



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

June 28, 2022

A NOTE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

Over the years I've been one of the primary “waste management engineers” at our house. Yeah, I get to take out the garbage. Take it from an expert, do not buy cheap garbage bags. Also, maybe don't wait as long as I sometimes do to collect the garbage either. Here's the problem. You've just tied up a brimming bag full of junk you really don't want to see (or smell) any more. It's supposed to go outside to the garbage can. But sometimes they don't make it to there when a cheap bag rips open and dumps it all over the kitchen floor. Oh I've had it happen. Garbage isn't so bad. Garbage dumped in the wrong place - oh, that's bad.

From God's perspective, there's way too much garbage that gets dumped where it should never go - in the hearing and into the hearts of people who have no business having to deal with your garbage. God really doesn't like it.

In worship Sunday, I mentioned **Numbers 11:1**. Here's what it says about God's people: **“The people complained about their hardships”** - now here comes the sobering part - **“in the hearing of the Lord, (Oops!) and when He heard them, His anger was aroused. Then fire from the Lord burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp.”**

I guess this passage could be entitled, *“How to Make God Really Angry.”* It's called complaining - which amounts to dumping your garbage out in front of the people around you. It's not uncommon to check and see who's listening before we start complaining, or whining, or criticizing. When you do, don't forget the One who's always in the room - your Lord. He obviously doesn't like it at all.

One big problem with our complaining is that it focuses on what's frustrating us and it forgets the bigger picture. For example, the Israelites in **Numbers 11** went on to complain about their wilderness diet. They went on to talk about what “great food” they had in Egypt for, as they said, “no cost.” No cost? You were slaves, guys!

But when we're just looking at the irritations and the frustrations in front of us, we lose our perspective, blow little messes way out of proportion, and we forget the bigger picture of the great things God's doing in our lives.

Now, God isn't expecting us to ignore our frustrations. He just wants us to dump them out in the right place, which David spells out in **Psalms 142:1**, **“I pour out my complaint before Him; before Him I tell my trouble.”** Bring your complaints straight to God (*btw, that's not what the Israelites did in Numbers 11*). He's not going to be hurt by them. He's not going to be poisoned by them like the people around you will. And secondly, He can do something about your complaints much better than the people around you can.

If you've been dumping on the people around you, you've been unloading garbage where it's not supposed to be and you've probably been polluting them in the process. They don't need it. It makes your Father very unhappy and it really pollutes the environment!

Just one more reason why Paul reminds us to **“do all things without grumbling or arguing.”** (Philippians 2:14)

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:

Harold & Ruthie Thornburg; Jeff, Kim & Lee Thornburg; Michael Thornburg; Ronald Thornburg; Wayne & Virginia Thornburg; Michael & Emma (Hamilton) Tozser.

DON'T FORGET OUR MEMBERS IN THE NURSING FACILITIES & OUR HOMEBOUND!



James Davis - Memory Care Center
Abernathy Laurels
Newton, NC 28658

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

Lin Couch, 2520 N. Rankin Ave.,
Newton, NC 28658, (828) 244-8267

Dottie Harris, 1449 Brookstone Drive,
Hickory, NC 28602

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

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.

IN / OUT OF HOSPITAL

Rick Wall at Frye Regional MC (At home)

MEMORIALS

General Fund

In memory of Ray Birchfield by:
Diane & Andy Lewis
Randy & Diane Howard
Clyde & Carol Kistler
Eddie & Carol Warren
United Methodist Men
Edie & Charles Connor, III
Tony & Kathy Martin
Rick & Linda Parker
Johnnie Leagon
Dan Timmerman
Ray & Judy Elkin
Todd & Tammy Hefner
Gina Lane
Ken & Sarah Wehunt
Dr. Jerry Sowers, Jr.

Local Missions

In memory of Ray Birchfield by:
Jimmy & Cindy Clark

Music Fund

In memory of Ray Birchfield by:
Betty Fisher

United Methodist Men

In memory of Ray Birchfield by:
Mark & Rita Deal

WOMEN OF FUMC OF CONOVER

You are invited to a gathering of Women of Faith on July 23, 2022, at 9:30 am. Our program will be presented by Phil Williams from Highways & Hedges Ministry to the Homeless and Needy (From your hands... Through our hands... To needy hands) Please come join us as we seek to find more ways to minister to those in our community. Looking forward to seeing you in the Crossroads classroom in the Connor Family Life Center on Saturday, July 23! UMW signs will be posted to direct you.

Lois Goodson

UMW

The families are always needing paper towels, so bring a roll or two to the gathering to kick off the Paper Towel Drive.



NEWS TO USE

RED, WHITE AND BLUE SURPRISES

Would you once again help us spread love and blessings to our homebound and nursing facility members? Red, white and blue bags will be placed outside Charmaigne's office with the names of our 10 members. Would you use your creativity and fill the bags with something red, white or blue that might bring a smile to someone's face?

You can place the items in the bags either on Sunday morning or during the week. The names are listed in the newsletter. The deadline will be July 2 so the bags can be delivered during the week of the 4th. Thank you so much for your amazing support of this ministry.



The Caring Ministry

BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

Please remember your July birthdays and July anniversaries **Sunday, July 3rd** by bringing your offering to the altar. Please give \$.10 for every year old and \$.25 for every year married. This is to help the children's church bank.



CHILDREN . SAFE SANCTUARY . VBS

Saturday July 9th at 9:30 am

Volunteers in Children's, Youth and Vulnerable Adults' Ministries are required to attend a Safe Sanctuary Training at least once a year. Please plan to attend the 30 minute meeting in the Connor Family Life Center (gym).

If you are not able to attend this meeting please reach out to me.

