



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 30, 2020

COMING BACK TO CHURCH!!!!

Thank you so much for being patient with us as we have struggled to find a way to open the doors of the church in a safe manner. We have listened to our government and denominational leaders and have not gathered for worship since March 8.....can you believe it?? During this time we have greatly missed being together in worship and fellowship. As our nation begins to open back up, we feel that there is a way we can once again gather together for worship. Here it is.

We will open up church for worship **Sunday, July 12 with three services: 8:45, 10:00 and 11:15.** Each of the services will be about 40 minutes in length, much like they are now with live streaming. The 8:45 and 11:15 services will both be held in the sanctuary and will be traditional in style. There will be no congregational singing at either of these services but there will be instrumental music. Face masks will be required at both. The 10:00 service will be held in the Connor family life center and will be contemporary in style and more "relaxed" in nature. Face masks are recommended but not required. There will be one congregational song at this service led by the praise team. If greeting and socializing is important to you.....this is your service. In all three services, we will practice social distancing in seating, offering plates will be on stands at the doors, and no bulletins will be passed out. **There will be a strict process of coming into the church for all people.** You will see details of this in the insert contained in this newsletter. The sanctuary and FLC will be sanitized before all services. **As always, if you do not feel comfortable coming to church or have issues which make it dangerous to be around other people.....you can stay home and continue to live stream the service.** Please note that this is our **STARTING POINT** for coming back to church. As we go along, we will adjust the situation until we can once again have "normal" services. This is our goal. During this time, we ask for your understanding as well as suggestions to help us in our endeavor to offer corporate worship in an effective and safe manner.

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. The families for this week are:

Toni Smith
Thad & Margie Sparkman
Alice Spencer
Mike, Anne, Samantha, & Zander Spencer; Saiyior
Spencer-Wooten
Troy, Suzanne, Logan & Camden Spencer; Felicia & Taylor
Little;
Debi Sprague



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 - Valley Nursing & Rehab (Room 606)
581 NC-16 S Taylorsville 28681
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

MEMORIAL General Fund

In memory of Randy Abernathy by:
Kathy & Larry Deal
Alice Lippard
Tracy Miller
Dennis & Karen Ester

Local Missions Fund

In memory of Nancy W. Murray by:
Bob & Lois Goodson

Organ Fund

In memory of Randy Abernathy by:
Bob & Lois Goodson
Brad & Kim Little
(Given last week) - UMM of FUMCC

In memory of Jimmy Davis, Jr. by:
Bob & Lois Goodson

NEW ADDRESS

Alex Wilson
211-C 1st Avenue North
Conover, NC 28613

THANK YOU

Dear FUMC family,
Perhaps you sent us flowers or made us a meal.
Perhaps you sent a lovely card or maybe we saw you there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest words that any friend could say. Perhaps you were not there at all but kept us in your thoughts and prayers. Our loving thanks to you all for the phone calls, cards and prayers sent our way.

Love, The Randy Abernathy family

IN OBSERVANCE OF JULY 4TH

THE CHURCH OFFICE

WILL BE CLOSED

ON THURSDAY, JULY 2ND

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



"I am Alpha and Omega," said

- a. Jesus
- b. the Lord, the Almighty
- c. Satan
- d. Michael

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence June 28, 2020
Sunday School
N/A

Worship:
Live Streaming 146 Households
Total 365

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 11,114.00
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,596)</i>	
Capital Campaign (Shell Prop.)	10.00
Children's Bank	33.00
Local Missions Fund	30.00
Music Fund	50.00
Organ Fund	<u>160.00</u>
Total	\$ 11,397.00

NEWS FROM ECCCM

Pastor & Congregation,
Thank you so much for volunteering with us last month! Your church worked a total of 30.5 hours with 8 volunteers during May 2020.

If anyone in your congregation would like to volunteer with us regularly, please contact Allen Sherrill at (828) 465-1702 or at a.sherrill@ecccm.org.

Next volunteer day: Tuesday, July 7, 2020

Children's Ministry News



The time has arrived for us to start "feeding the little lambs" as Jesus instructed us to do in Matthew 19:14 when He said: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Two major activities are planned for July 2020.

VBS-in-a-Box

Each child (2-12) will receive their very own box containing what they need to participate in live ZOOM sessions. There will also be a 'Family Time' activity for each learning goal.

To register: Email pastorcharmaigne@gmail.com to sign up for this DIY/ZOOM VBS. Grandparents, by all means sign up your grandchildren too!! When you register let me know the ages of the children that will participate so that I may customize activities to best engage your child.

Wave Parade 2020

July 25th. Time to be announced. Children will be greeted at different 'parade stops' by our pastors and children's ministry volunteers. Along the way they will receive goodies, Sunday school material and some other "fun elements". You do not want to miss this!!

