



CONOVER  
FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST

***Our Mission:***

***Bring Them In...***

***Build Them Up...***

***Send Them Out!***



*The Weekly Newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Conover*

*April 21, 2020*

With the spread of the COVID-19 virus and the precautions we are all taking, we have had to cancel or postpone many of our planned events. **Homecoming** was scheduled for Sunday, May 3 with my dear friend, Dr. Ken Lyon, as the speaker. I have talked with Ken and he is willing to come later if we wish to do it. I think it would be great to move it to a date this summer where we can all **come together** for fellowship, worship, celebration of our history and the sharing of a meal. We will keep you up to date on the plans.

**Youth Sunday** was planned for Sunday, May 17 when our wonderful youth do the entire worship service in the family life center. This is always a highlight and a great blessing for all of us! With the number of seniors we have this year who really want to lead this service, we are going to re-schedule it for a later date this summer.

You probably know by now that the **General Conference** of the United Methodist Church, which was scheduled for May 5 – 15, has been postponed until sometime in 2021. This means that our current stand on the issue of sexuality and other matters continues until then.

I have just received notice that our **Annual Conference** has been postponed from the dates of June 18 – 21 and will be re-scheduled **Saturday, August 8**. This will be a one – day event which will include the business, worship and commissioning/ordination of candidates. Our own Charmaine will be commissioned as a Provisional Deacon and officially appointed to our church on this day!

The **Easter Cantata**, which was supposed to be presented on Sunday, March 29, was postponed because of the ruling that groups of more than 10 cannot meet together. This is a BEAUTIFUL cantata and our plan is to have our choir present it to us this summer when we are finally back together.

**Did you hear all of this??** This summer is going to be a busy and, I believe, exciting time when we can once again be together and celebrate these services which we had to, temporarily, cancel. So, a new schedule of services will be forthcoming soon.

"What harm this virus has intended to do to us.....the Lord has brought good from it".....  
Genesis 50:20.

**Dr. Gary**

# \*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:

Wendy Norman  
Bill & Brenda Novotny  
Bonnie Otterberg  
John & Elizabeth Padgett  
Sethu Palmer  
Rick & Linda Parker



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

Pauline Parker - Conover Nursing & Rehab  
(Room 316);

Rick Parker - Catawba Valley Living at  
Rock Barn (Room 107)  
4174 Shook Road  
Claremont, NC 28610

LaVerna Wilson  
4801 Edwards Mill Rd.  
Raleigh, NC 27612-4417

Betty Fisher - Catawba Living at Rock Barn  
(Room 200)  
4174 Shook Road  
Claremont, NC 28610

Nell Johnson  
Kingston Residence  
904 2nd Street NE, Apt. 109  
Hickory, NC 28601  
(828) 328-9920 - landline  
(828) 228-7396 - cell

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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**

Dianne Hollar at CVMC (At home)

## **THANK YOU**

Dear church family,  
Your prayers, cards and phone calls when our son died have meant so very much to our family. You and our faith in God has sustained us in these difficult times. Thank you for your continued love and support.

Jim & Jeanette Davis

## **ECCCM VOLUNTEER DAY**

### **FOR FUMCC**

Tuesday, May 5th is the church's day to volunteer at ECCCM.

ECCCM is in desperate need of volunteers for their food pantry! All of their regular volunteers are in the high risk category for COVID-19, so they are understandably staying home. They are looking for volunteers that are currently out of work or school who would like to help. They have redesigned their pantry to allow for safe social distancing. They require masks, so they ask that you bring your own if possible. If not, they will provide one. Please contact Christina at (828) 465-1702, ext. 123 to schedule volunteer hours.

Thank you!

P.S. Thank you so much for volunteering with us in the month of March. Your church worked a total of 164.5 hours with 6 volunteers. We had a great time with you and look forward to working with you all again!

Allen Sherrill, Director of Food Pantry Operations

## **LADIES' LUNCH BUNCH MEETING**

Hi Ladies,  
We were unable to meet in April due to COVID-19. Hopefully we will be able to meet together on Wednesday, May 13th at 11:30am at the Olde Hickory Station located at 232 Government Avenue SW, Hickory if the "stay at home" ban is lifted. We hope to see everyone there for good fellowship and great food!

