



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

April 3, 2024

OUT OF THE WOODS — A Dance that was Tutu Naughty for Church

Grace is an amazing gift. We're only human, and everyone – even preachers, will all do things they will regret. One of the reasons we need so much grace is because sometimes what we say is not what we mean and what we mean is not always what the other person hears.

In one of his books, Dr. Nido Qubein, the president of High Point University, tells about one man who failed to make sure that what he said was fully heard and understood - to much embarrassment.

The businessman was looking for ways to raise money for the church softball team, and he approached the pastor. *"Some friends of mine told me about a dancer who is drawing big crowds around the country, and I thought we might bring her here to the social hall for a benefit performance," he said. "Would you object to a belly dancer for a fund-raiser?"*

"Of course not," said the pastor. "Go ahead and use the church's Fellowship Hall if you'd like."

So, the businessman arranged for the performance and the pastor was on hand for the show. When the dancer came on stage and began her seductive gyrations, the pastor gasped and turned to the businessman.



*"How **could** you bring an act like this into the church!?"*

"But you said it was all right to bring in a belly dancer," the businessman said.

*"**Belly** dancer!?" said the pastor. "I thought you said **ballet** dancer!"*



I can relate. More than once I've said something that was misheard or misunderstood, and worse, I can't begin to count how many times I've been the one who's misheard, misunderstood, or (sadly) jumped to a conclusion before ever hearing the full story.

The truth is, making mistakes is a part of our human condition, and no matter how old or experienced we are, they will still happen. That's one reason God was so clear in His guidance to us in how we ought to deal with those situations when they come up. That's why the Bible instructs us:

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Colossians 3:13-15

I'm glad God's grace is so abundant, and that He has set an example for us to follow!

Grace and Peace!

Pastor John

P.S. That said, no one need come to this pastor asking about a "ballet" dancer for their pet project. The answer will be NO! I know what side my bread's buttered on!

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:

Jacob Scott, Don & Carolyn Scronce,
Guynell Sears, Dolores Setzer
Jay Shepherd, John & Cynthia Sherbert.

MEMORIALS **General Fund**

In memory of Carol Dickinson by:
Rick & Linda Parker

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Carol Dickinson by:
Robin Mays
Harry & Trenia Monk
Gene & Beverly Swithenbank

If anyone is interested in sending Cameron Scott a birthday card, (turned 8 last Thursday), feel free to text Shannon Rogers at (828) 244-6124 and she will share his address with you.



CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP! MEAL AND GAME NIGHT SATURDAY, APRIL 6 AT 5:00PM IN THE CONNOR FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Everyone is invited to our monthly "Game Night" and salad & potato bar on Saturday, April 6th beginning at 5:00pm.

We will enjoy fellowship while preparing our salads and potatoes (Russett baking and sweet potatoes) with all the trimmings. Salad, potatoes, and fix'ins will be provided. If you are able, bring a dessert to share. After dinner, we will mingle and play "Candy Bar Bingo." That's Bingo and the prize will be a candy bar. We will be enjoying making new friendships and building stronger bonds of fellowship. Bring a friend!

IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

None

A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Carol Dickinson, age 88 and a member of FMCC died Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

Arrangements are incomplete at this time

Our thoughts and prayers are with her son, Bill, and daughter-in-law, Deanna, during this difficult time. Bill & Deanna Dickinson's address is:
3723 Annette Drive, NE
Hickory, NC 28601

A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

William "Bill" Allen Biles, age 85 and husband of Elaine Biles, a member of FMCC, died Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

A service was held Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 2:00pm at New Hope Moravian Church on Sandy Ford Road. The family received friends at the church at 1:30pm.

Our thought and prayers are with Elaine and the family during this difficult time.

Elaine's address is:
2230 Orson Drive #212
Indian Land, SC 29707

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!

NEWS TO USE



Time to Register! A Few Spots Still Open! Noah's Ark/Creation Museum Trip

We will be taking a bus trip to visit the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky, and the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky. Finley Cloninger will be our driver, with Harold Roberson serving as "Assistant Trip Director!"

We still have several slots open for more passengers. So, if you've been thinking about going or if you know anyone (doesn't have to be a church member) interested in this trip, please have them contact Beth Woods at 336-480-4551 or woods777@aol.com. Information and Registration sheets are on Beth's door. The information is also on our website, www.fmconover.org, accessible by the QR code below.

May 20-23, 2024 -- Price Per Person: Double room \$699; Triple room \$639; Quad room \$609; Single room \$889. You can choose who to room with.

If you want to join the trip, please fill out a registration form and return it to Burke Christian Tours or to Beth, with a \$200 deposit. (Checks made out to Christian Tours. There is also a credit card option if you call the tour office at (800-476-3900).



