



# First Methodist Church

## OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

April 16, 2024

### FLOWERS BUT NO FRUIT



I love this time of the year. Spring announces its arrival with an explosion of color. Those yellow forsythia flowers start popping out on bushes, the daffodils, tulips, phlox are in full bloom, and the trees around our church suddenly color the landscape with those delicate white flowers. Now, my wife Beth, who is something of a certified "plantologist," might be able to tell you that those are ornamental pear trees. "Ornamental" because they produce beautiful flowers, but these pear trees don't produce any pears.

You know, God has people in His family who are like those pear trees. They look good, but they don't produce fruit. And fruit is what Jesus is interested in, not just spiritual decorations on the outside.

That's pretty obvious from the parable Jesus told in Luke 13, beginning with verse 6. ***"A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"***



Jesus, as the owner, comes looking for fruit. He's not interested in all our spiritual flowers that impress other people. That's obviously not what really matters to Him. Jesus is looking for a life that's producing lasting fruit, not just parading impressive "flowers."

So, when Jesus looks at you, does He see a follower who is fruitful or mostly decorative? When Jesus looks at your ministry...and our church, does He see the fruit of changed lives or just the flowers of a nice but busy life?

Jesus wants to know what lives you're touching for Him, what lost people you're introducing to Him, how you're investing the talents He gave you in the work He wants done. His hope is that we're living to make a difference. Including the ultimate difference you can make in someone else - pouring yourself into the lives of the people around you so you can help some of them find hope and peace.

Today (Monday) is my birthday, and this day makes me even more mindful that you can't have any of the past years back. They're gone - they're over. But we can decide today that we're going to make a difference with what we do today and tomorrow. I hope you know the joy of a fruitful life — one that doesn't just look good, but produces the sweet fruit of God's Spirit.

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:

Donald Simpson, Mary Ann Simpson,  
Jean Slate, Alice Spencer,  
Lauren Spencer & Roxxi Slaughter, Mike, Anne,  
Samantha, & Zander Spencer & Saiylor Spencer-Wooten.

## IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

None

## A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Melba Jean Bean Hennessee, age 91 and mother of Barbara Hager, died Saturday, March 30th at CVMC. The family received friends from 1-2pm on Thursday, April 4th at Jenkins Funeral Home Chapel with a service following at 2pm.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Barbara and the family during this sad time.



## MEMORIALS General Fund

In memory of Carol Dickinson by:  
Owen & Vesta Statler  
Albert Masood  
Jessie Skipper

## Local Missions Fund

In memory of Carol Dickinson by:  
Nancy Clarke  
Sharpe Bible Class  
Eddie Warren

## Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Carol Dickinson by:  
Tommi & Charlie Anderson  
Tony & Margaret Garrison  
Susan Hunsucker

## Youth Fund

In memory of Bill Biles by:  
Nancy Clarke & Toni Dilley

## THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for their calls, cards, prayers and visits following my surgery. They have meant so much to me.  
It is a blessing to have such a wonderful church family.

Anne Calloway

## CHURCH MEETINGS

**Sunday, April 28th**

**4:00pm Finance Committee Meeting**  
**(Conference room)**

**5:00pm Church Council Meeting**  
**(Sanctuary)**

## THE CORNER TABLE NEEDS OUR HELP!

The Corner Table in Newton has asked local churches to support their Feed The Flock Gala by providing the following:

**Gift Cards** (valued \$20+) for a Gift Card Roulette Wheel

**Silent Auction Gift Baskets** – FMCC is providing a **Mother's Day Gift Basket** with items to pamper mom and an **Advent Book Basket** with children's Christmas books. (They can be found on Amazon this time of year.)

There is a clear plastic tote in the Narthex where you can place donations. Gift cards can be placed in the mailbox for "The Nest" or given to Jenny Harris.

If you have any questions or want to learn more about the wonderful things The Corner Table does for our community, please call Jenny Harris at (828) 358-5900. Thank you!

## HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024

Parents, if you have a **High School senior** who will be graduating this year, we are requesting that you notify Robin at 828-464-4635 or email her at [office@fmccconover.org](mailto:office@fmccconover.org).

