



First Methodist Church

OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

August 6, 2024

Watching a (very) little bit of the Olympics this past week made me remember a movie about the Olympics that really had an impact on me. "*Chariots of Fire*" is the story of Eric Liddell, a famous Scottish Olympic runner. He had reached his dream of representing the United Kingdom as a 100-meter runner in the 1924 Olympics. Then, *en route* to the Games, he learned his event would be on Sunday - the day that Eric Liddell believed was reserved for God; a day on which his deep faith convictions would not allow him to participate.



The movie portrays the pressure put on Eric Liddell to run that Sunday; pressure that came from many people, even from the future King of England. Liddell actually puts God first and stands his ground. Then he accepts the suggestion that he run later in an event that was not his event - the 400-meter race. There is this memorable moment in the movie when another runner slips Eric a note just before his race. It reads, "*The old Book says, 'He that honors Me, I will honor.'*" That day Eric Liddell won the gold...and, as the movie points out at the end, went on to become a missionary to China who died for the Lord in a prison camp. Then, as the movie says, "*All of Scotland mourned.*"

Eric Liddell realized that when there's a choice between compromising and your convictions, there's really only one choice - taking your stand, no matter what it may cost. God did honor this man who honored Him. And 60 years after his integrity made Olympic headlines, a Hollywood producer told that story to the world. It makes me think of Psalm 4:5. It's only eight words. These words will give you a compass to guide you through thousands of decisions in your life - big and small. Here's what the Bible says: "***Offer right sacrifices and trust in the Lord.***"

These past three weeks, at each GMC church I've preached at, I've praised and celebrated their faithfulness to the Lord and the ways they have stood firm to their conviction that the Bible is God's unchanging Word for us all. Like Erik Liddell, each church that disaffiliated had to decide if they were going to compromise what they believed, sometimes under great pressure from others.

That's a good word for us as well, whether you're at work, at school, at home, in your relationships, online — always do the right thing. Always tell the truth, always do the honest thing, always say no to temptation, always extend grace, always put the other person first, always give God the glory, and when there's a question, always err on the side of integrity. Always do the right thing.



Then, after you've done the right thing, "trust in the Lord" to do what you could never do. You do your best; then allow God to do the rest. Life is so much less confusing when you've already decided your bottom line is "*I will always do what's right. I will always do what God can honor.*" Before you run each day's race, let God hand you His note that says, "*He that honors Me, I will honor.*"

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:

Evelyn Brooks, Barbara Bruner, George Bruner,
Natasha, Liam & Allie Bunton, Rodney & Darlene Burgess,
Sarah Butler.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for all the prayers, cards, calls, and food you provided during the loss of our dear mother. She loved her church family, and always looked forward to seeing everyone on Sunday. We appreciate your love, prayers and support.

The Mary Rudisill family



Get Ready for Your 15 Seconds of Fame!

On Aug 18, we will have a videographer filming at both worship services and in various Sunday School classes. The resulting videos will be used on our social media and website as well as before worship services. If you would prefer to NOT appear in the videos at all or only at a distance, please let Beth Woods or Lindsay Keisler know and we will instruct the videographer to work around you.

We have worked with this videographer and we are confident that he will be as discreet as possible in order to not distract from our real purpose for being here: worshipping Jesus Christ.

IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

None

MEMORIALS **Sound System Fund**

In memory of Mary Rudisill by:
William & Samantha McIntosh
Robin Mays

Music Fund

In memory of Mary Rudisill by:
Rick & Linda Parker

A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Trevor Lee Monk, age 25 and son of Greg Monk and grandson of Harry & Trenia Monk, died Tuesday, July 30, 2024.

A memorial service was held for Trevor on Monday, August 5, 2024 at 2:00pm in the chapel of Heritage Funeral Service in Valdese, NC.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Greg, Harry, Trenia & the family during this difficult time.

A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Clifford Lafayette "Ruben" Sipe, Jr., age 84 and the brother of Lucy Rockett, died Sunday, July 28, 2024.

A Celebration of Life service was held on Saturday, August 3, 2024 at 11am at St. James Lutheran Church in Newton.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Lucy, Charles and the family during this sad time.

Greeters

Greeters for Aug 11:

8:25-8:45 – Kim & Stan Reed
10:40-11 – Tommi Anderson

Greeters for Aug 18:

8:25-8:45 – Can you help here?
10:40-11 – Tommi Anderson, Joy Watts, Marie Mull

Greeters for Aug 25:

8:25-8:45 – Can you help here?
10:40-11 – Tommi Anderson,
Can you help here?



NEWS TO USE

PREFERRED NAME

Harold W. Robertson, a long-time friend and constituent of First Methodist Church Conover, is requesting to be addressed as H.W. going forward. So if you meet (Harold Robertson) in the hallway, please call him H.W. Thank you for your consideration.



ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food request for August is **canned food**. All canned food is useful and appreciated, but cans with pop top lids are important for our homeless clients. These may be placed in the red bins in the hallway between the CFLC and Beth's office along with grocery bags.

