

## 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*

*January 4, 2023*

A new naval officer was given the night command of his battleship. While on maneuvers in the waters off Newfoundland, during the darkest part of the night, the officer of the deck was cautiously piloting the warship through foggy waters. Suddenly his worst fears were realized. There — directly ahead was a bright light. It appeared to be a vessel on a collision course with his ship.

The sleeping captain was immediately summoned to the bridge. By now, time was of the essence. To avert disaster, the captain quickly had a message sent, *“Tell them to bear 10 degrees south.”*

To the captain’s amazement, the foggy image did not shift. Instead, a voice crackled back over the radio saying, *“Recommend you divert your course 10 degrees north.”*

Insulted by the lack of respect for his rank, the indignant captain, grabbed the radio himself and said, *“This is the captain speaking. I repeat, alter your course 10 degrees south immediately.”*

A reply came back: *“I’m a seaman, Second Class, but respectfully, you need to alter your course 10 degrees north!”*

Irate, the captain yelled back, *“This is the Battleship USS Iowa, the second largest ship in the United States Atlantic fleet I demand you change your course 10 degrees south! That’s 1-0 degrees south, or counter-measures will be undertaken to ensure the safety of this ship and crew!”*

There was a pause, and then one final transmission: *“I oversee a lighthouse. Your call, sir.”*

Friends, the Bible, God’s Word, is like a lighthouse. It can’t be moved, altered, changed, modified, bent, retooled, or refashioned to fit whatever cultural trend is in vogue at the time. In Matthew 24, Jesus said, ***“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”***

That’s a good thought for us as we head into Sunday’s Church Conference Disaffiliation vote.

**I CALL ON ALL MEMBERS OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TO BE PRESENT THIS COMING SUNDAY AS WE CHART THE COURSE FOR OUR CHURCH’S FUTURE.**

## DISAFFILIATION PROCEDURE

**Sunday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> ❖ Vote begins at 3:00pm**

**SIGN-IN & VOTE WILL BE IN THE CONNOR FAMILY LIFE CENTER (CFLC)**

- Enter through the main CFLC narthex doors ONLY.
- The doors will OPEN at 2:00 pm.
- Sign-in is alphabetical by LAST NAME.
- You will receive an official ballot and pencil at the time you sign-in.
- Each full member must be PERSONALLY PRESENT to vote.
- Childcare will be available during the vote.
- Our District Superintendent, David Christy, will be presiding over the vote.
- The results of this vote will be announced IMMEDIATELY after the count is finished.

Please use this week to pray, seek God’s will, and talk with others in our church family as we prepare for this coming Sunday. *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:

Armando & Joyce Lagunas, Stan & Judy Lail, Leonard & Julie Lawing, Jeanne Laws, Brad & Kim Little, Chip, Dana, Aaron & Mack Little.

## 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

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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

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

Ruthie Thornburg at Abernathy Laurels (1050)

## MEMORIALS

### General Fund

In memory of Michael Moritz by:  
Catawba County Girl Scouts Unit 134  
Keith & Tommie Hall

### Girl Scout Troop #10441

In memory of Michael Moritz by:  
Methodist Men of FUMCC

### Local Missions Fund

In memory of Michael Moritz by:  
Charles & Lucy Rockett

### Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Michael Moritz by:  
H.A. & Jean Slate



Methodist Men

## METHODIST MEN: END OF YEAR DONATIONS

The following donations were made in 2022 by the UMM of FUMCC:

1 - To ECCCM in honor of Anita Deal, Volunteer of the Year -2022. And all of our other volunteers that continue to help at ECCCM!

2 - To the Corner Table in honor of all our church volunteers that help them serve those that need a free lunch!

3 - To our Staff Love Offering!

4 - To Girl Scout Troop #10441 in memory of Michael Moritz!

We hope to resume our monthly meetings starting in January, 2023. Check out the Newsletter for information. We will also put out an "All Call" to notify everyone of our meetings.

## THANK YOU

I would like to thank my church family for all the cards, calls, prayers and the beautiful prayer shawl during and after my surgery.

Your thoughtfulness has meant so much to me.

Ronald Thornburg

# 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

THANK YOU, once again, FUMCC, for your overwhelming support of ECCCM. In December, you donated over 600 pounds of food! That equaled over 20 Reverse Advent boxes. Your generosity allowed several families to enjoy the Christmas holiday more than they expected.

Anita Deal

ECCCM representative for FUMCC

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 Charmaine's office and the CFLC. THANKS



## 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.



## PASTOR'S QUIZ

When Joseph, returning with his family to Israel, selected Nazareth, this choice served to

- erase his unpleasant memories of Bethlehem
- place him close to the border
- put him in touch with influential friends
- fulfill what had been spoken by the prophets

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

## STEWARDSHIP REPORTS

### By Our Presence December 24, 2022

4:00pm Christmas Eve Service  
164

6:00pm Christmas Eve Service  
129

**God's Tithe & Our Gifts**  
**12/24 Offering for General Fund**  
\$ 685.00

### By Our Presence December 25, 2022

Sunday School: 56

Worship: 10:30am Service 120  
Live streaming 35  
155

**God's Tithe & Our Gifts**  
General Fund \$ 18,229.01  
(Needed weekly for budget: \$13,609)

Children's Bank 1.00  
Total \$18,915.01

**Deposit \$3,710.00 to Gen. Fund 12/29/22**

**Deposit \$250.00 to Girl Scouts 12/29/22**

**Deposit \$400.00 to Gen. Fund 12/31/22**

### By Our Presence January 1, 2023

Sunday School: 45

Worship:  
10:30am Service 129  
Live streaming 47  
176

**God's Tithe & Our Gifts**  
General Fund \$ 7,093.50  
(Needed weekly for budget: \$13,609)

Children's Bank 4.00  
Local Missions Fund 25.00  
Pastor's Disc. Fund 25.00  
Total \$ 7,147.50



First United Methodist Church  
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Conover, NC 28613  
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Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:  
d. fulfill what had been spoken by the prophets  
*(Matthew 2:19-23)*

### 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

**NEWEST MEMBER OF FUMCC  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023**



Robin S. Mays  
45 Forest Acres Loop  
Taylorsville, NC 28681

(828) 464-4635 - work  
Email: [fumcc@fumcconover.org](mailto:fumcc@fumcconover.org)