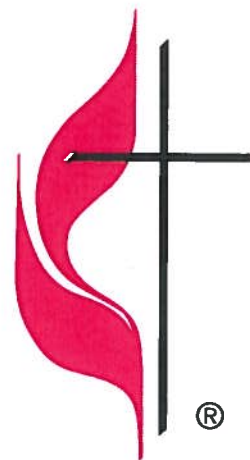




CONOVER  
FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST

## *Our Vision:*

*“By knowing Him, we  
Seek to make Him known  
to all people  
Through the love and  
Grace of Jesus Christ.”*



*The Weekly Newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Conover      November 17, 2020*

### **It Is Well with My Soul**

I am writing this on a Wednesday afternoon during a global pandemic trying to make sense of the chaotic results (and non-results) of yesterday's 2020 election and the fact that there were pre-planned protests regardless of the outcome. A tropical storm that got very little news coverage just knocked out power to thousands in our area including our church. We are being warned against large family gatherings for Thanksgiving in a few weeks due to COVID. There will be no school Christmas concerts or Christmas programs this year. The Chancel Choir can't safely meet so there will be no Christmas Cantata this year. I am a musician and music leader and this is the first time in 25 years that I am not preparing multiple groups for multiple performances and I am way out of my comfort zone...and yet **It is Well with My Soul**.

I still have my moments of frustration, fear and doubt- and then I remember that God is in control! No matter how bad things seem all this is part of His plan. Sometimes the answer to prayer is “No” because God has something else planned for us. When I look back on my life I can see where God said “Yes” and where He said “No” and how that changed the course of my life for the good. I don't know what the future brings but I know God has a plan for me and that means I will be OK. Without my faith I would be anxious, helpless and hopeless and there are a lot of people out there who don't know our Lord and Savior, Jesus. They don't know that the entire time they have been struggling “There Was Jesus” (Zach Williams, Dolly Parton) ready to help.

***“In the waiting, in the searching, In the healing, in the hurting***

***Like a blessing buried in the broken pieces, every minute, every moment***

***Where I've been or where I'm going, even when I didn't know it or couldn't see it***

***There was Jesus”***

Along with the original hymn “**It Is Well**” I find comfort in the 2nd verse of the MercyMe song “Even If:”

**“They say it only takes a little faith to move a mountain**

**Well good thing a little faith is all I have, right now**

**But God, when You choose to leave mountains unmovable**

**Oh give me the strength to be able to sing- *It is well with my soul!*”**

It is well with my soul!

**Jon**

# \*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:

Sarah Cushman  
Steve, Michele & Drew Danner  
Mala Dauber; Devon & Dawson Chambers  
Jim & Jeanette Davis  
Gloria Davis  
Hunter Davis



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

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

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

Beverly Stone, 403 Rock Barn Rd., NE  
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

Ron Harris at WF Baptist Hospital (At home)

Andrea Little at CVMC (At home)

## JUST A REMINDER

Please remember to wear your name tags when attending church services. Thank you.



## NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Gerald Paul Nellenbach, age 81 and father of Tony Nellenbach, died Sunday, November 15, 2020 at Conover Nursing & Rehab.

Arrangements will be made at a later time.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Tony, Jenene and the family during this sad time.



## To any and all CHRISTMAS DECORATORS - Mark your calendars:

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, November 25th**

TIME: **10:00 am**

Please join us for great fellowship and fun as we come together to make the church beautiful!

Thank you and to God be the glory!

Contact Michelle Sierzenga at 828-446-8244 if you have questions.



# NEWS TO USE

## FACE MASKS REQUIRED AT BOTH SERVICES

Due to the spike in COVID-19 cases in Catawba County, the Church Council is requiring masks to be worn at both services for a temporary period of time. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time.



## FAITHBUILDERS CLASS

The Faithbuilders Class will meet online and in person during the Sunday school hour.

Also, if you have anything for boxes, please bring to class and the youth will do the rest.

Charles Hornick



## CHANGES TO: ADDRESS/PHONE/EMAIL

In preparing for our directory update, please email your changes or corrections to addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses to: [fumcc@fumconover.org](mailto:fumcc@fumconover.org).

The year 2020 was to be the year for a new church directory, but with COVID-19, all that changed. Hopefully 2021 will be a better year and we will be able to plan a time to do a new church directory. If you are willing to volunteer to help with this project for late summer or early fall next year, please contact Robin in the church office at (828) 464-4635. The company that we choose will be doing most of the work as far as scheduling, etc. but we will need volunteers available on the days that photos are taken.



