



CONOVER
FIRST UNITED
METHODIST

Our Mission:

Bring Them In...

Build Them Up...

Send Them Out!



The Weekly Newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Conover

January 28, 2020

Evangelism - God's Commandment for His People

Evangelism is the proclamation by word and deed to people of the saving act of God through Jesus Christ, with the desire that they trust Christ and become Christian disciples through the work of the church.

Eight months ago, our Pastor and the Church Council asked that a task force committee be formed to look into the future of our church. This committee known as the "Joel" Committee was taken from the Old Testament prophet who encouraged "Then, after doing all those things, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughter will prophesy. Your old men to dream dreams and the young men to see visions." Joel 2:28 (NLT) This 14 member committee was made up from church leadership along with a representation from every age group and longevity in our church. This committee met and prayed in earnest asking God to reveal to us His will and direction for our church.

We are blessed to be a church growing in numbers as well as spiritually and we do embrace a wonderfully welcoming "personality" in our church. Along with these blessings comes the responsibility to make sure we are charting our course in the direction God desires. The Joel Committee studied eleven principles of church growth and in particular the positive growth experienced by Frazer UMC in Montgomery, Alabama, documented in the book "Tried and True". During the Joel committee discussions we dove deeply into the health of our church, the demographics of this community, the needs of the community, our church strengths and weaknesses and what seems like a simple question but one most critical, do we really desire to grow? Growth involves numbers, but more importantly, personal sanctification through the work of the Holy Spirit. Deciding to grow is the most difficult questions any church has to face. It is not an easy one and it is not answered once and for all. Growth always requires change and change is not easy. Change requires an open mind to hear and obey the voice of Christ and a willingness for all members to do their part to be successful.

The recommendation that was adopted by Church Council as a long range plan was to grow by putting our total focus on evangelism. The kind of evangelism we are describing encompasses both proclamation and presence. It is a task that belongs to all members of a congregation wherever they are at work, worship, or leisure. It has been proven that the most effective evangelism happens through the local church. This is a structure of accountability. The concept assumes that evangelism is not complete when a person joins the church, but that is a part of the process of involving that person in the life of the congregation. Evangelism includes every member of this congregation. Evangelism is not a committee in the life of the church, it is the charge of the church.

So how do we drive growth through Evangelism? The scope of the planning process centers on three areas: Ministries, Staff and Facilities. We used the analogy of the three legged stool where it takes all three legs for a stool to function. Likewise, for positive growth we will have ministries that focus on evangelism, a staff that trains and equips people for ministry; and facilities that afford staff and lay people a place to be in ministry. The three must form an equilateral triangle to be effective with each one supporting the other.

Matthew 28:19-20 commands us: "Therefore, Go and Make Disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Continued from front page...

Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you and be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Using a focus on Evangelism, the committee made the following recommendations as goals to the Church Council. These recommendations were adopted and will be used as a guide as we move forward.

Ministries

- 1-Promote Biblical knowledge and understanding to strengthen spiritual growth of adults.
- 2-Provide an engaging and Christ-centered youth and children’s ministry to support families.
- 3-Be the hands and feet of Christ outside of our church walls to reach out and touch people from all backgrounds, specifically those who are hurting and/or are in need.
- 4-Provide opportunities for church members to connect- socially & spiritually- to strengthen & deepen relationships.

Staff

- 1-Love, support and affirm our current staff.
- 2-Explore adding the following full-time/part-time staff positions to support and enhance the ministries of the church. (in order of priority)
 - a. Volunteer/Lay Person Coordinator- responsible for understanding spiritual gifts of members and plugging them into ministries, assists on nominations, provides training for ministry members.
 - b. Communications Specialist- responsible for outreach through social media, photos, website, AV assistance, media.
 - c. Youth Pastor or Director of Children’s/Youth Ministries

Facilities

- 1-Contract with a professional firm to evaluate and develop a Master Plan to support future growth. What would future growth look like or what would a purpose-built structure to further ministry look like.
- 2-Invest resources in the Gray House to ensure structural integrity and usability for youth ministries.
- 3-Identify upgrades/renovations to existing facilities to support church ministry priorities including, but limited to, technology, lighting improvements and furnishings.

Lastly we were tasked to review and update our church vision statement to better match a focus on Evangelism. Whereas our current vision of Bring them in, build them up and Send them out has been effective, the committee recommended a vision statement that most closely defined our church and this was adopted by Church Council.

