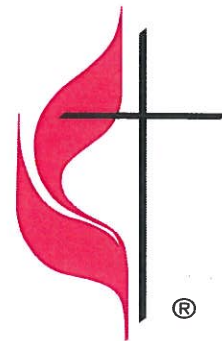




## *Our Vision:*

*“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 8, 2022*

## General Conference postponed to 2024

Though disappointing (yet anticipated by many of us) late last week the General Commission on General Conference made the announcement that General Conference will be postponed until 2024. Though they deliberated for months upon months, in the end, COVID-19 vaccine availability, unattainable visas, and the lack of infrastructure for a virtual conference have postponed the global gathering of United Methodists until sometime in 2024.

Remember, this was supposed to be the (already twice delayed) reschedule of the 2020 General Conference. Functionally, this means our denomination will be unable to gather and take up any legislation for another two years. Foremost of those proposals is the expected split in our denomination (over LGBTQ+ issues).

*Pastor John, what does this mean?*

First, nothing about this postponement changes our call to shine God's light, proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ or care for our community in both tangible and spiritual ways. **Jesus is still looking for First UMC-Conover to be a place where He is faithfully honored, passionately worshipped and obediently served.** I'm so glad that in this ever-changing, unpredictable world we live in, God's good news and our response as God's redeemed never, ever changes.

This delay however, does mean that we will continue to be part of a denomination that is internally divided beyond the point of breaking. The "cracks" from the stress of this delay will only exacerbate those tensions even more. I anticipate that the next two years will be an even more painful time for the people who are called United Methodist. Paradoxically, our name seems to be the only thing that is united about our denomination any more.

There are a lot of people vying for attention, posting articles, tweets, and blogs about this news. Looking online, I see that more than one has an axe to grind, so I want to caution us not to jump too quickly to hyperbole, overstatements or someone else's assumptions about next steps. We will intentionally and prayerfully assess what this means (or doesn't mean) for our church.

With that pastoral word, I want to not just encourage but strongly call on you to actively pray about this announcement and its implications for our United Methodist Church, for those leaders God has placed over us, and especially for First UMC-Conover in particular.

I anticipate that we will have a special prayer gathering soon and I hope you will come and be a part of that (obviously, more information to come). Let's remember that our fellow UMC folks who do not think/believe/interpret/understand things the way that you do....they are not our enemies. Therefore, we will speak about, and act toward, and generously love them for who they are...people who have also been sanctified and redeemed by the blood of the Lord.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor John*

*"As the pandemic continues and the wait time for visas stretches to over two years in some countries, the Commission on the General Conference announced today that the 2020 General Conference cannot be held in 2022 due to COVID-related and governmental policies/ constraints."*

General Commission on the General Conference, 3/3/2022



# \*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:

Kim McDuffie; Jennifer & Todd Miller  
Greg Monk; Harry & Trenia Monk  
Angie & Trevor Monk; Kathryn Monroe

## 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

Revonda Matthews Conover Nursing & Rehabilitation (Room 104B)  
920 4th Street SW  
Conover, NC 28613  
(828) 695-8282

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.

## IN / OUT OF HOSPITAL

Revonda Matthews at Conover Rehab (Room 104B)

