



# First Methodist Church

## OF CONOVER

A GLOBAL METHODIST COMMUNITY

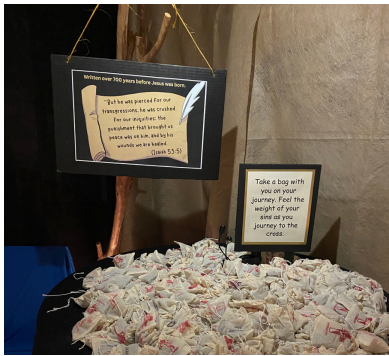
Monthly Newsletter for March 2026

## *Journey to Jerusalem Prayer Walk*

### Mar 29-Apr 3, 2026



The *Journey to Jerusalem Prayer Walk* is an immersive walk-through experience that tells the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, from creation and the fall, then prophecies to His birth, through His ministry, to His death and resurrection.



The *Journey to Jerusalem Prayer Walk* draws close to 1,000 visitors from our community each year. For the week of Mar 29-Apr 3, the Connor Family Life Center will be totally transformed into winding passageways that tell this moving story with scenes, sounds, scents, costumed characters, and live action.

Preparing for it is an enormous undertaking that requires many hours of work from many people. And we can use YOUR help!

### **Work days (All hands are welcome!):**

**March 8 at 2 pm**, a crew will begin to clear out rooms.

**March 10 at 10 am**, workers who can do “sit-down” work are needed to cut, paste, and assemble items.

**March 11**, we will begin to set up the classrooms in the CFLC. Set-up will continue daily through March 28. The timeline for tasks is available. To volunteer to help, contact Beth Woods (336) 480-4551 or see task sign-up sheet outside Beth’s office.

**March 29, right after the late service**, a crew will be setting up the last of the hallway scenery.

Each evening of the Prayer Walk (**Mar 29, 30, 31, Apr 1 & 3 – not open on Maunday Thursday**) we need 20- 25 costumed volunteers to sit quietly as part of the “scenery” and to provide assistance to visitors.

**April 4 at 9 am**, we will disassemble and pack away the entire set-up. This is an enormous task, and we need anybody who is willing to come donate even an hour or two.

**Prayers!** Please begin to bathe this ministry in prayers. Please pray for all who are working to provide this experience and for those who will visit. The story is powerful and God will use it to change lives!

# KIDS & YOUTH

## March Madness Night

SUN. MAR 1  
4PM - 5:30

Wear your favorite team colors and come enjoy some hoops fun!

He is Risen

EASTER  
EGG HUNT

March 29, 2026  
3pm

Join us for an Egg Hunt & a guide through the  
"Journey to Jerusalem" Prayer Walk



We need hands to help prepare for this!  
March 19 at 10am in the Conference  
Room, we'll be preparing goodie bags for  
the kids. Please come help if you can!



VACATION BIBLE  
SCHOOL (VBS)

Mark your calendar!  
July 8-11 (Wed-Sat)  
Registration info  
coming soon!

## Christian Yoga/Exercise Class for All



**Feb 26 at  
9:30**

Join us for an hour of  
“Graceful Strength and Stability” practice!

## First Methodist Men



**Thursday, March 19 at 6:30  
AT BOXCAR GRILL IN CLAREMONT  
All men are invited!**



**Meeting Wednesdays at noon  
in the Parlor.**

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



**Queen Esther Circle meets 2nd  
Wednesdays each month at 1:00**

**Next meeting: March 11  
Faithbuilders Classroom in the CFLC  
Speaker: Mark Murphy sharing his journey in Christ.**

### Purposes:

- To grow in relationship with the Lord.
- To delve deeper into our study of the Bible.
- To nurture fellowship and relationship with other women.
- To serve others; to be the light of Christ.
- To be informed on community service and missions.
- To support mission endeavors.

### Projects:

- Monthly monetary support of the Backpack Ministry (through Corner Table.)
- Send cards to our homebound & shut-in members.
- Send cards to our military members with connections to FMCC.
- Honor veterans in a special way in November.
- Support other ministries as agreed upon by the circle members.

**All women are invited!**

*Queen Esther served God “For such a time as this.”*



**First Methodist Church**  
OF CONOVER

*Want more info about our church and ministries?  
Thinking about membership?*

Come to an informational meeting on

**Monday, March 9 at 7 pm**  
with Pastor John and Beth.

We'll start in the sanctuary and give a tour of the building, answer questions about our ministries and help you take the next step toward membership if you are ready!