This new vision statement is a challenge to each member personally and a charge for us collectively as a congregation:

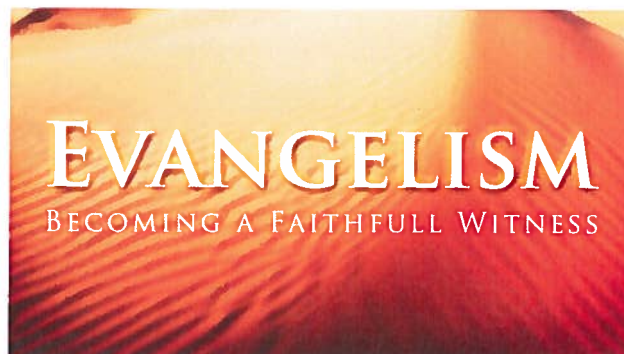
“By knowing Him, we seek to make Him known to all people through the love and grace of Jesus Christ.”

Our fervent desire is that every single church member unite together to make disciples for Jesus Christ. We must say “yes!” to God, putting His goals for our church above our own desires. Will you join us in prayer, repenting of any self-promoting motives, and seeking a deeper and more focused personal relationship with Christ that results in greater personal evangelism?

“Now to Him who by the power that is working within us is able to do far beyond all that we ask or think, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

Ephesians 3:20-21

Lee Moritz Jr.
Lay Leader



PRAYERS, PRAISES AND NEEDS



Let Us Pray...

As an ongoing part of our Nurturing Ministry, we are asking all members of our church to pray for six specific families. Each week we will identify a different group of six families as we work our way through our church roll. Those with an asterisk are non-members. The families for this week are:

Armando & Joyce Lagunas
*Stan & *Judy Lail
Terry, Christy, & Jacob Lail
*Leonard & *Julie Lawing
Jeanne Laws
*Kathryn Leonard



DON'T FORGET OUR MEMBERS IN THE NURSING FACILITIES & OUR HOMEBOUND!

Pauline Parker at Conover Nursing & Rehab (Room 316);
Rick Parker at Catawba Valley Living at Rock Barn (Room 107)
LaVerna Wilson
4801 Edwards Mill Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27612-4417
Grace Whitlock
(Living with her daughter)
9932 Hanover Hollow Drive
Charlotte, NC 28210

Don Barbersek at Trinity Village Rehab (Room 122) Hickory, NC
Betty Moritz, 103 County Home Road
Conover, NC 28613
Dolores Setzer PO Box 1237
Conover, NC 28613

If you know of any homebound members that need to be on our list, please contact the church office at (828) 464-4635.

IN / OUT OF HOSPITAL

Tut Johnston at home

MEMORIALS

Music Fund

In memory of Fred Fisher by:
Don & Brenda Murphy

Organ Fund

In memory of Sadie Clark by:
Nancy Clarke

In memory of Fred Fisher by:
Nancy Clarke
Keith & Tommie Ann Hall
FUMCC United Methodist Men

HONORARIUMS

Boy Scout Troop #322

In honor of Gerald Loftin & the Boy Scout Troop #322 by:
Gail & Norris McRee

Matthew Bolick Scholarship Fund

In honor of Lucas Hernandez on his 26th birthday by:
His grandparents, Charles & Lucy Rockett

MEALS FOR ANDREA LITTLE

Dear Church Family,

Please consider taking a meal to Andrea and Scott Little. The link below has all the information needed to provide a meal for them while Andrea is going through treatment. Thank you for your love and support during this difficult time.

<https://takethemameal.com/MAUM5999>

Kim Thornburg



First United Methodist Church
 410 First Avenue North
 Conover, NC 28613
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Conover, NC

GUESTS for Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020
 Jake Gallagher; Lauren Blanton; John & Margie
 Furmage; Lisa, Megan & Will Johnson; Carolina
 Arru; Scottie Corriher; Dan & Deb Myers & Aiden;
 Jack Sigmon; Hank Beck; Lynn & Mark Murphy;
 Keith Tucker; Joanie, Cass & Heather Taliaferro;
 Stan & Judy Lail; Ashlee Collins; Julie & Leonard
 Lawing; Sharon Benfield; Gary & Sharon Keuper;
 Abigail McAdams; Teresa Myers; Shane Cashion;
 Hernan Puqa-Luna; George & Sharon Derake &
 Rose.