NEWS

March Madness for Ashure Ministry (formerly ECCCM) seems to be progressing at FMC Conover as evidenced by the team boxes in the narthex. Don't be misled by the fullest box!

Please remember EACH POUND OF FOOD COUNTS AS 2 POINTS, AND EACH DOLLAR COUNTS AS 3 POINTS. Points for monetary donations are on the banners clipped to the boxes. So, the fullest box is NOT a "slam dunk" !!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUAL SUPPORT OF THIS MINISTRY TO OUR COMMUNITY.

Our church volunteer day will be Monday, April 8th. Any amount of time is greatly appreciated.

The Ashure Ministry red bins for food and bag donations are now in their regular location in the hallway between the CFLC and Beth's office. Thank you!

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



PASTOR'S QUIZ

"The stones would immediately cry out," said Jesus, if the disciples

- a. acted unjustly
- b. betrayed Him
- c. held their peace
- d. used violence

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence March 31, 2024

Sunday School:
101

Worship:
8:45am Service 193
11:00am Service 198
391

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 18,301.00
(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)

Children's Bank	57.00
Disaffiliation Fund	100.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	200.00

Total \$ 18,658.00

Maundy Thursday Attendance: 134



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@fmconover.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 27th 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. held their peace
(Luke 19:37-40)

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

MORE NEWS TO USE



SCAN ME

GMC Missions Workshop

Saturday, April 20 – 9 am – Noon

Many people have asked about how the Global Methodist Church will be structuring their missions programs. In keeping with the emphasis on local churches, the NC GMC is supporting congregations in NC by providing workshops all across the state. The purpose of these workshops is to help each church develop an intentional missions plan. Some churches choose to focus on local needs, while others are more interested in international missions. That's okay! This One Mission Society workshop will help each church have the best impact on their neighborhood, their city, or the world!

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, on our Facebook page, on the NC GMC site at www.gmcncpac.org/missions, OR you can email Beth Woods at 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.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

These words are not enough to express our appreciation to everyone who gave of themselves to make our 2024 Journey to Jerusalem Prayer Walk a life-changing event. This ministry truly takes thousands of hours – put in by many, many people – to bring it to life. And every task, from hanging curtains to spotlighting scripture to sitting quietly in a Biblical costume is important. We have many extraordinary volunteers who give so much of themselves to help our community feel how very much Jesus loves us. The hundreds of guests (“travelers”) who attended were greatly blessed by this message and the experience they found at our church. A special “thank you” to Anthony Price, who guides and directs every aspect of this ministry, and to the Sunday School classes who graciously gave up their classrooms for a few weeks!

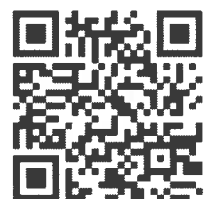
Although our buildings are (almost) back to normal, this ministry is not over. Please continue to pray for the hearts of all who were touched by this. We had a “prayer request” box that was used every night by our guests. We don’t have to know the particular information on those requests to pray for them. God knows the needs!

Very Important Meeting for VBS!

April 21 – 6:30

If you have any interest at all in Children’s Ministry in general, and VBS in particular, PLEASE plan to attend this planning meeting on Sunday, April 21 at 6:30 in the Conference Room. We need to set a date for VBS, choose a theme, and establish a volunteer base. We also need to briefly discuss other children’s events for the rest of this year, and at least get them on the calendar. For questions, contact Beth Woods (336) 480-4551 or woods777@aol.com. Use this QR code to send an RSVP by text.

SCAN ME



EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE

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@fmconover.org.

We would like to know the following information:

Name

Address

High School of graduation

Thank you.



Fellowship Meals at the Woods' Home

As of last week, we've had the amazing experience of hosting a total of 128 church friends for meals in our home. If you are one of those, THANK YOU for spending time with us! We hope it was as much a blessing for you as it was for us.

If you haven't been able to join us yet, you haven't missed your chance! We will set another round of dates after Easter. We will continue these as long as there is interest!

ATTENTION GOODTIMERS!!!

Eddie is in the process of planning an outing for the Goodtimers. **SAVE THE DATE!!!** It will be Thursday, April 18th.

More information will be in next week's Newsletter.



LIFE LINE SCREENING COMING IN MAY

Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at First Methodist Church of Conover on Thursday, May 16, 2024. A package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque)

An ultrasound is performed to screen the carotid arteries (a pair of blood vessels in the neck that deliver blood to your brain) for buildup of fatty plaque. This buildup, called atherosclerosis, is one of the leading causes of stroke.

Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening

An Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) test is performed using blood pressure cuffs on the arms and legs. It is important to screen for PAD because it increases the risk of coronary artery disease, heart attack, or stroke.

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)

An ultrasound is performed to screen the abdominal aorta for the presence of an enlargement or aneurysm. AAA can lead to a ruptured aortic artery, which is a serious medical emergency.

