



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 December 15, 2020

TIS THE SEASON

This past Saturday we hosted our last Children's event for 2020. The Santa Wave Parade!

Our little visitors paraded by a Candy Cane field and balloon stop before meeting with Santa and Pastor Gary. The goodie bags they received at the rest of the stops had families leave with some very happy children - except one little man that wanted nothing to do with Santa!! My thanks to all the volunteers that made this event possible.

Our Children's ministers had to think outside the box this year. With the help of Laurette Rheeder, Julie Patterson and her team of Sunday school teachers, I believe we succeeded in showing children what it means to be loved by their church family. I am so thankful for every member of our congregation that has contributed to this ministry. I feel that we have reached many more children this year as we extended out ministry to the grandchildren of members too. More than this, I believe children felt the individual love from the church as they worked through their boxes with their families.

You also extended your love to almost 200 unnamed children across the globe through boxes for Operation Christmas Child and our Christmas Angels that Dana Little so compassionately ministered to with her team of elves that wrapped a small mountain of gifts!!

Reflecting on 2020 brought to mind the images of a kaleidoscope. The shapes within are familiar but they are distorted and change at every turn of the lens. Yet, we see beauty in the colors and distorted shapes. My Christmas Prayer is that we can all take a look back at 2020 and look beyond the chaos. I pray that we delight in the blessings we had previously taken for granted. I pray that each of our lives will reflect God's light so that others may behold the peace and love we have through our faith in Jesus Christ.

May your Christmas be one of Peace, Hope and Joy.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Charmaigne



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:

Alex, Rebecca & Wyatt Fulbright
Parker Garrison
Ryan, Angela & Rylee Garrison
Tony & Margaret Garrison
Scott, Michelle & Owen Gilleland

IN / OUT OF HOSPITAL

Beth Boston at home
Elizabeth Conner at Duke Medical Center (At home)
Charlie Anderson at CVMC (At home)



PLEDGE CARDS, TIME & TALENT SHEETS

If you haven't already done so, you can turn in your Pledge Cards and Time & Talent Sheets to the church office Monday - Thursday 8am-12 noon and 1-4pm. Please call if you need any of these. Thank you.

HONORARIUM

Local Missions Fund

In honor of all office volunteers (Dixon & Margery Adams; M.G. Doub; Alma Dixon; Harold Thornburg; Bob Goodson; Beverly Swithenbank; Brenda Putnam; Luisa Toro; Pat & Alice Woods; and Ginger Doub) by:
Robin Mays



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

Betty Couch - Trinity Village
1265 21st St. NE, Hickory, NC 28601
(828) 328-2006

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

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

M.G. Doub, 319 7th Street Place SW #A6
Conover, NC 28613

Betty Moritz, 103 County Home Road
Conover, NC 28613

Dolores Setzer PO Box 1237
Conover, NC 28613

Glenna Sherrill, 2038 North Deal Avenue
Newton, NC 28658

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.

To all my friends at FUMCC,

At this holy time of year as we celebrate our Savior's birth, I want to say Merry Christmas to all of you and wish you a bright and Happy New Year.
Blessings, Elaine Biles

THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF OF FUMCC

The entire staff of FUMCC would like to offer a heartfelt "Thank you" to everyone for the generous Christmas gift you provided to each of us. It is truly a joy and honor to serve you and to serve with you for the sake of the Gospel. We love each and every one of you.

The Staff of FUMCC

Pastor Gary
Robin
Ginger
Luisa
Pilar

Pastor Charmaine
Jon
Shannon
Alex



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.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMPLETE!

As of November 30, 2020 all costs associated with the purchase, financing and demolition of the adjoining Shell property have been collected in full. Any and all remaining outstanding pledges are hereby cancelled. No other pledges or contributions for purchase of the Shell property will be accepted. Any future funds received for this purpose will either be returned to the donor or applied to another approved designated fund of the church with the donor's permission. With sincere thanks.

Bob Goodson

CHRISTMAS CHEER

The Christmas season is here, and once again the Caring Ministry would like to spread love and joy to our homebound and nursing facility members. Bags have been placed outside Charmaine's office with names of our 9 members. Please bring a Christmas card to add to each bag on Sunday morning or bring them by during the week. The names are listed in the newsletter. If you are not comfortable getting out, feel free to drop your cards in the mail. The deadline will be December 20th, so that we will have time to deliver the bags.

Thank you for your help in this special ministry.

The Caring Ministry Team



PASTOR'S QUIZ

In the new city they will



- a. still not see His face
- b. see His face
- c. not desire to see His face
- d. see only the reflection of His face in the river

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence December 12, 2020
Sunday School
31

Worship:	
8:45am Service	60
11:15am Service	62
Live Streaming	158
Total	280

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 11,118.00
(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,596)

Children's Bank	117.70
Local Missions Fund	100.00
Organ Fund	100.00
Staff Love Offering	55.00
Total	\$ 11,490.70

Separate Deposit 12-8-20	
General Fund	150.00
Staff Love Offering	75.00

ATTENTION: ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBERS, Y/E OFFERINGS

As the year comes to a close, please remember to submit any address or phone number changes to the church office at (828) 464-4635 or via email to fumcc@fumconover.org so that the information will be up to date for the update to the directory. The update hopefully will be ready to hand out the middle of January, 2021. We hope to be doing a new directory in June if the CFLC will be open and it is safe to do so.

Also, **all year-end offerings will need to be submitted to the church office no later than noon on Tuesday, December 29th.**

OFFICE CLOSURES FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS: DEC. 24TH, DEC. 30TH AND DEC. 31ST.

First United Methodist Church
 410 First Avenue North
 Conover, NC 28613
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RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT EARNED

Congratulations to Jacob Fisher upon receiving the highest award in Scouting, the rank of Eagle Scout. The rank was presented to Jacob by Gerald Loftin, Scoutmaster of Troop #322, on Sunday, December 13, 2020. Jacob is the son of Alan and Melissa Fisher and the brother of Drew Fisher.

First United Methodist Church of Conover is a proud sponsor of Troop #322.

GUESTS for Sunday, December 12, 2020:

88 households viewed by live-streaming at
 1.8 persons per household = 158
 8:45am Service - 60; 11:00am Service - 62
 Total: 280

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

Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

b. see His face (Revelation 22:4)