



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

February 16, 2021

Suggestions for Observing Lent

Lent, the season of the Christian Year that is typically observed as a time of simple living, prayer and fasting leading up to Easter, begins on Ash Wednesday [February 17, 2021]. But what is Lent REALLY about?

Many spend the time in self-examination and reflection as modeled by Jesus in Matthew 4: 1-11 where he prayed and fasted for 40 days before beginning his ministry. What happened during those 40 days of fasting and praying in the wilderness? Our friends at the Upper Room say that maybe Jesus needed some time with God to sort through the major changes happening in his life. Maybe he needed a break from family, friends and his regular routine in order to see God [and himself] more clearly. Maybe he sought more time with God as he searched for direction and answers to the question that we, too have from time to time: “Who am I called to be?” **We, too are invited into this time of introspection.**

Do you generally give something up during Lent? (Remember, it is not just about the sacrifice of giving up coffee or chocolate or some other vice. It is about using that time you played games to volunteer, read Scripture and praying.)

Would you consider adding in a practice?

Consider using the **Lent 2021** insert for daily scripture and reflection, OR participate in the Rethink Church's *Lent 2021 Photo-a-Day Challenge*.

Will you join this photo-a-day challenge and share with the community how you perceive each word of the day? No explanation needed. After all, a picture is worth a thousand words.

You don't have to be a great photographer. This project is more about the practice of paying attention and being intentional. If you don't have Instagram or Twitter, we'd still love for you to share your photos. Just share them on your Facebook page and tag us, or post them on our Facebook wall, in the comment section for each day. Tag us with **#rethinkchurch** on all social media platforms.

Whether you give up something, add a Spiritual Practice or participate in the photo challenge; let's start this 40-day journey together. Let this be an intentional time, even for a few minutes a day, to pause, remember and reflect.

I pray that we will all experience a Meaningful Sacred Season this Lent.

Pastor Charmaigne

Source: umc.org 02-02-2021

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:

Margaret Kilpatrick
Clyde & Carol Kistler
Dennis & Jo Ellen Knecht
Katie Knecht
Sara Knecht
Chris, Jessica & Stella Koenig

IN / OUT OF HOSPITAL

Michelle Sierzenga at ER (At home)

MEMORIAL

Matthew Bolick Scholarship Fund

In memory of Charles Bolick by:
Lee & Betty Moritz

THANK YOU

Dear First UMC Friends,
What a blessing you are to our agency and to those whom we serve! Thank you so very much for your generous gift. Your dedication to continue providing hope and healing to those who are hurting is commendable. We are grateful for you!

Sincerely,
LaWanda Brown,
Executive Director of
Family Guidance Center

VOLUNTEER DAY AT ECCCM

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021

ECCCM - MARCH MADNESS:

**FOOD / DONATIONS FOR YOUR
FAVORITE BASKETBALL TEAM.
MARCH 1 - APRIL 6**

**MORE INFORMATION IN NEXT
WEEK'S NEWSLETTER!**

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



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

Barbara Wilcox - Trinity Ridge Rehab
2140 Medical Park Drive
Hickory, NC 28602 - (828) 322-6995

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.

NEWS TO USE

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES FOR SALE

For those who attend worship on Sunday, Erin Moritz and Addison Punch will be selling Girl Scout cookies in one of the classrooms on the Children's Sunday school wing. So, get your delicious cookies from them. The cost is \$5 a box.



PASTOR'S QUIZ

When Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John, John was



- a. overly persuasive
- b. ready
- c. reluctant
- d. despondent

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

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY FOR 2021

DATES HAVE BEEN SET TO TAKE FAMILY PHOTOS FOR THE NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY IN JUNE.

WE HAVE ENOUGH VOLUNTEERS.
THANK YOU.

JUNE 8, 9 & 10!



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence February 14, 2021
Sunday School
20

Worship:	
8:45am Service	41
11:00am Service	61
Live Streaming	<u>191</u>
Total	293

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 19,066.00
(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,596)

Children's Bank	47.00
ECCCM	25.00
Matthew Bolick Scholarship Fund	25.00
Organ Fund	<u>50.00</u>
Total	\$ 19,213.00

WHY MUST WE SEPARATE?

