



First Methodist Church

OF CONOVER

A GLOBAL METHODIST COMMUNITY

Monthly Newsletter for May 2026

Homecoming Sunday



May 3

**one combined
service at 10:30
in the CFLC**

Sunday School at 9:30

Guest preacher: Rev. Gary Royals

Covered dish lunch to follow.

Our Methodist Men's group will be providing meatloaf, chicken pie, pork, and slaw. Everyone else is invited to bring side dishes, casseroles, salads, desserts, or breads. The church will provide beverages and dinnerware. The Men will also be leading the clean-up crew but would welcome more help!

Come join us for this celebration of all that God has done in our congregation and all that He continues to do among us! Then, plan to stay for lunch and fellowship afterwards. Invite a friend or former member to return for this celebration.

God is Good! All the Time!

Pastor John



Ready for use!



Thank you for your prayers and support as the GRAY House was being renovated. It is now available for use by any church group and by community groups that support our church's values. Schedule through the church office if you want to use this beautiful space!

Already being used!



If you are a previous high school graduate who has not put your handprint on the wall of the GRAY House, please contact Beth Woods (336) 480-4551 to schedule a time to do this! All 2026 High School graduates, please join us for your special opportunity on May 17 after the 11:00 service.



Last program of the school year:

Sunday, May 3

4:00 – 5:30



Luau party!

Kids age 3–high school are invited to an end of the year party and awards program!

VBS planning meeting

Sun, Apr 26

at 12:00 noon



SHINING A LIGHT ON WHO JESUS REALLY IS

ILLUMINATION STATION

JOHN 8:12



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

Mark your calendar!

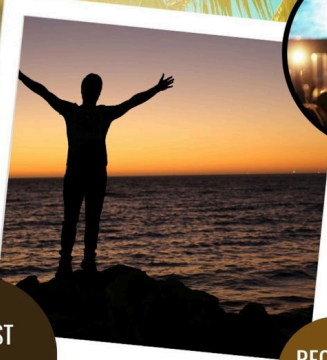
July 8–11 (Wed–Sat)

5:30 dinner

6–8 program

YOUTH CAMP 2026

JOIN US FOR 3 DAYS OF FUN AND WORSHIP AT FORT CASWELL IN OAK ISLAND, INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKERS, INSPIRING WORSHIP MUSIC, AND FREE TIME!



AUGUST 7-9

REGISTER BY 5/1

COST: \$242 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



sign up here!

Youth CAMP

FORT CASWELL

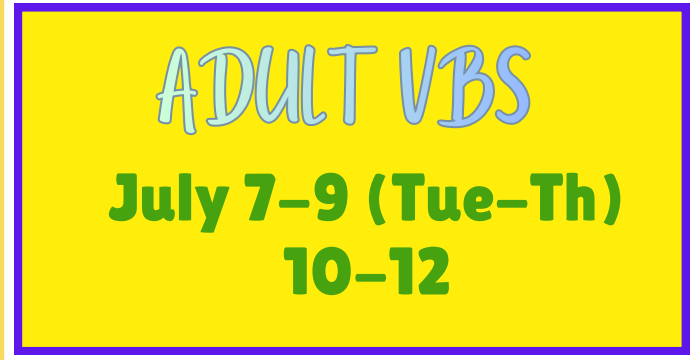
CONTACT PASTOR JASON SHOUP jsgodson@yahoo.com

6TH-12TH GRADES

ADULT VBS

July 7–9 (Tue–Th)

10–12





First Methodist Men

Thursday, May 21 at 6:30 in
the CFLC

All men are invited!



Queen Esther Circle meets 2nd Wednesdays at 1:00

Next meeting: May 13
Faithbuilders Classroom in the CFLC

Dianne Hollar will present the second part of a 3-part study on the Book of Esther. This session will focus on chapters 4-6 Bring a lunch at 12:30 for an extra time of fellowship!

All women are invited!

Queen Esther served God "For such a time as this."



Meeting Wednesdays
at noon in the Parlor.

Join us as we pray for our church,
community, and world!

You are all invited
to the Quartermaster Bridge of Honor
for Jarrett Rheeder
Saturday, May 2, at 2:00pm
First Methodist Church CFLC

Please RSVP to pierre.rheeder@yahoo.com, by Wednesday, April 29.

