



Union Lutheran Church

4770 Bringle Ferry Road
Salisbury, NC 28146
704.636.5092
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www.ulcsalisbury.org



6th Sunday after the Epiphany

February 16, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

What does it mean to be blessed? God and the world have two different definitions. The prophet Jeremiah shares God's Word saying, to be blessed is to trust in the Lord and to be cursed is to put our trust in idols and material goods. Jesus taught his followers that they will be blessed when they follow his ways; it will happen when they least expect it: when they are poor, hungry, weeping, hated, and excluded.

Union Lutheran Church welcomes you as you join us in worship this morning. Please fill out the communion/visitor card so that we can be made aware of your presence. If you have questions or are interested in the ministries and life of Union, please see the pastor, contact the church office, or scan the QR code.

We welcome children to be a part of worship. A nursery is also provided for those attending to the needs of infants and small children.

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal

With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal

P=Pastor, C=Congregation, L=Lay Reader

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ORDER FOR WORSHIP

Service of the Word and Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 1

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *Wonderful Words of Life* (Bliss), *I Must Tell Jesus* (Hoffman) and *Trust and Obey* (Sammis and Towner)

Altar Candles and the Christ Candle are lit at this time.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Invocation (Matthew 28:19)

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray, O Lord, graciously hear the requests of your people. May we who are afflicted for our sins be mercifully relieved, for the sake of your glory, to find new life through the love of Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness (1 John 1:8-9)

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **We confess that, apart from Christ, we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**

have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

The minister addresses the congregation:

Absolution (John 20:22-23)

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his only Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. By the authority of Christ himself, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Hymn: *Beautiful Savior*

LBW# 518

1 Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

**2 Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**

**3 Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.**

**4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!**

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904 Tune: Silesian folk tune, 1842
Augsburg Fortress License # SBL10475H © AF Hymns License

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Psalm 1 *Read Responsively*

L ¹Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

C ²**but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.**

L ³He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

C ⁴**The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

L ⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

C ⁶**for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 17:5-8

The first lesson is written from the 17th chapter of Jeremiah.

⁵Thus says the Lord: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. ⁶He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. ⁷Blessed is the

man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. ⁸He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

The second lesson is written from the 15th chapter of 1 Corinthians.

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Children are invited to come forward for the Children's Message.

Following the Children's Message, the congregation will sing "Jesus Loves Me" while the children return to sit with their families.

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 6th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Holy Gospel: Luke 6:17-26

¹⁷{Jesus} came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all. ²⁰And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. ²²Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! ²³Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. ²⁴But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to

you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. ²⁶Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon Series: *Meet My Jesus! At the Foot of the Mountain*

Pastor Heidi Punt

1st week: Meet My Jesus! At the River

2nd week: Meet My Jesus! At the Wedding

3rd week: Meet My Jesus! At Church

4th week: Meet My Jesus! At your Lowest

5th week: Meet My Jesus! At the Lake

P May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Philippians 4:7)

Offering (Malachi 3:10)

The Offering is received while the Hymn of the Day is sung and the Lord's Table is prepared.

All loose offering will go towards the Building & Repair Fund.

The monthly benevolence will go towards Rowan Helping Ministries.

Hymn of the Day: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

LBW# 198

Please remain seated.

- 1** **Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending Comes our homage to demand.**
- 2** **King of kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.**
- 3** **Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way;
As the Light of light, descending From the realms of endless day,
Comes, the pow'rs of hell to vanquish, As the darkness clears away.**
- 4** **At his feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, As with ceaseless voice they cry:
“Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!”**

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-1885, alt. Tune: French folk tune, 17th cent.
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The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Apostles' Creed (Romans 10:9-10)

P Let us join together in confessing our faith with the saints who have gone before us, in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

** Or, He descended to the dead.*

***Or, the holy Christian Church.*

Offertory Prayer (Psalm 96:7-8; Psalm 100:4)

LBW p. 67

A Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Prayers of the Church (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

LBW p. 65

A Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each portion of the prayers:

A Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

Sharing of the Peace (John 20:19)

LBW p. 65

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please remain standing as able.

MEAL

God invites us to His table.

The Great Thanksgiving (2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136)

LBW p. 68-71

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution (32)

LBW p. 69

(Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4)

LBW p. 71

C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

Please be seated.

Those who are assisting with Holy Communion are asked to come forward at this time.

Distribution of Communion (Mark 14:23)

All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the form of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

Please fill out the communion card in the pew and hand to the Usher as you follow their directions to the communion station.

Gluten Free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request.