VBS Volunteer Team Meeting

Followed by the 30 minute Safe Sanctuary session I would like to have a quick VBS Volunteer Orientation and Team Meeting. This will serve to share the theme, scriptures, schedule for the week and getting to know your immediate team members.

In Prayer for our VBS, Pastor Charmaigne



PASTOR'S QUIZ

When Jesus said that He would raise up the temple in three days if it were destroyed, He was referring to

- the temple, literally
- His body
- the activities within the temple
- a primitive form of the temple

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORTS

By Our Presence June 26, 2022

Sunday School

81

Worship:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| 8:45am Service | 155 |
| 11:00am Service | 112 |
| Live streaming | <u>31</u> |
| | 298 |

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 10,976.00
(Needed weekly for budget: \$13,609)

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Children's Bank | 34.45 |
| Local Missions Fund | 100.00 |
| Music Fund | 25.00 |
| UMM Fund | <u>50.00</u> |
| Total | \$ 11,185.45 |

THANK YOU

To the Connor Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for your support as I further my education.

Michael Harris

First United Methodist Church
410 First Avenue North
Conover, NC 28613
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CHURCH STAFF

| | |
|---|--|
| Pastor | Rev. John Woods (pastor@fumcconover.org) (828) 464-4635 (336) 480-4550 - cell |
| Associate Pastor of Faith Development | Rev. Charmaine Van Rooyen (pastorcharmaigne@gmail.com) (781) 913-4415 - cell |
| 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 |

Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

b. His body
(John 2:18-22)

July 2022

July 2022

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

August 2022

| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Jun 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | Jul 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 3-6pm Domino's (Faithbuilders' class) | 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts (CFLC) 7-8pm Boy Scouts (CFLC) | 09am-Vol. Day at ECCCM | 1pm Hand & Foot (Scout Room) | 7pm - Hand & Foot cardgame Set-up for VBS (CFLC/classrooms) | 7pm Dominos (Faithbuilders classroom) Set-up for VBS (CFLC/classrooms) | 9:30AM - Safe Sanctuary Training (CFLC) Set-up for VBS (CFLC/classrooms) |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 3-6pm Domino's (Faithbuilders' class) 5:45-8:30pm VBS (CFLC/classrooms) | 2pm - Circle #2 Meeting 5:45-8:30pm VBS 6:30-7:30pm-Cub 7-8pm Boy Scouts | 5:45-8:30pm VBS (CFLC/classrooms) | 1PM - Queen Esther's Circle (Clark Class) 1pm Hand & Foot 5:45-8:30pm VBS | 5:45-8:30pm VBS (CFLC/classrooms) 7pm - Hand & Foot cardgame | 7pm Dominos (Faithbuilders classroom) | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 03pm - Church Council Mtg. (Clark) 3-6pm Domino's 4pm-Holy Land Group | 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts (CFLC) 7-8pm Boy Scouts (CFLC) | | 1pm Hand & Foot (Scout Room) | 7pm - Hand & Foot cardgame (Faithbuilders' class) | 7pm Dominos (Faithbuilders Both Vans - Youth (Pigeon Forge)) | 9am-12 UMW Mtg. (Crossroads class) Both Vans - Youth (Pigeon Forge) |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 3-6pm Domino's (Faithbuilders' class) Both Vans - Youth (Pigeon Forge) | 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts (CFLC) 7-8pm Boy Scouts (CFLC) | | 1pm Hand & Foot (Scout Room) | 7pm - Hand & Foot cardgame (Faithbuilders' class) | 7pm Dominos (Faithbuilders classroom) | |
| 31 | Aug 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 3-6pm Domino's (Faithbuilders' class) | | | | | | |

Birthdays

Who = (everyone except removed); Filter = Birthday

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| 3 | 4 Ginny Ward Carol Warren | 5 Dana Little Sady Little | 6 Mary Ann Simpson | 7 J.R. Duncan | 1 Armando Lagunas Brenda Novotny Hannah Woods | 2 Taylor Higgins Joshua Lafone |
| 10 Billy Boston | 11 Jeanne Laws | 12 Dawn Barbersek Betty Fisher Kim Little Harold Thornburg Brantley Vigue Kent Walker | 13 | 14 | 15 Keith Hall | 16 Michele Danner Kathryn Muller Heather Norman Brenda Putnam |
| 17 Patsy Isaac Elijah Matson | 18 Mark Hamilton | 19 Elizabeth Conner Margaret Putzer Ethan Wright | 20 Ray Penley Phyllis Robinson Camden Spencer | 21 Kim Hentschel Beverly Swithenbank | 22 Scott Little | 23 Rona Saunders Marsha Williams |
| 24 | 25 | 26 Samantha Hawn Sandy Loftin Jo Anne Phillips | 27 Nick Pittman Jake Wright | 28 Judy Lail | 29 Kaela Briggs Margaret Garrison Christy Greco | 30 Sara Knecht Matthew Morrow Saiyior Spencer-Wooten |
| 31 Wyatt Fulbright | | | | | | |

Wedding Anniversaries

Who = (everyone except removed); Filter = Wedding

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|-----------|--|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| 3 | 4 | 5 Jake and Barbara Stines Johann and Annabella Stoltz | 6 | 7 John and Betsy Hemmings Scott and Andrea Little | 1 | 2 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 Taylor and Fara Dellinger | 18 | 19 Lee Jr. and Michele Moritz Thad and Margie Sparkman | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 Bill and Anita Huffman Stephen Price and Haniel Price-Mercado | 26 | 27 | 28 Charlie and Tommi Anderson | 29 | 30 David and Brenda Putnam |
| 31 John and Sally Hartner | | | | | | |