The Sea Scouts Quartermaster (QM) award is the highest Sea Scout award. Jarrett is the first scout in the history of Piedmont Council to earn this award. He has also earned the Eagle Scout Award in 2022 and the Venturing Summit Award in 2024, along with many other awards and badges.

This makes Jarrett the only scout in Piedmont Council who have earned all 3 of the highest awards in the Scouting America program.



CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP DINNER

MAY 30 AT
5:00



SAVE THE DATE! DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

Christian Yoga/Exercise Class for All



Join us for a time of stretching and strengthening with Christian fellowship.

Thursday, May 14
9:30 am

Good timers



TWO
opportunities
coming up!

1

Lunch and Herb Garden Program

Wednesday, May 20
Lunch at **11:00** in the CFLC

Meat (ham) will be provided. Please bring salad, sides, bread or a dessert.
A "garden" or "dirt" themed dessert would be fun!

After lunch, we will have a program led by Master Gardeners on growing herbs and you will have the opportunity to plant your own herbs. Plants and dirt are provided; please bring your own pot (4"-8" approx).



2

Trip to NarrowWay Theatre (Fort Mill, SC) for lunch and a show!

Saturday, June 6 – Meet at the church by 10am to
ride the vans; return approximately 5pm

Laugh and cry with America's greatest generation and remember the days of World War II. Set in the 1940's and inspired by the Biblical account of Hosea, this musical dinner show is both nostalgic and patriotic. Celebrate the joy, sacrifice, and enduring resilience of a generation unlike any other in this moving story of love and redemption.



Menu:

Chicken Fried Steak with Sawmill Gravy
Hand-Whipped Mashed Potatoes
Aunt Thelma's Southern Succotash
Flaky Buttermilk Biscuit
Momma's Cherry Pie

Cost for meal, transportation & show: \$52.95

RSVP to Jayne Davis ASAP as we need to confirm our group by May 6.
RSVP or questions to pajaynetx@yahoo.com

Help us celebrate with the African Children's Choir

It's hard to believe it's been 8 months since the African Children's Choir was with us last September. They've been all over the USA, sharing the love of Jesus through scripture, song and dance. The group has toured many cities, visited the Ark Encounter in Kentucky, seen highlights of American culture and bonded with each other. They will soon return to Uganda.



Music
for Life



But first, they will be returning for a brief stay with us at the end of their tour. They will arrive on Saturday, May 9 before lunchtime. We will provide them lunch, then spend the afternoon in games and "gathering around the piano for worship." This is not a concert, but we invite anyone who wants to just hang out with them to come. The group will be worshiping with us during our 8:45 worship service on May 10 before they head out for their final briefings and packing to return to Uganda.

To show our love and spread blessings to the African Children's Choir:

1. **Help prepare and serve lunch on Saturday, May 9 (contact Beth Woods or Jason Shoup or sign up outside Beth's office).**
2. **Drop in anytime 1:00 - 5:00 on Saturday, May 9 to play games and sing with the kids.**
3. **Purchase and drop off gently used clothing sizes 6, 8, or 10; gently used shoes kid sizes 1, 2, 3, or 4; khakis, jeans, underwear, socks and pajamas sizes 6, 8, or 10. (Collection boxes are in CFLC and outside Beth's office.)**
4. **We need one more host family for 2 children and one adult for overnight accommodations.**
5. **We need to provide and pack bag lunches for the choir and chaperones for Sunday, May 10. Sign up to help shop or pack.**



2026	Monthly Food Suggestion
May	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pet food (National Pet Month)
June	<input type="checkbox"/> Cereal
July	<input type="checkbox"/> Snacks for kids

Ashure Ministry is always in need of plastic grocery bags and non-perishible food. May's food request is pet food.

Our church's next volunteer day at Ashure Ministries is Monday, May 4 They would love to see you anytime between 8:30 and 4:30 that day.

Check out: <https://ashureministry.org/volunteer> to see the ways you can lend a hand.

Other Mission News:



The 4-member mission team to Kenya will be traveling April 26-May 7.



Neighbor's Table will be May 16.

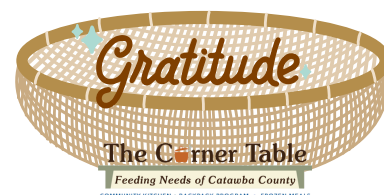


The 9-member mission team to Puerto Rico will be traveling May 30 - June 5.