## PASTOR'S QUIZ

In the new Jerusalem there will be no more



- a. death, sorrow, crying, pain
- b. sorrow, crying, pain
- c. crying, pain
- d. pain

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

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence November 15, 2020  
Sunday School  
35

Worship:	
8:45am Service	73
11:15am Service	64
Live Streaming	157
Total	294

### God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 10,398.00
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,596)</i>	
Capital Campaign	115.00
Children's Bank	250.00
Total	\$ 10,763.00

## ATTENTION!!! PLEASE NOTE....

There will be no Newsletter next week because of the Thanksgiving Holiday. The office will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 25th and Thursday, Nov. 26th in observance of Thanksgiving.

All the Staff of FUMCC would like to wish everyone a very **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

## CHANGE OF PHONE NUMBERS

Please take note of the change in the phone numbers for Johnny & Denise Moose listed below:

Johnny - (828) 612-1465  
Denise - (828) 244-9087

They no longer have a land line. Thank you.



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

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

Calendars are here!  
The cost is \$7 each.  
Please see a youth  
or Charles or Mary Hornick  
to get yours today!



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

a. death, sorrow, crying, pain (Revelation 21:4)

**GUESTS for Sunday, November 15, 2020:**

87 households viewed by live-streaming at  
1.8 persons per household = 157  
8:45am Service - 73; 11:00am Service - 64  
Total: 294

WNCC now recommends 1.8 persons per household.

**CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor	Dr. Gary Royals (pastor@fumcconover.org)
Associate Pastor of Faith Dev.	Charmaine Van Rooyen (pastorcharmaine@gmail.com)
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	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
Associate Pastor's phone #	(781) 913-4415 - cell
Associate Pastor's address	1307 8th Avenue NW Conover, NC 28613

REPORT BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL OF FUMCC  
AND MODIFICATION OF WORSHIP GUIDELINES

On November 15, the Administrative Council of First United Methodist Church of Conover ("FUMCC") held its last scheduled meeting of 2020. To say the least, 2020 has not been exactly what we envisioned at the beginning of the year. But through it all, we have come together even though farther apart and have become even closer because we've been "distanced". We have become stronger by facing our weaknesses. We have learned a lot about our church and our relationships with our Lord and each other. We have "agreed to disagree" with love and respect without finding satisfaction in disagreement as we strived to make the best decisions for our church and fellow members. Even though this year has been stressful at times, we found common ground in knowing that as brothers and sisters in Christ we all want what Jesus wants of us – that we love and respect each other.

During this year, we have increased our membership. We have exceeded our giving budget. We have been able to repair, maintain and improve our church facilities. We have modified and adapted our worship services and ministries in ways we would not have otherwise attempted. Even though we can all be proud of what we have been able to accomplish this year, we are all praying that 2021 will be less challenging. But whatever our challenges and however long they remain, I am confident we will survive and be stronger because of them. I have this confidence because I know you and your commitment to our church and our Lord.

Due to the recent increases in COVID cases in Catawba and surrounding counties, the Administrative Council voted unanimously to require the wearing of masks during all worship services including upcoming youth and Christmas programs. All other existing procedures and guidelines shall remain in place unless otherwise modified as conditions change.

**FUMCC COVID Guidelines as of November 15, 2020 are as follows:**

- **Masks required at all worship services**
- **Maintain 6' Social Distancing between families and/or individuals**
- **Screening of individuals and families attending services and events to include:**
  - **COVID questions regarding symptoms, exposure and recent travel.**
  - **Temperature checks upon entry into church facilities.**
  - **Attendance is to be taken and recorded for contact tracing purposes.**
- **Current sanitation procedures shall remain in effect.**

As in previous cases, the council asks for your patience and understanding as we adjust and modify procedures and guidelines as required for the health and safety of our fellow members.

Sincerely, Bob Goodson, Council Chairman

*\*In addition, please read the "Open Letter to the Community" by a group of local Catawba County doctors which is shown on the back of this page.*

# An Open Letter to the Community\*

Published: November 10, 2020 (Catawba County, NC)

*This is an open letter from Dr. Billy Price and other well-respected physicians in our area.*

As local physicians, our lives have been dedicated to caring for you and your loved ones. We are deeply concerned about the continued toll of COVID-19 on our community and the unintended consequences we see every day when folks let their guard down and unknowingly spread the virus to others.

When we took our oaths to practice medicine, we promised to protect people from harm and prevent disease wherever we can. We have taken this to heart with COVID-19, and we are committed to using the expertise and knowledge we have gained to help protect you from the wide-ranging and often devastating impacts of this disease.

Here's what we're asking you to do:

Wear a mask when you are in public places. Masks should cover your nose and mouth.

Maintain a physical distance of at least six feet when you are near people who do not live with you.

