

# ***First UCC News***

## ***July 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**

### **JULY SCRIPTURES**

#### **July 6**

2 Kings 5:1-14  
Psalm 30  
Galatians 6:1-16  
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

#### **July 13**

Deuteronomy 30:9-14  
Psalm 25:1-10  
Colossians 1:1-14  
Luke 10:25-37

#### **July 20**

Genesis 18:1-10a  
Psalm 15  
Colossians 1:15-28  
Luke 10:38-42

#### **July 27**

Genesis 18:20-32  
Psalm 138  
Colossians 2:6-19  
Luke 11:1-13



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|-----------|------------|--|
| <b>4</b>  |            | Fourth of July                           |
| <b>6</b>  | 11:00 a.m. | Worship with Communion<br>Rev. Ken Clapp |
| <b>8</b>  | 10:30 a.m. | Meals on Wheels Deliveries               |
| <b>10</b> | 6:00 p.m.  | Finance Committee Meeting                |
| <b>13</b> | 11:00 a.m. | Worship with<br>Rev. Larry Bolick        |
|           | 4:00 p.m.  | Property Committee Meeting               |
| <b>15</b> | 1:00 p.m.  | Bless These Stitches                     |
| <b>20</b> | 11:00 a.m. | Worship with<br>Rev. Dale Kennedy        |
| <b>22</b> | 10:30 a.m. | Meals on Wheels Deliveries               |
| <b>23</b> | 7:00 p.m.  | Choir Rehearsal Begins                   |
| <b>27</b> | 11:00 a.m. | Worship with<br>Rev. Dale Kennedy        |
| <b>30</b> | 7:00 p.m.  | Choir Rehearsal                          |



Choir Practice  
Resumes  
July 23 at 7:00 p.m.



WOW Wednesday  
Bible Study  
Resumes  
August 6 at 5:30 p.m.

First UCC will be introducing Supply Pastors who will be leading our Congregation. We were happy to have Rev. David Crook with us for three Sundays in June. Rev. Andrea Mitchell joined us for the last two Sundays.

July brings the following:

July 6: Rev. Dr.. Kenneth Clapp and  
Rev. Lawrence Bolick  
July 13: Rev. Anne Tambling  
July 20: Rev. David Kennedy  
July 27: Rev. David Kennedy

August Supply Pastor to date:

August 3: Rev. Kerri Miller  
August 10: Rev. Kerri Miller

Please join us! We hope to see you soon!

### 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 their continued guidance as well.



Thank you to all who helped with the Shelter Meal on Saturday evening, June 28. 126 meals were served.



We were happy to see Rev. & Mrs. David Crook with us for three Sundays in June



Rev. Larry Bolick provided the Children's Message on Sunday, June 22.



Desiree Artz, Brenda Bernhardt, Tyler Bernhardt, Edith Bolick, Rev. David Crook, Gerri D. Crummett (Donna Odrosky's sister), Maggie Derby (great granddaughter of Jim Weaver), Emily Faust, Jim Lyerly, John Marion, Shirley McNeil, Eddie Meeker, Doris Miller, Dan Morgan, Patsy Paxton, Paul Paxton, 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, let the office know.***

## ***Transition Team Update***

June 23, 2025

To: First UCC Congregation  
From: Greg Alcorn, Council President  
Re: Church Transition Team Update #4

We met, again, at Catawba's Chapel. This time we met with President David Nelson and Rev. Kendra Joyner-Miller. We gave them an overview of our transition process and church status. We emphasized our urgency to call an Interim Minister and continued to explore what church would look like at Catawba.

President Nelson gave an overview of the "unique ties" between First Church and Catawba. He also shared his experience with a church/college engagement. He is open to continuing the exploration of a "First Church at Catawba". Rev. Kendra was very complimentary of our church, specifically embracing her faith journey while at Catawba and beyond.

