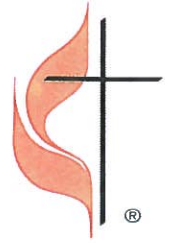




CONOVER  
FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST

## Our Vision:

*“By knowing Him, we Seek to make Him known to  
all people Through the love and  
Grace of Jesus Christ.”*



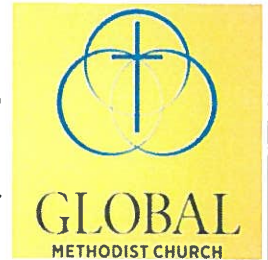
The Weekly Newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Conover

May 10, 2022

## GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH CREATED

Sunday, May 1 was the launch of the Global Methodist Church (“GMC”), a new denomination splintering from the United Methodist Church.

After decades of rancorous debate over the ordination and marriage of LGBTQ United Methodists, a special session of the UMC’s General Conference and three postponements of a vote to formally split the denomination, the schism finally came with the launch of this new denomination.



United Methodists have debated questions over same-sex marriage and the ordination of LGBTQ clergy at every quadrennial [4-year] meeting of the UMC General Conference since 1972, when language was first added to the *Book of Discipline* saying that “the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.”

That debate escalated over time and came to a head in 2016, when bishops announced a special General Conference devoted to the topic. At that meeting (in 2019) delegates voted 438-384 to strengthen bans on LGBTQ-inclusive practices. Most U.S.-based delegates opposed that plan, but they were outvoted as U.S. conservatives teamed with most of the delegates from Africa and the Philippines.

In the aftermath, many progressive clergy made clear they would not abide by the approved bans, and various groups worked on proposals to let the UMC split along theological lines. Eventually, a group representing all different theological viewpoints brokered a deal to create a new “traditionalist” Methodist denomination - called the Global Methodist Church.

Delegates to the 2020 General Conference were prepared to vote on that plan (called the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation) when COVID-19 swept the globe, canceling the meeting not once, but three times. Currently, that General Conference is set for 2024.

For some, the third postponement earlier this year was the last straw, and the Global Methodist Church announced it would go ahead and launch the new denomination on May 1.

United Methodist conferences in the U.S. hold their annual meetings in May and June (our WNC Conference is June 16 -19) and some may consider pathways to allow churches to leave with their properties. Others, however, are planning to wait to see what the 2024 General Conference decides.

The fracturing of our denomination is bittersweet, a sentiment echoed by nearly all leaders.

More logistical details are being hammered out by the GMC, and both our WNC bishop and the GMC are offering gatherings to learn more and have questions answered.

As your pastor, I want to encourage you to be in prayer during this transitional time.

Grace and Peace, *Pastor John*

- ✎ The GMC (via the Wesleyan Covenant Association) will have an informational meeting **this Saturday at 10:30am in the Connor Family Life Center** at our church.
- ✎ Our Catawba Valley District (UMC) will host 5 informational sessions about the future of the UMC (**May 15, June 5, June 12, July 10 & July 24**).

Call the church office for more details about both opportunities.

# \*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:

Doug, Samantha, Jack, Reese & Wyatt Rockett;  
Clay, Vicki, Cassandra, Elizabeth & Alexander Rockett;  
Jon, Shannon, Mackenzie & Jonathan Rogers;  
Bryan, Donna & Jessie Ross; Anthony & Sheila Rowe;  
Rev. Gary & Debbie Royals.

## IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

### A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Gwen Sherrill, 87 of Conover and mother of Lynn Murphy, died Friday, April 22, 2022. A service to celebrate Gwen's life was held Wednesday, April 27, at 1pm at Faith Lutheran Church in Conover. The family received friends from 11am-12:45pm at the church prior to the service.

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

### A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Walter "Jack" Little, age 86 and father of Gary Little died Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at Trinity Village.

A service to celebrate Jack's life was held Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 3pm at Bethlehem United Methodist Church in Claremont. Receiving followed the service.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Gary, Kelly and the family during this sad and difficult time.

### A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Brenda M. Boston Reynolds, age 79 of Conover and mother of Billy Boston, died Saturday, May 7, 2022 at Conover Nursing.

