



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

August 16, 2022



It was right after Christmas in 2004, and Damian Barrett was on a beach in Thailand. Suddenly he saw the tide go out so quickly that the bay was drained dry. And moments later, the ocean came roaring back with that monster tsunami that claimed so many lives that day across South Asia. Almost 230,000 people were killed.

A massive wave swept Damian into the shopping area and then into a store which then started filling with water. He was carried to the ceiling by that rising water. He was sure he was going to die there, until the water actually pushed him through a gap in the roof.

But any relief that he felt didn't last long. Now he was being sucked out to sea where he would stand no chance. And then the tide slammed him into the trunk of a large tree - a massive tree that could withstand even the force of the tsunami. As vehicles, appliances and all kinds of debris swept past him, he hung onto that tree with everything he had.

That man lived to tell his story because of a tree that stood between him and certain death. You know, for 2,000 years, a tree has been saving the lives of people who would otherwise have no chance. I'm one of them. That tree has stood between them and the deadly tide of eternal judgment that awaits on the other side of this life. Because as Hebrews 9:26-27, says: ***“Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.”***

The verses immediately before and after that unsettling verdict tell us about the tree that offers hope of life. One of those verses says of Jesus, ***“He has appeared...to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”*** See, our sin is the tide that is sweeping us inexorably toward the judgment of a holy God. We are rebels, and our rebellion carries an awful death penalty that the Bible calls Hell. So imagine the power of those words, ***“He appeared to do away with sin.”*** How? ***“By the sacrifice of Himself”*** it says. See, that's the tree! It's the cross where Jesus poured out His blood and His life to take the judgment you and I deserve.

The judgment for our sin fell on Jesus at the cross. That tree is what stands between you and the penalty of your sin. All our spiritual efforts are no match for the size of the wave of God's judgment.

So our only hope is clinging to the tree where God's judgment fell on His Son. Or, more importantly, to cling to the One who died on that tree, which means abandoning all other hopes: our pride, our self-reliance. And realizing we are as desperate and as helpless as a man being swept out to sea, and then clinging to the One whose death on that tree for us is literally our only hope - your only hope.

There's an old hymn that says it pretty well, *“Nothing in my hand I bring. Simply to Your cross I cling.”* Wow! I pray that will be you today. And I pray you might find the opportunity and courage to tell someone else that good news as well!

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:

Alex, Hiley and Jolie Baucom; Ashley Baucom; Danny & Sandy Baucom; Don, Andrea & Grace Ann Beatty; Jordan Beatty; Hank Beck.



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

James Davis - (Memory Care Center)
255 Geitner Avenue
Newton, NC 28658

Betty Fisher - Valley Nursing & Rehab (Room 606)
581 NC-16 S Taylorsville NC 28681
Cell - (828) 302-6608

Dottie Harris - The Addison in Lincolnton
440 Salem Church Rd., 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

Jerry Shepherd at Abernathy Laurels

Send mail to home address: 2636 Touchstone Circle
Newton, NC 28658
(828) 464-6240

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

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

Dottie Harris at The Addison in Lincolnton
Jerry Shepherd at Abernathy Laurels
Ron Harris (At home)

MEMORIALS General Fund

In memory of Ray Birchfield by:
Theresa Parker
Jerry & Betty Shuman

In memory of Glenna Sherrill by:
Carol Dickinson

Pastor's Discretionary Fund (Local Missions)



In memory of Glenna Sherrill by:
Eddie & Carol Warren

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.

Thank you.



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."



NEWS TO USE

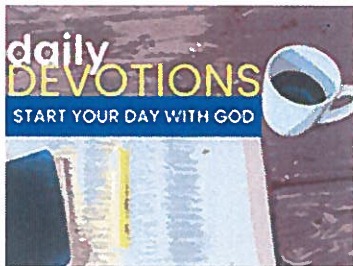
PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS NEEDED AT ECCCM

Please bring your empty plastic grocery bags and place them in the red "ECCCM" bins located in the hallway between the CFLC and the church offices. Their inventory is very low. Thank you.

