



First Methodist Church

OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

March 4, 2025

When Plans Have Problems

With Spring right around the corner, we have started making plans for the summer. We've already begun mapping out all the things we want to do, but things rarely go exactly as planned. As the Bible says, "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails" (Prov. 19:21).

The truth is, things don't always go as planned, and problems rarely fit into the picture we've painted. The question is, how do we handle it when things don't go our way? What do we do when problems interfere with our plans? The reality is, we don't always respond the right way, do we?

In John 6 :1-14, the story begins with the disciples finishing their ministry for the day as evening approached. A massive crowd of people were not ready to leave, and they needed food. Jesus saw this as an opportunity to teach His disciples how to respond when things weren't going as expected. He shows us that it's okay when we face problems because He always has a plan. So, the next time you encounter a challenge, remember that Jesus has a purpose for your problem.

Jesus asked the disciples to feed the people. In other words, He was asking, "How are we going to handle this unexpected situation?"

Don't you love their responses? Some wanted to give up and send the people away. Philip said, "Let's throw money at it; money will fix it." Andrew suggested, "Let's look to others; maybe someone else will take care of it." Isn't that often our reaction to our problems? When things don't go as planned, we feel like giving up, throwing money at the issue, or hoping someone else will handle it.

But Jesus had a plan all along, even before the problem appeared. He already knew what they were going to face and was preparing a solution before they even realized there was an issue. Sometimes, the problem is part of the plan.

Many pastors have taught how God uses our problems to accomplish His purposes. Even when things aren't going our way, God is at work through them.

Here are a few ways God accomplishes His plan in the midst of our problems:

- **God uses problems to direct us:** Sometimes, God needs to light a fire under us to get us moving. Problems can help point us in new directions and motivate us to change. Often, it takes a painful situation to lead us to where we need to be (Prov. 20:30).
- **God uses problems to inspect you:** People are like teabags—if you want to know what's inside, drop them in hot water. What's truly in us is revealed during trials. Has God ever tested your faith through a problem? What do your struggles reveal about you? (James 1:2-3).
- **God uses problems to protect us:** A problem can be a blessing in disguise. There's a famous saying: "Man's rejection is God's protection." What seems like a setback may actually be God redirecting us for our good (Gen. 50:20).
- **God uses problems to perfect us:** When handled correctly, problems build character. God cares more about developing our character than ensuring our comfort (Romans 5:3-4).

Here's the point: God is at work in your life, even when you don't recognize it or understand it. The next time you face a problem, remember that God's plan is greater than your own, and He is already working things out for your good (Romans 8:28). **Jason Shoup, Minister of Youth & Outreach**

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:

Caroline Porter, Randy, Jody & Quentin Porter,
Betty Prater, Sue Prather,
Anthony Price, Harley Price.

IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

None

March 9, 2025

Anyone who wishes to be a greeter or usher, please call the church office at (828) 464-4635 to sign up. We need greeters this coming Sunday for the 8:45am service and the 11am service. Thank you.

MEMORIALS

Methodist Men

In memory of Harold Thornburg by:
Gene & Beverly Swithenbank
Eddie & Carol Warren
Brad & Kim Little
Mark & Rita Deal
Clarence & Gaye Hood
Rick & Linda Parker
Mike & Jeanette Stewart
Tony & Kathy Martin
Jean Slate
Rick & Nancy Wall
Robin Mays

Music Fund

In memory of Dolores Setzer by:
Rick & Nancy Wall

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Nell Johnson by:
Jimmy & Cindy Clark

Sharpe Bible Class

In memory of Nell Johnson by:
Rick & Nancy Wall

Youth Fund

In memory of Dolores Setzer by:

Mike & Jeanette Stewart
Jeanne Abernathy
Mark & Rita Deal
Robin Mays

SYMPATHY NOTE

Brenda Shelton, mother of Debbie Moritz and grandmother of Kyle & Erin Moritz, died Sunday, March 2, 2025 at Trinity Village. Arrangements are incomplete at this time.

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

BLOOD  **American Red Cross**
DRIVE
SATURDAY, MARCH 8
9AM - 1:15PM
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
OF CONOVER

We will have a Blood Drive with the American Red Cross in memory of Michael Moritz and in honor of Crystal Morrow. Please come out and show your support for this great cause.

THANK YOU

The Setzer Family is grateful for the love and care you poured out on our mother, Dolores Setzer. The visits, gifts, and cards always brightened her day. We also thank you for the wonderful service honoring our mom, and the comfort of the delicious meal after the service. May God continue to bless you as you bless others.

The Family of Dolores Setzer

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.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH

**TURN YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD
ON SATURDAY NIGHT, MARCH 8TH TO
BE AT CHURCH ON TIME SUNDAY
MORNING.**



NEW ADDRESS

Elaine Biles
189 Trelawn Street
Fort Mill, SC 29715



PASTOR'S QUIZ

James & John joined Jesus as disciples

- a. when Jesus called them.
- b. as soon as they saw Him.
- c. because their father, Zebedee, told them to.
- d. at the insistence of the first two disciples, Simon (called Peter) and Andrew his brother.

