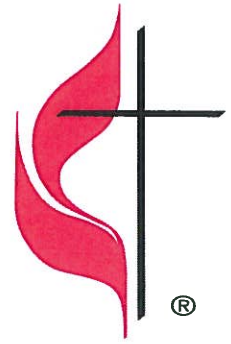




CONOVER
FIRST UNITED
METHODIST

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

March 22, 2022

NO SUCH THING AS RETIREMENT



It's maybe one of the most enduring advertising campaigns in history. And think of how hard it must be to do that when what you're selling is something as boring as batteries. But Energizer did it. Right?

I bet you can even picture the ad in your mind now: he's got sunglasses on, drumsticks in his hand, and a big bass drum in front of him. And he moves across the landscape, unstoppable, beating his drum all the way because he's powered by Energizer batteries, of course.

Yeah, the Energizer bunny. He keeps *“going and (say it with me....) going and going and going.”* So do faithful followers of Jesus Christ, no matter how long they've been going. In fact, that's what the Bible says.

According to Psalm 92 (starting at v.12), ***“The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God.”*** Now, listen to this part. ***“They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, ‘The Lord is upright; He is my Rock.’*** Isn't that great? People in the later years of their lives, not just playing shuffleboard or watching “Wheel of Fortune,” but still making a difference. Still praising their faithful Lord every chance they get. Still talking about the “Rock” who has sustained them through every battle of their life. Speaking as only those who have walked with the Lord a long time can speak of Him!

It's God's will that you should ***“bear fruit in your old age,”*** that you stay fresh and productive, not stale, not on the sidelines. You can retire from a career. You can retire from a company or an occupation, but you can't retire from your service to Jesus Christ! Sometimes people say, *“Well, I've served my time. I've done my part. I'll just sit here and rest until Jesus comes for me.”*

Listen, when you love the Lord Jesus....when you've surrendered your life to His leadership, you don't look for an opportunity to quit. You say, *“Man, if I live to be 100, I'm never going to have enough time to do for my Lord what I want to do!”* See, God wants you to be one of His “Energizer bunnies” who keep going and going and going until He decides your work is finished.

Yes, your body may slow down. Your health may not be what it used to be. But you still have so much to give. He's still got lives for you to touch. He's still got young people He wants you to encourage. He's still got battles for you to fight, other people's burdens for you to help carry, situations that need your wisdom, people who need you to tell them about how to get to heaven. They need the Jesus you know.

Isn't it exciting to know that God wants to keep using your life for your whole life? Because the Holy Spirit, who lives in you, never gets old, never wears out, and never goes off duty.

Grace and Peace!

Pastor John

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:

Matthew Morrow; Patrick, Crystal & McKenzie Morrow;
Marie Mull; Gary, Tammy, Kathryn, Jack & Emma Muller,
Lawson Kincaid; Mark & Lynn Murphy;
Tony & Jenene Nellenbach.

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

Dottie Harris - Carolina Rehab Center of Burke
3647 Miller Bridge Road
Connelly Springs, NC 28612
(828) 397-3144

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

Revonda Matthews, 308 1st Avenue PL NE
Conover, NC 28613
(828) 465-1873

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.

IN / OUT OF HOSPITAL

Dottie Harris at Carolina Rehab Center of Burke (Room 302)
Lee Moritz, Jr. (Virginia)

A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Richard Sears, age 70 of Conover and a member of FUMCC, died Thursday, March 17th at his residence. A celebration of life service will be held at FUMCC Saturday, March 26th at 2:00pm with Pastor John officiating. Visitation will be held prior to the service from 1-2pm.

Donations may be made to ECCCM or to Tunnels to Towers at 2361 Hylan Boulevard Staten Island, NY 10306.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Guynell, Alex, Abby, and all the family during this difficult time.

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!!



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.**

EASTER BLESSINGS FOR OUR SHUT-INS



Can you believe Easter is just a few weeks away? Would you once again help us spread love and blessings to our homebound and nursing facility members? Easter baskets will be placed outside Charmaine's office with the names of our 9 members. Please bring an Easter card and/or treat to add to each basket, either on Sunday morning or during the week. The names are listed in the newsletter. **The deadline will be April 10th** so the baskets can be delivered before Easter. Thank you so much for your amazing support of this ministry.

The Caring Ministry Team

EASTER EGG-CITEMENT!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED EASTER 4 KIDS

Saturday, April 2, 2022

FUMCC will be inviting all children to an Easter Celebration just for kids. We will need many **VOLUNTEERS** to help the children learn about Jesus and his journey through Jerusalem – from His entry on Palm Sunday to His resurrection. We will offer crafts, activities, lessons, and snacks. To finish our celebration, there will be an Easter egg hunt.

Volunteers will be needed from 9:30 – 11:30. This is a fun event and an important ministry for all those who participate.

If you can help with one of the Bible verses, an activity or a craft, please contact **JO ELLEN KNECHT** at 828-244-9437 (joellenknecht@yahoo.com) or **PASTOR CHARMAIGNE** at pastorcharmaigne@gmail.com.

Thank you for your help and prayers.

