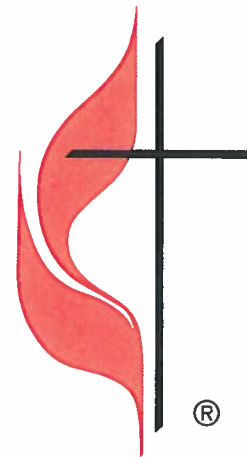




CONOVER
FIRST UNITED
METHODIST

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

August 10, 2021

WHISPERS IN THE WOODS — DECISIONS OF HABIT

One Sunday morning, Dr. William Preston Few (then president of Duke University) was walking to church when it began to rain. Seeing him, some students stopped and offered Dr. Few a ride. He accepted and on the way, they asked him why he had decided to go to church on such a dreary, rainy day.

President Few said, *“I didn’t decide to go to church this morning. I decided fifty years ago, and I haven’t had to ask myself that question since.”*

All of us are creatures of habit. I can think of no greater decision a person can make early in their faith journey than the decision to pause each week to worship our Lord.

One of the great heroes of the Bible was a man named Joshua. He was not a prophet, or a king, or a priest, or a preacher. He was a soldier. Joshua was chosen to be the successor of Moses and lead Israel into the land of Canaan. He is best remembered for fighting the battle of Jericho.

Later, when the conquest of Canaan was complete, the land allotted to the different tribes, and the people settled, Joshua discovered that the people were declining toward idolatry. Realizing that his earthly life was drawing to a close, Joshua called all the leaders of Israel together at Shechem to deliver his farewell address.

After everyone was assembled, Joshua reminded them of their past, and how their fathers, only a generation before, had worshipped idols down in the land of Egypt. As he came to the close of his address, Joshua gave God’s people a challenge they could not ignore: *“Choose you this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”*

Like Joshua and Dr. Few, I made a decision many years ago where I will be on Sunday morning. What about you? If for some reason, you’ve slipped a little, why not start (restart) a new habit of worshipping the Lord with me? It’ll please God and do wonders for you too!

I hope to see you this Sunday!

Grace and Peace!

Pastor John

AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

—Philippians 4:4-7

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:

Lynn & Rita Watson
Phyllis Watson
James Weaver
Charles & Carolyn Whitlock
Cliff & Debbie Wike
Emmett & Jane Wike

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

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

Dottie Harris, 1449 Brookstone Drive
Hickory, NC 28602

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

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

Eli Hailey at Sanger Clinic
Tyler Conner at CVMC (At home)
Tut Johnston at CVMC (Room 531)
Armando Lagunas at Frye RMC (overnight for tests)

HONORARIUMS

Organ Fund

In memory of Bryan Shepherd by:
Jerry & Debbie Cashion
FUMCC United Methodist Men
Michelle & Brian Greco
Bob & Lois Goodson
Jimmy & Cindy Clark
Charlie & Tommi Anderson
Pat & Alice Woods
Carol Dickinson
Eddie & Carol Warren
Reid & Judy Ikerd
Sharpe Bible Class
Eugene & Gloria Lentz
Rick & Linda Parker
Bob & Melissa Turner

In memory of Bob & Anne Hall by:
M.G. Doub

Youth Fund

In memory of Gracie & Chris Hager by:
Carol Dickinson

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Rachel Watson Tallent, age 85 of Morganton and sister of Lynn Watson, died Sunday, August 1, 2021.

The funeral service was held at 2pm at Mountain View #2 Baptist Church in Morganton on Thursday, August 5, 2021. The family received friends from 1-2pm at the church prior to the funeral service. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Lynn, Rita and the family during this difficult time.

NEWS TO USE

AS A COURTESY...

Please help us to make Pastor John, Beth, Hannah and all of our new members and visitors to feel at home during worship services by wearing your name tags.



PASTOR'S QUIZ



The John who queried Jesus from prison, asking, "Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?"

- a. John the Baptist
- b. John the apostle
- c. John Mark
- d. John Hyrcanus

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

ATTENTION GOODTIMERS!

With the ongoing Virus issues, we may decide to cancel/postpone our West Jefferson trip on Aug 25th! But I do need/want to know who wants to go by signing up on our trip sheet on our Go See Do bulletin board! I/we will make a decision to go or not earlier that week! Any comments? Contact me!

Eddie Warren
(828) 464-9643



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence August 8, 2021
Sunday School
58

Worship:	
8:45am Service	105
11:00am Service	95
Live Streaming	86
Total	286

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 11,331.00
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,596)</i>	
Children's Bank	4.50
ECCCM	50.00
Organ Fund	3,970.00
Youth Fund	50.00
Total	\$ 15,405.50

IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR: HARVEST FESTIVAL for CHRIST!!!

With less than two months to go it is time to start planning the Harvest Festival

We will have a Harvest Festival Planning Committee Meeting this coming Sunday, August 15th at 2 PM in the Connor Family Life Center.

All those that helped two years ago and anyone willing to help please come to our meeting.

Looking forward to seeing all of you there!

Reap the Harvest of God's Love

Anthony Price



STEP UP SUNDAY

Thanks for the important "ROLL" you play when it comes to teaching kids. Every "ROLL" is important.