LUNCH BUNCH
February 12, 2020
At 11:30am

Hen & Egg
204 N. College
Newton, NC 28658



**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT &
 OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

The first meeting of the Community Engagement
 Outreach Committee will meet Sunday,
 February 9 at 2:00pm in the Conference room
 for the Prayer Walk planning.



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:
c. some have entertained angels unawares" (Hebrews 13:2)

By Our Service February 2, 2020

Ushers:
 8:45 AM Pat Woods
 11:00 AM Gerald Loftin

Greeters:
 8:45 AM Alice Woods
 11:00 AM Sandy Loftin

Acolyte:
 8:45 AM Drew Fisher
 11:00 AM Christine Van Rooyen

Nursery Workers:
 8:45 AM Lindsay Keisler
 11:00 AM Kim Connor

Thank you Nursery Committee Coordinator for
 February, Laurette Rheeder.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Dr. Gary Royals (pastor@fumcconover.org)
Assistant Pastor of Faith Dev.	Charmaine Van Rooyen (apfd@fumcconover.org)
Administrative Assistant	Robin Mays (fumcc@fumcconover.org)
Music Director	Jonathan Rogers (jsrogers99@gmail.com) (828) 244-7019
Pianist	Shannon Rogers (srog101@gmail.com) (828) 244-6124
Organist	Alex Wilson (organistfumcconover@gmail.com) (803) 810-3396
Preschool Director	Ginger Doub (466-3158) (ps@fumcconover.org)
Lead Nursery Worker	Pilar Tobar
Custodian	Luisa Toro Bryan (828) 464-4635
Church Office	(828) 464-3423
Facsimile	www.fumcconover.org
Website:	(828) 464-4635-church
Pastor's phone numbers	(704) 787-0598-cell
Pastor's address	2161 Augusta National Drive Denver, NC 28037
Assistant Pastor's phone #	(781) 913-4415 - cell
Assistant Pastor's address	1307 8th Avenue NW Conover, NC 28613

NEWS TO USE

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Feb. 1** 8am-4pm Soul Sisters Circle (Kitchen)
Feb. 2 After 8:45am service & 11am service - Offering received for "Souper Bowl of Caring"
Feb. 2 10am - Van - Michele Moritz's SS class
Feb. 4 7-8:30pm Disciple 1 Bible Study (CFLC)
Feb. 6 7pm - Scout Roundtable (CFLC)
Feb. 9 Scouting Ministries Sunday
Feb. 9 2pm - Prayer Walk Planning Meeting (Conference room)
Feb. 9 3:30-7pm Youth Tms & Mtgs (Sanc./GH/ CFLC)
Feb. 9 5-6:30pm Youth-in-Training (Gray House)
Feb. 11 7-8:30pm Disciple 1 Bible Study (CFLC)
Feb. 12 11:30am Lunch Bunch - Hen & Egg
Feb. 12 1pm - Queen Esthers (Clark classroom)
Feb. 14-17 Both Vans - Senior Youth

PASTOR'S QUIZ



"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers," says Hebrews, "for thereby

- others will show hospitality unto you"
- the living God will be pleased"
- some have entertained angels unawares"
- we acknowledge that we are all strangers but in God"

(The correct answer is on the back of the newsletter.)

SOUL SISTERS CIRCLE SOUP SALE

The Soul Sisters Circle will be selling their delicious homemade soups on Sunday, February 2 in the Commons area from 9:30 – 11:15 am between worship services and during the Sunday school hour. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO PREORDER YOUR SOUPS SO WE CAN GUARANTEE YOU GET YOUR CHOICES! Preordered soups are also available to pick up on Saturday, February 1 from 2- 4pm in the kitchen of the Connor Family Life Center. The soups are \$5 for a pint. There are (3) awesome offerings: Cheesy Potato, Chicken with Wild Rice and Vegetables and Hamburger Taco Soup.

You can preorder your soup by calling Rita Deal at (828) 465-7273 and leaving a message or emailing Rita at msdeal@charter.net.

All monies will be used to support our missions. Thank you for your support!
STOCK THOSE FREEZERS!!!