As we embark on this NEW way of ministering to our precious children; may we be able to echo the words of 3 John 1:4 "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

Blessings and prayers, Charmaine

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

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 Conover, NC

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

GUESTS for Sunday, June 28, 2020:
 146 households viewed by live-streaming at
 2.5 persons per household = 365

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Dr. Gary Royals (pastor@fumconover.org)
Assistant Pastor of Faith Dev.	Charmaine Van Rooyen (pastorcharmaine@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

Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

b. *the Lord, the Almighty (Revelation 1:8)*

FUMCC Reopening Plan (Processes, Structure and Needs)

THE DECISION PROCESS.

After review of the responses from the recent church survey related to resuming in person indoor church services and after much discussion of the various viewpoints represented therein, the Administrative Council (the "Council") of First United Methodist Church of Conover, Inc. ("FUMCC") is implementing the following Reopening Plan and procedures to resume in-person, indoor worship services on **July 12, 2020**. The FUMCC Plan is subject to modification and/or termination at any time depending on changing conditions, restrictions and/or regulations which may occur.

Primary factors in development of the FUMCC Plan are as follows:

- **Prayers, Faith and Belief that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ would guide the Council to make the best decisions possible for His glory and the good of His people during this time of crisis.**
- **Church Survey.** Survey results from 157 individual church members and families, indicate the following:
 - Forty-eight percent (48%) of church family members, visitors and guests reported ("Respondents") are age 60 or older.
 - Over eighty-eight percent (88%) of respondents indicate attendance at 3 or more worship services per month.
 - Seventy-six percent (76%) of respondent households have two or fewer members attending per worship services of which 25% are individuals. The average number of attendees per reporting individual/family unit is 2.1 per household.
 - Forty-eight percent (48%) of respondents indicated attendance at the 11:00 am worship service and forty-two (42%) percent at the 8:45 am service.
 - Eighty-seven percent (87%) of respondents indicated that Enhanced Cleaning and Sanitation is "Necessary" (65%) or "More Important" (22%). Only 3% said it is "Unnecessary".
 - Seventy-three percent (73%) indicated that Social Distancing is "Necessary" (48%) or "More Important" (25%). Only 3% said it is "Unnecessary".
 - Sixty-two percent (62%) indicated Wearing Masks during Worship Services is "Necessary" (41%) or "More Important" (21%) while seventeen percent (17%) said it is "Unnecessary".
 - Sixty-eight percent (68%) indicated that Screening Questions and Temperature Checks are "Necessary" (45%) or "More Important" (23%). Only 10% said it is "Unnecessary".
- **Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church – "Guidelines for In-Person Worship & Ministry during COVID-19".**
- **CDC (Center for Disease Control) Guidelines.**
- **NC Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Order(s) related to worship services in North Carolina.**

FUMCC Reopening Plan (Processes, Structure and Needs)

STRUCTURE OF THE PLAN.

Based primarily on the results of the FUMCC survey and consideration of current federal, state and conference guidelines and recommendations, the Council has determined that the resumption of in-person indoor worship shall **initially** include the following:

- Social Distancing. Whenever possible, attendees at all services are expected to observe the 6 foot distancing guideline.
- Three (3) worship services are proposed in order to reduce the risk of having to turn anyone away as a result of the congregations need and desire to social distance. A brief summary of the 3 services is included in Pastor Gary's newsletter cover article. These services shall be hereafter referred in this report as:
 - 8:45 am Service (Sanctuary - Modified Traditional)
 - 10:00 am Service (Connor Family Life Center - Modified Contemporary)
 - 11:15 am Service (Sanctuary - Modified Traditional)
- Enhanced Cleaning and Sanitizing. Points of entry and high touch areas are to be sanitized before and after each service. The sanctuary and life center are to be sanitized after each service unless the area of use can be properly quarantined per state and/or federal guidelines.
- Face Masks. During the 8:45 am and 11:15 am services, the wearing of face coverings is expected of everyone 11 years old or older unless they state an exception from doing so under Executive Order 147 signed by NC Governor Roy Cooper on June 24, 2020. These two services are structured primarily for the 62% of survey respondents who consider face coverings "Necessary" or "More Important". While face coverings are not required during the 10:00 am service in the life center, they are highly recommended in order to **reduce** the risk of infection to others, especially when social distancing is not possible and when singing.
- The screening of all individuals attending worship services shall consist of COVID questions and the checking of individual temperatures. Anyone who has: (1) been out of the area in the last 10 days (to or through an area of high infection rate), (2) been exposed to anyone diagnosed with or testing positive for COVID-19 or (3) symptoms of a respiratory infection including: fever, shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, loss of smell or loss of appetite, may be asked to return home with their family rather than risk exposing other church members to infection. It is hoped that church members will make the decision to stay home and watch the service via live stream or Facebook for the safety of others if any of these conditions apply.
- A single point of entry for all services is necessary to provide the most efficient and comfortable screening process (questions and temperature checks).
- **Volunteer Coordinator(s) are needed** to assure adequate volunteers are in place for each service each week. In total, it is estimated that 8 to 12 volunteers (including ushers) will be required **at each service**. *Due to the addition of the 3rd service, a new survey is being sent to determine who is willing to volunteer for what at each service. If you are willing to volunteer or work with someone else in this capacity, please contact Pastor Gary, Pastor Charmaine or Bob Goodson.*