PASTOR'S QUIZ



"Ask, and it shall be given you," said Jesus, after illustrating the relative power of

- a. friendship
- b. insolence
- c. importunity
- d. forgetfulness

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence March 20, 2021
Sunday School
86

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Worship: | |
| 8:45am Service | 104 |
| 11:00am Service | 98 |
| Live streaming | <u>70</u> |
| Total | 272 |

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| General Fund | \$ 20,318.00 |
| <i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$13,609)</i> | |
| Children's Bank | 15.00 |
| UMCOR (Advance#982450) | <u>3,375.00</u> |
| Total | \$ 23,708.00 |
| Additional monies from the Wilcox Charitable Remainder Trust | |
| | \$ 28,566.80 |

AS A COURTESY...

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



FLOWER CHART DATES AVAILABLE



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
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MARCH MADNESS FOOD DRIVE
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:

c. impotunity
 (Luke 11:5-9)

CHURCH STAFF

| | |
|---|---|
| Pastor | Rev. John Woods (pastor@fumcconover.org) (828) 464-4635 (336) 480-4550 - cell 612 6th Ave NE Conover, NC 28613 |
| Associate Pastor of Faith Development | Rev. Charmaine Van Rooyen (pastorcharmaigne@gmail.com) (781) 913-4415 - cell 1307 8th Ave NW Conover, NC 28613 |
| Office Administrator / Financial Secretary | Robin Mays (fumcc@fumcconover.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@fumcconover.org) |
| Lead Nursery Worker | Pilar Tobar |
| Custodian | Luisa Toro Bryan |
| Church Office | (828) 464-4635 |
| Website: | www.fumcconover.org |

MORE NEWS TO USE

COLUMBARIUM PRICING FOR 2022

Prices are for 1-1-2022 to 12-31-2022 and include the following:

The price of the Niche, Opening and Closing of the Niche one time and Bronze Plaque must be ordered at the time of purchase by the Church Office Staff.

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Bronze Plaque: | \$1,250.00 |
| Double Niche: | \$1,150.00 |
| Single Niche: | \$ 850.00 |

Pricing subject to change if cost changes during the year.

The Trustees



THANKING GOD FOR HIS BLESSINGS!

Pastor John said a prayer of "Thanksgiving" over the food that has been donated to ECCCM's March Madness Food Drive. Pictured with Pastor John is Anita Deal, our ECCCM representative.



2023 TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

Randy Cline, one of the volunteers that Caroline Williams works with at Rising Hope Farms, is organizing a trip to the Holy Land for next year. The trip is planned for March 7-16, 2023 and is hosted by St. James Lutheran Church.

If you are interested in this trip, please contact Randy Cline at (828) 234-7952. The all-inclusive price is \$3779 and does not include the cost of obtaining a U.S. passport, meals or beverages other than specified, insurance, items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, etc.

If you are interested in seeing a brochure, please contact Robin in the church office.



Wondering How You Can Help the People of Ukraine?

United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country may contribute to **Advance #982450, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery**. This fund will provide direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries.

Gifts to support the people of Ukraine can be made in the following ways:

- By check with "Advance #982450-Ukraine" written on the memo line and made payable to First UMC Conover and placed in the offering plate by Sunday, March 27, 2022.
- Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450>
- By toll free telephone: 888-252-6174

One hundred percent of all Advance contributions go to the designated cause. The United Methodist community in Ukraine, though quite small, is actively engaged in assisting neighbors in need. Global Ministries is in touch with the church's leadership as well as with church leaders in countries welcoming those who are fleeing from violence in Ukraine.

Fueling Faith



Journey to Jerusalem - An Easter Worship Experience

For those who wondered why some of the windows and doors are draped in black, well, I have an answer. Our awesome "Window Ladies" - Nancy Wall, Anita Deal, Cindy Clark, Michelle Cloninger and Beverly Swithenbank - covered them in preparation for our *Journey to Jerusalem* Easter worship experience, also known as our Prayer Walk. Our what??

Journey to Jerusalem is a literal journey through the life of Jesus. Through Word, sound, visuals and the gift of silence, you are invited to immerse yourself into the story; to become part of it. You'll start your journey in a space where you are reminded of the various prophecies about the Messiah who was to come. You then meander - at your own pace - through the story of Jesus' life, from Bethlehem, to Golgotha and the empty tomb. The sacrament of Holy Communion will be served by Pastor John at the end of the journey for those who so desire.

This year we are foregoing online reservations. We will have a signup in the narthex of the sanctuary, just to help our members gauge what time might be less crowded. You are invited to START your journey anytime between 6pm and 8:30pm on April 11, 12, 13, & 15.

Ample Handicap Parking will be available near the entrance of the Connor Family Life Center (CFLC). Those with limited mobility may be dropped off under the awning to make use of the indoor seating if you are required to wait for a few minutes before you start your journey. Please note that the entire walk is wheelchair and walker accessible. We have two or three wheelchairs available for those who worry about completing the 20 minute or so journey. Seating is also available along the way for you to either rest or reflect.

I pray that you will be able to join us in an experience that will touch your heart and make Easter so much more of a celebration.

Please be in prayer for the team as they set up; and if you want to pop in Mondays through Thursdays from 6pm until... to see what we are up to, please feel free!!

Pastor Charmaine and the Prayer Walk Team

P.S. If your synthetic house plant or tree would like to be part of the *Journey to Jerusalem* please reach out to us.