



First Methodist Church

OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

March 11, 2025

SIN'S PERMANENT MARKER

It was time for the planning retreat for Ron's ministry team. And someone offered their large farmhouse to them. So they took them up on it. They drove out to the country, hauled in their suitcases, and bags of groceries, files, flip charts and their easel.

One person was setting up the dry erase board; the kind you write on with a dry erase marker. This was a brand-new board they had gotten, specifically for the occasion. Now it was ready for their great ideas to be written on it. And so, the guy who had set it up decided he'd try it out. He grabbed a marker and drew an amusing cartoon right in the middle of the board. While most were having a good laugh, somebody said, "You didn't use the permanent marker, did you?"



There was this long, awkward silence followed by a very long groan, and then, "Oh no! I'm so sorry." Poor guy! He really thought it could be erased. The word "permanent" never occurred to him.

Several times this past week, I've read from Psalms 51. It's right out of the very personal diary of King David after his adultery with someone else's wife, a woman named Bathsheba. He says, "**Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.**" He's hurting pretty bad. "**For I know my transgressions and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight.**" In verse 7 he says, "**Cleanse me and I will be clean. Wash me and I'll be whiter than snow.**" Can you see how desperately he wants to be clean again?

I don't know how good the thrill was with Bathsheba, but the bill haunted David a long time after the thrill was gone. Sin's always like that. It promises to give so much before you do it and then it takes so much from you after you do it.

See, sin is like a permanent marker. A lot of people have no idea the marks it will leave on their relationships with others, their sense of worth, their reputation, or people's trust in them.

It could be right now that you're looking at something that's out-of-bounds spiritually and it's tempting. It looks good. It would be easy to give in to that temptation — maybe bend the truth, or get back at that person who hurt you. But first, pull out your calculator and do the math of what it could cost you. It won't seem so good when you see how much it will cost you long after the brief benefits of that sin are gone.

You say, "Pastor John, the marks are already there." Fortunately, the Lord has given a supernatural way to deal with it. It can be erased by the power of the cross, where Jesus paid the price for our sin.

Acts 3:19 says, "**Repent and turn to God, and your sins will be washed away.**" The forgiveness Jesus offers can make us clean before God.

Ron's coworker had no idea that those marks on the board couldn't be erased—that it was a permanent marker, just like sin. But today's good news is that when you come to the Lord and confess your sin and ask Him, Jesus is faithful and just and will forgive you of your sin. There are no marks He can't erase. That's good news we all need!

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:

Stephen & Haniel Price, Wendy Price & Justin Cote,
Hernan & Chelsea Puga-Luna, Elizabeth Pullen,
Todd, Melissa, Evan & Addison Punch,
Dave & Brenda Putnam & Emily Randall.



MEMORIALS

Methodist Men

In memory of Harold Thornburg by:

Junior & Anita Deal
Dennis & Jo Ellen Knecht
Alma Dixon
Keith & Tommie Hall
Jim & Carolyn Ball
Jack & Gaye Hoke
Clyde & Carol Kistler
Harry & Trenia Monk
Cliff & Debbie Wike
Danny & Sandy Baucom
Mark & Rachel Hamilton
Michael & Vicki Anderson
Tammy Hollar Yount
Mitchell & Linda Sigmon

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Harold Thornburg by:
Charles & Lucy Rockett

In memory of Dolores Setzer by:
Charles & Lucy Rockett

Youth Fund

In memory of Dolores Setzer by:
Junior & Anita Deal
Alma Dixon
Jimmy & Cindy Clark
Jack & Gaye Hoke
Danny & Sandy Baucom



IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

Brenda Watson at CVMC

GREETERS FOR MARCH 16

8:45am - Christine Osborne & Carter Rathbone

11:00am - Ronnie & Jean Hampton

THANK YOU

Thank you church family for all the cards, calls, text and prayers while Daddy was in the hospital and even after his passing! We are so blessed for all the love we were shown. His funeral service definitely honored the Christian man he was, a friend to many and a great Father! A Friend shared with me in his name Harold is "HALO"! Thank you again for being there for us in this very difficult time! He is going to be missed!!

