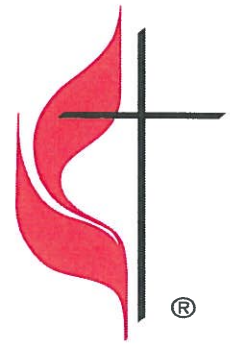




CONOVER
FIRST UNITED
METHODIST

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 29, 2022

Have you heard about this one restaurant that offers more than food - it offers some unique live entertainment - at this one table. The table is in the center of the restaurant where everyone can see. Several unsuspecting diners are sitting at this table, just minding their own business, eating their meal - as the table starts to rise very, very slowly. So slowly that no one seems to even notice that their food is getting closer to their mouth. Apparently on one occasion, the diners were chattering and eating away as the table rose nearly to eye level. And it was only at that point that someone begin to realize that they were having to lower their fork to get the food to their mouth!

It's amazing but true - when a change is gradual, you hardly even notice. Until it's up to your eyes! Satan is counting on that being true in your life. He knows most of the time you won't fall for a blatant temptation to do something obviously sinful. That's OK with him. For now, he'll settle with just a small, seemingly harmless, step in that direction. Because he knows that step will lead to another, and another - and ultimately to spiritual disaster you can't even imagine now. You end up destroyed not by a sudden explosion, but by erosion.

When it comes to the slow but sure takeover by sin and its consequences, the story of Samson just about says it all. Here is a guy specially gifted by God with personal magnetism, supernatural strength, and spiritual leadership. This man, initially feared by the Israelite's enemies (the Philistines), ends up as their blind and helpless slave, pushing a grinding wheel in prison. Did this happen suddenly? Of course not. It happened one little compromise at a time.

According to the Bible, Samson's weakness was women. So, he sees a pagan woman who looks good to him and he proceeds to marry her - out of God's bounds. When the Philistines want information from Samson, they convince his wife to coax him into telling. In Judges 14, the Bible says, **“She threw herself on him, sobbing”** and he **“finally told her.”**

Well, Samson's next woman was a prostitute, and he's almost trapped by the Philistines again while he's with her. Then along comes another woman working with the Philistines named Delilah. They bribe her to find out what the secret of his strength (which is his hair). Three attempts fail, but the Bible says, **“With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was tired to death”** (Judges 16:16). He tells her his secret, he loses his source of strength, and the Philistines have him.

James 1:15 says: **“After desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”** Sin always kills, so stop it when it's small. Maybe you've been falling for Satan's slow but sure seduction. *“Just a little”... “just this once”... “everybody else is”... “it's not that bad”... “you deserve it”... “you need it”... “no one will know.”* One little compromise - to start taking you where you think you will never end up.

Stop that killer strategy with that first look, that first lie, the first flirtation, the first detour from God's Word. Stop it now, before it takes you where you don't want to go. Like the proverbial frog in the pot, hop out before things get too hot!



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:

Wendy Norman; Heather Norman & Ayvah Hearne;
Bill & Brenda Novotny; John & Elizabeth Padgett;
Sethu Palmer; Rick & Linda Parker.

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 (302)
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

Lee Moritz, Jr. (at home)

HELP NEEDED!

We are in need of two individuals to teach a preschool Sunday school class. We currently have 4 children ages 3 and 4 that have aged out of the nursery and need to be in a class. This commitment would be each Sunday during the Sunday school hour. A room is available and curriculum can be ordered. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve.

Thank you,
Julie Patterson, Sunday School Director



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



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 nine 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 information

Easter 4 Kids this Saturday, April 2 in the CFLC from 10–11am. Volunteers please be here no later than 9:30 to prepare for our little guests.

Journey to Jerusalem, April 11, 12, 13, and 15.

- ♦ Start your journey anytime between 6:00pm and 8:30pm.
- ♦ Share on social media.
- ♦ NEEDED please: Large house plants (ferns, palms, Schefflera plants), please put a piece of tape with name on pots. May drop in CFLC foyer, stage steps or back hall.
- ♦ Volunteers, set up, event volunteers, break-down crew. PLEASE make every effort to attend our final meeting before the event, this Sunday at 2:00pm. After the meeting we will set up the walls in the CFLC. We need many hands!

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding any of these ministries, please reach out to me. Call 828.464.46345, text 781.913.4415 or pastorcharmaigne@gmail.com.

Pastor Charmaine

PASTOR'S QUIZ



Jesus' parable of the rich man who would build greater barns to store his excess produce showed how fruitless this plan was, since

- a. each greater barn excites a desire for one still greater
- b. many more smaller barns spread the risk
- c. rich men copy each other
- d. he would not live to enjoy his produce

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence March 27, 2021
Sunday School
82

Worship:	
8:45am Service	100
11:00am Service	98
Live streaming	<u>67</u>
Total	265

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 11,934.19
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$13,609)</i>	
Children's Bank	23.00
ECCCM Food Drive	50.00
UMCOR (Advance#982450)	<u>895.00</u>
Total	\$ 12,902.19

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.



ECCCM VOLUNTEER DAY AND ECCCM VOLUNTEER APRECIATION DAY

Tuesday, April 5th will be FUMCC volunteer day at ECCCM. Also, there will be a pizza lunch that day in honor of ECCCM volunteers at 11:30am. Awards for volunteers will follow at 12:30pm.

Anita Deal,
Our ECCCM Representative

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 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:

d. he would not live to enjoy his produce
(Luke 12:13-21)

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

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, calls, cards and visits during my recent illness. I am doing much better now, but your continued prayers are much appreciated.

