## For Immediate Release

## For more information:

Jefferson Harralson
Chief Financial Officer
(864) 240-6208

Jefferson_Harralson@ucbi.com

## United Community Banks, Inc. Announces Third Quarter Results Continued Strong Profitability, EPS up 42\% year over year

GREENVILLE, SC - October 23, 2018
United Community Banks, Inc. (NASDAQ: UCBI) ("United") realized strong third quarter results, with solid year-over-year loan and deposit growth, favorable efficiency levels and outstanding asset quality trends. Reported earnings per share were $\$ 0.54$, an increase of 42 percent from a year ago. Excluding merger-related and other charges, earnings per share were $\$ 0.55$, up 34 percent compared to last year. United also reported higher profitability ratios with increases in both return on assets and return on tangible equity.

During the quarter, United benefitted from strong core deposit growth, net interest margin expansion as well as strong mortgage and SBA production. Core transaction deposits were up $\$ 70$ million and total customer deposits increased by $\$ 156$ million during the quarter. Compared to last year, mortgage and SBA production increased 23 percent and 10 percent, respectively. Additionally, year-to-date SBA production is 39 percent higher than 2017. Navitas Credit Corporation, United's equipment finance arm, continued to perform well and was a key growth driver for the quarter.
"I am pleased with our third quarter performance and continue to be optimistic about the balance of 2018," said Lynn Harton, President and Chief Executive Officer of United. "Our new markets and investments continue to perform well and we have high expectations for the remainder of the year and beyond. We are pleased that we were able to exceed our return on assets target and are proud to have attained a 1.42 percent return on assets this quarter on an operating basis. I credit our outstanding team for this performance and am proud they were recognized for creating one of the "Best Banks to Work For" by American Banker for the second year in a row."

## Third Quarter 2018 Financial Highlights:

- Return on assets of 1.41 percent, or 1.42 percent, excluding merger-related and other charges
- Return on common equity of 12.0 percent
- Return on tangible equity of 15.8 percent, excluding merger-related and other charges
- Loan growth, excluding planned runoff of the indirect portfolio, of 2 percent on an annualized basis
- Loan production of $\$ 778$ million, as compared to $\$ 617$ million in Q3 2017
- Expansion of the net interest margin to 3.95 percent, up 5 basis points from the second quarter of 2018 and up 41 basis points from a year ago
- Efficiency ratio of 56.8 percent, or 56.4 percent, excluding merger-related and other charges
- Net charge offs of seven basis points, consistent with last quarter
- Nonperforming assets of 0.19 percent of total assets, compared with 0.20 percent at June 30, 2018 and 0.23 percent at September 30, 2017


## Conference Call

United will hold a conference call, Wednesday, October 24, 2018, at 11 a.m. ET to discuss the contents of this press release and to share business highlights for the quarter. To access the call, dial (877) 380-5665 and use the conference number 1270387. The conference call also will be webcast and available for replay for 30 days by selecting "Events \& Presentations" within the Investor Relations section of United's website at www.ucbi.com.

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.
Financial Highlights
Selected Financial Information

${ }^{(1)}$ Excludes merger-related and other charges which includes amortization of certain executive change of control benefits, the fourth quarter 2017 impact of remeasurement of United's deferred tax assets following the passage of tax reform legislation and a first quarter 2017 release of disproportionate tax effects lodged in OCI. ${ }^{(2)}$ Net income less preferred stock dividends, divided by average realized common equity, which excludes accumulated other comprehensive income (loss). ${ }^{(3)}$ Excludes effect of acquisition related intangibles and associated amortization. ${ }^{(4)}$ Annualized. ${ }^{(5)}$ Third quarter 2018 ratio is preliminary.

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.
Non-GAAP Performance Measures Reconciliation
Selected Financial Information


## UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.

Financial Highlights
Loan Portfolio Composition at Period-End

| (in millions) | 2018 |  |  |  |  |  | 2017 |  |  |  | Linked Quarter Change |  | Year over Year Change |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Third <br> Quarter |  | Second <br> Quarter |  | First <br> Quarter |  | Fourth <br> Quarter |  | Third <br> Quarter |  |  |  |  |  |
| LOANS BY CATEGORY |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Owner occupied commercial RE | \$ | 1,673 | \$ | 1,682 | \$ | 1,898 | \$ | 1,924 | \$ | 1,792 | \$ | (9) | \$ | (119) |
| Income producing commercial RE |  | 1,788 |  | 1,821 |  | 1,677 |  | 1,595 |  | 1,413 |  | (33) |  | 375 |
| Commercial \& industrial |  | 1,194 |  | 1,193 |  | 1,142 |  | 1,131 |  | 1,084 |  | 1 |  | 110 |
| Commercial construction |  | 761 |  | 735 |  | 691 |  | 712 |  | 583 |  | 26 |  | 178 |
| Equipment financing |  | 509 |  | 465 |  | 423 |  | - |  | - |  | 44 |  | 509 |
| Total commercial |  | 5,925 |  | 5,896 |  | 5,831 |  | 5,362 |  | 4,872 |  | 29 |  | 1,053 |
| Residential mortgage |  | 1,035 |  | 1,021 |  | 992 |  | 974 |  | 933 |  | 14 |  | 102 |
| Home equity lines of credit |  | 702 |  | 708 |  | 712 |  | 731 |  | 689 |  | (6) |  | 13 |
| Residential construction |  | 198 |  | 195 |  | 190 |  | 183 |  | 190 |  | 3 |  | 8 |
| Consumer |  | 366 |  | 400 |  | 459 |  | 486 |  | 519 |  | (34) |  | (153) |
| Total loans | \$ | 8,226 | \$ | 8,220 | \$ | 8,184 | \$ | 7,736 | \$ | 7,203 |  | 6 |  | 1,023 |
| LOANS BY MARKET |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| North Georgia | \$ | 992 | \$ | 1,001 | \$ | 1,004 | \$ | 1,019 | \$ | 1,047 |  | (9) |  | (55) |
| Atlanta MSA |  | 1,493 |  | 1,533 |  | 1,513 |  | 1,510 |  | 1,477 |  | (40) |  | 16 |
| North Carolina |  | 1,078 |  | 1,067 |  | 1,037 |  | 1,049 |  | 542 |  | 11 |  | 536 |
| Coastal Georgia |  | 610 |  | 623 |  | 635 |  | 630 |  | 634 |  | (13) |  | (24) |
| Gainesville MSA |  | 235 |  | 230 |  | 231 |  | 248 |  | 242 |  | 5 |  | (7) |
| East Tennessee |  | 460 |  | 474 |  | 473 |  | 475 |  | 471 |  | (14) |  | (11) |
| South Carolina |  | 1,586 |  | 1,571 |  | 1,537 |  | 1,486 |  | 1,470 |  | 15 |  | 116 |
| Commercial Banking Solutions |  | 1,530 |  | 1,444 |  | 1,438 |  | 961 |  | 920 |  | 86 |  | 610 |
| Indirect auto |  | 242 |  | 277 |  | 316 |  | 358 |  | 400 |  | (35) |  | (158) |
| Total loans | \$ | 8,226 | \$ | 8,220 | \$ | 8,184 | \$ | 7,736 | \$ | 7,203 |  | 6 |  | 1,023 |

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.
Financial Highlights
Credit Quality

${ }^{(1)}$ Annualized.

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.
Consolidated Statements of Income (Unaudited)