With the pending split in our denomination, all of us have asked the question: "Why do we have to do this?" I recently read an excellent article about this by Tom Lambrecht, who is a UM minister and the Vice-President of "Good News." He lays out clearly that the problem is not just about one or two issues, but is much deeper and systemic than we realize. **If you would like to read this article, call the church office and we will either send it to you by email or make you a paper copy which you can pick up.**

Dr. Gary

First United Methodist Church
 410 First Avenue North
 Conover, NC 28613
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UPPER ROOMS

The March / April "Upper Room" devotional books are available for pick-up. They located in the bookcase outside the Conference Room by Pastor Charmaigne's office. You can read the same daily devotional that is in the book each day by going on line to this website:

<http://www.upperroom.org/devotional/>



GUESTS for Sunday, February 14, 2021:
 106 households viewed by live-streaming at
 1.8 persons per household = 191
 8:45am Service - 41; 11:00am Service - 61
 Total: 293

WNCC now recommends 1.8 persons per household.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Dr. Gary Royals (pastor@fumccconover.org)
Associate Pastor of Faith Dev.	Charmaigne Van Rooyen (pastorcharmaigne@gmail.com)
Administrative Assistant	Robin Mays (fumcc@fumccconover.org)
Music Director	Jonathan Rogers (jsrogers99@gmail.com) (828) 244-7019
Pianist	Shannon Rogers (srog101@gmail.com) (828) 244-6124
Organist	Alex Wilson (organistfumccconover@gmail.com) (803) 810-3396
Preschool Director	Ginger Doub (466-3158) (ps@fumccconover.org)
Lead Nursery Worker	Pilar Tobar
Custodian	Luisa Toro Bryan (828) 464-4635
Church Office	www.fumccconover.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

2021 FLOWER CHART



Please note that if you wish to sign up on the 2021 flower chart, call the church office at (828) 464-4635 Monday-Thursday to reserve your date. You may

either have a local florist deliver your flowers (most have a key to the church and can deliver on Saturday), or in lieu of flowers, you may make a donation to a designated fund of the church in memory or in honor of someone.

Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

c. reluctant
 (Matthew 3:13-14)



Ephesians 6:10-11

First United Methodist Church, Conover Youth Ministry 2020-2021

Calendar Watch

February '21

21 - Youth Meetings & Ministry Teams

March '21

12-13 - 30-hour Famine (tentative)

21 - Youth Meetings & Ministry Teams

April '21

18 - Youth Meetings & Ministry Teams

23 - 25 - IgniteUs Middle School Retreat (tentative)

May '21

2 - Youth Meetings & Ministry Teams

16 - possible Ministry Teams

23 - Youth Sunday



Youth Meeting THIS Sunday February 21st

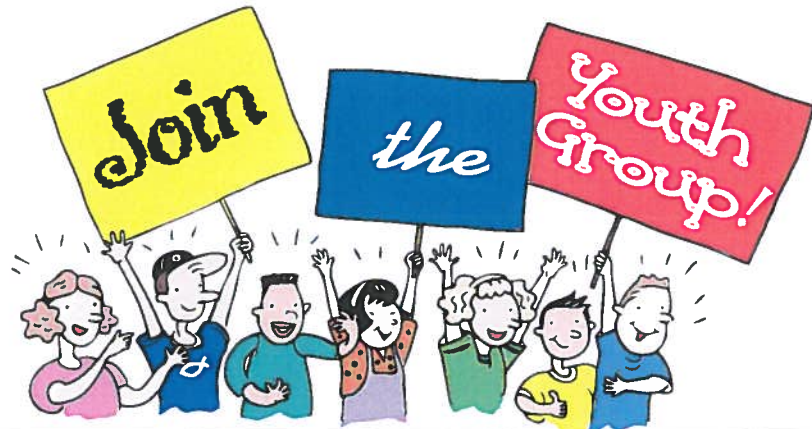
Our next meeting will be this Sunday. Enter at the Life Center

3:30 - Praise team

4:15 - Dance team

5:00 - Youth Meeting

6:30 - Drama Team



Parent Help

Parent help is needed with help in greeting youth as they come to the meeting. Please see email if you can help in this important endeavour.



Information

Please watch here, email, and our Facebook page for the latest!

#FUMCCYouth

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)



Safe Harbor
Anchoring Lives Through Christ

Empower 2 Employ

Safe Harbor is seeking local businesses to partner through their Empower2Employ program:

Empower2Employ is a three-month non-paid internship program to benefit both Safe Harbor's program participants and local businesses.

Empower2Employ is a collaboration between local business leaders and Safe Harbor. Women who have completed 9 months of our Whole Woman Recovery Program are eligible to apply for a non-paid internship through Empower2Employ.

