



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

November 19, 2024

You've heard it many times: "Life is what you make it." Or as I heard someone else say: "You can't change the cards life has dealt you, but you can determine the way you play them."

That's the philosophy Wendy Stoeker decided to live by. When she was a freshman at the University of Florida, she placed third in the women's state diving championship. At that point, she was swimming in the #2 spot on the highly competitive Florida swim team, all while carrying a full academic load. She was also on the bowling team and participated in the student government on campus.

Wendy Stoeker certainly sounds like an accomplished, happy, well-balanced woman, capable of making life whatever she wishes it to be, doesn't she?

Well, you're right when you say that's what she was and is. The fact is, she already has made life what she wants it to be, even though she was born without arms! Despite having no arms, she enjoys bowling and water-skiing, and she types 45 words a minute!

What is it that causes a person to possess such determination, such courage, such an indomitable spirit? I would say that the common denominator in people like Wendy is her attitude. Wendy doesn't look down on what she doesn't have. Instead, she looks up to what she actually does have. The reality is that if all of us used what we do have and not worry about what we don't have, we would be able to accomplish abundantly more in our lives.



The message I want us to hear on this week before Thanksgiving is simply this: Follow the example of Wendy Stoeker. Don't let a situation limit you from accomplishing great things for the Lord. Think positively about what the Lord wants in your life. Determine to use what you have, regardless of the obstacles and difficulties you might face.

In this season when we're reminded to be thankful, I thought this was an inspiring story that makes me even more grateful for my own life, and gives even more weight to what Paul wrote to the Philippians: "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I will say, rejoice."

Happy Thanksgiving!

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:

Jeannie Houston, Patricia Howard,
Randy & Diane Howard, Tina & Sam Hudson,
Bill & Anita Huffman, Charles & Cindy Huffman.

THANK YOU

Charlie Herman's study abroad semester in South Korea will be ending soon. The last day to send mail to Charlie is Wednesday 11/27/24. Anything mailed after that date may not reach him before he moves out of the residence hall. Thank you for the cards, letters, and prayers for Charlie during his time at Korea University. He is very grateful for all of them and so are we!

Gary and Jennifer Herman

ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food **request for November is flour, cornmeal & sugar.** 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.



Greeters for November 24, 2024:

8:45am - Christine Osborne, Carlee Rathbone

11:00am - Sue Dwiggins, Jackie Lowdermilk

Anyone who wishes to be a greeter, call Harold Thornburg at (828) 312-1953 - cell; or home number (828) 464-6826.



IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

None

MEMORIALS

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Brent Rudisill by:
Steve & Brenda Heafner

Sound System Audio/Visual Fund

In memory of Brent Rudisill by:
Tony & Margaret Garrison

Youth Fund

In memory of Brent Rudisill by:
Anne G. Jones
Fran Zimmerman

DONATE FAMILY ORNAMENTS FOR THE CFLC FAMILY TREE

Through the years, we have collected various Christmas ornaments by families for the family tree in the Connor Family Life Center. If you and your family would like to place an ornament on the family tree in the CFLC, please put your name on the back of the ornament and place in the clear tub in the Narthex. The final day to receive Family ornaments will be November 27th. If you have ornaments after this date, please feel free to add them to the CFLC tree.

All those who would like to help decorate the Chrismon Tree in the Sanctuary and the Family Tree in the CFLC may help do so on **Wednesday, November 27th at 9:00am.**

Michelle Sierzenga



NEWS TO USE

ELI, THE CHRISTMAS DONKEY

A family Advent Celebration

SUNDAY, DEC. 1 - 5-7PM

Families with children of all ages are invited to join us for a fun evening of stories, crafts, games, and dinner. You will go home with a plan for meaningful family experiences to share the rest of Advent.

We will also be packing Blessing Bags for children and teens who were affected by Hurricane Helene. This will be a chance for us to minister to those families and to be blessed ourselves in the process!

And you DEFINITELY don't want to miss the opportunity to meet Eli, the Donkey! (Photo opportunity!)

As always, I need help to make this event run smoothly! We'll be setting up for the event at 3:00 on Dec 1. Please let me know if you are willing and available to help. Beth (336) 480-4551 or woods777@aol.com



PASTOR'S QUIZ

As an example of faith, Hebrews recalls the actions of

- a. Adam
- b. Eve
- c. Cain
- d. Abel

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence November 17, 2024

Sunday School:
98

Worship:
8:45am Service 140
11:00am Service 171
Total 311

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$	40,335.00
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)</i>		
Ashure Ministries		50.00
Children's Bank		87.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund		25.00
Sound System Fund		5,882.04
Youth Fund		50.00
Total	\$	46,429.04

HERE WE GO A CAROLING!!!