We would like to know the following information: Name, Address, High School of graduation. Thank you.



# NEWS TO USE

## Reminder for Passengers Noah's Ark/Creation Museum Trip

If you are registered for our trip to the Ark and Creation Museum, please remember to pay the remainder of your trip cost this week. It is due by Saturday, April 20. If you are unsure what your balance is, you can contact Burke Christian Tours at 800-476-3900.

We still have several slots open for more passengers, so invite a friend or family member!



## ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry red bins for food and bag donations are located in the hallway between the CFLC and Beth's office.

The food **request for April** is **canned or dry beans**. Any other food is greatly appreciated also.

Thursday, May 9, is Ashure Ministry's annual golf tournament. Last year, FMC CONOVER team won the church division!! Way to go, Charlie, Bruce, Finley, and Michael!

This event at Glen Oaks in Maiden is a fundraiser for Ashure. If interested in being a sponsor or playing, please go online to Ashure Ministry or see Anita Deal.

Once again, our Men's group from FMC CONOVER is providing and cooking the food for the tournament.

Once again, FMC Conover, you collected the most food and money in the church division of the recent March Madness food drive for Ashure Ministry!! Your support of this ministry for people in Catawba County is amazing. First place team for FMCC was West Virginia University, followed by NC State, Wake Forest, Western Carolina, UNC, and Duke. Of course, the real winners are the clients who benefit from these proceeds. Thank you so much!!!

Thank You!!



## PASTOR'S QUIZ

The gospel of St. John teaches that God sent His only Son into the world because of God's

- a. anger with the world
- b. puzzlement with the world
- c. love of the world
- d. love his His Son

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

## **STEWARDSHIP REPORT** **By Our Presence April 14, 2024**

Sunday School:  
92

Worship:  
8:45am Service 118  
11:00am Service 131  
249

### **God's Tithe & Our Gifts**

General Fund \$ 8,986.21  
*(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)*

Children's Bank	80.00
Disaffiliation Fund	700.00
Local Missions Fund	50.00
Harvest Festival (T-Shirt)	20.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	475.00
Youth Fund	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,361.21</b>



## **CONNOR SCHOLARSHIP** **Applications Available**

Applications are now being accepted for anyone wanting to apply for a Connor Scholarship. Application forms can be obtained from the church office by calling (828) 464-4635 or via email at [office@fmccconover.org](mailto:office@fmccconover.org).

Please state whether you need a high school application or a college application. **Deadline is April 19th.**

**Scholarships will be awarded on Sunday, June 2, 2024 at both services.**

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

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

## **“DON'T FLY SOLO” WITH THE NEST**

Ladies of the church, please “fly by” The Nest on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 10am until noon in the Connor Family Life Center for our next get together. We will have a fun, Bible-based program and refreshments.

You can “fly solo” but we would love for you to bring a friend! If you haven't been to one of the events in the past, it is a fun way to get to know other ladies in the church and community. There is no need to bring anything with you. This is your time to be surrounded and encouraged by other women of faith!

RSVP to Jenny Harris at 828-358-5900 (text or call)



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:  
c. love of the world  
(John 3:15)

## **CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor	Rev. John Woods <b><a href="mailto:pastor@fmconover.org">pastor@fmconover.org</a></b> (828) 464-4635 (336) 480-4550 - cell 208 2nd St NE, Conover
Office Administrator / Financial Secretary	Robin Mays <b><a href="mailto:office@fmconover.org">office@fmconover.org</a></b>
Coordinator of Lay Ministries	Beth Woods <a href="mailto:woods777@aol.com">woods777@aol.com</a> (336) 480-4551 - cell
Music Director/Choir	Jon Rogers <a href="mailto:jsrogers99@gmail.com">jsrogers99@gmail.com</a> (828) 244-7019
Music Director/Praise Team/ Pianist	Shannon Rogers <a href="mailto:srog101@gmail.com">srog101@gmail.com</a> (828) 244-6124
Organist	Kevin Haney <a href="mailto:khaney01@gmail.com">khaney01@gmail.com</a> (704) 914-6510
Preschool Director	Julie Robinson (828) 466-3158 <b><a href="mailto:preschool@fmconover.org">preschool@fmconover.org</a></b>
Lead Nursery Worker	Pilar Tobar
Custodian	Luisa Toro Bryan
Church Office	(828) 464-4635
Website:	<a href="http://www.fmconover.org">www.fmconover.org</a>