| (in thousands, except per share data) | Three Months Ended September 30, |  | Nine Months Ended September 30, |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2018 | 2017 | 2018 | 2017 |
| Interest revenue: |  |  |  |  |
| Loans, including fees | \$108,335 | \$ 80,264 | \$308,296 | \$ 227,816 |
| Investment securities, including tax exempt of \$1,052, \$671, \$3,049, and \$1,307 | 19,899 | 17,875 | 56,448 | 53,365 |
| Deposits in banks and short-term investments | 487 | 700 | 1,482 | 1,782 |
| Total interest revenue | 128,721 | 98,839 | 366,226 | 282,963 |
| Interest expense: |  |  |  |  |
| Deposits: |  |  |  |  |
| NOW and interest-bearing demand | 1,901 | 700 | 4,317 | 1,932 |
| Money market | 3,261 | 1,953 | 8,019 | 4,938 |
| Savings | 33 | 34 | 117 | 89 |
| Time | 5,746 | 1,870 | 12,900 | 4,257 |
| Total deposit interest expense | 10,941 | 4,557 | 25,353 | 11,216 |
| Short-term borrowings | 274 | 36 | 772 | 177 |
| Federal Home Loan Bank advances | 1,791 | 1,709 | 5,551 | 4,603 |
| Long-term debt | 3,605 | 2,762 | 10,679 | 8,490 |
| Total interest expense | 16,611 | 9,064 | 42,355 | 24,486 |
| Net interest revenue | 112,110 | 89,775 | 323,871 | 258,477 |
| Provision for credit losses | 1,800 | 1,000 | 7,400 | 2,600 |
| Net interest revenue after provision for credit losses | 110,310 | 88,775 | 316,471 | 255,877 |
| Noninterest income: |  |  |  |  |
| Service charges and fees | 9,112 | 8,220 | 26,831 | 29,525 |
| Mortgage loan and other related fees | 5,262 | 4,200 | 15,928 | 13,435 |
| Brokerage fees | 1,525 | 1,009 | 3,598 | 3,565 |
| Gains from sales of SBA/USDA loans | 2,605 | 2,806 | 6,784 | 7,391 |
| Securities gains (losses), net | 2 | 188 | $(1,302)$ | 190 |
| Other | 5,674 | 4,150 | 18,077 | 12,226 |
| Total noninterest income | 24,180 | 20,573 | 69,916 | 66,332 |
| Total revenue | 134,490 | 109,348 | 386,387 | 322,209 |
| Noninterest expenses: |  |  |  |  |
| Salaries and employee benefits | 47,146 | 38,027 | 135,384 | 112,056 |
| Communications and equipment | 5,590 | 4,547 | 15,071 | 14,443 |
| Occupancy | 5,779 | 4,945 | 16,939 | 14,802 |
| Advertising and public relations | 1,442 | 1,026 | 4,341 | 3,347 |
| Postage, printing and supplies | 1,574 | 1,411 | 4,896 | 4,127 |
| Professional fees | 3,927 | 2,976 | 11,435 | 8,391 |
| FDIC assessments and other regulatory charges | 2,228 | 2,127 | 6,677 | 4,758 |
| Amortization of intangibles | 1,681 | 1,212 | 5,426 | 3,085 |
| Merger-related and other charges | 115 | 3,176 | 4,449 | 7,060 |
| Other | 8,236 | 6,227 | 23,425 | 19,660 |
| Total noninterest expenses | 77,718 | 65,674 | 228,043 | 191,729 |
| Net income before income taxes | 56,772 | 43,674 | 158,344 | 130,480 |
| Income tax expense | 13,090 | 15,728 | 37,370 | 50,743 |
| Net income | \$ 43,682 | \$ 27,946 | \$120,974 | \$ 79,737 |
| Net income available to common shareholders | \$ 43,381 | \$ 27,719 | \$120,124 | \$ 79,078 |
| Earnings per common share: |  |  |  |  |
| Basic | \$ 0.54 | \$ 0.38 | \$ 1.51 | \$ 1.10 |
| Diluted | 0.54 | 0.38 | 1.51 | 1.10 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding: |  |  |  |  |
| Basic | 79,806 | 73,151 | 79,588 | 72,060 |
| Diluted | 79,818 | 73,162 | 79,598 | 72,071 |

## UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.

Consolidated Balance Sheets (Unaudited)

| (in thousands, except share and per share data) | September 30, 2018 |  | December 31, 2017 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ASSETS |  |  |  |  |
| Cash and due from banks | \$ | 115,509 | \$ | 129,108 |
| Interest-bearing deposits in banks |  | 196,459 |  | 185,167 |
| Cash and cash equivalents |  | 311,968 |  | 314,275 |
| Securities available for sale |  | 2,587,559 |  | 2,615,850 |
| Securities held to maturity (fair value \$277,473 and \$321,276) |  | 285,739 |  | 321,094 |
| Loans held for sale (includes \$27,325 and \$26,252 at fair value) |  | 27,325 |  | 32,734 |
| Loans and leases, net of unearned income |  | 8,226,466 |  | 7,735,572 |
| Less allowance for loan and lease losses |  | $(60,940)$ |  | $(58,914)$ |
| Loans, net |  | 8,165,526 |  | 7,676,658 |
| Premises and equipment, net |  | 204,080 |  | 208,852 |
| Bank owned life insurance |  | 191,582 |  | 188,970 |
| Accrued interest receivable |  | 33,562 |  | 32,459 |
| Net deferred tax asset |  | 76,944 |  | 88,049 |
| Derivative financial instruments |  | 29,895 |  | 22,721 |
| Goodwill and other intangible assets |  | 325,493 |  | 244,397 |
| Other assets |  | 165,459 |  | 169,401 |
| Total assets | \$ | 12,405,132 | \$ | 11,915,460 |
| LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY |  |  |  |  |
| Liabilities: |  |  |  |  |
| Deposits: |  |  |  |  |
| Noninterest-bearing demand | \$ | 3,296,908 | \$ | 3,087,797 |
| NOW and interest-bearing demand |  | 2,075,479 |  | 2,131,939 |
| Money market |  | 2,060,671 |  | 2,016,748 |
| Savings |  | 680,421 |  | 651,742 |
| Time |  | 1,564,640 |  | 1,548,460 |
| Brokered |  | 551,358 |  | 371,011 |
| Total deposits |  | 10,229,477 |  | 9,807,697 |
| Short-term borrowings |  | - |  | 50,000 |
| Federal Home Loan Bank advances |  | 300,000 |  | 504,651 |
| Long-term debt |  | 285,128 |  | 120,545 |
| Derivative financial instruments |  | 39,116 |  | 25,376 |
| Accrued expenses and other liabilities |  | 149,529 |  | 103,857 |
| Total liabilities |  | 11,003,250 |  | 10,612,126 |
| Shareholders' equity: |  |  |  |  |
| Common stock, $\$ 1$ par value; $150,000,000$ shares authorized; $79,202,479$ and $77,579,561$ shares issued and outstanding |  | 79,202 |  | 77,580 |
| Common stock issuable; 650,338 and 607,869 shares |  | 10,171 |  | 9,083 |
| Capital surplus |  | 1,498,199 |  | 1,451,814 |
| Accumulated deficit |  | $(122,679)$ |  | $(209,902)$ |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss |  | $(63,011)$ |  | $(25,241)$ |
| Total shareholders' equity |  | 1,401,882 |  | 1,303,334 |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | \$ | 12,405,132 | \$ | 11,915,460 |