Annabelle Stoltz

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHERYL MARKLAND! 2022 NC SHOPE Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to FUMC's own, Cheryl Markland, PE teacher at Campbell Elementary School, who was named 2022 NC SHAPE (NC Society of Health and Physical Education) Teacher of the Year.

Cheryl, who has taught for 31-years, was selected from nominees across the state. Selection criteria included recommendations, school and community contributions, and promotion of a healthy lifestyle.

Ryan McCreary, principal at Clyde Campbell Elementary, said Cheryl is an amazing physical education and health teacher. "She is an excellent innovator, colleague, and leader at Clyde Campbell Elementary," McCreary said. "She has been a lifelong learner who has constantly worked to provide the very best PE program for our students, and she has had a tremendous impact on students' lives throughout her 31-year career. This is a well-deserved honor for an outstanding educator."

Way to go, Cheryl!! Your FUMC church family is so very proud of your accomplishment!



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

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.



April 2022

April 2022
 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

May 2022
 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
 29 30 31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1	2
0-COMMUNION 3-6pm Domino's (Faithbuilders' class) 4-5pm Holy Land Mtg. (CFLC)	6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts (CFLC) 7-8pm Boy Scouts (CFLC) Set-up for Prayer Walk	09am-Vol. Day at ECCCM 7-8:15pm Rev. Bible Study (Sanctuary) Set-up for Prayer Walk	10:30-11:45am Rev. Bible Study 1pm Hand & Foot (Scout Room) Set-up for Prayer Walk	7pm - Hand & Foot cardgame (Middle High Class) Set-up for Prayer Walk (Everywhere)	7pm Dominos (Faithbuilders classroom)	10am-11am-Easter4Kids (CFLC 8am-12pm)
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
0-COMMUNION 3-6pm Domino's (Faithbuilders' class) 4-5pm Holy Land Mtg. (CFLC)	6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts (CFLC) 7-8pm Boy Scouts (CFLC) Set-up for Prayer Walk	09am-Vol. Day at ECCCM 7-8:15pm Rev. Bible Study (Sanctuary) Set-up for Prayer Walk	10:30-11:45am Rev. Bible Study 1pm Hand & Foot (Scout Room) Set-up for Prayer Walk	7pm - Hand & Foot cardgame (Middle High Class) Set-up for Prayer Walk (Everywhere)	7pm Dominos (Middle High Class) Set-up for Prayer Walk (Everywhere)	Set-up for Prayer Walk (Everywhere)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
3-6pm Domino's (Middle High Class) 4-7pm Yth Mtgs (Pastor's John's) Set-up for Prayer Walk	2pm - Circle #2 Meeting (Alternate Area) 6-8:30pm - PRAYER WALK (CFLC/Classrooms/Com.Area/Conf.Rm)	6-8:30pm - PRAYER WALK (CFLC/Classrooms/Com.Area/Conf.Rm)	1pm Hand & Foot (Middle High Class) 6-8:30pm - PRAYER WALK (CFLC/Classrooms/Com)	7pm-Maundy Thursday Service (Sanctuary)	6-8:30pm Prayer Walk (CFLC/Classrooms/Com.Area/Conf. Rm)	8AM-3pm CLEAN UP (CFLC/Classrooms/Halls/Com.Area/Conf.Rm)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
EASTER SUNDAY	CFLC/Preschool Closed	7-8:15pm Rev. Bible Study (Sanctuary) CFLC/Preschool Closed	10:30-11:45am Rev. Bible Study 1pm Hand & Foot (Scout Room) CFLC/Preschool Closed	7pm - Hand & Foot cardgame (Middle High Class) CFLC/Preschool Closed	7pm Dominos (Middle High Class) CFLC/Preschool Closed	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
0-4pm - Finance Mtg. (Conference room) 0-5pm-Church Council 3-6pm Domino's 4-7pm Yth Mtgs	7-8:15pm Rev. Bible Study (CFLC)	10:30-11:45am Rev. Bible Study (CFLC) 1pm Hand & Foot (Scout Room)	7pm - Hand & Foot cardgame (Faithbuilders' class)	7pm - Hand & Foot cardgame (Faithbuilders' class)	7pm Dominos (Faithbuilders classroom)	9am-12 UMW Exe. Comm. (Crossroads class)

Birthdays

Who = (everyone except removed); Filter = Birthday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Brandon Miller Suzanne Spencer	4	5 Rylee Garrison Brittany Ponthieux	6 Bryson Lowdermilk	7 James Zehmer	8 Jeanette Davis	9 Alice Spencer Alan Thornburg
10 Drew Danner Greg Reed	11 Jan Barbersek	12 Terry Shepherd	13 Haley Beech Jimmy Hollar Gary Little Brandie Tucker Jane Wike	14 Behr Jones	15 Natasha Bunton Cathy Choppa John Woods	16 Carol Kistler
17 Logan Spencer	18 Aaron Little Leta Tucker	19 Michael Copeland	20 Baker Yount	21 Owen Gilleland Melissa Johnson Elbert Parris Crystin Pittman Clay Rockett	22	23 Tristan Zinkhan
24 Daniel Moore	25	26 Gray Doub	27 Evan Matson Greg Monk Dave Morrow	28	29 Michael Goode Megan Johnson	30

Wedding Anniversaries

Who = (everyone except removed); Filter = Wedding

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Harold and Ruthie Thornburg, 55
10	11 Ray and Pam Penley, 24	12	13	14	15	16 Larry and Pam Lowdermilk, 57 Don and Vata Shook, 6
17 Gary and Tammy Muller, 18	18	19 Bob and Lois Goodson, 47 Brad and Kim Little, 41	20 Billy and Beth Boston, 26	21	22 Steve and Michele Danner, 27	23
24	25	26	27	28 Wesley and Brandie Tucker, 10	29	30