We'll be packing backpacks on May 6 at 10:00 at Corner Table.

Thank you for helping us fill the basket!
The proceeds will help fund Corner Table ministries for our community.



Feeding Needs of Catauba County
COMMUNITY KITCHEN • BACKPACK PROGRAM • FROZEN MEALS



Greeters

- Apr 26** 8:45 - Ryan & Angela Garrison
11:00 - Barbara Hager
- May 3** 8:45 - Joyce Lagunas & Rona Reed
11:00 - Gaye Hoke & Jackie Lowdermilk
- May 10** 8:45 - Pat & Alice Woods
11:00 - Bruce & Michelle Cloninger
- May 17** 8:45 - Jeanne Abernathy, Melissa Hunsucker
11:00 - Gary & Kelly Little
- May 24** 8:45 - Sue Dwiggins
11:00 - Ed & Cindy Surret
- May 31** 8:45 - Can you help?
11:00 - Chris & Coby Tekieniewski

Nursery Help



- Apr 26** 8:45 - Diane Howard
11:00 - Kim Reed
- May 3** 10:30 - Paid Help (Homecoming)
- May 10** 8:45 - **Can you help?**
11:00 - **Can you help?**
- May 17** 8:45 - Edie Connor
11:00 - Wende Briggs
- May 24** 8:45 - Michele Moritz
11:00 - **Can you help?**
- May 31** 8:45 - Lindsay Keisler
11:00 - Emily & Emilia Abernathy
- June 7** 8:45 - Angela Garrison
11:00 - Angie Williams



Members in Facilities

- 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 Her husband, Ron - (704) 460-4919
 - Margaret Kilpatrick** - Abernathy Laurels (Memory Care) (Room 2027) 102 Leonard Avenue, Newton NC 28658
 - Robert Matthews** - Heritage Care (Room 16) 3430 Lester Street, Conover NC 28613
 - Mary Ann Simpson** - Solista (Room 214) 915 29th Ave NE, Hickory NC 28602
- ## Members at Home
- Elaine Biles** - Send mail to her son, Jim at: 1401 NE Santee Drive; Greensburg IN 47240
 - Armando Lagunas** - 1515 28th St Lane SE, Hickory NC 28602
 - Lee Moritz, Sr.** - 103 County Home Road, Conover NC 28613 (828) 464-3383
 - Lucy Rockett** - 2477 Birdie Ln Conover, NC 28613

May Birthdays and Anniversaries



- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 2
Alice Woods
Ashley Wike
EmmaGrace Wike
John Job | 15
Rachel Hamilton
Lee Ann Parris | 1
Robin & Windy Mays |
| 4
Colt Briggs
Tom Walker | 16
Mackenzie Thornburg | 6
Jody & Michelle Brackett |
| 6
Abella Barnabas
Julie Lawing | 17
Margrat Barnabas
Susan Hunsucker
Arden Keisler | 7
Greg & Joy Flynn
Joe & Tamara Hite |
| 8
Karl Stryker
Laurette Rheeder
Phyllis Watson | 18
Lindsay Keisler
Mike Matthews | 8
Jeff & Connie Hendren |
| 9
Eddie Warren | 19
Hollis Bumgarner | 10
Kim & Susan Sigmon |
| 11
Jennifer Herman
Michelle Sierzenga | 20
David Workman | 12
Margaret & Tony Garrison
Douglas & Samantha Rockett |
| 13
Andrea Beatty
Dottie Aycock-Harris
Jacob Fisher | 21
Crystal Hefner
Denise Moose | 17
Kevin & Nancy Boggs
Randy & Jody Porter |
| 14
Linda Dooley
Clyde Kistler
Trenia Monk | 22
Harper Brackett
Ginger Doub
Jackie Lowdermilk
Gerhardt Rheeder | 18
Will & Sue James
Rick & Nancy Wall |
| | 23
Beth Woods
Dave Markland | 20
Jeffrey & Michelle Sierzenga |
| | 24
Edie Connor
Windy Mays
Dillon Wike | 21
Roger & Lisa Johnson |
| | 25
Angela Garrison | 22
Cody & Tara Brackett |
| | 26
Amy Hawn
Allie Hendren
Randy Howard | 24
Edie Connor
Windy Mays
Dillon Wike |
| | 27
Dan Rockett
Mark Murphy | 25
Angela Garrison |
| | 30
Jim Ball
Scottie Hentschel
Jack Rockett | 26
Amy Hawn
Allie Hendren
Randy Howard |
| | 31
Jo Ellen Knecht | 27
Leonard & Julie Lawing |
| | | 28
Tom & Estrella Walker |
| | | 29
Beaver & Marsha Williams |
| | | 31
Justin & Amber Hendren
Mark & Lynn Murphy |