Atrial Fibrillation

A 6-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) is performed by placing sensors on the arms and legs to screen for Atrial Fibrillation. AFib can lead to blood clots, stroke, and heart failure, and other heart-related complications.²

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>

Please see insert in this Newsletter.

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

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

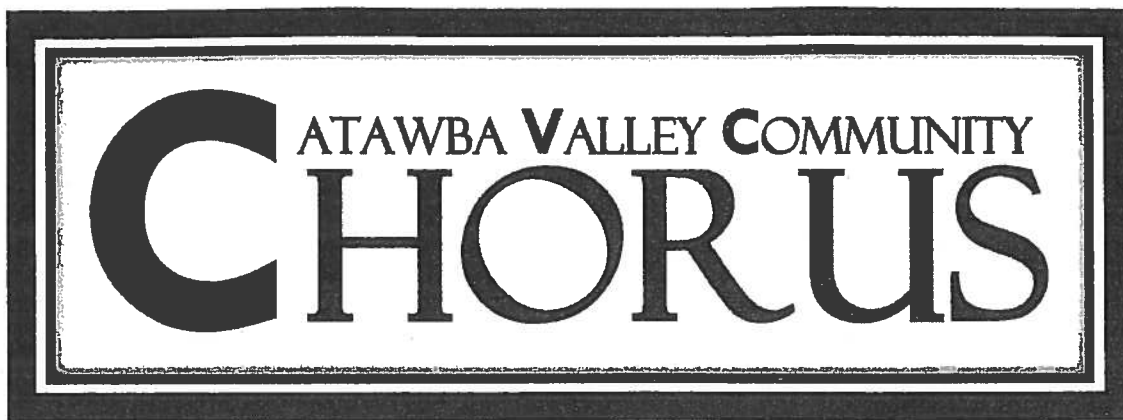
(828) 464-3383

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.



SPRING CONCERT 2024

Schedule of Events

April 21 (Sun) St. Stephen's Lutheran Church (ELCA)
2259 12th Ave NE, Hickory, NC 28601
Performance, 4:00pm

April 28 (Sun) Grace Reformed UCC
117 E J St, Newton, NC 28658
Performance, 5:00pm

May 5 (Sun) Redeemer Lutheran Church
200 S Main St, Catawba, NC 28609
Performance, 4:00pm

Admission is free. Donations are welcomed.

This project is also supported by the United Arts Council of Catawba County through the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, with funding from the State of North Carolina from the National Endowment for the Arts.

United Arts Council
OF CATAWBA COUNTY

w w w . a r t s c a t a w b a . o r g



Life Line Screening goes beyond regular checkups to look inside your arteries for signs of plaque build-up



All 4 Screenings for \$149

Carotid Artery Disease:

An ultrasound is performed to screen the carotid arteries (a pair of blood vessels in the neck that deliver blood to your brain) for buildup of fatty plaque. This buildup, called atherosclerosis, is one of the leading causes of stroke.

Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD):

An Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) test is performed using blood pressure cuffs on the arms and legs. It is important to screen for PAD because it increases the risk of coronary artery disease, heart attack, or stroke.¹

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA):

An ultrasound is performed to screen the abdominal aorta for the presence of an enlargement or aneurysm. AAA can lead to a ruptured aortic artery, which is a life-threatening medical emergency.

Atrial Fibrillation :

A 6-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) is performed by placing sensors on the arms and legs to screen for Atrial Fibrillation. AFib can lead to blood clots, stroke, and heart failure, and other heart-related complications.²

We will be in your neighborhood soon **On May 16th at**

First Methodist Church of Conover

Get your special Community Circle pricing!

Three ways to register and receive the special discount:

Call toll-free: 1-800-679-5191

Online: LLSA.SOCIAL/HC

Text: the word [circle](#) to 216-279-1607

Scan here



Getting Screened is Simple!
Painless, non-invasive, keep your clothes on.



¹ <https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/peripheral-artery-disease/about-peripheral-artery-disease-pad>

No single screening can detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease.

² <https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/atrial-fibrillation>

Screening results are provided to you in about 14 days. We direct all participants with abnormal results to take the report to their physician. Appropriate modification of risk factors (including high blood pressure, smoking, heart disease, diabetes and poor diet) is also necessary for cardiovascular disease prevention. Our screenings cannot detect all forms of stroke risk or cardiovascular disease. All tests are for screening purposes only. You should consult with your personal physician regarding your screening results. Price does not include any applicable review fees. Insurance Note: Life Line Screening does not participate in the Medicare program and the cost of our screening services is not covered or reimbursable by Medicare. Life Line Screening does not file insurance claims nor provide referrals to any physician's group or hospital. If you are unable to attend the screening for any reason whatsoever, we will issue a gift card for the full amount to be used by you, or anyone you choose, for future screening services.