Much Love to you all,

Laurie, Michael, Jeff, Kim and Lee
(Harold's Family)

QUEEN ESTHERS' CIRCLE



The Queen Esther Circle will be taking a trip to the Hickory Art Museum on Wednesday, March 12th. If you wish to car pool, please meet in the church parking lot at 12:30pm on Wednesday. All women of the church are invited. Bring a friend or family member with

A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Michael Lelio Induni, Sr., age 84 of Conover, passed away at home on Sunday, March 2, 2025. Michael is the father of Michael Induni and father-in-law of Greta Induni.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 4pm on Saturday, March 15, 2025 at First Presbyterian Church, 701 N Main Ave., Newton, NC.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Michael, Greta and the family during this difficult time.

NEWS TO USE

ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food **request for March is March Madness food drive**. 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.

LENTEN VOLUNTEER INITIATIVE

In the spirit of Lent, Ashure Ministry is asking folks to consider doing their Lenten discipline with the ministry, and SERVE 40 hours from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday.

No registration required. Just volunteer and the computer will calculate your hours.

Thanks to the 15 FMCC volunteers who gave of their time at Ashure Ministry on Monday, March 3.

MARCH MADNESS

From now until April 9, there is a food drive for Ashure Ministry with a little friendly competition. You can donate food OR money for your favorite team. Food counts as 2 points per pound. Money counts as 3 points per dollar. Boxes with team labels are located in the narthex and CFLC. Don't see your team? No problem!! (Mine is not there either!) Place your food in the box labeled other. Be sure to indicate your team preference. If donating money, please indicate team preference, and give donation to Anita deal.

Once again, FMCC, you have served others in a huge way!! During February, you gave of your time and resources to total:

Food donated -----264 pounds
Volunteers-----21
Volunteer hours-----192.8

WOW!! THANKS!



PASTOR'S QUIZ

"Ye are the salt of the earth," said Jesus to the disciples, warning against

- a. offering themselves too freely
- b. losing their savour
- c. affecting sweetness
- d. charging for their services

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence March 9, 2025

Sunday School:
98

Worship:
8:45am Service 103
11:00am Service 142
Total 245

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 22,821.00
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$15,258)</i>	
Children's Bank	24.00
Connor Scholarship Fund (Refund)	500.00
Methodist Men of FMCC	1,975.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	50.00
Youth Fund	<u>225.00</u>
Total	\$ 25,595.00

EASTER BLESSINGS



Easter is just around the corner and it is time to share our love with our homebound and nursing home members. Bags will be placed in the commons area with the names of our 11 members. Would you fill an Easter egg with some sweet treats, trinkets, a favorite scripture, or a personal note to brighten someone's day? Please place your egg and/or cards in the bags by April 6th so they can be delivered before Easter. You can find the names listed in the newsletter. If you would like to help deliver bags please let Susan Hunsucker know.

This would be a great opportunity for families with young children to serve together. Thank you once again for your amazing support of this ministry.

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

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Conover, NC

2024 FLOWER CHART

We still have some open dates on the flower chart for November 10th & December 29th.

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. losing their savour
(Matthew 5:13)

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. John Woods pastor@fmconover.org (828) 464-4635 (336) 480-4550 - cell 208 2nd St NE, Conover
Minister of Youth/Outreach	Jason Shoup jsgodson@yahoo.com (828) 381-1174 1409 5th St. Ct. 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

EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE

CHURCH MEETINGS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 16TH

2:30PM—TRUSTEES MEETING (CROSSROADS CLASSROOM)

4:00PM—FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING (CONFERENCE ROOM)

5:00PM—CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING (SANCTUARY)

Goodtimers March Meeting

We will have a meal and program to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Thursday, March 20 at 12 pm. (Note change to Thursday instead of Wednesday!). We will have a presentation by the St. Joseph's Irish Dancers. We will take up a love offering to show our appreciation for this group of about 25 young dancers. It's going to be a treat to see their talent!

The meal will be a baked potato (Irish potatoes!) bar. We will have potatoes and toppings for you to customize your meal. We invite you to bring a salad or dessert to share. If you have suggestions for good potato toppings, let us know!



If you have questions or want to let us know what you can bring, please contact Beth Woods (336) 480-4551 or Jean Slate (910) 624-9843.

THE NEXT METHODIST MEN'S MEETING
HAS NOT YET BEEN SCHEDULED.
MORE INFORMATION WILL COME SOON

Looking for Drivers!



Several of our ministries (Goodtimers, Youth, etc.) occasionally need people to drive the church vans. Would you be willing to be called on for this?

You only need a regular driver's license (not a CDL). Call the church office for more information or to be added to our list!