Stewardship Report

By Our Presence March 29, 2026

Sunday School:	116
8:45am Service -	174
11:00am Service -	197
Total	371

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

**General Fund	\$31,678.00
Children's Bank	2.00
Corner Table Back Pack Prog.	10.00
Kenya Bibles	10.00
Kenya Mission Trip	100.00
Pastor's Disc. Fund	<u>75.00</u>
Total	\$31,875.00

April 2, 2026 Maundy Thursday Service 104

By Our Presence April 5, 2026

Sunday School:	96
8:45am Service -	225
11:00am Service -	227
Total	452

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

**General Fund	\$37,835.00
Children's Bank	79.00
Kenya Mission Trip	750.00
Music Fund	<u>500.00</u>
Total	\$39,164.00

By Our Presence April 12, 2026

Sunday School:	?
8:45am Service -	129
11:00am Service -	<u>132</u>
Total	261

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

**General Fund	\$12,078.00
Children's Bank	179.00
Kenya Bibles	150.00
Kenya Mission Trip	500.00
Kenya Supplies	<u>650.00</u>
Total	\$13,557.00

By Our Presence April 19, 2026

Sunday School:	104
8:45am Service -	132
11:00am Service -	<u>159</u>
Total	291

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

**General Fund	\$13,798.00
Children's Bank	43.00
Kenya Bible Campaign	300.00
Kenya Supplies	<u>500.00</u>
Total	\$16,731.00

Memorial gifts

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of James "Jim" Davis by:
Alma Dixon
Jimmy & Cindy Clark

In memory of Sybil Windsor by:
Jimmy & Cindy Clark

Thank You

Dear First Methodist Church of Conover,
Thank you for your incredible partnership and unwavering support in hosting blood drives. Your leadership and commitment help ensure patients in our community receive the life saving blood donations they depend on every day.

Your dedication to our mission - and care you put into every detail - truly makes a difference. Because of your efforts, lives are saved, families are strengthened and hope is renewed across our community.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Alyson Bell, Board chair - Charlotte Metro Area Chapter

CATAWBA VALLEY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Easter is a time of new beginnings.

This house is a new beginning for our family because we get to create new everlasting memories. Thank you for helping our family put down roots this Easter.

Gratefully, Sharday B. & Family

WITH LOVE & SYMPATHY



Martha Mays Young, age 76 of Newton, passed away on Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem.

Martha is the mother of Rebecca Yount Stewart (Adam) of Newton. She is the grandmother of Lilly-Ann & David Stewart.

A service to celebrate Martha's life was held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 3:00pm at St. John's Lutheran Church in Conover. Burial followed at Grace Lutheran Church Cemetery in Newton. The family received friends prior to the service from 2-2:45pm at St. John's Lutheran Church.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Rebecca, Adam, Lilly-Ann and David.



410 First Avenue North
Conover, NC 28613

Return Service Requested

**FIRST CLASS
MAIL**

Contact us!

Senior Pastor	Rev. John Woods pastor@fmconover.org (336) 480-4550 208 2nd St NE, Conover	Organist	Kevin Haney khaney01@gmail.com (704) 914-6510
Minister of Youth/Outreach	Pastor Jason Shoup jsgodson@yahoo.com (828) 381-1174 1409 5th St. Ct. NE, Conover	Preschool Director	Julie Robinson (828) 466-3158 preschool@fmconover.org
Coordinator of Lay Ministries	Beth Woods woods777@aol.com (336) 480-4551	Lead Nursery Worker	Pilar Tobar
Office Administrator / Financial Secretary	Robin Mays office@fmconover.org	Custodian	Luisa Toro Bryan
Music Director/Choir	Jon Rogers jsrogers99@gmail.com (828) 244-7019	Church office	(828) 464-4635
Music Director/Praise Team/ Pianist	Shannon Rogers srog101@gmail.com (828) 244-6124	Website	www.fmconover.org
		Streaming	Facebook and YouTube