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.
Average Consolidated Balance Sheets and Net Interest Analysis
For the Three Months Ended September 30,

| (dollars in thousands, fully taxable equivalent (FTE)) | 2018 |  |  |  | 2017 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Average Balance | Interest | Avg. <br> Rate |  | Average Balance |  | Interest | Avg. <br> Rate |  |
| Assets: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Interest-earning assets: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Loans, net of unearned income (FTE) ${ }^{(1)(2)}$ | \$ 8,199,856 | \$108,197 | 5.23 | \% | \$ | 7,149,348 | \$ 80,301 | 4.46 | \% |
| Taxable securities ${ }^{(3)}$ | 2,763,461 | 18,847 | 2.73 |  |  | 2,695,162 | 17,204 | 2.55 |  |
| Tax-exempt securities (FTE) ${ }^{(1)(3)}$ | 152,939 | 1,417 | 3.71 |  |  | 105,151 | 1,098 | 4.18 |  |
| Federal funds sold and other interest-earning assets | 203,707 | 751 | 1.47 |  |  | 183,170 | 883 | 1.93 |  |
| Total interest-earning assets (FTE) | 11,319,963 | 129,212 | 4.53 |  |  | 10,132,831 | 99,486 | 3.90 |  |
| Noninterest-earning assets: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Allowance for loan losses | $(62,322)$ |  |  |  |  | $(60,098)$ |  |  |  |
| Cash and due from banks | 123,290 |  |  |  |  | 103,477 |  |  |  |
| Premises and equipment | 216,775 |  |  |  |  | 203,579 |  |  |  |
| Other assets ${ }^{(3)}$ | 703,915 |  |  |  |  | 599,725 |  |  |  |
| Total assets | \$ 12,301,621 |  |  |  |  | 10,979,514 |  |  |  |
| Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Interest-bearing liabilities: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Interest-bearing deposits: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| NOW and interest-bearing demand | \$ 1,874,397 | 1,901 | 0.40 |  | \$ | 1,863,160 | 700 | 0.15 |  |
| Money market | 2,167,031 | 3,261 | 0.60 |  |  | 2,170,148 | 1,953 | 0.36 |  |
| Savings | 680,640 | 33 | 0.02 |  |  | 593,823 | 34 | 0.02 |  |
| Time | 1,545,020 | 3,351 | 0.86 |  |  | 1,338,786 | 1,548 | 0.46 |  |
| Brokered time deposits | 434,182 | 2,395 | 2.19 |  |  | 109,811 | 322 | 1.16 |  |
| Total interest-bearing deposits | 6,701,270 | 10,941 | 0.65 |  |  | 6,075,728 | 4,557 | 0.30 |  |
| Federal funds purchased and other borrowings | 50,767 | 274 | 2.14 |  |  | 11,313 | 36 | 1.26 |  |
| Federal Home Loan Bank advances | 331,413 | 1,791 | 2.14 |  |  | 574,404 | 1,709 | 1.18 |  |
| Long-term debt | 296,366 | 3,605 | 4.83 |  |  | 154,616 | 2,762 | 7.09 |  |
| Total borrowed funds | 678,546 | 5,670 | 3.32 |  |  | 740,333 | 4,507 | 2.42 |  |
| Total interest-bearing liabilities | 7,379,816 | 16,611 | 0.89 |  |  | 6,816,061 | 9,064 | 0.53 |  |
| Noninterest-bearing liabilities: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Noninterest-bearing deposits | 3,249,218 |  |  |  |  | 2,837,378 |  |  |  |
| Other liabilities | 278,764 |  |  |  |  | 133,212 |  |  |  |
| Total liabilities | 10,907,798 |  |  |  |  | 9,786,651 |  |  |  |
| Shareholders' equity | 1,393,823 |  |  |  |  | 1,192,863 |  |  |  |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | \$ 12,301,621 |  |  |  |  | 10,979,514 |  |  |  |
| Net interest revenue (FTE) |  | \$112,601 |  |  |  |  | \$ 90,422 |  |  |
| Net interest-rate spread (FTE) |  |  | 3.64 | \% |  |  |  | 3.37 | \% |
| Net interest margin (FTE) ${ }^{(4)}$ |  |  | 3.95 | \% |  |  |  | 3.54 | \% |
| ${ }^{(1)}$ Interest revenue on tax-exempt securities and loans has been increased to reflect comparable interest on taxable securities and loans. The rate used was $26 \%$ in 2018 and $39 \%$ in 2017, reflecting the statutory federal income tax rate and the federal tax adjusted state income tax rate. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ${ }^{(3)}$ Securities available for sale are shown at amortized cost. Pretax unrealized losses of $\$ 49.9$ million in 2018 and pretax unrealized gains of $\$ 12.6$ million in 2017 are included in other assets for purposes of this presentation. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ${ }^{(4)}$ Net interest margin is taxable equivalent net-interest revenue divided by average interest-earning assets. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.
Average Consolidated Balance Sheets and Net Interest Analysis
For the Nine Months Ended September 30,