HOME BOUND COMMUNION MINISTRY

We observe Holy Communion the first Sunday of every other month (sometimes special services change this). However, we have a few of our members who are unable to come to church and receive. So, beginning this month, H.A. and Jean Slate will personally take and serve Communion to those who are homebound and those who may be temporarily recovering from medical issues. On the Sundays we observe Communion, they will call ahead and then go that afternoon to the homes or facilities to lead them in this sacred service. The elements will be blessed before being taken out. If you would like to be part of this ministry, call the church office and speak with Pastor Gary.



NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Attention Nursery Volunteers: If you would like to volunteer to assist in the Nursery on Sunday mornings, please sign-up on the clip board located in the Narthex. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older and our Safe Sanctuary Policy required that a background check be performed a week in advance if you are a new volunteer or if you haven't had a check performed in the last 3 years. If you have any questions, please contact Laurette Rheeder at (828) 238-8101.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence January 19, 2020
 Sunday School
 156

Worship:	
8:45 am	141
11:00 am	149
Live Streaming	<u>19</u>
Total	309

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 13,955.31
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,596)</i>	
Boy Scouts	1,125.00
Capital Campaign (Shell Prop.)	70.00
Children's Bank	5.75
Disciple 1 Workbooks	74.00
Matthew Bolick Scholarship Fund	26.00
Music Fund	50.00
Organ Fund	<u>10,325.00</u>
Total	\$ 25,631.06

Fueling Faith

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Acolyte: To all our current Acolytes: If you do not let Wende Briggs know that you do not want to serve, you will be scheduled for 2020.

National Day of Prayer Coordinator - May 7.

Nursery Coordinators: To be responsible for ensuring slots for every worship service is covered.

Prayer Partners - join our group on Tuesdays at 10:45 for an hour.

VBS Director: No date will be set until this position is filled.



January 26, 2020

SAVE THESE DATES

- February 26 - Ash Wednesday
- March 28 - Easter4Kids
- Week of April 6 “*Journey to Jerusalem*”
Prayer Walk
- April 12 - Easter Sunday

Couch Conversations

An alternative to Sunday school.

Sunday mornings 10 - 10:45 in the area outside
Charmaine’s office / Conference Room.

Current Topic: **Discipline for Success**

Journey to Jerusalem—Prayer Walk

First Planning meeting: Sunday, February 9 at 2pm.

Anthony guarantees you will be home in plenty of time for the Super Bowl!

What is **GODLY PLAY**?

Godly Play is a creative, imaginative approach to Christian formation and spiritual guidance.

Godly play values process, openness, discovery, community and relationships.

Godly play models the worship life, stories, symbols and rituals of Christian congregations.

Godly Play nurtures participants to larger dimensions of belief and faith through wondering and play.

FIRST Session: March 8, 4 - 5pm in a Preschool classroom

The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” Luke 17:5



Isaiah 64:8

First United Methodist Church, Conover Youth Ministry 2019-2020

Calendar Watch

February

2 - Souper Bowl of Caring
9 - Youth Meeting & Ministry Teams
14-16 - Ridgehaven (Senior Youth)
23 - Youth Meeting & Ministry Teams

March

6 & 7 - 30-hour famine
22 - Meeting & Ministry Teams

April

5 - Youth Meeting & Ministry Teams
19 - Youth Meeting & Ministry Teams
24-26 - IgniteUs (Middle School)

May

3 - Youth Meetings & Ministry Teams
17 - Youth Sunday
31 - Pentecost / Confirmation



Youth Meeting - 2/9/2020

Our next Youth meeting is Sunday, 2/9. Ministry teams and meetings are at the same times / locations.

3:30 - Praise Team (Sanctuary)
4:15 - Dance Team (CFLC)
5:00 - Youth Meeting (Gray House)
6:30 - Drama (CFLC)

Souper Bowl of Caring - February 2nd

Souper Bowl of Caring is a chance for our youth to collect money during service on the day of the Big Game. 100% of donations will go to The Corner Table. The largest weekend of football will also be a great weekend of caring.

Ridgehaven - Feb 14 - 16

High Schoolers will be going to Ridgehaven. Waiting for registration code. Be watching email.

Another male chaperone is needed.

30-Hour Famine - 3/6 & 3/7

30-Hour Famine is on.
Hand Prints (lots of them) will be done the night of 3/6!
We will need significant help to ensure this event happens, be watching emails.



Join the youth Facebook group, 'FUMCC Youth'. Lots of pictures and information.