FUMCC Reopening Plan (Processes, Structure and Needs)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN. (WHAT TO EXPECT UPON RETURN TO WORSHIP)

The following Procedures and Processes are established to facilitate the above FUMCC Reopening Plan. These initial Procedures and Processes are subject to modification as efficiencies, conditions, recommendations and regulations may improve or decline. Knowledge, efficiency and acceptance of the Reopening Plan are key to achieving and maintaining our ultimate goal of returning to in-person worship while minimizing the risk of infection to our members, staff and visitors. So, what should you know and expect upon return to worship? Please remember, this is a work in process and is subject to change.

- Arrive early. Until it is determined who and how many will attend each service and our screening efficiencies are improved, you are asked to arrive early. Based on experience from the graduation service, it took approximately 45 minutes from start to finish to get everyone screened and seated. The 8:45 and 11:15 services are primarily for those most concerned about infection; therefore, seating is limited by distancing requirements.
- Entry Point. It has been determined that the best point of entry is under the awning near the preschool entrance at the lower level of the church. This entry point allows the greatest number of members/families to social distance inside the church and out of the heat and bad weather. There will be signs and/or a volunteer there to direct you.
- Screening. Upon entry, please wear your mask. Individuals and families are asked to please social distance at least 6' as they proceed to screening stations for COVID questioning and temperature taking. *Remember, if you have a temperature of 100 degrees or more, are not feeling well, have any COVID-19 symptoms, have been exposed to anyone diagnosed with or testing positive for COVID-19, or have been out of the area, especially to an area of high infection rate in the past 10 days, you may be asked to return home for the safety of others.*
- Upon completion of screening, you will be directed through the preschool hallway, up the steps and into the narthex of the church. If you need assistance or cannot climb steps, you will be directed to the elevator.
- In order to maximize the church's seating capacity with adequate distancing, you will be seated by an usher (from front to back). It is likely you will not be sitting in your "usual" seat(s).
- Upon completion of the service, unless you need to exit via the elevator, you will be directed by the Pastor and the ushers to exit through the main entrance of the church and go make a difference in the world. Ironically, this completes our weekly goal of entering worship one way and leaving another.

Note from Council Chair. *The process of developing the FUMCC plan for reopening has been challenging due to many unknowns and strong feelings from various perspectives from many sources. But when I awoke early on Sunday morning to complete this report to the congregation, the following thoughts came to mind.*

1. *Is it wrong to try to protect the health and safety of others? Absolutely Not!*
2. *Is it wrong to "ache" to return to worship services at our beloved church? Absolutely Not!*
3. *Is it wrong to return to worship without also doing our best to protect the health and safety of our fellow members and others? Yes it is!*
4. *The old saying "two wrongs don't make a right" then came to mind. If so, the reverse is also true — "two rights can't make a wrong"!*

As council chair, I am convinced that these are the right decisions and structure for the majority of our congregation under the current conditions.

FUMCC Reopening Plan (Processes, Structure and Needs)

Please accept these modifications to our worship services as temporary inconveniences in order that we may (1) resume in-person worship and (2) comfort and protect our fellow members. Also realize that even a small outbreak of COVID-19 in our church will likely shut down worship services again. Sincerely, Bob Goodson

VOLUNTEER NEEDS AND DUTY DESCRIPTIONS. In order for us to reopen on July 12, 2020, an adequate number of trained volunteers is required. Based on initial survey results, we currently have 51 volunteers committed to perform approximately 40 tasks (including audio visual duties) at three (3) services each Sunday.

➤ Volunteer Needs for Each Service. Following is a list of potential volunteer positions and responsibilities to be performed for each service.

○ Ushers (4 or *5).

- 1- Head Usher*. Directs and assists other ushers prior to and during the service.
- 1- Usher at the point of entry who can also monitor the parking lot prior to and during the church service for security purposes.
- 2- Ushers in the narthex to seat members in an adequately distanced manner as they enter.
- 1- Usher posted downstairs at the steps to the narthex to direct and assist people entering the 8:45 or 11:15 service.

