

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

February 14, 2023

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



Whispers In The Woods — BE MINE

As I look toward Valentine's Day, and once again wanting to do something nice for the one I love, I reminisce back over the nearly 40 years of gifts given (that I can remember). Yes, sir! I love my wife, and like most every other husband, try my best to find different ways to show her each February.

Over the years, those “ways” have included chocolate, flowers, dinner, cooking a meal, a movie, jewelry, and yes, even helping with housework. None of these outward signs of love are wrong or bad. In fact, there are lots of things one can choose to give.

Earlier this week I saw some of those hard candy hearts. They were never a favorite of mine but I always liked to read the messages printed on them. As I've thought about it, some of those echo God's heart toward us too.

4EVER LOVD — God tells you in Jeremiah 31:3 that he has loved you with an everlasting love. You are forever loved. It's a love that will never end.

U R MINE — Isaiah 43:1 tells you that God has summoned you by name, and then he tells you, “You are mine.” To reflect on those verses gives me chills. To be summoned by name, by the very one who hung the stars in place. Wow.

NVR 4GOTN — Isaiah 49:5 tells us that a nursing mother may forget her child, but that God will never forget you.

BE MINE — This is my favorite one. That's a great invitation. It reminds us that the most important gift any of us can ever give is the gift of ourselves.

Maybe we do that in the time spent with someone else, or as we make sacrifices of our own will, or through our faithfulness.

I believe God sees things the same way. Sometimes I am tempted to think that “Be Busy” is the same as “Be Mine.” It's not. Love is not just the things we give, or even an emotion, but it's a perpetual act of personally giving yourself. True devotion will always lead to loving actions.

1 John 3:18 says *“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth.”*

Whatever Valentine's Day has meant to you, here's hoping that this year, Valentine's Day finds you feeling loved by the One who loves you most: our God, who has put your name on his palm. The One who has counted the very hairs on your head. Who has shown you His great love by sacrificing his very own Son at Calvary's cross, so that you too, could know his invitation to “Be Mine.”

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:

Tony & Jenene Nellenbach, Wendy Norman, Heather Norman and Ayvah Hearne, Bill & Brenda Novotny, John & Elizabeth Padgett, Rick & Linda Parker.

Fellowship Group for Girls Starting Soon!

A new group for girls 2nd grade through 5th grade will be starting in February. Older girls are welcome also and will be given some leadership opportunities. The group will meet weekly and will have components of Bible study, service projects, fellowship, and fun. Meeting location will be at John and Beth Woods home, but may vary according to the group's activities.

More information about meeting times and dates will be announced soon, but we would like to have input from anyone who is interested. Girls are welcomed and encouraged to invite friends from beyond the church. Anyone who is interested or who has questions, please contact Beth Woods at 336-480-4551 or at Woods777@aol.com.



MEMORIALS

General Fund

In memory of Michael Moritz by:
Randy & Diane Howard

In memory of Yvette Bumgarner by:
Dave & Betty Fish

Local Missions

In memory of Michael Moritz by:
An anonymous donor

IN / OUT OF HOSPITAL

None

PRAYER WALK MEETING

**Sunday, February 19th at 2:00pm
in the CFLC.**

Everyone that is willing to help this year, please try to attend this meeting. We can use all the help we can get!

Anthony Price



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Ash Wednesday is the official beginning of the season of Lent. Come out to this service as we meditate, pray, hear a short message on the meaning of Ash Wednesday and then have ashes imposed on our foreheads.

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22
7:00pm
Sanctuary**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023

CHURCH MEETING

AT 2:00PM IN THE CFLC

ACTS BIBLE STUDY

We will start our Acts Bible Study on Tuesday evening, February 21st and on Wednesday morning, February 22nd. The books are available for pickup and will be \$10 each.

Please complete Session 1 before Feb. 21st.

If you have not done so, please call the church office to get signed up.

Thank you.

NEWS TO USE

ECCCM NEWS

In February, ECCCM is requesting donations of canned or boxed pasta, pasta sauce and macaroni. 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



ECCCM is blessed and thankful to have the support from our church shown this past Tuesday on our church's volunteer day. We had 7 volunteers working in the food pantry and with clothing donations! Each of those volunteers donates time to ECCCM more than one day a month.

You are very welcome to join us. Who knows, you might find it rewarding!!

Thanks, Anita



The Preschool has a teacher who will be going on maternity leave in a few weeks. This leaves the preschool short a teacher in our toddlers/ twos classroom. If you are aware of anyone who may be interested with working with children in a Christian setting please let us know or have them get in touch with Julie Robinson @ (828) 234-1394.

This position is Monday thru Friday, 8:30am until 1:00pm.

Thank you,

Julie Robinson, Director



PASTOR'S QUIZ

Jesus left Nazareth and went to dwell in Capernaum, when He

- was reminded of the prophecy by Isaiah
- was dared by the devil to do so
- thought He should be on the shores of Galilee
- heard that John had been cast into prison

(The correct answer is on the back of the

STEWARDSHIP REPORTS

By Our Presence February 12, 2023

Sunday School:

71

Worship:

8:45am Service	91
11:00am Service	104
Live streaming	<u>72</u>
	267

God's Tithes & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 9,393.00

(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,716)

Children's Bank 9.00

Local Missions 200.00

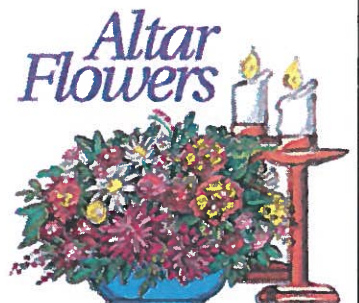
UMCOR 3,310.00

Total \$ 12,912.00

FLOWER CHART FOR 2023

If you wish to place flowers in the Sanctuary in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please call the church office at (828) 464-4635 and ask for available dates.

Thank you,
Robin Mays



First United Methodist Church
410 First Avenue North
Conover, NC 28613
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EASTER 4 KIDS

Calling all Children ages 2 thru 5th grade! You, and your family, are invited to a very special **EASTER CELEBRATION** on:

Saturday, March 25, 2023

10:00 am – 12:00

Connor Family Life Center

Children will learn about Jesus' journey through Jerusalem, from His entry on Palm Sunday to His resurrection. There will be stories, crafts, snacks and activities. This celebration will be a blessing to all children and their families. You won't want to miss it and be sure to invite friends, grandchildren, and neighbors!!

Bring Baskets for the Easter Egg Hunt!!



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:
d. heard that John had been cast into prison
(Matthew 4:12-13)

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 MEMBERS OF FUMCC SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023



Dillon & Ashley Wike

(Full Members)

EmmaGrace Wike

(Baptized Member)

(Pictured left to right: Dillon,
Silas, CaliWrynn, Ashley &
EmmaGrace Wike)

3944 Shad Lane

Catawba, NC 28609

(828) 514-8896 - Ashley's cell