One action was to see if Catawba had any suggestions for the position of Interim Minister. They agreed to review their clergy pool. Our long-term action was to dive deeper into what the benefits and challenges would be IF we moved worship and other church activities to Catawba.

The second urgent issue is the on-going maintenance of our church building. The church is under-utilized for its size and infrastructure. We have limited resources to provide maintenance, and the building requires upkeep regardless of usage. We have MAJOR decisions to make on the best use of 207 W. Horah St.

Our transition team will meet again on Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup> to debrief and, hopefully, have Profiles to consider for the Interim Minister. Dan Mikkelson, Ken Clapp and I are the search committee for this position. A selection of a long-term Minister would be a later step.

No Church Council items were voted on or discussed.

All questions and comments are welcomed.

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 Mikkelson  
Greg Alcorn  
Ken Clapp

## ***SUMMER MONTHS BRING LESS MEETINGS..***

Meals on Wheels Deliveries	Tuesdays July 8 and 22 at 10:30 a.m.
Chor Rehearsals	Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. beginning July 23
Finance Committee Meeting	Thursday, July 10 at 6:00 p.m.
Property Committee Meeting	Sunday, July 13 at 4:00 p.m.
Bless These Stitches	Tuesday, July 15 at 1:00 p.m.
Primetimers Trip	Thursday, July 24 (Reply by July 15)

Patti Marion supplied a dessert that got rave reviews at the June Feasting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Luncheon. Here is the recipe in case you'd like it. (Requested by popular demand!)

### **No-Bake Éclair Cake from the Senior Savvy paper**

#### **Ingredients:**

- 2 small packages of instant vanilla pudding mix
- 1 small container thawed whipped topping
- 3 cups milk
- 1 pkg graham cracker squares
- 1 pkg prepared chocolate frosting



1. Prepare Pudding Mixture: Combine whipped topping, milk and pudding mix in a bowl. Stir until smooth.
2. Layer the Cake: In a 13x9 inch pan, layer graham crackers, followed by half of the pudding mixture. Add another layer of graham crackers, the rest of the pudding, and top with graham crackers.
3. Spread Icing: Spread chocolate frosting on top, covering the cake.
4. Chill: Refrigerate for at least 4 hours before serving. Enjoy!

## **First UCC 5-Alive Fund**



Laura has faced incredible adversity in her life. She cared for seriously ill parents, endured an abusive relationship, and suffered the pain of seeing her children placed in foster care. She experienced homelessness and eventually spent nine months in prison. When she was released, Laura made her way to Rowan Helping Ministries.

After a brief stay, she was accepted into Eagle's Nest, our transitional housing program. This marked the beginning of a new chapter in her life.

While living in Eagle's Nest, Laura thrived. She worked with one of our volunteer Life Coaches to set personal and professional goals, got food from our Food Pantry, and gave back by volunteering in Jeannie's Kitchen. She valued the structure and accountability our Eagle's Nest program gave her, sharing, "It's good to have someone care if you're home."

Laura moved into her own apartment last month through a supportive housing program that helps cover her rent while she continues receiving visits from a caseworker. She now works in the restaurant industry and is saving for a car to more easily visit her mother and children—who are doing well and remain central to her motivation.

As she looks ahead, Laura is focused on staying grounded in her faith and giving back. She trusts in God's plan for her and aspires to live each day as a "good and faithful servant." 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 June 12 with 17 persons present, lunch consisted of a catered meal of hot dogs, hamburgers and desserts. They enjoyed playing BINGO as a fun activity. They decided to send \$100 to Nazareth Child Connection for summertime activities for the residential students.

Plans are in the making to have a day trip to Mt. Bethel and Blowing Rock Conference Center, Blowing Rock for worship at Mt. Bethel, lunch and tour on Thursday, July 24 at 8:30-4:30 pm with convenience stops along the way and return. Other UCC senior groups are being invited to share in a time of worship and fellowship at BRCC. The cost will be \$25 per person which includes lunch and transportation costs. Please let Larry Bolick know (828.612.8146) if you want to reserve a seat on the van by July 15. Primetimers will not have a dinner meeting in July or August and will resume meeting on Thursday, September 11 from 11:30-1 pm for a catered meal and program.

