



First Methodist Church

OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

July 23, 2024



Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish." — Esther 4:13-16

The Bible contains 66 books, and there is one book that has a unique feature. There is one book that *doesn't mention God; not even once!* Which book do you think it might be?

It is the 10-chapter book of Esther! For 10 chapters, God is not named or mentioned as the brave and beautiful queen saves the Jews in exile with the help of her wise relative Mordecai. It seems strange that a book about how God's people are saved doesn't mention Him...*at all.*

However, God is at work behind the scenes, orchestrating and guiding the events that unfold. While God is not explicitly mentioned, He is certainly at work. It culminates with the book's most famous verse. Mordecai tells Queen Esther, **"And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"** God was certainly directing affairs behind the scenes so that His people might be saved from destruction. God had directed the events that led to Esther becoming queen, and He had instilled in her the bravery and courage needed for the task at hand. Just a few verses later, she says, **"Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish."**

I'm not bothered that the book of Esther doesn't mention God. Why? I think it's because Esther perfectly depicts our lives on this side of heaven. We don't often get to see God explicitly working in our lives, but He is, and He does. He has set us here at this specific place (right here in Conover), and for this particular time. He has a purpose for us (a purpose for you!), to make a difference in this community and for God's people. He is doing His renewing and saving work in us.

As we continue to live out our days on this side of heaven, let's rejoice in our God who works in ways we don't always explicitly see. Let's rejoice in a God who showers His good gifts upon us: His grace, salvation, love, and care. Let's celebrate that we have a God who has set us here for such a time as this!

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:

Linda Birchfield, Doug & LaRue Black,
Kalen Bolick, Billy & Beth Boston,
Chris & Amber Boston, Thomas Boston.

Children and Youth

OLYMPIC-SIZED

FUN DAY!

July 28: 4:30 – 7:30

All children and youth are invited to a fun sports day (with simple/goofy rules) on July 28. We will be playing modified soccer, basketball, gaga ball, nine-square-in-the-air and more! This is a chance to just have fun and get in the mood to watch the Paris Olympics.

We'll take a break for dinner that will involve round foods to replicate the Olympic rings. (Think pizza, hamburgers, donuts... !)

I need some adult help/referees too. Please let me know if you can come.

Beth Woods 336-480-4551



IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

None

MEMORIALS **Sound System Fund**

In memory of Mary Rudisill by:
Elaine Martin

Elizabeth "Libby" Sigmon

Janet B. Linney

Gene & Beverly Swithenbank

Mark & Rita Deal

Brad & Kim Little

Shear Bliss (Misty Pearson)

Tina Cloninger

Wake Forest Internal Medicine Staff

Music Fund

In memory of Mary Rudisill by:
Jean Slate

Trustees' Fund **(for interior improvements)**

In memory of Mary Rudisill by:
Tommi & Charlie Anderson

TRUSTEES MEETING

SUNDAY
AUGUST 4
3:00pm

**The meeting will be held in the
Crossroads Classroom
In the CFLC.**

NEWS TO USE

ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food **request for July** is **healthy snacks for children**. These may be placed in the red bins in the hallway between the CFLC and Beth's office along with grocery bags.

Thank you for your ongoing support of this ministry



JUST A FRIENDLY HEALTH REMINDER....



UNDER that in this cold and flu season, please be respectful of those around you during church activities and worship.

Weather If you have symptoms of a cold or the flu (fever, sneezing, cough, running nose), avoid some of the friendly contact many of us like to share (like shaking hands, hugs, etc.) until those symptoms have been gone for at least 24 hours.



PASTOR'S QUIZ

Judas Iscariot takes on an additional attribute in the gospel according to John: he is described as

- a. an extortioner
- b. a thief
- c. a burglar
- d. a confidence man

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence July 21, 2024

Sunday School:
103

Worship:
8:45am Service 137
11:00am Service 116
Total 253

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 11,752.00
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)</i>	
Children's Bank	175.00
Hurricane Beryl Relief	350.00
Music Fund	25.00
Sound System Fund	770.00
Trustees' Fund	<u>20.00</u>
Total	\$ 13,092.00



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
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Organization
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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. a thief
(John 12:4-6)

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

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.