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Blessing (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

LBW p. 72

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen**

Post-Communion Prayer

LBW p. 74

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

LBW p. 74

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen

Hymn: *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

WOV# 721

- 1 **“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, You are my own.”**
- 2 **“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”**
- 3 **“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”**
- 4 **“I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace;
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, my children; I will keep you and give you peace.”**

Text: Jaroslav Vajda, b. 1919 Music: Welsh Text © 1983 Jaroslav J. Vajda
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Blessing & Dismissal (*Matthew 28:19*)

P You have been nurtured in Word and Sacrament now go therefore and make disciples of all nations

C **Baptizing them in the name of the Father, † Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

P Union Lutheran Church you are sent!

C **Amen, amen, amen**

Postlude: *Lord, be Glorified* (Kilpatrick)

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Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 1 pages 56-76

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The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Dalton Thompson's 11th birthday on February 14 and Karen Barringer on her February 22nd birthday by Ruby Leazer.

During the period of February 01- 15, 2025, the Union Lutheran Church General Fund received revenues totaling \$8,220.00.

During this same period, **\$(9,477.31)** were expended. The result of this two week period is a revenue deficit of **\$(1,257.31)**. For the year to date, the church is operating at a deficit of **\$(6,207.13)**.

John Knight, ULC Treasurer

Attendance Update

February 9	40	Sunday School
February 9	89	Worship & Holy Communion

Part 7: Holy Communion

The Definition & Command of Communion – Part 1



What is Holy Communion? *Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, given to us Christians to eat and drink, as it was instituted by Christ himself.*

(Martin Luther's Small Catechism Sola Publishing 2010 Edition Pocket Version page 28)

Those Serving Today

Pianist: Genevieve Baker

Acolyte: Robyn Arey

Altar Guild: Robyn Arey and Mary Hutchens

Lay Readers and Communion Assistants: Robyn Arey, Vicki Hunter, and Mary Hutchens

Ushers: Larry Barringer, Phil Cauble, Adam Leffew, and Addison Queen

Sound System: Thad Mulkey, Dusty Morgan, Sr., and Dusty Morgan, Jr.

Live Streaming: Pete Nguyen

Offering Counters: Tara Davis, Cathy Painther, and Ron Vellines

Union News

Our Love and Sympathy is extended to Malynda Peeler and Family on the death of Steve Peeler, February 8, 2025.

The congregation is invited to collect canned soup for Rowan Helping Ministries with the Mission Outreach Umbrella for the next two weeks. Please place donations on the Sanctuary floor between pulpit and choir loft.

Please note that the church's phone system is temporarily out of order. To contact the church office please send an email, contact a member of the Church Council, or come by the office Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. We apologize for the inconvenience! Phone equipment, installation, and setup coming soon!

Sunday, February 16, 2025

9:20 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School Opening (*Chapel*)

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Rabbit Hole Adult Sunday School Class ~ Chariots of Fire ~ 2 Kings 2:1-14; John 13:31-35

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School Class ~ Living Lastly ~ 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Matthew 19:16-30

9:30 a.m.-9:45 a.m. Kids Choir (*Chapel*) & Union Youth Choir (*Choir Room*)

9:45 a.m.-10:20 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School

Chariots of Fire ~ 2 Kings 2:1-14; John 13:31-35 *As they still went on a talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. (2 Kings 2:11 ESV)*

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Jeremiah 17:5-8; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

Sermon Series: *Meet My Jesus! At the Foot of the Mountain*

12 noon Squirt's Retirement Party (*Large fellowship hall*)

Please consider donating dog food, cat food or kitty litter in honor of Squirt. These items will be donated to the Rowan County Humane Society.

2:00 p.m. Church Council (*Drew Wise SS Class Conference #1*)

This Week's Schedule

Tuesday, February 18

9:30 a.m. Piedmont East Clergy Meeting

4:00 p.m. Haiti Pastors Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Bible Study (*Dutch Meeting Hall*)

Wednesday, February 19

2:00 p.m. Chapel Time at Autumn Care

4:00 p.m. Bible Study (*Dutch Meeting Hall*)

6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus

6:30 p.m. Catechism Confirmation (*Drew Wise SS Conference #1*)

Thursday, February 20

6:30 p.m. Property, Cemetery & Columbarium

February 23, 2025

9:20 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School Opening (*Chapel*)

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Rabbit Hole Adult Sunday School Class

Esther Becomes Queen ~ Esther 2:5-17a; Luke 14:8-11

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School Class

Ministering Mightily ~ Matthew 25

9:30 a.m.-9:45 a.m. Kids Choir (*Chapel*) & Union Youth Choir (*Choir Room*)