UPPER ROOMS

The Sept. / Oct. "Upper Room" devotional books are available for pick-up. They are located on the table outside the Conference Room by Pastor Charmagne's office. You can read the same daily devotional that is in the book each day by going online to this website:

<http://www.upperroom.org/devotional/>



Fashion Show Fundraiser

When: Sunday, September 11, 2022

Time: 2 PM – 5 PM

Location: Connor Family Life Center

Tickets: \$10 each

(tickets sold in advance only)

All proceeds go to support the Corner Table.

This is going to be an afternoon of fun and fellowship for women. Invite your friends and family.

If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please contact Dana Little at: 828-320-9904

Email: peaceanddazzle@gmail.com



PASTOR'S QUIZ

Jesus said to His brethren, while He was still in Galilee, that the world hated Him because He

- a. offered salvation only to those who believed in Him
- b. performed miracles
- c. welcomed repentant sinners
- d. testified that its works were evil

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORTS

By Our Presence August 14, 2022

Sunday School

87

Worship:

8:45am Service	106
11:00am Service	119
Live streaming	25
Total	250

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 12,533.00
(Needed weekly for budget: \$13,609)

Children's Bank	156.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund (LM)	50.00
UMCOR (Kentucky Flood Victims)	500.00
Total	\$ 13,239.00

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thur., Aug. 25th at 7:00 pm - Church Council Meeting in the Sanctuary;

Sun., Aug. 28th - Promotion Sunday

Sun., Aug. 28th - 2:00pm - Harvest Festival Planning Meeting - Conference room

Sun., Aug. 28th - 3:00pm - Eagle Scout Ceremony for Jarrett Rheeder - CFLC

Sun., Aug. 28th - 3-6pm - Youth to meet at the home of Ryan & Angela Garrison

Thur., Sept. 1st - 6-7:30pm - Preschool Open House - Preschool classes

Mon., Sept. 5th - Labor Day - Office Closed

Tues., Sept. 6th - Volunteer Day at ECCCM

Tues., Sept. 6th - Preschool Opens

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Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

d. testified that its works were evil
(John 7:7)

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 (pastorcharmaine@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

MORE NEWS TO USE



Share the Harvest BENEFIT

Saturday 17 September

Broken Arrow Farm
2305 Old Island Ford Rd, Claremont

4pm - 7pm

Tickets: \$25 per person
(includes dinner and music)

Live music by Euphoria,
BBQ Plates, Raffles, and More

Casual Attire

Bring chairs, blankets, bug spray, and sunscreen
No outside food or drinks allowed

We have some exciting news! This year our Share the Harvest event will be different from our yearly Share the Harvest Banquet. We decided to tone down the formality of the event, lower the ticket cost, and have a more casual and comfortable get-together. BBQ plates will be served, great music will be played, friends will be made, and we can get to know each other better. We hope you will encourage your congregation to join us for a great time and a greater purpose!

EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE

School Supplies and Backpack Program

School will be starting in a few weeks and Pastor John mentioned Sunday, August 7, 2022, that we want to help where we can to assist children that may not have the funds to purchase school supplies. The Corner Table handles the Backpack Program. They are collecting food items to be sent home with children who need food over the weekend. Please look at the lists of items below and bring them August 9 – August 21. Containers will be located in the narthex and the commons area near the church offices. Thank you for loving and caring for the children of our community.

Missions and Outreach Committee

School Supplies: Some of the most requested items are backpacks, three-ring binders, dividers, markers, crayons, colored pencils, composition notebooks, paper, glue sticks, and of course, pencils. (Crayola products are the best.)

Backpack Program: Macaroni & cheese (boxed or Easy Mac), Microwave Meals (unrefrigerated), Pop Top Canned Meals (such as Chef Boyardee), Canned Meat (tuna or chicken), Peanut Butter (small plastic containers only), Jelly (small plastic containers only), Rice (1lb. bags or less), Cereal (small boxes), Pop Tarts, Oatmeal (in packet form), Grits (in packet form), Pudding Cups (unrefrigerated), Kid Friendly Snacks (granola bars, fruit snacks, goldfish, popcorn, etc.)