When: Sunday August 22 before Sunday School starts.

Where: Lobby outside Pastor Charmaine's office.

All children and Sunday School Teachers- Stop by for a Cinnamon ROLL or Swiss Cake ROLL and drink to take to your Sunday School class.

Thank You
Sunday School Director, Julie Patterson

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

Available Dates:

<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>
11/14	12/5
11/21	12/12
11/28	



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

a. John the Baptist (*Matthew 11:2-3; 4:12*)

GUESTS for Sunday, August 8, 2021:

48 households viewed by live-streaming at
 1.8 persons per household = 86
 8:45am Service - 105; 11:00am Service - 95
 Total: 286

WNCC now recommends 1.8 persons per household.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. John Woods (pastor@fumconover.org)
Associate Pastor of Faith Development Administrative Assistant	Rev. Charmaine Van Rooyen (pastorcharmaigne@gmail.com) Robin Mays (fumcc@fumconover.org)
Music Director	Jonathan Rogers (jsrogers99@gmail.com) (828) 244-7019
Pianist	Shannon Rogers (srog101@gmail.com) (828) 244-6124
Preschool Director	Julie Robinson (466-3158) (ps@fumconover.org)
Lead Nursery Worker	Pilar Tobar
Custodian	Luisa Toro Bryan
Church Office	(828) 464-4635
Website:	www.fumconover.org
Pastor's phone numbers	(828) 464-4635-church (336) 480-4550-cell
Pastor's address	612 6th Ave NE Conover, NC 28613
Associate Pastor's phone #	(781) 913-4415 - cell
Associate Pastor's address	1307 8th Avenue NW Conover, NC 28613

MORE NEWS TO USE



....From Pastor John and the Woods family

Wow! Is First U.M.C. amazing or what?! I want to thank all of you so much for the tremendously warm welcome we've received this past month. From the words of support and love, to the welcoming gifts of homemade bread, to the near-daily arrival of delicious vegetables from gardens...ALL of you have been so generous, cheerful and friendly toward your new pastoral family. We want to thank you. I especially want to thank several folks who were critical in helping orient me in my first month: Robin Mays, Charmaine, Jon & Shannon, Bob and Lee and Keith and Jeff.

Again, we are honored to be here and grateful for your love!
Pastor John, Beth & Hannah

P.S., two quick thoughts...

① I'm still learning names. Pretty soon I'll have it all down, but until then, patience and ginkgo biloba are what I'm hoping for.

② By my list from Robin (who, by the way, is unbelievably wonderful!), we have a lot of people who will be on my regular visitation schedule (not including hospital/surgery visits). That means I may not see everyone quite as frequently as I'd like (except in a special time of crisis). **But if you need me, CALL ME!** Call the church...call my home...call my cell phone...just call me! I am never too busy to hear that you'd like or need a special visit. Pastor John



I would like to thank everyone for their sweet cards, gifts, lunch dates, well wishes, telephone calls, emails, bread, and garden vegetables in celebrating my birthday last week. It truly was a very good week. I am truly blessed to be able to call you my other church family!

Thank you again for your kindness to me.

Robin Mays
Administrative Assistant



HELP OUR YOUNG FAMILIES

In order for us to adhere to Safe Sanctuary Policies a second adult needs to present in our Nursery with Pilar Tobar, our Lead Nursery Worker.

If we can have at least 8 people to commit to serve at one service once a month for 3 months we will have coverage during both services to continue this ministry that will allow parents of young children to enjoy worship.

Prayerfully search your heart to see what role you can play in this ministry. Please go online to the church's website and sign-up.

Fueling Faith



All Aboard!!

I blinked and summer is almost over. This year my children start High School!! How did this happen? How will this new phase change our family dynamics? How will COVID influence our lives this school year? For the time being I am accepting COVID as part of life and "Life carries on."

I'm praying that we can all start the new academic year with energy that spills over into our church lives. I pray that families will encourage one another to prioritize their faith development, have their children, youth, and young adults join their respective peer groups. I pray to hear the same exuberance from every Sunday school class as I've been hearing from the High School class. I pray that every adult will find a place where they can grow in Christ and thrive. I pray that our weekly Prayer Meeting (Sunday night virtual) will continue to be a blessing and that more people will tune in and share in the joy.

I invite you to make a decision to be part of a community of faith. Consider one of the Adult Sunday school groups, women's groups, men's group, various volunteer opportunities, both inside and outside of our church walls. Be on the lookout for announcements of upcoming Bible Studies and various other ministry and outreach opportunities.

Joining the Harvest Festival team will allow you to meet new people and be part of something unique and beautiful. Commit your time as you are able, no pressure.

Unsure of your place here at First United Methodist, Conover? I can help you!! Pastor John is new too, so you are in good company! Have a burning desire to start a new group? We are glad to help you!!

The world needs Christ and the Church needs you. Together we can encourage one another and be the change we want to see in this world. This is your time. ALL ABOARD!!

Pastor Charmaine

Telephone: (828) 464-4635 / Email: pastorcharmaigne@gmail.com / Text : (781) 913-4415