Debra Byrd  
(828) 228-3310



# NEWS TO USE

## WORSHIP

**Worship with us Sundays at 10:30am by viewing our livestream at <http://www.fumcconover.org/live> or on our Facebook page by searching for First United Methodist Church of Conover.**

## PASTOR'S QUIZ



In his second letter, Peter explains that the prophecies of Scripture are a matter of private interpretation

- a. never
- b. always
- c. rarely
- d. often

## **STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

By Our Presence April 12, 2020  
Sunday School  
N/A

Worship:  
Live Streaming 221 Households  
Total 552

### **God's Tithe & Our Gifts**

General Fund	\$ 12,609.00
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,596)</i>	
Capital Campaign (Shell Prop.)	10.00
Children's Bank	33.00
Local Missions	50.00
Organ Fund	50.00
UMCOR (Disaster Relief - TN)	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,852.00</b>

## **STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

By Our Presence April 19, 2020  
Sunday School  
N/A

Worship:  
Live Streaming 191 Households  
Total 477

### **God's Tithe & Our Gifts**

General Fund	\$ 10,197.50
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,596)</i>	
Capital Campaign (Shell Prop.)	10.00
Children's Bank	8.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,215.55</b>

Dear friends,

This past week was a time of reflection for me. I realized that 2020 was the first time in my life that I have not been in church worshipping on Easter morning! The same is true for my children. I remembered the first time I carried my babies into a church - Easter Sunday 2007 at Grace United Methodist Church in Lynn, MA.

We are all experiencing "firsts" in 2020. Who thought we would ever \* be home-schooling, \* experience a shortage of toilet paper, \* not step foot in a church for weeks on end, \* fall out of bed and onto the couch with a cup of coffee to worship via livestream in our PJ's, or \* take in Holy Communion in their own homes but together with hundreds of others?

That brings me to another first... While I was here in the sanctuary last Sunday, my family was spurred into action to find Communion elements when Pastor Gary reminded them to do so at the beginning of the Service. How did my clan celebrate the Lord's Supper? With Oreo's and milk. I believe that our Lord would have smiled! And I can only hope that every time they eat Oreo's again they will remember the act of Communion! I wondered how you all celebrated Communion?

We cannot be together YET. I was thinking it might be fun to compile a booklet of all the ways we are worshipping now. If you want to be part of this unique effort, please send me selfies / pictures of you and your family as you tune in for worship on Sundays. It will be a judgement-FREE zone.

And do let me know how you experience God at work in your life during this time of isolation.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you,

Charmaigne



First United Methodist Church  
 410 First Avenue North  
 Conover, NC 28613  
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**GUESTS for Sunday, April 12, 2020:**  
 221 households viewed by live-streaming at  
 2.5 persons per household = 552

**GUESTS for Sunday, April 19, 2020:**  
 191 households viewed by live-streaming at  
 2.5 persons per household = 477

**PROTECTION AGAINST COVID-19**

Church family,

Coronavirus is with us and could be around for the next few weeks. Here are some steps that may help you avoid or reduce your exposure to COVID-19.

**To protect yourself, you can:**

- Clean your hands often, preferably with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with someone who is sick; has traveled to one of CDC designated level 2 or 3 countries or has been diagnosed positive with the coronavirus.
- **Stay home if you are sick or have been exposed.**
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that people touch frequently.

**Resources for more information about COVID-19:**

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website  
 North Carolina Coronavirus Hotline:  
 1-866-462-3821

South Carolina Centers for Disease Control:  
 1-800-232-4635

Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

*a. never (2 Peter 1:20)*

**All Events & Meetings have been cancelled until further notice.**

**We will reassess and communicate after April 30, 2020.**

**MEMORIALS**

**General Fund**

In memory of Nancy Anderson by:  
 Michael Anderson

**Organ Fund**

In memory of Jimmy Davis, Jr. by:  
 Pat & Alice Woods

**CHURCH STAFF**

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