For more information about the Youth Ministry at Conover First United Methodist Church, please contact

Charles Hornick (828-381-7231 / charles_h71@charter.net)
Mary Hornick (828-381-7233 / maryhornick1974@gmail.com)

February 2020

February 2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

March 2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 26 - Feb 1	Jan 26	27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1
Feb 2 - 8	2 0-Souper Bowl of Carir 10am Van-Michele Mc 2-4pm Cat.Valley UMW	3 6pm Cub Scouts (CFLC) 7pm Boy Scouts (CFLC)	4 10:45-11:45am - Praye 1pm Prayer Shawl (Coi 3pm UpperRm BS (Cla 7-8:30pm Disciple 1 Bi	5 7pm Choir practice (Cf	6 7pm H&Foot game (V 7pm Scout Roundtabl	7 7pm Domino's (Faithb	8 8am-4pm Soul Sisters until 9am Cubs sleep c
Feb 9 - 15	9 2pm Prayer Walk Plan, 3:30-7pm Yth Tms/Mti 5-6:30pm Yth-N-Traini	10 2pm Circle #2 (Confert 6pm Cub Scouts (CFLC 7-9pm Cub Leader Mtg 7pm Boy Scouts (CFLC	11 10:45-11:45am - Praye 3pm UpperRm BS (Cla 7-8:30pm Disciple 1 Bi	12 1pm Queen Esthers M 7pm Choir practice (Cf	13 7pm H&Foot game (V Cat.Co.Sheriff-Tng. (Sh	14 6:30pm Girl Scouts (CF 7pm Domino's (Faithb Both Vans-SR. Youth (I Cat.Co.Sheriff-Tng. (Sh	15 Both Vans-SR. Youth (I
Feb 16 - 22	16 3-5pm GS Gold Award Both Vans-SR. Youth (I	17 6pm Cub Scouts (CFLC) 7pm Boy Scouts (CFLC 7pm Circle #5 (Conf. r Both Vans-SR. Youth (I PRESCHOOL CLOSED I	18 10:45-11:45am - Praye 3pm UpperRm BS (Cla 7-8:30pm Disciple 1 Bi	19 12pm Goodtimers Lun 7pm Choir practice (Cf	20 6:30pm UMM Meeting 7pm H&Foot game (V	21 7pm Domino's (Faithb	22 2-4pm Bridl Shwr-by A
Feb 23 - 29	23 3:30-7pm Yth Tms/Mti 5-6:30pm Yth-N-Traini	24 6pm Cub Scouts (CFLC) 7pm Boy Scouts (CFLC	25 10:45-11:45am - Praye 3pm UpperRm BS (Cla 5PM-PANCAKE SUPPE 7-8:30pm Disciple 1 Bi	26 6pm-ASH WEDNESDA 7pm Choir practice (Cf	27 6-8pm UMM - Drums/ 7pm H&Foot game (V	28 6:30pm Girl Scouts (CF 7pm Domino's (Faithb	29

First UMC

Birthdays

Who = (everyone except removed); Filter = Birthday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Jody Brackett Jessica Crooks Morgan Fulbright	3 Caylee Cannon Melissa Hunsucker		5 Christine Van Rooyen Michael Van Rooyen			1 Brenda Heafner Margaret Kilpatrick
9 Elaine Biles Taylor Rockett Hannah Whisnant	11 Gerald Loftin Anne Spencer		12 Matthew Hornick Jean Slate		14 Melissa Fisher	15 Anna Rockett
16 Lisa Hernandez Brad Little Felicia Little Chris McCoy	18 John Sherbert		19 Grace Ann Beatty Jack Hoke	20 Peggy Currie	21 Doug Rockett	22 Finley Cloninger Tyler Johnson
23 Diane Howard Mack Little	25 Jessica Koenig Kelly Matthews		26 Kaitlin Hornick	27 Anita Deal Kathy Martin	28 Donna Rudisill Harvey Watson	

First UMC

Wedding Anniversaries

Who = (everyone except removed); Filter = Wedding

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Scott and Michelle Gilleland	3 Clay and Vicki Rockett	4 Linville and Betty Couch	5 Leonard and Patricia Walling			
	10 Wade and Linda Taplin		12 Rodney and Darlene Burgess			15 Michael and Tammy Goode
			26 Al and Lisa Hernandez	27 Eric and Kim Connor		