Sunday, February 23, 2025 *continued*

9:45 a.m.-10:20 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School

Esther Becomes Queen ~ Esther 2:5-17a; Luke 14:8-11 *The king loved Esther more than all the women, and she won grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen. (Esther 2:27)*

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Genesis 45:3-15; Psalm 103:1-13; 1 Corinthians 15:21-42; Luke 6:27-38

Sermon Series: *Meet My Jesus! At the Pulpit*

12 noon Adult & Pet First Aid CPR Certification Class *Sign-up sheet in Narthex*

4:00 p.m. Luther League

Deadline for newsletter articles.

Altar Flowers are available for reservations on Sunday, February 23.

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New: Funeral Feeding Groups will meet **Thursday, February 27**, at **4:00 p.m.** in the Drew Wise Sunday School Class Conference #1. Your input is greatly appreciated!

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Union Lutheran Church has formed an Emergency Response Team called the ULC Emergency Response Team (ERT).

Our purpose is to respond to any emergencies that may occur during church worship services or activities at the church. We will assess the situation and call for Emergency First Responders as needed.

ERT members are: Karen Morgan, Jill Miller, Janie Vellines, Tara Davis, Dusty Morgan, Sr., and Brad Trexler.

Please fill out the **medical form** located in the **Narthex** or from the March Messenger of any medical conditions (allergies, heart disease, diabetes, etc.) you have as well as include medications you are taking. Why are we asking for this information? This information will greatly assist the Team as they seek appropriate care during an emergency and to have available for First Responders. This information will be kept private and confidential.

Also, if anyone has a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) or have spoken to family members regarding intent, to please note on the medical form.

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PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

Nursing Homes – Brenda Mahaley (Autumn Care Room 815), Ruth Monroe (Autumn Care Room 818), Jean Ray (Autumn Care Room 201) & Jay Rusher (Autumn Care), Pat Kluttz (Brookdale Room 56), Ann Tucker (Piedmont Health & Rehab Center)

Homebound/Shut-ins Members – Sarah Bame, Rachel Earnhardt, Teresa Kesler, James & Jean Kluttz, William Page, Rev. TC & Mary Plexico, Billy Waller & Michael Walton

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...*continued*

Sick/Surgery/Recovery – Steve Arey, Genevieve Baker, Debbie Cauble-McPherson, Rev. Randall Cauble (ICU), Jean Kluttz, Richard Lyons, Jr., Sylvia Peeler, Macky Swicegood, Jamie Troutman, Ann Tucker, Wayne & Pam Vellines

Continual Prayer – Pastor Enok Haamer, Rev. Doug Hefner Family (daughter died in car accident), Tommy Lamb (Pam Vellines’ uncle), Patsy Lyerly, Dr. Sean Malone (Pam Vellines’ friend), Jeff Matthews (cancer patient), Della Morgan (Pam Vellines’ mother), Tammy Winge (Mark Hunter’s cousin), Union Fire Department #76, Global Missions (Congo, Slovakia, and Haiti), especially for our NC neighbors affected by natural disasters & those affected by political disasters

Please let us know...church staff are not automatically made aware of you or your family members and loved ones who are in the hospital, Hospice, a nursing home or shut-ins at home. This means we cannot minister to them without you letting us know. Please contact the church office (704) 636-5092 to keep us informed.

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OUR MISSION: Christ Centered ~ Mission Driven~ Traditionally-Grounded ~
Congregationally Focused (Matthew 28:18-20)

OUR VISION: “Love God and Love our Neighbor” (Mark 12:30-33)

OUR ACTION PLAN: “By feeding, clothing, visiting, helping...” (Matthew 25:35-40)

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2025 Church Council Members

2023-2025

Ali Davis
Vicki Hunter (Secretary)
Sharon Leazer
Dusty Morgan, Sr. (President)
Debbie Rinehart

2024-2026

Phil Cauble
Kevin Huffman
John Knight (Treasurer)
Thad Mulkey

2025-2027

Karen Barringer
Pete Nguyen (Vice-President)
Brad Trexler

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Lay Ministers

Judy Boyd, Tara Davis, Steve Hutchens, John Kesler, Elbert Kluttz and Deena Lanning

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Union Lutheran Church

Church Office Hours: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

Pastor Heidi Punt, Senior Pastor (pastor@ulcsalisbury.org)

Phil Cauble, Facility Manager

Genevieve Baker, ULC Staff Support (office@ulcsalisbury.org)