### **Mission Committee**

The Mission Committee continues to collect food items for the summer months for the Rowan Helping Ministries Food Pantry through The Little Red Wagon. In May, 41 pounds of food items was delivered to RHM Food Pantry. The Blessing Pantry is stocked two times each week. Donations for the Blessing Pantry may be placed directly in the Pantry or in the bin in the vestibule on Sundays. A big "Thank You" to Linda Hauze who coordinated the purchasing and stocking of the Pantry with funds from Mission Committee. Rebecca Wrights will coordinate purchases and stock the Pantry in July and Larry Bolick in August.

The Mission Committee sponsored a meal for the RHM Shelter Guests on Saturday, June 28 from 5:30-8 pm. The meal was coordinated by Rev. Dr. Ken Clapp, Chef, with volunteers from Patti Marion's Sorority and First Church members. Thanks to all who volunteered their time and desserts.

A special "Thank You" to all who donated to the Strengthen the Church Offering on Pentecost, June 8. A total of \$446 was received.



### **AUGUST 16**

The First UCC Yard Sale will be here before we know it. It is now about 6 weeks away. Many of us are vacationing and not thinking of gathering good used items that you no longer have a need for. Please keep in mind that our Church can benefit from those items. All proceeds from the sale will go to First UCC. Drop off times will be during office hours. If you need help bringing in items or need to have some items picked up, please call Carolyn Cline or the Church Office.

### **Mt. Bethel Church**



Renovations are being made to Mt. Bethel Church. Primetimers will include worship at the Church on July 24. An article about the Church was in the Watauga Democrat on Monday, June 30 and was written by Andrew Critcher, great grandson of Jacob Kluttz, who donated the land in 1886 for church and cemetery.

### **Bless These Stitches**

Those in the Bless These Stitches group 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, 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 July 15.

### **Say Cheese...**

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 and Stephanie Leichman 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!



## **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. .



Your offering is a critical part of the Church's ability to function. Offerings can be dropped off at the Church during the week or 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.



## **Southern Conference News**

Southern Conference UCC Celebrated 60 years at their annual event. Below is a link to an article about the meeting June 19-21.

[https://files.constantcontact.com/8ced9cab001/25313cd5-e4f0-4fc7-8569-77145dc01f10.pdf?\\_gl=1\\*1qeuozc\\*\\_ga\\*ODE2NTUxMTA4LjE3NTA5NDE0MzE.\\*\\_ga\\_14T5LGLSQ3\\*cze3NTA5NDE0MzEkbzEkZzEkDDE3NTA5NDI2NTUkajUzJGwwJGgw](https://files.constantcontact.com/8ced9cab001/25313cd5-e4f0-4fc7-8569-77145dc01f10.pdf?_gl=1*1qeuozc*_ga*ODE2NTUxMTA4LjE3NTA5NDE0MzE.*_ga_14T5LGLSQ3*cze3NTA5NDE0MzEkbzEkZzEkDDE3NTA5NDI2NTUkajUzJGwwJGgw)





In Memory Of  
Rodney Callaway  
and  
David Waller  
who wanted us to  
remember all  
Veteran-Related  
Holidays

Have you ever noticed on TV or at military funerals that the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the American flag 13 times? I've known how the 21 gun salute was determined (adding the individual digits of 1776), but only recently learned why the flag was folded 13 times when it is lowered or when it is folded and handed to the widow at the burial of a veteran. Here it is:

1. The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.
2. The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.
3. The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.
4. The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.
5. The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."
6. The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States Of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.
7. The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.
8. The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.
9. The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.
10. The tenth fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.
11. The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
12. The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.
13. When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust".

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today. There are some traditions and ways of doing things which have deep meaning. You will see many flags folded in the coming weeks, and now you will know why.

The Chaplain