## MORE NEWS TO USE

### Very Important Meeting for VBS!

April 21 – 6:30

At this meeting, we will begin planning our summer children's offerings, including Vacation Bible School. We need a core team of volunteers so that we can move forward in preparations. And we need a variety of helpers: set-up/decoration, food prep/serve/clean, teacher, music/dance leader, storyteller, crafts, games, group leaders... and many more! Would you be one of these?

SCAN ME



A few agenda items to think about and pray about between now and April 21:

- **Format for VBS** (We are considering a shorter week with some follow-up days later.)
- **Date for VBS** (The past few years it's been in mid-July. We'll set registration dates too.)
- **Theme/Curriculum for VBS** (While the theme is the "fun, splashy" part of VBS, it's critical to choose a curriculum that contains the Biblical message we want to convey.)
- **Children's offerings throughout the school year** (While our main focus will be on VBS, we need to look ahead too.)

Please let me know if you have any questions. You can contact me at [woods777@aol.com](mailto:woods777@aol.com) or (336) 480-4551. You can send a quick "Yes" RSVP through text using the QR code above. If you cannot attend the meeting but are interested in helping, please let me know that too.



### GMC Missions Workshop

Saturday, April 20 – 9 am – Noon

This One Mission Society workshop will help each church have the best impact on their neighborhood, their city, or the world!

SCAN ME

First Methodist Church of Conover will host one of these events on April 20 (Saturday) from 9-12. It will be open to churches all around us. We want anyone interested in missions of any type to plan to attend this workshop. We will have time together to cast vision and make plans for the mission work of First Methodist Church.

The QR code here will take you to the registration link OR you can find the registration link on our website: [www.fmconover.org](http://www.fmconover.org), on our Facebook page, on the NC GMC site at [www.gmcncpac.org/missions](http://www.gmcncpac.org/missions), OR you can email Beth Woods at [woods777@aol.com](mailto:woods777@aol.com) and the link will be emailed to you. Options!

We also need a few people who will help with setting up tables and preparing coffee, water, and light refreshments.

### YOUTH RETREAT OPPORTUNITY

**CLUB Ministries** is offering an incredible 3 days of fun and worship at Fort Caswell located in beautiful Oak Island, North Carolina. From August 9-11, 2024 youth groups are invited to attend this non-denominational event designed to educate, enlighten, and energize young people through the Word of God ... and just before heading back to school! There will be inspirational speakers, inspiring worship music, and free-time opportunities for youth groups to explore this incredible coastal region. For more details, see: <https://clubministries.com/surge/>

If you are rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade -12<sup>th</sup> grade and are interested in attending this retreat, please contact Beth Woods (336) 480-4551 or [woods777@aol.com](mailto:woods777@aol.com). If we take a group, we will also need adult chaperones.

## EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE

### LIFE LINE SCREENING COMING MAY 16th

There is a simple, convenient way for you to get preventive health screenings and learn your risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions.

These painless screenings go beyond your regular checkup to identify dangerous plaque buildup or blockage, a major risk factor for stroke and heart disease. The screenings are accurate, affordable and will give you valuable information about your health that you can share with your doctor.

We are pleased to host Life Line Screening, who will be on site on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at First Methodist Church to conduct these valuable screenings.

These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160

text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607

or online at <https://llsa.social/HC>







# Ashure

MINISTRY

formerly known as



**ECCCM**  
Eastern Carolina Cooperative Christian Ministry, Inc.



**MAY**  
THURSDAY | 2024  
**09**

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11:00 AM REGISTRATION  
11:30 AM LUNCH  
1:00 PM SHOTGUN START

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#### REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

LUNCH	RANGE BALLS
GREEN FEES	MULLIGANS
CART FEES	TEE BUSTER
REFRESHMENTS	PUTTING RULER

**GLEN OAKS  
GOLF CLUB**

245 GOLF COURSE RD  
MAIDEN, NC 28650

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**\$110 | \$440**

One Player

Foursome

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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