Wash your hands frequently with soap and warm water for 20 seconds or with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Stay home when you are sick.

Take care of each other.

These simple measures will help to stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep our community open for business.

We believe everyone deserves to live in a community where their health is protected. Our community has a longstanding tradition of looking out for one another, and these times are challenging us to show each other even more compassion and grace. We hope you will continue to follow our advice and do your part to help keep us all healthy and safe.

Respectfully,

Billy Price, M.D.

Alan Forshey, M.D.

Susan Garwood, M.D.

Gale Hamilton-Brandon, M.D.

Eric Hart, M.D.

Anita Montes, M.D.

Jacques Moua, M.D.

Steve Sanderson, M.D.

Wheaton Williams, M.D.

# MORE NEWS TO USE

## ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

We are pleased to sponsor the children from Conover School for our Angel Tree again this year. We have 37 angels for our tree! The Conover School is a separate public school for children of various ages that have disabilities. Each child has specific needs, so we try to give exact information for the items that will accommodate each child.

The Angel Tree has been set up in the area where we currently enter the church on Sundays (outside of Charmaine's office). If you are able to attend the services, you can select a name from the tree. Please write your name on the sign-up sheet along with your phone number.

Gifts will be due back by the end of the 11:00 church service on Sunday, December 6.

With our current restrictions, I realize that it may not be convenient to select a name from the tree or shop for an angel. I have setup an email address [fumccangels@yahoo.com](mailto:fumccangels@yahoo.com) so you can communicate with me directly if you want to participate in the Angel tree ministry this season. I will be happy to select an angel for you from the tree and/or do the shopping for you. If you are interested in this option, please email me now at the address above. Just let me know what you wish to do. If you want me to do the shopping, please let me know how much you want to contribute in the email you send to me. You can pay me via check or Venmo.

We appreciate your help with this and we know that these children will be blessed with your kindness! Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 828-320-9904. Thank you so much!

Dana Little





Ephesians 6:10-11

# First United Methodist Church, Conover Youth Ministry 2020-2021

## Calendar Watch

### November

22 - Youth Sunday

### December

6 - Progressive Dinner

### January '21

31 - Youth Meetings & Ministry Teams

### February '21

7 - Souper Bowl of Caring  
12 - 15 - Ridge Haven High School Retreat  
21 - Youth Meetings & Ministry Teams

### March '21

12-13 - 30-hour Famine

### April '21

23 - 25 - IgniteUs Middle School Retreat



## Youth Sunday is November 22nd

Youth Sunday is this coming Sunday. There will be 2 services, 8:45 & 11. Both services will be in the sanctuary. Please see email with more details concerning this service.

### Report Times:

Dance team @ 7:45am

Drama team @ 8am

Praise team and everyone @ 8:15am



## Progressive Dinner!

Progressive Dinner is coming on December 6th. It will be an evening a fun. More information will be forthcoming.



## Ridge Haven

The Ridge Haven retreat is for those in 9th - 12th grade. February 12th through the 14th or 15th.

Chaperones are needed.

Please see email sent 10/25.

**Need to know if you want to attend ASAP**

Check us out on Facebook @ FUMCC Youth!



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)



**ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS**

It's that time of year again! With the Advent and Christmas season fast approaching, we will again be offering you the opportunity to order poinsettias in honor or memory of your loved ones. Poinsettias are \$10.00 each and checks should be made payable to FUMCC with a designation of "poinsettia". Please consider this page as the order form and more of these will be placed at the "temp check entrance" beginning this Sunday, November 8 through Sunday, November 22.

Please place your completed form and money in one of the order collection boxes. They are located in the narthex and outside Robin's office.

If you have any questions, please call Kelle Love at 828-381-6085



If you are interested in ordering a poinsettia in honor of or in memory of someone, please complete the following:

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

# of plants \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of:

---

---

In Memory of:

---

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**ALL ORDERS MUST BE TURNED IN BY NOVEMBER 22**



*New This Year!*

**Shop online now!**

[www.connectionsclubhouse.org](http://www.connectionsclubhouse.org)

**Fundraiser Day Pick-up**

1679 Southwest Blvd.

Newton, NC 28658

Dec. 5th (9am - 2pm)

**Tickets - \$10**

Drive through and pick out the bowl of your chosen color theme.



*New This Year!*

**Shop In Person Events**

**Holiday Happenings @ The Mud Shack**

Nov. 10th (10am-2pm)

Nov. 12th (3pm-7pm)

Nov. 17th (10am-2pm)

Nov. 19th (3pm-7pm)

**More @ The Mud Shack**

Dec. 8th (10am-2pm)

Dec. 10th (3pm-7pm)

*\*Donations accepted*