Make plans to join us as we go Christmas caroling to our homebound and shut-in members.

Our first group will be on Wednesday, December 18 at 5:00pm. Another group will go on Thursday, December 19 at 1:30pm. Bags of goodies will be delivered as well.

Plans for a third group will be announced soon! Please plan to join us for this special time together.



YOU ARE INVITED TO MEET Eli, The Christmas Donkey

GAMES . CRAFTS . DINNER

A family Advent Celebration



SUNDAY | DEC 1 | 5-7 PM

First Methodist Church
410 First Avenue N, Conover



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

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

SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER

Thank you for remembering our homebound and nursing home members this Thanksgiving. You still have a week to send some happy mail to each one. After Thanksgiving there will be several opportunities to spread some Christmas cheer to these special friends.

Several groups will be delivering special gifts on December 3rd. We would love for you to join a group at 1:30 in the Connor Family Life Center. Each group will visit one or two of our homebound and nursing home residents and then return to the church.

Bags will be placed in the Commons Area for each of our homebound and nursing home residents this week. We will have several weeks to fill the bags with cards, notes, or sweet tokens of love and cheer so that the bags can be delivered before Christmas.

The deadline is December 15th.

Bags will be delivered on several occasions when we go out Christmas caroling. **One group will be singing and spreading joy on December 18th at 5:00pm, and another will go on December 19th at 1:30pm.** Plans for a third group will be announced soon. Please plan to join us for this special time together.

Thank you so much for your kindness to these special church members who can't be with us in person.

Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

d. Abel
(Hebrews 11:4)

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. John Woods pastor@fmconover.org (828) 464-4635 (336) 480-4550 - cell 208 2nd St NE, Conover
Office Administrator / Financial Secretary	Robin Mays office@fmconover.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@fmconover.org
Lead Nursery Worker	Pilar Tobar
Custodian	Luisa Toro Bryan
Church Office	(828) 464-4635
Website:	www.fmconover.org

CONOVER

2 EVENTS 1 DAY

November 23, 10am

OVER 90 VENDORS, SANTA, HAYRIDE AND MORE!!

CONOVER FARMER'S
MARKET

HOLIDAY
MARKET

CONOVER POST
OFFICE PARKING LOT

CONOVER
COMMUNITY
PARTNERS

CHRISTMAS
COMES TO
CONOVER

DOWNTOWN
CONOVER

STILL MORE NEWS TO USE



Operation BLESSING BAGS

Give the gift of Christmas to a child in Western NC

Fill a Gallon plastic zipper bag full of small items for kids of all ages!

**Turn in bags by: December 1st
First Methodist Church in Conover**

Suggested items:
Small coloring books
Crayons
Pencils/Pens
Notepads
Small stuffed animals
Candy
Capri Sun drinks
Small individual bags of snacks
Crackers
Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Socks
Gift cards for older kids

Pick a Girl or Boy - Label bag
Pick an Age category:
2-5
6-10
11-14
15-18

Bags will be delivered on Dec 8th to
Burnsville, Swannanoa, and other
hard to reach areas in Western NC

**For more information:
Contact Beth Woods**



Another Outreach Opportunity

Here's an opportunity to be in ministry to a child affected by Hurricane Helene. Several churches in Conover are working together to put together Blessing Bags for these children.

If you would like to participate, you can put together one or more bags or simply donate items to be put in bags. (see flyer to the left for ideas!) A collection bin is in the Commons Area outside Beth's office.

We will be assembling bags from the donations at the Family Advent Celebration on December 1.

Youth Group



Sun, Nov 24, 5:00-7:00 Movie night at church with dinner – youth room

Sun, Dec 1, 3:00-7:00 Help with Family Advent Celebration – CFLC, includes dinner

Sun, Dec 8, 5:00-7:00 No youth – churchwide movie outing

Sun, Dec 15, 5:00-7:00 Christmas party – details coming later



We are pleased to sponsor the children from Conover School for our Angel Tree again this year. The Conover School is a separate public school for children of various ages that have disabilities. Each child has specific needs, so we try to give exact information for the items that will accommodate each child.

