

Our Vision:



CONOVER
FIRST UNITED
METHODIST

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



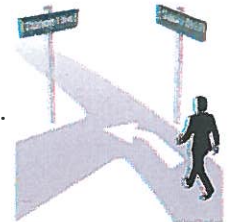
The Weekly Newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Conover

January 10, 2023

First U.M.C. votes to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church

At our duly called Church Conference on Sunday, January 8, First U.M.C. of Conover overwhelmingly voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. The official result of vote was 95.0% to take this action to leave our denomination.

Friends, this decision was a long time in coming and the result of significant prayer, discussion, deliberation and no small amount of angst. Although we have taken this action, and are the ones departing, the truth is we did not leave the U.M.C.....the U.M.C. has left us. We simply refuse to go along with the current (and rampant) unchecked disobedience and the clear direction of what the U.M.C. is becoming.



There is no joy in this change, only relief at being allowed to move forward. Our church's decision is a manifestation of the deeper brokenness within our culture, and the United Methodist Church in particular.

I want to give a special thank you to our church leaders as well as those who handled all of the logistics of making the meeting go so smoothly: Steve Danner, Jeff Thornburg, Robin Mays, Lois Goodson, Ralph & Patricia Hatch, Jon, Shannon and Jonathan Rogers, Susan Hunsucker, Denise Moose, Kent Walker, Mark Murphy, Bob Goodson and Pastor Charmagne Van Rooyen.

➤ *Pastor John, where do we go from here?*

We have a number of steps we still need to take to complete this decision. Our leadership team will be meeting quickly to mark out next steps, including where we go denominationally, and how we will pay for this disaffiliation (\$318,000).

➤ *When will we be fully separated from the United Methodist Church?*

The last day we will be United Methodist is our “Disaffiliation date.” That will not take place and be official and complete until after it is ratified by our Western NC Annual Conference (which meets in late June). Then we will have one final meeting with our District Superintendent to sign papers and official separate. Like when you buy a house, there are a lot of steps (legally and financially) that have to take place between when you “buy” a house and the official “closing” date happens. Our closing date (if you will) will be June 30.

➤ *Someone I care about (in my family) is homosexual. Are they (or is our family) still welcome at our church?*

Absolutely! We welcome everyone because Jesus welcomes everyone. Anyone can come and worship Jesus. That will always be true. That said, no one, regardless of who they are, should come without expecting to hear Jesus' clear call to **“repent”** and the invitation Jesus offers to **“deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me.”**

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:

Gary & Kelly Little, Scott, Andrea, Sady & Chase Little,
Gerald & Sandra Loftin, Jason & Jina Loftin,
Andrea Long, Susan Long.

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

Martha Johnston - Abernathy Laurels - Harmony Court
Room 1043, 102 Leonard Ave. Newton, NC 28658

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 138)
102 Leonard Avenue, Newton, NC 28658

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

Richard Matthews, 308 1st Ave 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

Ruthie Thornburg Abernathy Laurels - Harmony Court ,
(Room 1050)
102 Leonard Avenue, Newton, NC 28658

Leta Tucker 123 21st Ave NE, Hickory, NC 28601

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

Ginger Doub - eye surgery - at home

MEMORIALS

General Fund

In memory of Michael Moritz by:

Michael Anderson

Cliff & Debbie Wike

Danny & LaDonna Bolton

Susan Hunsucker

Kelly Becker, Nicole Becker-Siewert, Matt Siewert
and Maecy Becker

Local Missions Fund

In memory of Michael Moritz by:

Mark & Rita Deal

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Michael Moritz by:

Jimmy & Cindy Clark

ARE YOU READY TO START A JOURNEY?

Can you believe it? It is that time again. Time to start planning our 2023 Journey to Jerusalem Prayer Walk. So I am asking all of those who have helped and all of those who are willing to help to please attend our first meeting on Sunday, January 29th at 2:00PM (tentatively in the CFLC)

I look forward to seeing all of you there.
Anthony Price

Prayer Walk dates are:

Sunday April 2nd

Monday April 3rd

Tuesday April 4th

Wednesday April 5th

Friday April 7th

Clean Up Saturday April 8th

From 6pm to 8:30pm (tentatively) with Volunteers
Dinner starting at 5pm each day.

Sing Praises to the LORD!! Hallelujah!!

THANK YOU

The gift bags from the church made James and I feel the love of our wonderful congregation. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,
Jeanette Davis

NEWS TO USE

ATTENTION - GOODTIMERS!

Our next outing will be our "homemade" soup lunch on Wednesday, January 18th at 12:00 noon in the CFLC.

As usual, we will need some volunteers to provide some soups and desserts!

Please contact Eddie Warren at (828) 464-9643 and let him know what you can provide.

Thanks!



ECCCM NEWS

In January, ECCCM is requesting donations of canned soup or broth. Of course, any donations are much appreciated! Please leave any food donations and plastic bags in the red bins in the hallway between Pastor Charmaigne's office and the CFLC.

Anita Deal



PASTOR'S QUIZ

John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, wore a garment of

- a. goatskin
- b. camel's hair
- c. papyrus
- d. wool

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORTS

By Our Presence January 8, 2023

Sunday School:

82

Worship:

8:45am Service	118
11:00am Service	129
Live streaming	<u>32</u>
	279

God's Tithes & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 17,491.00

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

Children's Bank	23.30
"Hoops for Christ"	10.00
Local Missions Fund	50.00
Pastor's Disc. Fund	<u>50.00</u>
Total	\$17,624.30

Results of Dissaffiliation Vote For First United Methodist Church of Conover

- 229 Votes to disaffiliate from UMC
- 12 Votes NOT to disaffiliate from UMC
- 1 Abstentions

Results of Vote for
Disaffiliation from the
United Methodist Church



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

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

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Youtube.com - search for First United Methodist Church of Conover.

By subscribing you will be able to find our channel easily every week.

SUBSCRIBE by clicking on the red subscribe button.



Facebook.com - search for First United Methodist Church of Conover. "Like" to add to your profile.



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

b. camel's hair
(Matthew 3:1, 4)

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 (828) 466-3158 (ps@fumcconover.org)
Lead Nursery Worker	Pilar Tobar
Custodian	Luisa Toro Bryan
Church Office	(828) 464-4635
Website:	www.fumcconover.org

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance Service

**Sunday, January 15th, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

Join us in commemorating his life and vision.

LOCATION

**McQueen's Chapel
United Methodist Church**

229 6th Ave Dr SW

Conover

Host Pastor: Rev Cassandra Rawls

SPEAKER

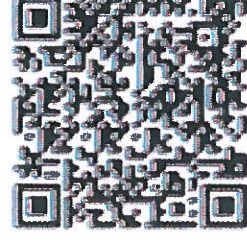
Rev. Bernard Coulter

Conover, NC

BLOOD DRIVE **IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL MORITZ**



SUNDAY, JANUARY 22
10:00 - 3:00PM
FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH, CONOVER
CONNOR FAMILY LIFE CENTER



SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT
OR WALK-INS ARE WELCOME

Blood Donors gave Michael the extra time he had on this earth as he fought Post-Polycythemia Vera Myelofibrosis (PPV-MF). The Moritz Family thanks you in advance for giving the gift of live-saving blood to give other's that priceless gift.