GOODTIMERS' TRIP

Attention Goodtimers: we are taking a day trip on Wednesday, August 21, 2024 to the Asheville area. This will be an Art Trip.

There will be more details to follow in next week's Newsletter.



Pick Up a Sign for Your Yard!

I have more yard signs available for anyone who wants to claim one! These are available in the narthex and in my office until they run out.

In His Service Together,

Beth Woods

(336) 480-4551 or woods777@aol.com



PASTOR'S QUIZ

"A new commandment I give unto you," said Jesus, "That ye

- spread the gospel"
- love one another"
- confess your sins"
- chastise the unbelievers"

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence August 4, 2024

Sunday School:
101

Worship:
8:45am Service 142
11:00am Service 112
Total 254

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 17,632.00
(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)	
Children's Bank	103.00
Music Fund	25.00
Sound System Fund	75.00
Total	\$ 17,835.00

HARVEST FESTIVAL FOR JESUS PLANNING STARTING SOON!

Our annual Harvest Festival for Jesus will be held in late October. We will open our grounds to the community for a day of fun, prizes, and sharing of our faith. Like we did last year, we will be giving away Bibles and Bible story books. We will also have games, food, and music! An event of this magnitude needs a lot of workers, and we will have a place for YOU!

To get started with planning and preparation, we will have a meeting at 2:00 on Sunday August 11 in the Conference Room. Please join us if you are able to help us plan. Thank you!

Beth Woods (email: woods777@aol.com or call/text with questions: (336) 480-4551.)

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

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

2024 FLOWER CHART

The new 2024 Flower Chart has been posted in the hallway outside the church office.

If you would like to sign up to place flowers in the Sanctuary one Sunday in honor of or in memory of someone, please call the church office at (828) 464-4635 to schedule a date.

Please do not write your name on the Flower Chart but call the church office.

A slide will be shown at both services on the Sunday that you choose with the information given by you.

The following florists have a key so that they can deliver the flowers on a Saturday:

Twigs & Twine - Conover

Newton-Conover Florist - Newton

Blooms Greenhouse - Conover



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

b. love one another"
(John 13:34)

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. John Woods pastor@fmccconover.org (828) 464-4635 (336) 480-4550 - cell 208 2nd St NE, Conover
Office Administrator / Financial Secretary	Robin Mays office@fmccconover.org
Coordinator of Lay Ministries	Beth Woods woods777@aol.com (336) 480-4551 - cell
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 preschool@fmccconover.org
Lead Nursery Worker	Pilar Tobar
Custodian	Luisa Toro Bryan
Church Office	(828) 464-4635
Website:	www.fmccconover.org

WHAT A MESS! VBS

Wow! We wrapped up VBS 2024 with an amazingly messy celebration. The kids and adults alike enjoyed a water slide (with puffs of colored powder!), squirt gun races, water balloon toss, popping paint rockets, a sprinkler ball toss, enlightening science demonstration, and messy barbecue chicken!

Thank you so much to the amazing volunteers who helped our kids learn how to clean up life's messes. You all ROCK!



MORE NEWS TO USE

School Supplies and Backpack Program

School will be starting in a few weeks and we want to help where we can to assist children that may not have the funds to purchase school supplies. The Corner Table handles the Backpack Program. They are collecting food items to be sent home with children who need food over the weekend. Please look at the lists of items below and bring them July 21 – August 25. Containers will be located in the narthex and the commons area near the church offices. Thank you for loving and caring for the children of our community.

Missions and Outreach Committee

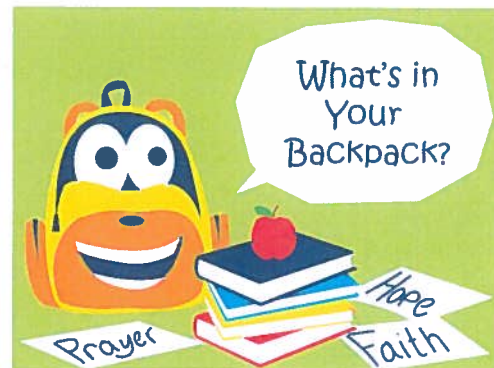
School Supplies: Some of the most requested items:

Backpacks/book bags (no wheels), 24 count boxes of crayons, 24 count boxes of colored pencils (Crayola products are the best.), composition notebooks, paper, glue sticks, pencils, scissors (K- 5th sizes), headphones (Some brands can be found at Walmart for around \$10.00.) NO ear buds, pencil top erasers, pencil boxes, pencil pouches with clear fronts

Backpack Program:

Kid-Friendly Individual Snack Items: Granola Bars, Peanut Butter Crackers, Peanuts, Popcorn, Goldfish, Fruit Snacks, Cheez-Its.

Breakfast Items: Cereal Bars, Oatmeal Packets, Cereal Cups, Muffin Mix Packets



EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE

Global Methodist Church General Conference Info Sessions

Are you curious about the GMC General Conference coming up in September? Do you have questions about what will be decided? Are you willing to pray for the issues being discussed?

