue to collect food items for RHM Food Pantry and placed in The Little Red Wagon in the vestibule. All donations for food items are appreciated and delivered to RHM Food Pantry at the end of each month.

Another RHM Shelter Meal will be served in June or July. Members of Patti Marion's Sorority will be invited to volunteer along with First UCC members. Ken Clapp will be invited to coordinate the meal with volunteers.

Strengthen the Church Offering for local church grants and Southern Conference Ministries will be received on Pentecost, June 8. The Theme this year is "Great and Wide."

Budgeted amounts were approved from First Foundation Grant of \$1200 for Mission Ministries: \$300 for School Supplies for Community In Schools for Rowan County in June for purchases in July and \$300 for RHM Food Pantry in July.

The Mission Committee will meet again on Thursday, August 14 at 1 PM in Fellowship Hall.



Mark the Date: August 16

First UCC will be holding a yard sale on Saturday, August 16. As you are doing your spring cleaning, keep in mind that those good used items could benefit the Church. All proceeds will go to First UCC. Drop off times will be during office hours.



The folks of Bless These Stitches have been working not just at our meetings but at home as well. There are lots of knitted and crocheted items on the shelf outside the office that are ready to go to their new homes. Many newly added baby items are available. If you know someone who would benefit from this mission, who needs to know that someone is thinking of them and praying for them, take a comfort item and deliver it to them as an extension of our ministry. If you need something for your personal use or for a gift, a donation is appreciated. There is a suggested price list posted in the area. Donations are used to purchase more yarn to further the ministry.

If you knit or crochet, or want to learn, or just want to share fellowship with other needleworkers, join us on the third Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m.!

The next meeting will be June 17.

Your offering is a critical part of the Church's ability to function. Offerings can be dropped off at the Church during the week, mailed 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 First UCC. You may also donate directly through PayPal.



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



Take a Blessing, Leave a Blessing, Be a Blessing

A Blessing Pantry has been placed on our church property as an outreach to the neighboring community. It is located near the driveway into the parking lot on Church Street, just north of Monroe Street.

Members of the Mission Committee continue to monitor the box and add items at least once a week, but demand is great and it is usually emptied in a couple of days.

Popular items include:

Canned meats (chicken, tuna, ham, Spam)
Healthy soups
Beef stew
Chef Boyardee canned meals
Pop Tarts are appreciated
Canned fruits and vegetables
Peanut butter
Dehydrated foods like noodles, cereals, and dry beans
Personal care products, including baby wipes
Inexpensive can openers for cans without pop-tops



Excluded items include those in glass packaging and fresh items that are perishable in the weather conditions.

How can you help?

Bring your contributions to the church and place them in the box provided in the Narthex. This bin will distinguish items intended for the Blessing Box from donations for the Little Red Wagon and Rowan Helping Ministries.

You can also add items directly to the box.

Or make a monetary contribution to help the Mission Committee to keep the pantry supplied.

Thank you in advance for supporting this important effort to be an active presence in our neighborhood every day of the week!

—Linda Hauze for the Mission Committee

Little Red Wagon

The **Little Red Wagon** continues to collect for the Rowan Helping Ministries Food Pantry. The Backpack program has ended until September 1 but they are still in need of non-perishable food items that are easy for a child, a family or an elderly person to prepare or have as a snack. This is also a critical time of year for collections as children are leaving school for the summer months. We tend to not think of some of the elderly who might not be able to open some containers or prepare meals as easily as they used to. You may bring donations to the Church during office hours or place in the wagon in the Narthex on Sunday mornings. .

41 pounds of food was delivered to Rowan Helping Ministries in May.



The Strengthen the Church Offering furthers the work of our conferences and the national UCC as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The offering is divided with 50% staying regionally within your conference and 50% supporting the National Ministries.

The Strengthen the Church Offering will be

WOW Wednesday Bible Study in June

WOW Wednesday Bible Study will continue through June with "Short Stories of Jesus" by Amy-Jill Levine on the Parables of Jesus. Participants are invited to bring food to share from 5:30-5:45 pm, followed by Leader led discussions on the parables from 5:45-6:45 pm in Fellowship Hall.

June 4 Chapter 5 "The Mustard Seed" led by Larry Bolick

June 11 Chapter 6 "The Pharisee and Tax Collector"

June 18 Chapter 7 "The Labors in the Vineyard"

June 25 Chapter 8 "The Widow and the Judge"

WOW Wednesday will take a break in July and resume in August.



I am a composite being of all the people of America.
 I am the union if you are united.
 I am one and indivisible if you are undivided.
 I am as strong as the weakest link.
 I am an emblem of your country.
 I am a symbol of the shadow of the real.
 I am a sign pointing to past achievements.
 I am a promise of greater things for the future.
 I am what you make me. I am purity if you are pure.
 I am bravery if you are brave. I am loyalty if you are loyal.
 I am honor if you are honorable. I am goodness if you are good.
 I am hope if you are hopeful. I am truth if you are true.
 I am the Constitution. I am law and order.
 I am tolerance or intolerance as you force me to be.
 I am liberty as you understand liberty.
 I am as a pillar of fire by night, but you must provide the fuel.
 I march at the head of the column, but you must carry me on.
 I stand for greater and more glorious
 achievement than can be found in recorded history,
 but you must be my inspiration.

I AM THE FLAG.

—Source unknown.



FLAG DAY JUNE 14, 2025
 (courtesy of Flo Peck)