A graveside service will be held at Conover City Cemetery on Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 3:00pm.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Billy, Beth, Chris, Thomas and the family during this difficult time.

## IN / OUT OF HOSPITAL

None

### THANK YOU

Dear First United Methodist Church family,  
Thank you for your donations in memory of Richard to ECCCM. He was a wonderful husband and we will miss him so very much. Thank you for thinking of our family.

Fondly with love,  
The Sears Family

\*\*\*\*\*

### WITH MUCH APPRECIATION

Gary and I would like to thank Pastor John and Pastor Charmaine and our entire church family for the outpouring of love and support after the passing of Gary's Dad, Jack Little.

With much love,  
Kelly & Gary Little

\*\*\*\*\*

### THANK YOU

Rick and I sincerely thank you all for the Easter cards and goodies — it was a really fun time opening all the beautiful cards and reading the lovely messages and snacking on the chocolate bunnies! Thanks to all of you who have shown unending kindness during the past years. We are very thankful for our loving church family. God's continued blessings to all.

Linda Parker

## HONORARIUM

### General Fund

In honor of Margaret Garrison by:  
Edie & Charles Connor, III

## MEMORIAL

### Youth Fund

In memory of Stephen Monroe by:  
Carolyn Barnett, 1961 classmate from Cameron High School in Cameron, WV

# NEWS TO USE

## ADDRESS / PHONE CHANGES

Hernan & Chelsea Puga-Luna  
12527 Dervish Lane  
Charlotte, NC 28269-3404

\*\*\*\*\*

Elaine Biles  
c/o Jim & Kathy Biles  
1140 S. Michigan Ave.  
Greensburg, IN 47240

\*\*\*\*\*

Harold & Martha Robertson  
No land line  
Harold - cell# (704) 519-8845  
Martha - cell# (828) 514-0781

## ATTENTION GOODTIMERS!!!

The Goodtimers (Seniors of the church) will meet on Wednesday, May 18th at 12:00 o'clock Noon for a salad luncheon. We will have ground beef and the trimmings for Taco Salads, grilled chicken breasts and fried chicken tenders for salad toppers plus lots of special toppings!

It would be greatly appreciated if some of you could provide a dessert!. Please contact Eddie Warren at (828) 464-9643 if you plan to bring a dessert. Thank you.



## THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF

The Staff of First UMC Conover would like to thank the SPRC and their church family for the gift card of appreciation given to each of them at the 67th Homecoming celebration held Sunday, May 8, 2022.

The Staff are: Robin Mays, Jon Rogers, Shannon Rogers, Kevin Haney, Luisa Bryan & Pilar Tobar.

The Preschool Staff are: Julie Robinson, Ginger Doub, Jenene Nellenbach, Yvette Bumgarner, Jamie Thornburg, Madigan Gioscio & Colleen Fox.

The Senior Pastor and the Associate Pastor will be recognized in October during Clergy Appreciation month.

## STEWARDSHIP REPORTS

### **By Our Presence May 1, 2022**

Sunday School  
71

Worship:	
10:30am Service	128
Live streaming	<u>38</u>
Total	166

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

General Fund \$ 12,355.00  
(Needed weekly for budget: \$13,609)

Children's Bank	<u>10.50</u>
Total	\$ 12,365.50

### **By Our Presence May 8, 2022**

Sunday School  
19

Worship:	
8:45am Service	120
11:00am Service	118
Live streaming	<u>50</u>
Total	288

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

General Fund \$ 13,048.00  
(Needed weekly for budget: \$13,609)

Children's Bank	28.70
Youth Fund	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$ 13,176.70

# RSVP

**TEA PARTY AT 3:00PM  
THIS SUNDAY, MAY 15TH  
CALL THE OFFICE OR  
TEXT (781) 913-4415**

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

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

**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 - The Addison of Lincolnton  
440 Salem Church Road  
Lincolnton, NC 28092

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

\*\*\*\*\*

John & Betsy Hemmings, 2537 Birdie Lane  
Conover, NC 28613  
(828) 459-9444

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

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

**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