## MEMORIALS

### General Fund

In memory of Betty Couch by:  
Ron & Dottie Harris

In memory of M.G. Doub by:  
Ron & Dottie Harris

In memory of Steve Monroe by:  
FUMCC United Methodist Men

## EASTER 4 KIDS

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

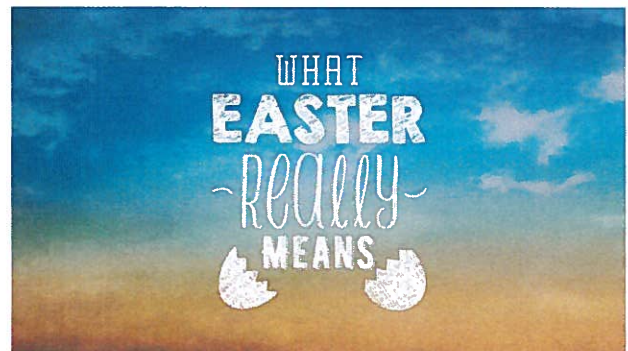
**Saturday, April 2, 2022**

**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

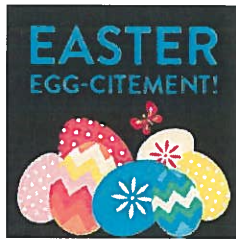
For anyone wanting to apply for a Connor Scholarship, please contact the church office by phone (828) 464-4635 or via email - [fumcc@fumconover.org](mailto:fumcc@fumconover.org) to obtain an application. **The deadline for application submittable is March 31st.**

## 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



## 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 – 11:00. 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](mailto:joellenknecht@yahoo.com)) or PASTOR CHARMAIGNE at [pastorcharmaigne@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcharmaigne@gmail.com).

Thank you for your help and prayers.

## PASTOR'S QUIZ



"Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things," said Jesus, in

- a. sympathy
- b. friendly curiosity
- c. mild reproof
- d. severe judgment

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

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence March 6, 2021  
Sunday School  
76

Ash Wednesday Service: 85

Worship:	
8:45am Service	100
11:00am Service	109
Live streaming	<u>54</u>
Total	263

### **God's Tithe & Our Gifts**

General Fund	\$ 19,236.21
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$13,609)</i>	
Children's Bank	<u>78.85</u>
Total	\$ 19,315.06

## AS A COURTESY...

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



## 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 ECCCCM!!!

Time for March Madness at ECCCCM!! 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 ECCCCM at P O Box 31, Newton, taken to ECCCCM, 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. mild reproof  
( Luke 10:38-42)

## 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 (pastorcharmaigne@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

## Spring Forward



Daylight  
Savings  
Time  
begins  
Sunday



MARCH 13, 2022

DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR  
CLOCKS UP ONE HOUR BEFORE  
GOING TO BED SATURDAY  
NIGHT!

YOU DON'T WANT TO BE THE  
ONLY ONE AT WORSHIP OR  
SUNDAY SCHOOL!

## METHODISM CLASSES — SPRING 2022

The Catawba Valley District is offering classes on Methodism for clergy and laity who serve in leadership positions in your church. **These classes meet the requirements for Advanced Lay Servant courses in the Catawba Valley District.**

All classes are taught Dr. Jonathan LeMaster-Smith.

There are three 2-day classes offered this spring: UM History, UM Doctrine, and UM Polity. Each class consists of 2 days of instruction, held on a Friday - Saturday.

There are also books that are required, which you will need to purchase before class and bring with you. The books are available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and/or [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com).

Classes will be held at Central United Methodist Church (113 S Piedmont Ave, Kings Mountain, NC).

*\*\* Certificates will be issued, which can then be used for CEU credit or for Catawba Valley District Advanced Lay Servant course credit.*

### Payment Information

Registration fee includes refreshments, snack breakfast and lunch. The cost for each 2-day class will be \$50, which covers the cost of refreshments and lunches. **(NOTE: The Catawba Valley District will provide a \$25 scholarship for all registrants who are members of the CV District. Your total cost will be \$25 per class.)**

Register at: <https://wnc-reg.brtapp.com/MethodismSpring2022>

For more information on what classes are being offered, please go to the Catawba Valley District website at [cvdistrictumc.org](http://cvdistrictumc.org)

# **WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS TO FUMCC SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2022**



**Gene & Lilly Hendricks**  
3573 Savannah Lane  
Claremont, NC 28610

Home Phone: (828) 459-4431  
Gene's cell: (828) 493-4459  
Lilly's cell: (828) 493-1466  
Email: lilhen@charter.net

**Bryan, Donna & Jessie Ross**  
6487 River Bend Road  
Claremont, NC 28610

Home phone: (828) 459-7159  
(828) 514-6377 - Donna's cell

Email addresses:

Bryan - [bross@cvcc.edu](mailto:bross@cvcc.edu)

Donna - [dross@cvcc.edu](mailto:dross@cvcc.edu)

Jessie - [jessieross0708@gmail.com](mailto:jessieross0708@gmail.com)

