

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 7, 2023

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

The statue in a church graveyard had been a beautiful statue. It was Jesus with his arms extended, arms wide open. Great statue! Then vandals came along and broke off the hands. Strangely, the church decided not to repair the hands. They left it broken like that - the arms extended, but no hands. They put a sign that explained why. It simply said: *“He has no hands but yours.”*



It's an amazing perspective to aspire to be able to say, *“I am the hands of Jesus in this place, doing what He would do.”* At work - the hands of Jesus. At home, you're the hands of Jesus. In your neighborhood, your class, your organization - the hands of Jesus.

There's a wonderful picture of what Jesus wants us to do in people's lives. It's in Mark 6 - the story of the feeding of the 5,000. That's obviously something only Jesus could have done with five loaves of bread and two fish. But it's amazing how much He uses the hands of His disciples to deliver what He's making. When the disciples suggested that Jesus send the people away because they had no way to feed them, Jesus shocked them by saying, *“You give them something to eat.”* As a result, they found the boy with the loaves and fish.

The Bible goes on to say, *“Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups.”* Then, after Jesus gave thanks for the loaves and fish, *“He gave them to His disciples to set before the people.”* It must have looked like the miracle was coming from the disciples! Finally the Bible tells us, *“the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish.”*

Now, what we see in this miracle is the modus operandi of Jesus. He does things only He can do for people, but He delivers those things through His disciples. Jesus doesn't need us but he chooses to use us as part of the process. That's you and me.

And the people you see each day often need something from Jesus, even if they don't always realize it. They need to feel His love, so Jesus prompts you to show them Christ's love through some act of kindness, or caring, or thoughtfulness. He sends His encouragement through you to someone who's discouraged. He may send His financial provision through what He's given you to give.

Every day, Jesus hopes you'll go out with (I'm going to come up with a word now)...with your *“needometer”* on. Going through your day, not just to get your “to do” list done, but to look for needs and to deliver blessings from Him. That's part of the daily adventure life can be when you belong to Christ and when you set out to represent Him each new day.

Ultimately, you are the hands of Jesus to deliver His greatest gift of all - the Good News of the rescue Jesus made possible through the cross. When Paul called us “Christ's ambassadors,” he said it was *“as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you, on Christ's behalf: ‘Be reconciled to God.’”* (2 Corinthians 5:20). It's almost as if we approach life with this mindset: *“Jesus couldn't be here today, so He's sent me to say what He would say and to do what He would do.”*

When we're all wrapped up in ourselves and our needs, our hands will always be full of our stuff. But when you step up to serve Jesus each day, then our hands will be giving away what He has to give because what He started, He's left with us to carry on.

In so many lives you know, Christ has no hands but your hands.

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:

Lee & Michele Moritz, Lee & Betty Moritz,
Dave & Janet Morrow, Patrick, Crystal, Matthew &
McKenzie Morrow, Marie Mull, Mark & Lynn Murphy.

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.



UPPER ROOMS

The March / April "Upper Room" devotional books are available for pick-up. They are located on the sofa table outside the Conference Room by Pastor Charmaine'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/>



IN / OUT OF HOSPITAL

None

PRAYER WALK MEETING

We will have a prayer walk meeting on **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



Thanks, once again, church family, for your support of ECCCM! You donated 96 pounds of food and several trunk loads of plastic grocery bags to the ministry in January. This has been a blessing with the increased number of clients since November when the Hickory food pantry closed. We now provide services to those clients also.



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' utterance, that "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone," was occasioned by the devil's

- assertion to the contrary
- suggestion that Jesus turn stones to bread
- offer of bread to Jesus
- threat to deprive Israel of food

(The correct answer is on the back of the

STEWARDSHIP REPORTS

By Our Presence February 5, 2023

Sunday School:

108

Worship:

8:45am Service 105

11:00am Service 151

Live streaming No report
256

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 16,313.00

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

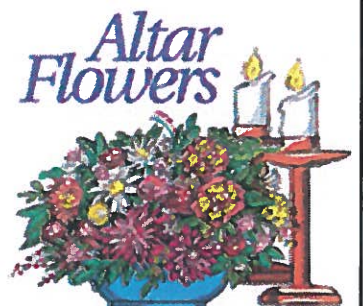
Children's Bank 36.00

Total \$ 16,349.00

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
Return Service Requested

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Conover, NC

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Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:
b. suggestion that Jesus turn stones to bread
(*Matthew 4:3-4*)

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 |

MORE NEWS TO USE

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

Ruthie Thornburg - Valley Nursing & Rehabilitation (Room 604)

539 Third Street SW, Taylorsville, NC 28681
(828) 632-8146

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

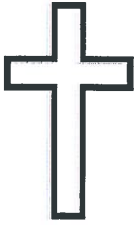
Dolores Setzer PO Box 1237, Conover, NC 28613

(828) 256-1421

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

Wayne & Sybil Windsor PO Box 211, Conover, NC 28613 (828) 459-9657

If you know of any homebound members that need to be on our list, please contact the church office at (828) 464-4635.



First United Methodist Church - Conover

Youth - Spring 2023



| Date | Time | Where | Address | What |
|--------------|---------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| February 19 | 4:00 pm | Udderly Delicious | 131 US-70 Hickory | Ice Cream & Putt Putt |
| March 5 | 4:00 pm | Bradley Markland's House | 1769 Claude Rd Conover | Youth Meeting |
| March 19 | 4:00 pm | Rylee Garrison's House | 3187 Branhus St Catawba | Movie Night |
| April 2 | 4:00 pm | The Ross' Farm | 6030 Oxford School Rd Claremont | Teen Egg Hunt |
| April 16 | 4:00 pm | Sophia Job's House | 1704 Cordia Circle Newton | Youth Meeting |
| April 30 | 4:00 pm | FUMCC - Connor Family Life Center | 410 First Avenue North Conover | Youth Sunday Practice |
| May 7 | 4:00 pm | FUMCC - Connor Family Life Center | 411 First Avenue North Conover | Youth Sunday Practice |
| May 17 or 18 | TBD | FUMCC - Connor Family Life Center | 412 First Avenue North Conover | Youth Sunday Practice |
| May 20 | 9:00 am | FUMCC - Connor Family Life Center | 413 First Avenue North Conover | Set Up for Youth Sunday |
| May 21 | 9:00 am | FUMCC - Connor Family Life Center | 414 First Avenue North Conover | Youth Sunday! - Wear Youth Shirt |

