



CONOVER  
FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST

***Our Mission:***

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

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

***Send Them Out!***



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

*May 5, 2020*

### **COUNCIL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION**

While we become more and more anxious to get back to normal, it is important that we continue to be patient during this time. As Ecclesiastes 7 reminds us - "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit". And as Proverbs 28 tells us - "He that is of proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the Lord shall be made fat". The latter will likely be my explanation to the doctor when this COVID shutdown is over.

Following is a summary of North Carolina's proposed reopening plan regarding churches.

1. North Carolina's "Stay at Home" order is extended to May 8 and continues to limit meetings to groups of 10 or less.
2. Phase 1 continues this limit for 2-3 weeks (thru May 22 or May 29).
3. Phase 2 proposes allowing church meetings to resume with a currently undefined reduced capacity for an additional 4-6 weeks which could potentially run from June 19 to July 10.
4. Phase 3 proposes allowing increased capacities at restaurants, other businesses, houses of worship, etc. but still encourages social distancing and minimizing exposure for vulnerable populations which includes a number of our members. Proposed limits and duration of this phase are not currently provided in the plan.

Even though we are all hopeful this timeline can be accelerated based on a decline in infections and deaths, it will likely be some time before our church services and events will be back to "normal". Council discussions are in process as we prepare to resume our worship services. More information will be forthcoming as decisions are made.

The Council is also monitoring the financial condition of the church on a weekly basis and has a plan in place to modify spending if it becomes necessary to do so at some point. Currently, the church remains financially sound and so blessed as indicated by the following financial report:

1. Revenues. Offerings since live church services were discontinued on March 15 are \$7,234.86 (8.21%) under budget for the period; however, we are \$19,524 over budget for the year as a result of strong giving and several prepayments of annual pledges in early 2020.
2. Expenses. Due to cancelation and/or delay of certain events plus efforts to monitor and minimize non-essential and uncommitted expenses during this time, the church's total expenses through 4/18/20 including preschool expenses are approximately \$30,000 less than operating revenues. While some deferred expenses may hit later in the year, this allows us to build some additional cushion until the long term financial effect of COVID-19 is realized in the church, the community, state, nation and world.

(continued on next page)

# \*PRAYERS, PRAISES AND NEEDS\*

3. Operating Funds. The church currently has sufficient revenues and unrestricted funds to continue operations and support our local and foreign mission commitments. We will continue to monitor our revenues, expenses and financial position as assistance needs will most assuredly increase in the coming days, weeks and months.

In addition to the above, the "Shepherd" contact program was implemented to reflect the church's love and concern for each member's physical, emotional and financial situation during this time. If you or anyone you know has not been contacted or is in need of assistance, please let the Pastors, your Shepherd, Robin or me know so we may follow-up. Our goal is that you "Stay Safe, Stay Strong and Know that you are loved".

Sincerely, Bob Goodson



## **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  
Cell - (828) 302-6608

Nell Johnson  
Kingston Residence  
904 2nd Street NE, Apt. 109  
Hickory, NC 28601  
(828) 328-9962 - 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**

Ray Penley (Surgery on 5/5/20)



## *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:*

Mark, Faith & Saryn Pennell  
Jo Anne Phillips  
Craig, Marea & Mary Pinto  
Nicholas, Crystin, Camryn & Connor Pittman  
Betty Prater  
Anthony, Stephen & Taylor Price

## **MEMORIAL**

### **Organ Fund**

In memory of Jimmy Davis, Jr. by:  
Mark & Rita Deal



# 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 first letter, John said that if we say we have fellowship with God while we walk in darkness, we

- lie
- presume
- equivocate
- concede

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

## 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



## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence May 3, 2020  
Sunday School  
N/A

Worship:	
Live Streaming	163 Households
Total	407

### God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 15,331.00
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,596)</i>	
Capital Campaign (Shell Prop.)	610.00
Children's Bank	39.30
Local Missions	100.00
(GF) Reimbursement of Annual	
Conference Expense	269.00
Organ Fund	100.00
Total	\$ 16,449.30

## TO FUMCC'S CHILDREN

Hello boys and girls. I have really missed seeing all your happy faces not being able to be at Sunday school for awhile now. I hope you are enjoying your time spent with family. I thank God for the beautiful days and that we can spend time outdoors. I hope you all are taking time during your day to read the bible and pray. I thought I would take time and connect with each of you through a letter.

In bible times, people sent and received letters. In those times there were no telephones of any type. There were no computers. You couldn't text or send E-Mails. The letters people sent were ways they could be in touch with their family, friends, and those they did business with. Also, because there were no radios or televisions, letters delivered news from city to city and town to town.

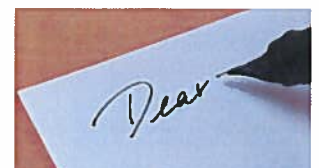
The Apostle Paul wrote letters to the early Christian churches that he started in cities. He answered many questions, he helped believers understand how to behave as Christians. Paul also reminded the people of the teachings of Jesus.

Lucky for us the people saved the letters Paul wrote to the churches. These letters have been collected and put into the bible, so at any time we can read them. Paul's story is told in Acts 7:58 – 28:31 and throughout his New Testament Letters.

Do you save any of your cards and letters you have received? Do you know anyone that saves letters or cards from you? It is fun to send and receive letters. It is nice to save some of them to, so that when you are grown up, you will always remember your family and friends and the news they shared with you. I encourage you today or in the days to come, to take a few minutes and write a letter to a special someone.

Loving God, thank you for the letters from the Apostle Paul. We are glad he wrote them and we can read them.

Until we can all be together again, God bless each and everyone of you.  
Julie Patterson, Sunday School Coordinator



First United Methodist Church  
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 Conover, NC 28613  
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**GUESTS for Sunday, May 3, 2020:**  
 163 households viewed by live-streaming at  
 2.5 persons per household = 407

**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. lie, (1 John 1:6)*

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

**We will communicate with you when we will be able to gather together again for worship and other events.**

**UPPER ROOMS**

The May / June "Upper Room" devotional books are in the racks for you to pick up and use. One rack is located in the upper hallway by the water fountain, and the other is located on one of the tables outside the Conference Room by the offices.

**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
Assistant Pastor's phone #	(781) 913-4415 - cell
Assistant Pastor's address	1307 8th Avenue NW Conover, NC 28613