The Angel Tree will be setup in the area outside of Beth's office. The tree will be up by Sunday, November 24. If you are able to attend the services, you can select a name from the tree. Please write your name on the sign-up sheet along with your phone number.

Gifts will be due back by the end of the 11:00 church service on Sunday, December 8.

I realize that it may not be convenient to select a name from the tree or shop for an angel. I have setup an email address angelsfmcc@yahoo.com so you can communicate with me directly if you want to participate in the Angel Tree ministry this season. I will be happy to select an angel for you from the tree and/or do the shopping for you. If you are interested in this option, please email me now at the address above. Just let me know what you wish to do. If you want me to do the shopping, please let me know how much you want to contribute in the email you send to me. You can pay me via cash, check, or Venmo.

We appreciate your help with this and we know that these children will be blessed with your kindness! Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 828-320-9904. Thank you so much!

Dana Little

HEY, MORE NEWS TO USE



Church-wide Movie Outing

Sunday, December 8

Showing time TBA, but we'll aim for the early evening show.

Join us for a fun afternoon of laughter and celebrating the meaning of the Christmas Season with an outing to the movie, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. It is showing at the AMC theater in Hickory (2000 Catawba Valley Blvd SE, Hickory).

We will meet at the theater. Everyone will purchase their own tickets (in advance, if possible). Watch for announcements closer to the date regarding showtime.

Mark your calendars!

Fellowship meal with a special
Christmas presentation from our
children and youth!



Saturday, Dec 14 at 5:00pm
in the Connor Family Life Center

We will enjoy fellowship over a meal (chicken pie and winter squash - please bring desserts), and after dinner you will be treated to a special Christmas presentation from our children and youth. It will be a "don't miss!" kind of night!

EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE

Our New Church Directory is Getting Close!

We are nearing our goal! I (Beth) hope to have all pictures and information uploaded into the new directory program by the end of November, so please make sure you've given me your information as soon as possible!

I am also willing to take pictures any time I am at church (Just stop by or call to make sure I'm in... 336-480-4551.)

Contact me if you need a form (or follow the link on our website: www.fmconover.org.)



Hoops needs your help!

HOOPS FOR CHRIST

YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Would you be willing to share a 3-5 minute devotional or encouraging word with the spectators during half time for each game (4 games per Saturday)?

Or would you be willing to prepare coffee and provide snacks for the spectators during the games? Costs can be reimbursed.

**Games will be on Saturdays: December 14 & 21;
January 11, 18, and 25; and February 1.**

Mark your calendars and plan to come cheer for these players at a few of their games! It's the best free fun you can find on a Saturday morning!

Please let me know if you are willing to help. Beth (336) 480-4551 or woods777@aol.com



Join us for our

Christmas Craft Bazaar



Enjoy Food,
Shopping, Santa,
and more!

7062 Camp Dogwood Drive
Sherrills Ford, NC 28673

December 7, 2024

9am-3pm

Free to the public!

828.478.2135

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

Dottie Aycock-Harris - Terra Bella Newton (Room A5&6)
1088 Radio Station Road, Newton, NC 28658
(704) 460-4919 - Ron's cell phone
noghost@bellsouth.net - email address

James Davis - Abernethy Laurels (Memory Care Center)
Mail to: Jeanette Davis
210 Leonard 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)
4174 Shook Road, Conover, NC 28613
(828) 381-4988 - Rick's cell (828) 381-7328 - Linda's cell

Mary Ann Simpson - Kingston Residence (Room 214)
904 2nd Street NE, Apt. 109, Hickory, NC 28601

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

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

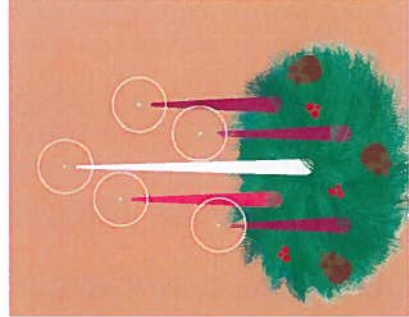
Dolores Setzer - PO Box 1237, Conover, NC 28613
(828) 256-1421



