



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

March 1, 2022

As we begin this month (and with the global news between Russia and Ukraine) I want to contrast two images. [Warning....geeky history lesson ahead.]

The month of March is named for the Roman god of war, Mars. This was the time of year to resume military campaigns that had been interrupted by winter. As March brought the first day of spring with the vernal equinox, it was the start of new beginnings, which frequently included military efforts. Much blood has been spilled through the years because of Mars and March.

But spring is also the time of Easter...and the hope of peace Jesus brings through the cross.

There's an amazing (and true) story from the history of the Cree Indians of western Canada. Through many courageous exploits, a young man named Maskepetoon became known as the bravest warrior in the tribe.

One day a man came to Maskepetoon's camp talking about peace - something his tribe had never known because of the relentless bloodshed between his Cree tribe and their longtime enemies, the Blackfoot. But this man with a black book called the Bible introduced this warrior to the Creator of all. The missionary told him of how the Creator God's Son defeated the Evil Manitou, the Enemy of all. He climbed to the top of a hill and gave His life on a cross as a peace offering.

That meant peace could be restored between the Creator of all and the people He had made.

Now the ancient symbol of peace among the Plains Cree had always been two crossed sticks. And it was two crossed sticks that the Creator God's Son had died on. Maskepetoon decided he wanted to be like Jesus, the bravest warrior of all.

In the past, when one tribe wanted to make peace with another, they would send their bravest warrior to meet the enemy with a special offering tied onto two crossed sticks. Despite the danger, Maskepetoon went into Blackfoot country on just such a mission. The camp they came to first happened to be the camp of Many Swans, a violent chief who was seeking revenge for the sons he'd lost to Cree warriors.

Maskepetoon climbed to the top of a nearby hill and waited for the Blackfoot band to see them. With them, they brought a beautiful pair of beaded moccasins, tied onto two crossed sticks and a Bible that told of the peace the Creator had made with all.

Pretending to want peace, Many Swans tricked the Cree peacemakers into laying down their weapons, after which he and his warriors killed them all. But the chief's wife was furious with her husband. She was tired of all the killing. Ultimately, the Blackfoot people agreed. But none of them was brave enough to risk going to talk peace with the Cree, especially after having killed Maskepetoon.

So the chief's wife went, carrying with her the ancient symbol of peace - a frame of crossed sticks with a specially beaded pair of moccasins tied to its center. The Cree chief, who had himself made peace with the Creator through Jesus' death, welcomed her. Eventually, the Cree met together with the Blackfoot on a high hill, where a peace treaty was signed. And their long war was finally over.

In so many ways, this is our story. It's the story of peace made possible by the death of the greatest Warrior of them all - on two crossed beams. Because of our sin, the Bible says we are **“alienated from God”**; in fact it calls us **“enemies.”** We are hopelessly cut off from the God who made us. And, in Isaiah's words, **“there is no peace”** when you're away from God.

(Continued on next page)

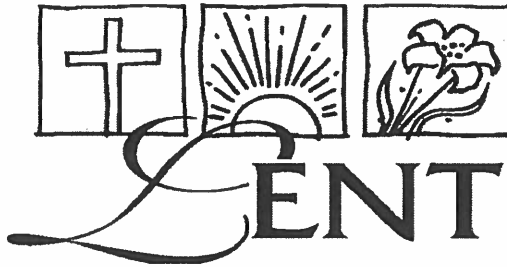
PRAYERS, PRAISES AND NEEDS

But here comes the hope. In Colossians 1:20, the Bible says God's Son came to reconcile our broken relationship with Him **"by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross."** He climbed to the top of a hill called Calvary and died as the sacrifice for your sin. The Bible puts it this way: **"The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him"** (Isaiah 53:5).

And that blood-bought peace is available to all. Peace — with God....peace in your heart. That's a good word for us today. It's a good word for our community and for this world. I hope you'll share it with someone this week.

Grace and Peace!

Pastor John



The season of Lent is the period of 40 days (not including Sundays) before the great celebration of Easter. It is a season that helps us prepare for the sacrifice Jesus made at Calvary's cross. Lent is a time of evangelism, conversion and growth through the disciplines of self-examination, prayer, works of service and even fasting.

Traditionally, believers have sought to "give up" something (a certain kinds of food, drink, or activity perhaps) and "take on" something (anonymous acts of service or care, for example); to deny ourselves some pleasure (TV, sweets or sleep) or to take on an additional time of Bible study, worship, introspection or service. All of these actions are intended to help us become more open to God's grace in our own lives so that we may worthily participate in the mystery of God's death and resurrection.

I encourage all of us (from children to senior adults) to observe this season of Lent in a way that will make the good news of Easter more meaningful and life-altering.