## About United Community Banks, Inc.

United Community Banks, Inc. (NASDAQ: UCBI) is a bank holding company headquartered in Blairsville, Georgia with $\$ 12.4$ billion in assets. The company's banking subsidiary, United Community Bank, is one of the southeast region's largest full-service banks, operating 150 offices in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee at the end of the most recent quarter. The bank specializes in personalized community banking services for individuals, small businesses
and corporations. Services include a full range of consumer and commercial banking products including mortgage, advisory, and treasury management. Respected national research firms consistently recognize United Community Bank for outstanding customer service. For the last five years, J.D. Power has ranked United Community Bank first in customer satisfaction in the Southeast. In 2018, for the fifth consecutive year, Forbes magazine included United on its list of the 100 Best Banks in America. Additional information about the company and the bank's full range of products and services can be found at www.ucbi.com.

## Non-GAAP Financial Measures

This press release, including the accompanying financial statement tables, contains financial information determined by methods other than in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, or GAAP. This financial information includes certain operating performance measures, which exclude merger-related and other charges that are not considered part of recurring operations, such as "operating net income," "operating net income per diluted common share," "operating earnings per share," "tangible book value per common share," "operating return on common equity," "operating return on tangible common equity," "operating return on assets," "operating dividend payout ratio," "operating efficiency ratio," "average tangible equity to average assets," "average tangible common equity to average assets" and "tangible common equity to riskweighted assets." These non-GAAP measures are included because United believes they may provide useful supplemental information for evaluating United's underlying performance trends. These measures should be viewed in addition to, and not as an alternative to or substitute for, measures determined in accordance with GAAP, and are not necessarily comparable to non-GAAP measures that may be presented by other companies. To the extent applicable, reconciliations of these non-GAAP measures to the most directly comparable measures as reported in accordance with GAAP are included with the accompanying financial statement tables.

## Caution About Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements in this press release may constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements are statements that include projections, predictions, expectations, or beliefs about future events or results or otherwise and are not statements of historical fact. Such statements are often characterized by the use of qualified words (and their derivatives) such as "may," "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "intend," "will," "should," "plan," "estimate," "predict," "continue" and "potential" or the negative of these terms or words of similar meaning or other statements concerning opinions or judgments of United and its management about future events. Although United believes that its expectations with respect to forward-looking statements are based upon reasonable assumptions within the bounds of its existing knowledge of its business and operations, there can be no assurance that actual results, performance, or achievements of United will not differ materially from any future results, performance, or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements; such statements are not guarantees of future performance. Forward-looking statements are subject to numerous assumptions, risks and uncertainties that
change over time and could cause actual results or financial condition to differ materially from those expressed in or implied by such statements. Actual future results and trends may differ materially from historical results and or those anticipated depending on a variety of factors, including, but not limited to the factors and risk influences contained in the cautionary language included under the headings "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and "Risk Factors" in United's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 and other periodic reports subsequently filed by United with the SEC, available on the SEC website, www.sec.gov. For any forward-looking statements made in this press release, United claims the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

