

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

July 6, 2022

Beth shared this story with me, noting how it fits with what we’ve been focusing on in worship. As Jesus might say, “he (or she) who has ears to hear, let them hear.”

[The writer notes:] I was waiting in line for a ride at the airport. When a cab pulled up, the first thing I noticed was the taxi was polished to a bright shine. Smartly dressed in a white shirt, black tie, and pressed black slacks, the cab driver jumped out and rounded the car to open the back passenger door for me.

He handed me a laminated card and said, “I’m Wasu, your driver. While I’m loading your bags in the trunk, I’d like you to read my mission statement.”

Taken aback, I read the card. It said, ‘WASU’S MISSION STATEMENT: To get my customers to their destination in the quickest, safest, and cheapest way possible in a friendly environment.’ This blew me away. Especially when I noticed the inside of the cab matched the outside. Spotlessly clean!

As he slid behind the wheel, Wasu said, “Would you like a cup of coffee? I have a thermos of regular and one of decaf.”

I said jokingly, “No, I’d prefer a soft drink.” Wasu smiled and said, “No problem. I have a cooler up front with regular and Diet Coke, lassi, water, and orange juice.”

Almost stuttering, I said, “I’ll take a lassi since I’ve never had one before.”

Handing me my drink, Wasu said, “If you’d like something to read, I have Good Housekeeping magazine, Reader’s Digest, The Bible, and a Travel + Leisure magazine.”

As we were pulling away, Wasu handed me another laminated card, “These are the stations I get and the music they play, if you’d like to listen to the radio.” And as if that weren’t enough, Wasu told me he had the heater on and asked if the temperature was comfortable.

Then he advised me of the best route to my destination for that time of day. He also let me know he’d be happy to chat and tell me about some of the sights or, if I preferred, to leave me with my own thoughts.

I was amazed and asked him, “Tell me, have you always served customers like this?”

Wasu smiled into the rear-view mirror. “No, not always. In fact, it’s only been in the last two years. My first five years driving, I spent most of my time complaining like all the rest of the cabbies do. Then I heard about the power of choice one day.”

“Power of choice is that you can be a duck or an eagle. If you get up in the morning expecting to have a bad day, you’ll rarely disappoint yourself. Stop complaining! Don’t be a duck. Be an eagle. Ducks quack and complain. Eagles soar above the crowd.”

“That hit me right,” said Wasu. He continued and said, “It is about me. I was always quacking and complaining, so I decided to change my attitude and become an eagle. I looked around at the other cabs and their drivers. The cabs were dirty, the drivers were unfriendly, and the customers were unhappy. So I decided to make some changes. I put in a few at a time. When my customers responded well, I did more.” (continued)

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Answer to this week’s Pastor’s Quiz:

c. Nicodemus
(John 3:4-8)

PRAYERS, PRAISES AND NEEDS

"I take it that has paid off for you," I said.

"It sure has," Wasu replied. "My first year as an eagle, I doubled my income from the previous year. This year, I'll probably quadruple it. My customers call me for appointments on my cell phone or leave a message on it."

It's on those bracelets we got last week: Philippians 2:14 — **"Do everything without complaining or arguing."** Wasu made a choice. He decided to stop quacking like ducks and start soaring like eagles. That's a good word for all of us!

Grace and Peace, *Pastor John*



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:

Leta Tucker; Wesley & Brandie Tucker; Winford & Adelia Tucker; John, Pastor Charmaine, Michael & Christine Van Rooyen; Brandon, Larissa, Nova & Brantley Vigue; Kent, Annette, John & Betsy Walker.

A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Jane Louise Ellis, age 74 of Conover, died Friday, June 17, 2022.

There will be a celebration of life in Conover in July, and a scattering of her ashes in August on Lake Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Carolina Caring Hospice, 3975 Robinson Road, Newton, NC 28658.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ed and the family during this difficult time.



THANK YOU

Dear FUMCC, Maybe you prayed, sent a flower, a memorial or food, made a phone call or a visit. Your gestures of love and support in honor of Ray mean the world to us. Ray loved First United Methodist Church.

Thank you so very much!

Linda & Jonathan Birchfield

IN / OUT OF HOSPITAL

Jerry Shepherd at CVMC (At home)

MEMORIALS

General Fund

In memory of Ray Birchfield by:
Keith & Tommie Hall
Gene & Beverly Swithenbank
Jack & Gaye Hoke
Charlie & Tommi Anderson
Ralph & Vanessa McKinney
W. Stine Isenhower
Connie McCoy
Jerry & Terry Shepherd
Robert & May Auton
Cliff & Debbie Wike

General Fund

In memory of Richard Sears by:
Connie McCoy

Local Missions

In memory of Ray Birchfield by:
Pat & Alice Woods

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Ray Birchfield by:
H.A. & Jean Slate
In memory of Elsie Daniels by:
H.A. & Jean Slate



NEWS TO USE

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, President of UMW

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



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 Charmaine



PASTOR'S QUIZ

"The wind bloweth where it listeth," said Jesus to

- Philip
- His mother, Mary
- Nicodemus
- Peter

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORTS

By Our Presence July 3, 2022

Sunday School
70

Worship:
8:45am Service 96
11:00am Service 107
Live streaming 36
239

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 16,706.00
(Needed weekly for budget: \$13,609)

Children's Bank 182.80
Girl Scout Troop (Addison Punch) 50.00
Local Missions Fund 50.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund 100.00
Total \$ 17,088.80

JUST A FRIENDLY HEALTH REMINDER...

If you have symptoms of cold, the flu or COVID (fever, sneezing, cough, running nose), avoid some of the friendly contact many of us like to share (like shaking hands, hugs, etc.) until those symptoms have been gone for at least 24 hours.

Though we would miss you, it may even be a more loving gesture, for your own health and the health of all those at church, for you to stay home to rest and recuperate until "all clear."