A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

2 Corinthians 5:17-20



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:

Evan, Sydney & Elijah Matson
Mike, Kelly, Laci & Haley Matthews
Richard & Revonda Matthews
Robert Matthews
Connie, Chris & Thomas McCoy
Kevin & Kylee McDuffie

IN / OUT OF HOSPITAL

Revonda Matthews at CVMC (Room 212)

NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Stephen Grant Monroe, age 78 and a member of our church family, died Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at Catawba Valley Medical Center.

A celebration of Steve's life was held Monday, February 28, 2022 at 2:00pm at First United Methodist Church of Conover with Rev. John Woods officiating. The family received friends prior to the service from 1-1:45pm at the church.

Memorials may be made to Samaritan's Purse, PO Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Kathryn, Tommy, Mike and the family during this difficult time.

NEWS TO USE

CONNOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

For anyone wanting to apply for a Connor Scholarship, please contact the church office by phone (828) 464-4635 or via email - fumcc@fumconover.org to obtain an application. **The deadline for application submittable is March 31st.**

CFLC & PRESCHOOL CLOSED FOR PAINTING

The Connor Family Life Center and the Preschool will both be closed from April 18-22 to get a fresh coat of paint.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

The Trustees

EASTER 4 KIDS

Calling all Children ages 2 thru 5th grade! You, and your family, are invited to a very special **EASTER CELEBRATION** on:

Saturday, April 2, 2022

10:00 am – 11:00

Connor Family Life Center

Children will learn about Jesus' journey through Jerusalem, from His entry on Palm Sunday to His resurrection. There will be stories, crafts, snacks and activities. This celebration will be a blessing to all children and their families. You won't want to miss it and be sure to invite friends, grandchildren, and neighbors!!

Bring Baskets for the Easter Egg Hunt!!



PASTOR'S QUIZ



The man left half-dead by thieves on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho was aided by the good Samaritan only after he had been ignored by

- a. one passerby
- b. two passersby
- c. three passersby
- d. fourteen passersby

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence February 27, 2021
Sunday School
81

Worship:	
8:45am Service	101
11:00am Service	88
Live streaming	<u>65</u>
Total	254

God's Tithes & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 11,586.00
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$13,609)</i>	
Children's Bank	<u>18.50</u>
Total	\$ 11,604.50

FLOWER CHART DATES AVAILABLE



March 20
May 8
June 5, 12
Aug. 28
Sept. 11
Dec. 11

Please call the church office at 464-4635 to reserve a date on the flower chart.

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

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

MARCH MADNESS AT ECCCM!!!

Time for March Madness at ECCCM!! Not so much the basketball games, but a friendly competition in the form of a food drive. Please donate food or money on behalf of your favorite college team. The team who gets the most donated food wins the challenge. Collection dates are March 1 - April 4.

FUMCC is participating in this March Madness food drive! Please leave your donated food in the team designated boxes located in the Conner Family Life Center. Money works, also! Each dollar counts as 3 pounds of food. Checks should include your team choice and FUMCC in the memo line. Checks may be mailed to ECCCM at P O Box 31, Newton, taken to ECCCM, or given to Anita Deal.

Thank you for supporting this ministry and our community.

Anita Deal, Representative



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

b. two passersby
(Luke 10:30-37)

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. John Woods (pastor@fumconover.org) (828) 464-4635 (336) 480-4550 - cell 612 6th Ave NE Conover, NC 28613
Associate Pastor of Faith Development	Rev. Charmaine Van Rooyen (pastorcharmaine@gmail.com) (781) 913-4415 - cell 1307 8th Ave NW Conover, NC 28613
Office Administrator / Financial Secretary	Robin Mays (fumcc@fumconover.org)
Music Director/Choir	Jon Rogers (jsrogers99@gmail.com) (828) 244-7019
Music Director/Praise Team/ Pianist	Shannon Rogers (srog101@gmail.com) (828) 244-6124
Organist	Kevin Haney khaney01@gmail.com (704)914-6510
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

MORE NEWS TO USE



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
(828) 381-4988 - Rick's cell
(828) 381-7328 - Linda's cell

Dottie Harris, 1449 Brookstone Drive
Hickory, NC 28602
(704) 460-4919 - Ron's cell

Lee & Betty Moritz, 103 County Home Road
Conover, NC 28613
(828) 464-3383

Dolores Setzer PO Box 1237
Conover, NC 28613
(828) 256-1421

Glenna Sherrill, 2038 North Deal Avenue
Newton, NC 28658
(828) 464-1874

Mary Ann Simpson, PO Box 1735
Conover, NC 28613
(828) 244-5524 - cell

If you know of any homebound members that need to be on our list, please contact the church office at (828) 464-4635.

THANK YOU

It was so nice to visit with Nancy Clarke and Susan Hunsucker who brought my Valentine bag. I appreciate all the Get Well cards, Valentine messages and delicious goodies. I miss you all. God bless you for all your kindness.

Mary Ann Simpson

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