If you have contacts with businesses that might be interested in working with Safe Harbor's internship program, please contact:

Vicki Murray, Executive Director, vicki@safeharbornc.org, 828-326-7233 or

Tracy Parsons, Whole Woman Manager, tracy@safeharbornc.org, 828-855-9055

(Information summarized from Safe Harbor's Empower 2 Employ brochure)

RETHINKCHURCH[®]

Lent 2021

Photo-a-Day Challenge

February

2/17 - Covenant
2/18 - Living
2/19 - Sign
2/20 - Remember
2/21 - **Celebrate**
2/22 - Walk
2/23 - Name
2/24 - Everlasting
2/25 - Call
2/26 - Bless
2/27 - Rise
2/28 - **Celebrate**

March

3/1 - Spoke
3/2 - Words
3/3 - Steadfast
3/4 - Labor
3/5 - Rested
3/6 - Honor
3/7 - **Celebrate**
3/8 - Thanks
3/9 - Endures
3/10 - Gathered
3/11 - Healed
3/12 - Delivered
3/13 - Wonderful
3/14 - **Celebrate**
3/15 - Days
3/16 - Coming
3/17 - New
3/18 - House
3/19 - Write
3/20 - Teach
3/21 - **Celebrate**

3/22 - Given
3/23 - Sustain
3/24 - Weary
3/25 - Wakens
3/26 - Gave
3/27 - Together
3/28 - **Celebrate**

Holy Week

3/29 - Dark
3/30 - Removed
3/31 - Loved
4/1 - Following
4/2 - Reached
4/3 - Why
4/4 - **Celebrate**

Each day during Lent , we will post a word of the day. We invite you to pause, reflect and post a response on Instagram, Twitter or Facebook. Your post should illustrate how you perceive each word of the day. No explanation needed.

You can share a photo, poem or even a simple thought.

Lent 2021

Daily Scripture and Reflections for the Sacred Season

THE LORD, YOUR GOD,

is in your midst, a mighty savior,
who will rejoice over you with
gladness, and renew you in his love...

— ZEPHANIAH 3:17

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	17 FEBRUARY Ash Wed. God's loving message has always been, "it's never too late to change." <i>Joel 2:12-18</i>	18 One Thing Is Certain All people, even Christ, have suffered in life, but life does not end there. <i>Luke 9:22-25</i>	19 Daily Bread We need not fast from hearing God's Word or speaking his truth to the world. <i>Isaiah 58:1-9</i>	20 Leave It Behind When Jesus calls you by name, you don't need anything to follow him. <i>Luke 5:27-32</i>
	24 One Day One Word, one death, is enough witness to God's redemption of the world. <i>Jonah 3:1-10</i>	25 Our Prayer Lord, grant us whatever we need to keep our Lenten commitments. <i>Matthew 7:7-12</i>	26 Justice for All Do you owe anyone anything? Go, then, and repay your debts. <i>Matthew 5:20-26</i>	27 God Is Romantic Unrequited love, though bitter-sweet, still unites; however, war divides. <i>Matthew 5:43-48</i>
	3 Humble Thyself The greatest power is given without reward, acknowledged-ment or credit. <i>Matthew 20:17-28</i>	4 Living for Today? Beyond this world is a kingdom of everlasting fullness and peace. <i>Jeremiah 17:5-10</i>	5 Slavery Don't sell yourself to anyone or anything. Jesus granted us freedom with his death. <i>Genesis 37:3-28</i>	6 Give Thanks Let your daily life be a song of praise to the God from which our life comes. <i>Psalms 103:1-4, 9-12</i>
	10 Professor Lord, your teachings are so wise, I want to spend my life learning and living them. <i>Psalms 147:12-20</i>	11 Spring Thaw Frozen inside? Open a window and let God's warmth into your home. <i>Psalms 95:1-2, 6-9</i>	12 The Only Way The road to God is the path of righteousness, the way to lasting joy. <i>Mark 12:28-34</i>	13 Better than Mercy Before turning to apologize today, turn your words and actions around. <i>Hosea 6:1-6</i>
	2 You Can Run ... God knows your intentions, but he also sees your daily works. <i>Isaiah 1:10, 16-20</i>	3 How to Pray When you pray this Lent, reflect on what you will say, not how you will say it. <i>Matthew 6:7-15</i>	4 Living for Today? Beyond this world is a kingdom of everlasting fullness and peace. <i>Jeremiah 17:5-10</i>	6 Give Thanks Let your daily life be a song of praise to the God from which our life comes. <i>Psalms 103:1-4, 9-12</i>
	1 MARCH Confession Be honest about the consequences of your words and actions <i>Daniel 9:4-10</i>	2 You Are Christ Now is the time to confess who Jesus is to all the world: our Savior and Lord. <i>Matthew 16:13-19</i>	5 Slavery Don't sell yourself to anyone or anything. Jesus granted us freedom with his death. <i>Genesis 37:3-28</i>	6 Give Thanks Let your daily life be a song of praise to the God from which our life comes. <i>Psalms 103:1-4, 9-12</i>
	7 Sabbath God created a day of rest for our sake. Honor him by setting aside some time for him today. <i>Exodus 20:1-17</i>	8 Do Not Delay If you discover God's presence today, why not go and stay with him? <i>2 Kings 5:1-15</i>	5 Slavery Don't sell yourself to anyone or anything. Jesus granted us freedom with his death. <i>Genesis 37:3-28</i>	6 Give Thanks Let your daily life be a song of praise to the God from which our life comes. <i>Psalms 103:1-4, 9-12</i>
	21 Divine Archer God's rainbow bounds through the sky, promising salvation for all. <i>Genesis 9:8-15</i>	22 You Are Christ Now is the time to confess who Jesus is to all the world: our Savior and Lord. <i>Matthew 16:13-19</i>	5 Slavery Don't sell yourself to anyone or anything. Jesus granted us freedom with his death. <i>Genesis 37:3-28</i>	6 Give Thanks Let your daily life be a song of praise to the God from which our life comes. <i>Psalms 103:1-4, 9-12</i>
	28 Sacrifice In God's reckoning, Jesus was the price to pay for the souls of those who needed him. <i>Romans 8:31-34</i>	29 How to Pray When you pray this Lent, reflect on what you will say, not how you will say it. <i>Matthew 6:7-15</i>	5 Slavery Don't sell yourself to anyone or anything. Jesus granted us freedom with his death. <i>Genesis 37:3-28</i>	6 Give Thanks Let your daily life be a song of praise to the God from which our life comes. <i>Psalms 103:1-4, 9-12</i>

