



CONOVER
FIRST UNITED
METHODIST

Our Mission:

Bring Them In...

Build Them Up...

Send Them Out!



The Weekly Newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Conover

June 2, 2020

COUNCIL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

The following information and insight is provided to the congregation of FUMCC related to the planning and implementation of church guidelines and procedures for resuming in person indoor worship services.

As most of you are aware the Administrative Council of FUMCC met on May 17, 2020 to begin formalizing plans and procedures for resuming indoor worship in the near future as current guidelines and common sense dictate. Part of the problem & frustration is that some of the guidelines and common sense don't seem to agree as do many of the opinions of fellow members and leaders of the church.

Typically, it has been fairly easy for me to identify, evaluate and address most problems and issues in my personal life, work life and spiritual life; however, the current combination of health and societal problems are the worst and most depressing I have experienced in my lifetime. COVID-19 is a pandemic situation and is severe, but it is being unnecessarily compounded by the world's social and political problems. There is so much hate and mistrust in society today resulting primarily from misrepresentation and misinformation (both accidental and intentional) plus personal and political agendas caused by greed and envy. When we get to the point that we can't trust what we read, hear or see in the news or what we are being told by others, our society has a severe problem, no matter what the situation. Unless our individual motives are in line with what is best for our fellow man and society in general, we are failing to do our Lord's will.

The COVID-19 Plan of Action included in the newsletter today contains numerous areas of potential disagreement, many of which I can argue or support either way. I say that to say this, we do not have the perfect answer except through Jesus as He taught us in Matthew 6.

*"Our Father which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."*

Let us each seek and accept God's will for ourselves, the church, and the world as we continue to structure and prepare to initiate the church's Plan for resuming indoor worship services and as we attempt to help solve the problems of the world today.

Sincerely, Bob Goodson, Council Chair

(Plan is included as an insert).

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. The families for this week are:

Tony & Sheila Rowe
Dr. Gary & Debbie Royals
Donna Rudisill
Lisa Rudisill
Mary Rudisill
Lori Schulze



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

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

None

YOUNG ADULTS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

If you are a high school graduate the Young Adult Sunday School Class is looking for you! You are invited to join our class! Please send me your email address and you can join us as I send a note and an e-devotion to you each week. We look forward to resuming class as soon as that is possible! I look forward to getting to know you and to studying God's Word with you! In the meantime please let me know if there is anything I can do to help or encourage you!

Connie Henderson cls.henderson@gmail.com



OBSERVANCE OF HOLY COMMUNION

We will be taking Holy Communion together this Sunday, June 7th via live stream. When you gather for the service, please have ready with you some bread and a cup or cups of juice.

Dr. Gary

PRESENTATION OF CHILDREN'S BANK MONEY FOR JAN-MAR

The Children's Bank money was presented to the Newton-Conover High School to go towards the purchase of team rings for the Girl's Basketball State Championship team that otherwise would not have the funds to do this. The amount of the Children's Bank was \$537.07.

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 2nd letter, John wrote that "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine [of Christ],

- receive him unto your house and seek to make him believe"
- receive him into your house but argue not with him"
- receive him not into your house"
- leave the house yourself"

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

SPECIAL CALLED CHARGE CONFERENCE

We will have a special called Charge Conference on Sunday, June 7 at Noon for the purpose of establishing a compensation package along with tax exemptions and deferrals for Charmaine as she will be officially appointed to our church as of July 1. This will be a brief meeting and will be held just outside of the CFLC in the parking lot where we can practice "social distancing". Only members of the Church Council will have a vote.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence May 31, 2020
Sunday School
N/A

Worship:	
Live Streaming	151 Households
Total	377

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 8,445.00
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,596)</i>	
Capital Campaign (Shell Prop.)	2,000.00
Children's Bank	45.00
Organ Fund	750.00
Total	\$ 11,240.00

CLASS OF 2020 - College

Let these graduates know how proud we are of them.

Aaron Little: Appalachian State University - Accounting. Works at Martin Starnes in Hickory.

Ashley Baucom: Lenoir Rhyne University - BS Human and Community Services. Plans to start her Masters Degree at LRU.

Brooke Carswell: Associates Degree of Nursing. Will work at Catawba Valley Medical Center as a RN.

Chelsea Puga-Luna: Magna Cum Laude from Liberty University with Bachelor of Science in Business Leadership. In the fall she plans to pursue her Master of Business Administration in Human Resources. After Graduate School she plans to work in the area of Corporate Management.

Courtney Patterson: UNC Charlotte - Master of Criminal Justice. She hopes to work in the area of Rehabilitation and Probation.