**The Head Usher or one of the ushers in the narthex shall assist anyone entering the 8:45 or 11:15 services from the elevator. Notification of this need can be communicated via walkie-talkie from the usher at the point of entry or a screening volunteer.*

○ Screeners (4 or 5)

- 1- Screener is responsible for recording family names and number attending for contact tracing purposes if that becomes necessary. This also replaces the sanctuary attendance pad.
- 1- Screener is responsible for asking COVID questions and determining if it appears safe for the individual and/or family to attend the service.
- 2-3 Screeners to take initial temperatures and direct anyone with an indicated temperature of 100 or more to step into the conference room to have a digital temperature check. *The church is considering purchase of an affordable thermographic camera which should make this process more efficient and reduce the number of screeners required.*

○ Audio/Visual Operators. 3 volunteers needed for the 8:45 service – 1 for sound, 1- for visual and 1 for livestreaming. Two (2) volunteers needed for the 10:00 am service in the life center and 2 in the 11:15 service. There is no need to livestream the 11:15 am service since it will be the same format as the 8:45 am service.

○ Sanitizers. Sanitation after each service will require approximately 3 people or will need to be incorporated in the duties of the ushers, screeners or audio visual operators. Sanitizing is the only additional task an usher or screener can reasonably perform due to time overlaps.

Due to the addition of a third service, a new survey is being sent to determine who is willing to volunteer at which service. If you wish, you may attend one service and volunteer for another. **A volunteer training session is scheduled for 2:00 pm on Sunday afternoon of July 5th. If you have signed up, or wish to sign up to volunteer, please plan to attend if you are able. Additional sessions will be scheduled as needed.**

July 2020

July 2020							August 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jun 28	29	30	Jul 1	2	3	4
			7pm Choir practice (Cl	7pm H&Foot game (M OFFICE CLOSED	7pm Domino's (Faithb	INDEPENDENCE DAY
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:30 Live-Streaming \		10:45-11:45am - Praye 1pm Prayer Shawl (Coi 3pm UpperRm BS (Cla	1pm Queen Esthers M'	7pm H&Foot game (M	7pm Domino's (Faithb	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
08:45am - Worship - S 10am - Worship - CFL 11:15am - Worship - S	2pm Circle #2 (Confert	10:45-11:45am - Praye 3pm UpperRm BS (Cla		7pm H&Foot game (M	7pm Domino's (Faithb	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
08:45am - Worship - S 10am - Worship - CFL 11:15am - Worship - S 5:45pm Fin. Comm. MI 7pm Church Council N	7pm Circle #5 (Conf. rr	10:45-11:45am - Praye 3pm UpperRm BS (Cla		7pm H&Foot game (M	7pm Domino's (Faithb	
26	27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1
		10:45-11:45am - Praye 3pm UpperRm BS (Cla		7pm H&Foot game (M	7pm Domino's (Faithb	

Jun 28 - Jul 4

Jul 5 - 11

Jul 12 - 18

Jul 19 - 25

Jul 26 - Aug 1

First UMC
Birthdays

Who = (everyone except removed); Filter = Birthday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Dana Little Sady Little	6 Mary Ann Simpson	7 J.R. Duncan	1 Armando Lagunas Brenda Novotny	2 Taylor Hamilton Joshua Lafone	10 Billy Boston	4 Carol Warren
12 Dawn Barbersek Bethy Fisher Kim Little Harold Thornburg Kent Walker			15 Keith Hall	16 Michele Danner Kathryn Muller Heather Norman Brenda Putnam	17 Patsy Isaac Elijah Matson	18 Mark Hamilton
19 Elizabeth Conner Ethan Wright	20 Ray Penley Phyllis Robinson Camden Spencer	21 Kim Hentschel Beverly Swithenbank Linda Taplin	22 Scott Little	23 Rona Saunders Marsha Williams		
26 Samantha Hawn Sandy Loftin Jo Anne Phillips	27 Revonda Matthews Nick Pittman Jake Wright		29 Kaela Briggs Margaret Garrison Christy Greco	30 Sara Knecht Matthew Morrow Saiyolr Spencer-Wooten	31 Wyatt Fulbright	

First UMC
Wedding Anniversaries

Who = (everyone except removed); Filter = Wedding

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Jake and Barbara Stines		7 Scott and Andrea Little				
19 Lee Jr. and Michele Moritz Thad and Margie Sparkman		14 Elaine and Bill Biles			17 Taylor and Fara Dellinger	25 Bill and Anita Huffman
		28 Charlie and Tommi Anderson		30 David and Brenda Putnam	31 John and Sally Hartner	