STILL MORE NEWS TO USE



Link to the website to log in.

FINAL CALL FOR ENTRIES AND CORRECTIONS!

We plan to begin printing paper copies of the new church directory in about 2 weeks, so please submit photos and corrections as soon as possible.

We currently have 255 families listed in the directory. That's a great representation of our church family. (If someone wants to count the individuals, be my guest! Let me know what you come up with!) I may have missed someone, however, so I need your help! Please let me know if there is someone who should be added to our directory. This is intended to be a helpful resource and will be more valuable if it is complete!

If you need assistance, please contact Beth Woods (336) 480-4551 or Woods777@aol.com



Special Activities for Children March 16 - During Both Worship Services

During both worship services on March 16, all children are invited to leave the service at the time normally set aside for their time with Beth and Amber.

The children will have a lesson, snack, and arts & craft project during this time and will be returned to the sanctuary to be reunited with their parents at the end of the service.



Workday for Prayer Walk and Easter 4 Children

Our first workday is this week!

ASSEMBLY workday – Thursday, March 13 at 9 am in the CFLC. We can use many hands to assemble give-away items for both the Prayer Walk and the Easter 4 Children events. This will be mostly sitting down and low stress, with a good opportunity for fellowship too!

HEY, MORE NEWS TO USE

*Want info about our church?
Thinking about joining?*



Meet & greet with Pastor John

Wed, March 19 at 7 pm

RSVP church office

828-464-4635

office@fmconover.org

Come with your questions!



Heartfelt Ministries will be holding prayer gatherings each Tuesday evening from 6:00-6:45 in the Parlor (upstairs behind the sanctuary)

These will be short (45 minute) gatherings for sharing scripture, praise and prayers. You will be blessed! Please join us if you can.

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 - TerraBella Newton, (Room B1)
1088 Radio Station Road, Newton, NC 28658
(Ron's cell - (704) 460-4919)



James Davis - Abernethy Laurels (Memory Care Center)
Mail to: Jeanette Davis
102 Leonard Avenue, Room 210, Newton, NC 28658

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 Assisted Living (Room 107)
4174 Shook Road, Claremont, NC 28610
(828) 381-4988 - Rick's cell (828) 381-7328 - Linda's cell

Gilda Pennell - Abernethy Laurels (2103 Noble)
102 Leonard Avenue
Newton, NC 28658

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

Sybil Windsor - TerraBella Newton (Room C1)
1088 Radio Station Road, Newton, NC 28658



Don Hedrick - Mailing address: PO Box 542, Claremont, NC 28610
Physical address: 4028 E US 70 Hwy, Claremont, NC 28610
His wife, Cheryl's phone# (828) 381-7956

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

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

NEIGHBOR'S TABLE

The mission/outreach program, Neighbor's Table, began September 16, 2023.

- **What?** Supper
- **For?** The homeless, the lonely and those needing help during difficult financial times
- **When?** Third Saturday of each month from 5:30 to 6:30pm

September 2023 through January 2025 there have been ten different groups within our church that have prepared and served meals to our neighbors. THANK YOU!

You have faithfully stepped up to make this a successful mission and at the same time being touched personally by the experience. GOD is good.

Many people have asked me what they can do and when can they help.

Presently we need groups to prepare/serve meals:

- June 21, 2025
- July 19
- August 16
- September 20
- October 18
- November 15

If you have questions or wish to volunteer, please contact me: call/text at 828-638-8525 or e-mail me at lgstorytime@bellsouth.net.

Continue praying for the success of this mission/outreach to the community of Conover and that those in need of this service will hear about it and come to the feast of food and love.

Mission and Outreach Committee
Neighbor's Table Coordinator
Lois Goodson



Two Easter Events... **And you are invited to both!**

March 15 at 10 am

- **Easter crafts, stories and snacks**

April 12 at 10 am

- **Go through Journey to Jerusalem, followed by Easter Egg hunt**



**EASTER
4
CHILDREN**



We still need YOUR help!

March 13 at 9 am

- **We need hands! We'll have items that need to be cut out, sorted, labeled, and assembled. (And you'll enjoy great fellowship too!)**

March 15

- **We need table leaders, story tellers and assistants. Call Jo Ellen Knecht (in your new directory!) (828) 244-9437**

April 12

- **We need help (before the 12th) stuffing eggs, leading groups through Journey to Jerusalem, and hiding eggs.**