Emma Hamilton: Will graduate from ASU in December with a major in Exercise Science and a minor in nutrition and Foods. She plans to enter graduate school in the fall of 2021 for her Masters in Public Health with the goal of becoming a Registered Dietician.

John Lewis Walker: Wake Forest University - Major in Finance and Minor in Statistics. He hopes to work in Investment Banking.

Kyle Moritz: Appalachian State University - Business Administration. He hopes to join the Management Team of Interstate Foam and Supply in August.



First United Methodist Church
 410 First Avenue North
 Conover, NC 28613
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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:

c. receive him not into your house" (2 John 1:10)

GUESTS for Sunday, May 31, 2020:
 151 households viewed by live-streaming at
 2.5 persons per household = 377

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Dr. Gary Royals (pastor@fumconover.org)
Assistant Pastor of Faith Dev.	Charmaigne Van Rooyen (pastorcharmaigne@gmail.com)
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

FUMCC COVID-19 Plan for Resuming Indoor Worship.

Basis & Purpose of the Plan. The designation of COVID-19 as a worldwide pandemic with a high risk of infection and death has initiated a multitude of restrictions, guidelines and uncertainty in our lives. In order to reduce the risk of infection and death to the pastors, staff, congregation and community, FUMCC adopted the following guidelines which are consistent with the "Guidelines for In-Person Worship & Ministry during COVID-19" of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church which complies with federal and state COVID-19 guidelines - all of which are subject to modification as situations change. The Conference recommends no in person, indoor worship through at least June 30. Basic components of the "Plan" include:

Enhanced Cleaning and Sanitation. All areas of use and points of contact are to be sanitized prior to and/or immediately after each service or event including between services. We are currently trying to determine the most efficient process that is least damaging to pew seats and backs. Additional ushers/volunteers are needed.

Screening. Prior to entering the sanctuary, each individual and/or family shall be asked several COVID related questions related to symptoms, recent travel and exposure to anyone who has tested positive or been diagnosed with COVID-19. Additional ushers/volunteers are required to assist.

Temperature Screening. "No touch" and digital thermometers have been purchased to check the temperatures of individuals and family members. If any individual or family member has a temperature of 100 or more after two tries, the family will be requested to return home and watch service via livestream or Facebook. Additional ushers/volunteers are required to assist.

Social distancing. A minimum distance of 6' between individuals and/or family units is necessary to reduce the risk of infecting fellow members. Key factors effecting this guideline are:

- Seating capacity in the sanctuary is reduced from just over 200 to as few as 42 but no more than 100 (absolute maximum) based on family size and combinations in attendance. Reservation seating appears the best option to maximize attendance and minimize having to turn people away. Overflow seating may be available in the family life center depending on the availability of additional ushers, screeners and technicians.

- It will be necessary for ushers to seat individuals and families in order to maximize seating in the most efficient manner. Entry seating will be from front to back. Exit leaving will be from back to front as directed by the ushers.

Facemasks. The wearing of Facemasks is not mandatory but is strongly recommended by the council; however, ushers and other participants in the service who must be in close proximity to others due to the nature of their participation are expected to wear masks.

Modification of Worship Services. Worship service activities are modified as follows: 1) No physical contact (shaking of hands or hugging) including pastors, ushers or greeters; 2) No live choir, praise band or congregational singing; 3) No offering plates are to be passed; 4) No bulletins or handouts are to be provided; and 5) except for prayer cards, all hymnals and other materials have been removed from pews.

A congregational survey is planned in the near future (hopefully sometime this week) to estimate worship attendance preferences by age, family size, service type, location, conditions for return, individual needs, etc. This will help the council estimate attendance and potential overflow, number of ushers/volunteers needed to project a possible start date.

If you have any questions or recommendations, please call me at 828-638-8524 or e-mail me at regoodson@bellsouth.net.



Rising Hope Farms
3775 Bethany Church Road
Claremont, NC 28610
www.risinghopefarms.com

May 4, 2020

Dear Rising Hope Supporter,

We pray this letter finds you and your loved ones well. We are all experiencing such unprecedented times right now.

Here at Rising Hope, we are anxiously preparing for the day we are able to resume our programs and see the smiles our precious riders bring! Our current plans are to try to resume programming in July, assuming all the state and local authorities permit.

Even though we are not able to hold programming, our expenses continue. Horses still need food and medicine, and the grounds still need maintenance.

We know circumstances are difficult for many, but if you are able, please think about making a donation to Rising Hope so that we will be able to be ready when the day comes to reopen our programming.

Thank you so much for your prayerful consideration.

Peace, Hope and Joy

Gail Wartner

Executive Director
Rising Hope Farms
(828) 638-0879