



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

October 11, 2022

OUT OF THE WOODS — “Beauty Lies Between a Rock and a Hard Place”

Did you ever feel like a geode? You know, those funny round rocks that look like nothing more than a rough, lumpy gray ball. The surprise is that when you open them up, they are filled with delicate, colorful crystals forming intricate shapes and beautiful patterns. They prove true the proverb; *“You can’t judge a book (or a rock) by its cover.”*

The only problem is that to get to the beauty inside, sometimes it takes a hard hit to break open that stone to see the splendor that’s developed within. In fact, sometimes God uses difficult situations in life to break us open all at once so that the underlying beauty can be made visible. Loneliness, grief, pain, injustice, trauma, betrayal—the hammers God uses to crack open our tough exteriors are as varied as the hearts they break. But the end result of the pain is something worth far more than the temporary hurt.

The Apostle Paul said it like this: ***“...we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. (Romans 5:3-5)***

Yes, these fissures in the lives can hurt. They can expose our weaknesses, but they also present the opportunity for unexpected beauty to shine through. Traits like courage, perseverance, integrity, peace, and sacrificial love shine brightest when life looks darkest.

That beauty is not lost on those around us. There is something about people who have endured hardship with grace that brings genuine beauty to their smiles, an inviting warmth to their friendship, and a compelling promise of wisdom to their words. Not that we go out of our way to take on suffering, but when it does come, will you allow God to open you up wide enough so that others can see the beauty He’s carefully crafted in you?

It isn’t always easy. It isn’t always comfortable. But it’s certainly worthwhile. If you’ve spent your life feeling like a geode, or, even worse, like a garden variety rock that looks as ordinary on the inside as it does on the outside, don’t be surprised when God decides it’s time for you to display the unique beauty you hold. Without you, the world would truly be a less beautiful place.

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 list a different group of six families as we work our way through our church roll.

The families for this week are:

Ray & Judy Elkin; Shirley Elliott; Alan, Melissa, Jacob & Drew Fisher; Betty Fisher; Wyatt Fulbright; and Ryan, Angela, Parker & Rylee Garrison.



DON'T FORGET our members in Nursing Facilities and 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 Aycock-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

Mary Ann Simpson - Abernathy Laurels (Room 1005)
102 Leonard Avenue, Newton, NC 28658

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

Jim Horst at Frye Regional MC (Home)
Michael Moritz at Frye Regional MC (Room 568)

Extending our Christian love and sympathy

Larry Monroe Currie (85) from Conover, husband of Peggy Currie passed away on October 7, 2022.

A private service was held on Monday, October 10, 2022. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the First United Methodist Church in Conover.

Condolences may be left at www.catawbamemorialpark.com.

Tara Brackett's grandmother, Alice Inabelle "Belle" **Sigmon** Little (92) of Claremont, passed away Friday, Oct. 7, 2022, at Catawba Valley Medical Center.

A service to celebrate Belle's life will be held Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 11 a.m., at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Claremont.

Memorials may be made to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 550, Claremont, NC 28610, or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN, 38105, or American Heart Association, P.O. Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284-0692, or Humane Society of Catawba County, P.O. Box 63, Hickory, NC 28603.

ECCCM Request for OCTOBER

Hygiene products are the suggested item of the Month for ECCCM. October is National Hygiene Month, and many of our clients are in need of soap, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes, mouthwash, lotion,... Of course, all foods are welcome and appreciated any time. These may be placed in the red bins in the hallway between CFLC and Pastor Charmagne's office.

Thank you for your continual donation of plastic grocery bags in those same bins. Also, thanks for the donations in September of Peanut butter and jelly.



SEE IT NEXT WEEK

Stewardship Reports and Memorials for
October 9, 2022.

NEWS TO USE

CHARGE CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 23, 6:00 P.M.

This is our annual church-wide meeting to gather and report to the our Western NC Conference all the work of our church for God's Kingdom over the past year.

We have been authorized to meet on **Sunday, October 23rd at 6:00pm.** This will be a Cluster Charge Conference so we will be hosting several other area UMC churches for a single meeting. Our District Superintendent, Rev. David Christy will be presiding for this meeting.

Everyone is welcome to attend, and members of the Church Council are allowed to vote.



The nominations for congregational leadership will be made at this meeting and we will vote on our 2023 denominational apportionment acceptances and also our pastoral compensation for 2023.

Please join us as we witness to our ministry here.

Baby Walker has arrived. Welcome to the world, little one. Walker David Drum was born on 10/04/2022 at 2:34 am. 8 lbs. 2 oz. 20 inches long. Proud parents are Ashley Baucom and Jacob Drum.

Ashley, Jacob, and Walker live at 5020 Rifle Range Road in Conover. Grandparents are Danny and Sandy Baucom, proud aunt and uncle are Alex and Hiley Baucom with cousin, Jolie.

Please pray for this sweet little boy and his family, and for God's blessings to lead his life as a follower of Jesus Christ.



PASTOR'S QUIZ

Jesus started for Judaea when He heard

Lazarus was ill.

- a. immediately
- b. after one day
- c. after two days
- d. after three days

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

Hunger Walk Team for FUMCC

Your church team will be walking Sunday to promote awareness of hunger issues in our area and to raise funds for the corner table and ecccm to help alleviate these issues. You may still join the team or donate by: contacting Anita Deal, on line at ecchungerwalk.com, or in person the day of the walk. Thanks for your overwhelming support!!

INFORMATION FOR THOSE REGISTERED TO WALK IN HUNGER WALK

THANKS! Please pick up your t- shirt before 1st or 2nd service Sunday morning. Table to be set up in the narthex. If you do not get your shirt that morning, I will have them Sunday afternoon at the walk.

Don't forget to wear your shirt!



Emma Hamilton Tozser
Baby Shower
Saturday, November 5th
2 - 4pm

Emma is due in January and is having a little girl.

Emma's registry:

babylist.com/baby-emma-tozser

Emma's nursery: Classic Pooch and the Hundred Acre Wood

Come join us in welcoming this gift into the world.

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

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

This Sunday, October 16th

5pm Finance at 5pm
(Conference Room)

6pm Church Council
(Clark Sunday school room)

ATTENTION GOODTIMERS!

Next day trip on **Thursday Oct. 20th**. Leave the church at 9AM. Sign up sheet will be on our Go See Do bulletin board! We will start by riding on the Blue Ridge Parkway, to enjoy the fall foliage, stopping in Crossnore area to see the Ben Long "Suffer The Little Children" Fresco at the E.H. Sloop Chapel, the Crossnore Fine Arts Gallery and Weavers Museum. Then on to lunch, and then to Spruce Pine to visit the Penland School of Crafts. There will be some brochures on our Go See Do Board. Any questions, call me 828 464-9643!

Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

c. after two days
(John 11:5-15)

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. John Woods (pastor@fumconover.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@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 (828) 466-3158 (ps@fumconover.org)
Lead Nursery Worker	Pilar Tobar
Custodian	Luisa Toro Bryan
Church Office	(828) 464-4635
Website:	www.fumconover.org

*WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS
TO FUMCC
SUNDAY, October 10, 2022*

**Don & Carolyn Scronce
1850 Houston Mill Road
Conover, NC 28613**

**Home phone
(828) 446-8712**

**Email:
carolscronce1850@gmail.com**



**Marie Mull
4395 Vine Arbor Dr.
Hickory, NC 28602**

**Email:
mh_mull@yahoo.com**

**Cell:
(828) 320-8369**