14 Offering
 Whatever you offer the Lord this Lent, make it a gift, not an attempt at repayment.
Ephesians 2:4-10

15 Believe
 What Jesus says he will do really happens. All we need to do is believe.
John 4:43-54

16 Refreshing
 Jesus, you are truly living water. All power and healing come from your hands.
John 5:1-16

17 Adopted
 As God's children, we grow toward union with Jesus. May we also patient others in faith.
John 5:17-30

18 Covenant
 God promised to watch over and redeem us, and he does so each and every day.
Psalms 106:19-23

19 Faithful Father
 Joseph's faith in God earned him a place in the line of Jesus, the Son of God.
Romans 4:13-18, 22

20 Promises
 Even if you don't know God, you know his promises and commandments.
John 7:40-53

21 Not Too Late
 Have another Lenten gift on your heart? Don't delay—bring it to life!
Jeremiah 31:31-34

22 Sin No More
 Forgiven and strengthened by Christ, we are sent forth to sin no more.
John 8:1-11

23 There Yet?
 Lord, help me reach the end of this tiring Lenten road. Your food will sustain me.
Numbers 21:4-9

24 Light the Fire
 The Spirit's flame burns despite persecution, yet it never harms.
Dan. 3:14-20, 91-95

25 In Every Age
 From birth to death and beyond, Jesus fulfilled the will of his Father.
Psalms 40:7-11

26 Shepherd
 Lord, you shelter all who remain close to you. If I stray, please bring me back.
Psalms 18:2-7

27 Build the Kingdom
 Jesus, gather all nations and peoples under your rule of peace and love.
Ezekiel 37:21-28

28 'Til the End
 These should never be given up for Lent: faith, hope and love.
Mark 11:1-10

29 Get Ready
 Prepare for Jesus' death and resurrection by filling your home with his presence.
John 12:1-11

30 Expecting Salvation
 Throughout his life, Jesus pondered his glory, waiting for his hour to arrive.
Isaiah 49:1-6

31 Is It I?
 Close friends betrayed the Lord in thought, word and deed. They lived to regret it.
Matthew 26:14-25

The Paschal Triduum

from Holy Thursday evening through Easter Vigil Mass

MAUNDY THURSDAY Mealtime

GOOD FRIDAY Good God

EASTER VIGIL Bless This Morning

Gather, eat and drink in honor and remembrance of the one who died to give others everlasting life.
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14

Jesus is the perfection of humanity, both a wise teacher and a dutiful student, a provider and the provision.
Hebrews 4:14-5:9

God's kingdom begins with the dawn, a steadily rising light upon the earth. Open your eyes and see.
Genesis 1:1-2:2

Traditional Lenten Disciplines

Worship & Meditation: During Lent, many congregations offer added opportunities for public worship and encourage their members to more frequent and fervent prayer, Bible study and private meditation on the saving love of God in Jesus Christ.

Fasting & Abstinence: As an aid to devotional life, many Christians give up certain foods or activities through Lent. Some also set aside certain days for more rigorous fasting in the Lord's honor.

Almsgiving: Moved by the sacrifice of Christ, many Christians combine almsgiving with fasting, giving to the poor the money they saved by eating, drinking or buying less as they rely more upon God's abundant grace.