Then mark your calendars for two information sessions being planned for **September 10 at 7:00 and September 11 at 10:30 am.** (This is during Pastor John's normal Bible Study time, but Bible Study will not be meeting that week.). Come to one or both sessions to hear Beth and Pastor John explain the business of the General Conference and the plans being made. (Same information will be presented at both, but the question-and-answer part may vary.) We will then also pray together for God's guidance to prevail in all discussions and decisions.

If you would like to read more about General Conference, check out the website: <https://www.sotheworldwillknow.org/> There you can find a list of all the delegates from around the world, the legislative committees that will be meeting, the petitions that will be debated and voted on, a proposal for electing bishops, information about connectional commissions (these will direct the GMC in the future), the proposed constitution for the GMC, the current version of the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline, the plan of organization for the General Conference, and more.

Hi Church Family,

As was announced a few months ago, I (Beth) will be a delegate to the Global Methodist Church Convening General Conference in September. This will be the first world-wide gathering of the GMC. The theme of the Conference is "So the World Will Know." Delegates from provisional annual conferences from all over the world will be coming together to worship, pray, fellowship, deliberate and legislate. Many significant decisions will be made that will profoundly shape the future of our church.

The Prayer Committee of the Transitional Commission on Convening General Conference (TCCGC) invites all GMC churches and members to join a special 40-day season of prayer and fasting, running from August 7 to September 15. Through this intentional period of prayer and fasting, we aim to empower the Lord's work within the Global Methodist Church, demonstrating our collective dependence on His guidance and strength.

If you would like to join the delegates and leadership team in this time of prayer and preparation, the guide is available on the GMC General Conference website at: <https://www.sotheworldwillknow.org/pray>

I will also have printed copies of the prayer guide available in my office for anyone who wants it in that format. Thank you for your prayers and support!

Beth Woods

STILL MORE NEWS TO USE

Annual Prayer Walk Volunteer Luncheon

We had so much fun at last year's Prayer Walk Volunteer Luncheon (about 30 of us) that we've decided to do it again! So, anyone who had any part in putting on the **Journey to Jerusalem Prayer Walk** is invited to come and bring a friend! Bring your favorite covered dish and a folding lawn chair too!

When? Sunday August 18th - 1:30 PM

Where? Tent No 94 at Ball Creek Campmeeting. Tent backs up to Buffalo Shoals Road. I will have a chair with blue balloons behind the tent. Pull in to unload, then park across the road. (If there is a mobility issue - no concern - pull in and we will unload and then take your car and park it for you.)

LOVE YOU GUYS!! GOD is good all the time.....
Anthony Price. 828-228-6467 text if you have any questions

Ministry Opportunities Ahead!

It's August, which means a new school year is close at hand. I (Beth) am taking a few days away this week to do some intensive planning for the fall. I will be making plans for our children and our youth to have regular meetings as well as special activities. In order to do this, I need other adults who are willing to help. I can't do this alone!

If you would be willing to provide a meal for (always) hungry youth, share your time and love as a children's or youth counselor (regularly or occasionally), help chaperone an outing or retreat, provide a program (regularly or occasionally), teach Sunday School, or help in any other way, please let me know.

As always, I ask you to pray for our young members and their families and all who help shape the faith of these children and youth.

Thank you! Beth Woods (336) 480-4551 or woods777@aol.com

DON'T FORGET OUR MEMBERS IN NURSING FACILITIES AND OUR HOMEBOUND

Rev. Dixon Adams - TerraBella Newton (Room B7)
1088 Radio Station Road, Newton, NC 28658

James Davis - Abernethy Laurels (Memory Care Center)
255 Geitner Avenue, Newton, NC 28658



Nell Johnson - Kingston Residence
904 2nd Street NE, Apt. 109, Hickory, NC 28601
(828) 328-9962 - landline (828) 228-7396 - cell

Margaret Kilpatrick - Abernethy Laurels (Memory Care) (Room 2010)
102 Leonard Avenue, Newton, NC 28658

Robert Matthews - Heritage Care (Room 16)
3430 Lester Street, Conover, NC 28613

Rick Parker - Catawba Valley Living at Rock Barn (Room 107)
PO Box 1599, Conover, NC 28613
(828) 381-4988 - Rick's cell (828) 381-7328 - Linda's cell

Mary Ann Simpson - Abernethy Laurels (Room 138)
102 Leonard Avenue, Newton, NC 28658

Sybil Windsor - TerraBella Newton (Room C13)
1088 Radio Station Road, Newton, NC 28658

Dottie Aycock-Harris - 1449 Brookstone Drive, Hickory, NC 28602
(704) 460-4919 - Ron's cell phone
noghost@bellsouth.net - email address



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

Lee Moritz, Sr. - 103 County Home Road, Conover, NC 28613
(828) 464-3383

Dolores Setzer - PO Box 1237, Conover, NC 28613
(828) 256-1421

Alice Spencer - 1608 Hwy 16 North, Conover, NC 28613
(828) 464-6403

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