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

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45 Worship 10:00 S.School 11:00 Worship 5:00 Families with Children Advent Celebration	2 9:00 volunteer day at Ashure Ministry	3 1:00 Prayer Shawl 1:30team visits to shut-ins 7:00 The Chosen Bible Study	4 10:30 The Chosen Bible Study 1:00 Hand & Foot 7:00 Choir practice	5 6:30 Hand & Foot	6 CFLC reserved 4-9 6:30 Dominoes	7 Nest 10-12 CFLC
8 8:45 Worship 10:00 S.School 11:00 Worship Time TBA Churchwide movie outing (Best Christmas Pageant Ever)	9	10 7:00 The Chosen Bible Study	11 10:30 The Chosen Bible Study 1:00 Queen Esther 1:00 Hand & Foot 5:30-8:30 Hoops Practice 7:00 Choir practice	12 6:00 Conover Comm. Partners 6:30 Hand & Foot	13 6:30 Dominoes	14 8-1 Hoops Games 5:00 Fellowship dinner and Christmas show. Join us for a fun evening!
15 8:45 Cantata 10:00 S.School 11:00 Cantata 5-7 Youth meeting	16	17	18 1:00 Hand & Foot 5:30-8:30 Hoops Practice 7:00 Choir practice	19 6:30 Hand & Foot	20 10:00 Preschool Program 4:30-8 Parent's night out/Movie night for kids 6:30 Dominoes	21 8-1 Hoops Games
22 8:45 Worship 10:00 S.School 11:00 Worship No Youth meeting	23	24 4:00 Christmas Eve service 6:00 Christmas Eve service	25 Merry Christmas! Office Closed	26 6:30 Methodist Men Dinner 6:30 Hand & Foot	27 6:30 Dominoes 8:30-11:30 pm Youth Cosmic Bowling	28 5:30 Neighbor's Table
29 8:45 Worship 10:00 S.School 11:00 Worship No Youth meeting	30	31				

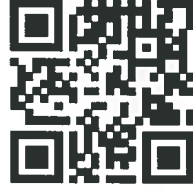


NOTES

We have Sunday School classes for all ages.
Hand & Foot is a card game; all are welcome to come play!
Queen Esther is a women's group with a monthly program.
Goodtimers is for retirees or anyone who is free during the daytime.
Neighbor's Table is a monthly meal for anyone in need.
*Call the church office for more info on any of these opportunities.



First Methodist Church
OF CONOVER
A GLOBAL METHODIST COMMUNITY



Office: 828-464-4635
office@fmconover.org
Pastor John: 336-480-4550
Beth Woods: 336-480-4551
www.fmconover.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Lawson Kincaid	2 Sally Hartner	3 Ron Harris Todd Punch	4	5 Tony Martin	6 Judy Elkin Ronnie Hampton	7 Jaylah Kimsey-Peterson Harry Monk
8 Jim Davis Justin Deal Carolyn Scronce	9 Darlene Burgess Sylvia Hansmann	10 Wesley Tucker	11 Tracy Barbersek Bruce Cloninger Tony Nellenbach Molly Wofford	12 Steve Danner Scott Gilleland Nathan Hentschel	13 Frances Allen Linville Couch Tracy Workman	14 Jenene Nellenbach
15	16 Alan Fisher William Novotny	17	18 Haniel Price-Mercado Carter Rathbone	19 Lynn Murphy David Putnam	20 Hayden Brackett	21
22 Rick Parker	23 Jeff Barrier Burr Stoker	24 Alyssa Myers	25 Connie Henderson	26	27 Jason Loftin Brenda Watson	28 Jimmy Clark Annette Walker
29 Gary Muller Virginia Sigmon	30 Brooke Carswell Holly Connor	31 Michael Cashion Jennifer Miller Jacob Sierzenga Samantha Spencer				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Nick and Crystin Pittman Hernan and Chelsea Puga-Luna	2	3 Jacob and Ashley Drum	4 Todd and Melissa Punch	5	6	7 Mark and Rachel Hamilton Stan and Kim Reed
8	9 Clyde and Carol Kistler	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Powell and Virginia Sigmon	18 Zach and Miranda Garrison Johnny and Denise Moose Jon and Shannon Rogers	19 Jeff and Kim Thornburg Eddie Warren and Carol	20	21
22 Brandon and Larissa Vigue	23	24	25	26 Burr and Betsy Stoker	27 Scottie and Kim Hentschel Gene and Beverly Swithenbank	28
29	30 Dan and Kathy Rockett Adam and Rebecca Stewart	31 Jennifer and Todd Miller				