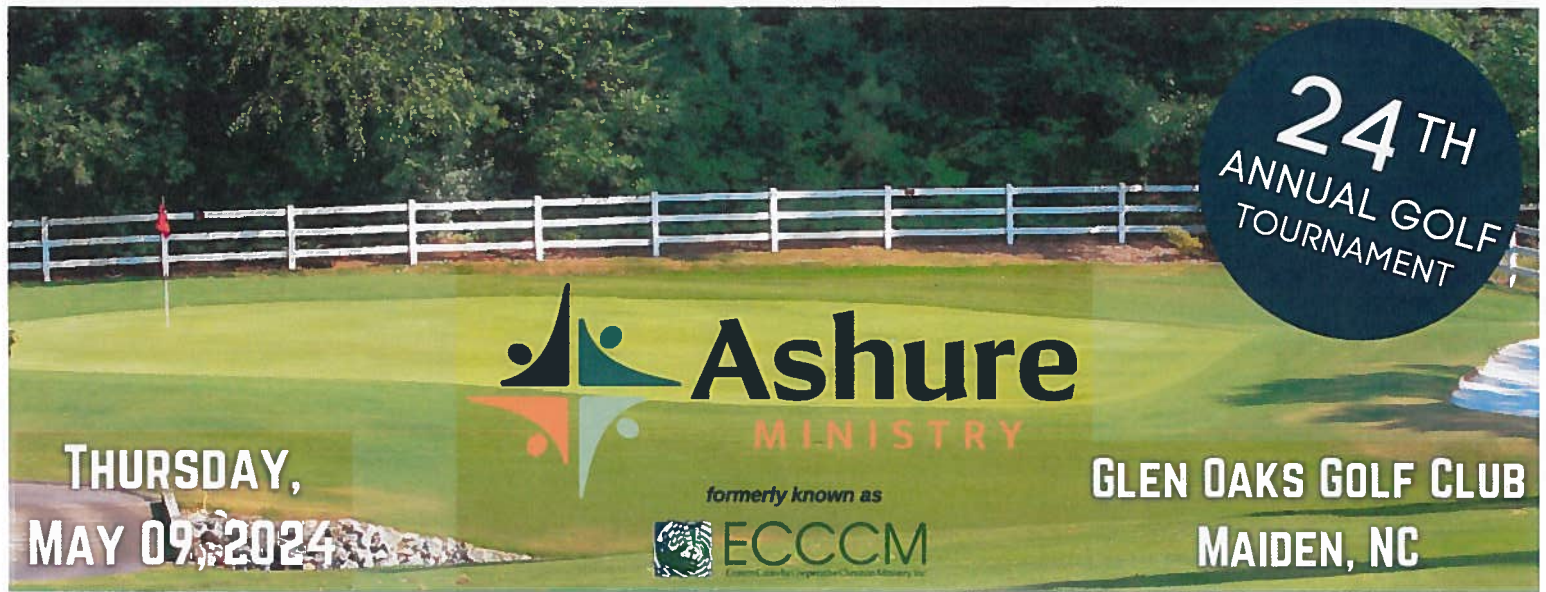
**JOSH FARMER**

J.FARMER@ASHUREMINISTRY.ORG | 828.465.1702 EXT 116



























SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE;  
PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

**ONLINE REGISTRATION: [ASHUREMINISTRY.ORG/GOLF](https://www.ashureministry.org/golf)**





## 2024 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

	PRESENTING SPONSOR \$6,000	PLATINUM SPONSOR \$3,000	GOLDEN HOLE SPONSOR \$750	HOLE SPONSOR \$400	PUTTING GREEN/DRIVING RANGE SPONSOR \$200	CART SPONSOR \$50
FOURSOMES INCLUDED	2	1	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
LOGO ON SOCIAL MEDIA						
LOGO ON WEBSITE						
TABLE AT SHELTER						
NAME ON EVENT BANNER						
GUEST SPEAKER AT THE EVENT						
SIGN AT A TEE BOX						
SIGN ON THE PUTTING GREEN OR AT DRIVING RANGE						
SIGN ON A GOLF CART						



**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

**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

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**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



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