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence March 2, 2025

Sunday School:
113

Worship:
8:45am Service 172
11:00am Service 138
Total 310

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 20,311.00
(Needed weekly for budget: \$15,258)

Children's Bank	54.00
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	1,075.00
Methodist Men of FMCC	1,730.00
Music Fund	110.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	50.00
Sharpe Bible Class	50.00
Youth Fund	275.00
Total	\$ 23,655.00

NEW ADDRESSES

Dottie Aycock-Harris
TerraBella (Room B1)
1088 Radio Station Road
Newton, NC 28658

Sybil Windsor
Terra Bella (Room C1)
1088 Radio Station Road
Newton, NC 28658

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

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

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

Ash Wednesday Service of Ashes

**Wednesday, March 5th,
7:00-7:45 p.m.
in the sanctuary**



Ash Wednesday is a day of penitence, marking the start of the season of Lent. On this day we are reminded of our own humanity, mortality, and the hope of resurrection Jesus Christ offers each of us. Our sins and past

failures are put into the light of who we are yet to be, by the grace of God.

With our Ash Wednesday service, we officially begin the Lenten season with a Service of Ashes. During the service, you may choose to have the sign of the cross made with ashes (from last year's Palm Sunday palms) on your forehead as a sign of your repentance and faith. Join us for this spiritually moving service.

**IN PREPARATION FOR THIS POWERFUL SERVICE,
WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO FAST UNTIL YOUR
EVENING MEAL.**

Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

a. when Jesus called them.
(Matthew 4:21-22)

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



Ashure MINISTRY

SERVE 40 Lenten Volunteer Initiative

The Season of Lent is a time of reflection, prayer, service, and fasting as we await Easter and the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ. Many Christians choose to take on a Lenten discipline during this time. In the spirit of this season, Ashure Ministry is asking folks to consider doing their Lenten discipline with the ministry, and **SERVE 40** hours of volunteer service during the Lenten Season from Ash Wednesday (March 5th) to Good Friday (April 18th).

If you are interested, or would like to find out more, please contact our Volunteer Engagement Director, Allen Sherrill at asherrill@ashureministry.org. God bless you all, and we hope you will use this Lenten Season to reflect on the amazing victory we will celebrate on Easter!



ASHURE MINISTRY'S 7TH ANNUAL MARCH MADNESS CHALLENGE

Good morning, and welcome to our 7th Annual March Madness Challenge! Last year we collected over 42,000 pounds of food and over \$12,000, making a significant impact on hunger in our area. Our March Madness Challenge rallies businesses, churches, schools, and individuals to compete in donating food or funds under their favorite NCAA basketball team's banner, all while supporting a great cause!

The challenge works like this: from March 1st through April 9th we ask people to donate food or money on behalf of their favorite college basketball team. Food is always a slam dunk for us, so it will count as 1 pound = 2 points. Financial donations help us score even more, so money counts as \$1 = 3 points. The team with the most points at the end of the period wins the challenge! We will be announcing the individual, church, and business with the greatest contributions.

Ashure Ministry
PO Box 31 245 E M St
Newton NC 28658

asherrill@ashureministry.org
828 466 5416
ashureministry.org



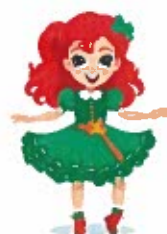
**At First Methodist, we will have
donation boxes set up for your
contributions. If your favorite team isn't
represented, feel free to label your
donations with team name!**

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.





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.

If you'd like to share your thoughts, please contact Beth Woods at 336 480-4551 or woods777@aol.com.

Our Church Directory is Online!

View our church directory online or via the
FREE mobile app today.

If you haven't set up an account to access our new church directory, please do this as soon as you can so that we can make any needed corrections before we make the printed copies.

To view the directory online, go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "Create a login now." It will prompt you to confirm your email address before you can sign in.

There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for "**Instant Church Directory**" to get the download.

You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

If you're not listed in the directory, don't have an email address, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact Beth Woods (336) 480-4551 or Woods777@aol.com

Exciting New Children's Ministry Coming Up



Our Children's Ministry Team, led by Amber Hendren and Alisha Shoup, is planning some exciting opportunities for our Pre-K-5th grade children. In late April – Mid May, we will have three introductory sessions of AWANA to give you a taste of the full program that will be kicking off in

the fall. This program combines Bible study, games, snacks, and a ton of fun! We are excited to bring this ministry to First Methodist.

But we need **YOUR** help! We would like to have teams leading each area. Could you be a teacher or assistant, game coordinator, snack provider, materials prepper, or prayer warrior? Please pray about this opportunity and watch for more information to come soon!

HEY, MORE NEWS TO USE



Two events... You are invited to both!

March 15 at 10 am

- Easter crafts, stories and snacks

April 12 at 10 am

- Walk through Journey to Jerusalem, followed by Easter Egg hunt



Preparation for “Journey to Jerusalem” Prayer Walk April 13-18, 2025

(See previous newsletters for more details on this ministry!)

Our first workday is coming soon!

ASSEMBLY workday – Thursday, March 13. 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!

Please begin now to bathe this ministry in your prayers. Please pray for the people working to provide this experience and for those who will visit. The story is powerful and God will use it to change lives!

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



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 210)
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.