**Good**  
*timers*



**Tuesday, Mar 17 at 12:00**

**Irish Potato and Salad Lunch**

**We'll provide toppings;  
we need a few people to  
bring desserts!**

**ARE YOU IN OUR DIRECTORY?**



If you need to add or update a picture, update or complete your information, or if you would like to be added, please contact Beth Woods.  
(336-480-4551 or woods777@aol.com)

Beth can also help access the directory online.

## **Fundraiser for Kenya**

**The team going to Kenya in April will be offering a baked spaghetti luncheon fundraiser on**

**Sunday March 8**

**Plates to-go or for eat-in will be available beginning after Sunday School (11am) and will be available after the late service.**

**Cost: donation of your choice.**



AFRICANCHILDRENSCHOIR™



*Returning Sunday, May 10*

The African Children's Choir will be returning for a brief stay with us at the end of their tour. They will be part of our worship services on May 10. We will announce other plans for their visit soon!

**Music**  
*for Life*

# What's going on at the house next to the church??

Some of you may not realize that we (the church) own the house adjacent to our parking lot. Affectionately called "The Gray House," it was used for many years as the hub of our youth program before it fell into disrepair. Our Trustees voted last year to undertake significant renovations to get it back into shape to be used again. Under the guidance of the Trustees, Michelle and Jeff Sierzenga, and by the service of

Rick Arndt and his crew, it is almost ready to be used again for the glory of God! While it will continue to be a gathering place for our youth program, the space will be multi-purpose and available to be used by various church and community groups. Watch for more news soon about an opportunity for our whole congregation to see the refreshed and renewed space! We are so excited to see what God will do with this house and our faithfulness to serve Him there.



**MAUNDY  
THURSDAY**

**April 2**

**Worship service at 7:00**



# Blood Drive

Sat, March 7

10:00-3:00



American Red Cross

## In Memory of Michael Moritz

Sign up for your appointment today at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), or call 1-800-Red Cross (1-800-733-2767)



Ashure Ministry is always in need of plastic grocery bags and non-perishible food. See checklist below for monthly food collection requests.

Our church's next volunteer day at Ashure Ministries is Monday, Mar. 2. They would love to see you anytime between 8:30 and 4:30 that day. Thank you FMC Conover volunteers for 132 hours of service in January! Check out <https://ashureministry.org/volunteer> to see the ways you can lend a hand.



## March Madness Food Collection

Bring non-perishible food items to "vote" for your favorite basketball team. (They don't have to still be in the tournament!) Just place your donations in the box marked with your team of choice. The real winners are the people who are helped by Ashure Ministries!

Boxes are in the Narthex and in the CFLC.

### THROUGH APRIL 8

## SERVE 40: Lenten Volunteer Initiative

In the spirit of the Lenten season, Ashure Ministry is encouraging folks to SERVE 40 hours of volunteer service between Ash Wednesday (February 18th) and Good Friday (April 3rd).

2026	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Monthly Food Suggestion
March	<input type="checkbox"/>	March Madness Challenge
April	<input type="checkbox"/>	Canned or dried beans
May	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pet food (National Pet Month)



# Kenya? Puerto Rico? Cambodia? Uganda? South Africa?

"I keep hearing about trips to other countries,  
but I'm confused! What is going on?"

We're so glad you asked!

Here's a summary of what's going on.

Please support these missions with your prayers!

1. **Kenya, Sept 2025:** We sent a team of 9 to Kenya last September to participate in some evangelism rallies, to deliver food and Bibles to impoverished villages, and to work with the approximately 40 children at *Grace Champion Orphanage* in Kisii. This is an orphanage that Pastor Jason has been working with for over a decade.
2. **Kenya, March 2026:** Pastor Jason is returning to Kisii, Kenya for about 2 weeks to help establish Bible studies/home churches. His team's goal is to plant the seeds that will grow into 7-8 churches in that area. These churches will be led by local pastors, but equipped and supported as they get established. Jason will be providing guidance and Bibles.
3. **Kenya, April-May 2026:** Three of the members of last year's team (Ruth Brown, Lisa Johnson, and Beth Woods) and one new team member from another church will be returning to the orphanage for a time of discipleship with the children, meeting with the local schools to determine how to better support the children, and working with some of the village's ladies to launch a small business of sewing garments. This team will also check on the use of the well that we recently helped build at the orphanage. This team will also be delivering supplies and Bibles. There will be a fundraiser Spaghetti Luncheon on March 8 to raise money for purchasing these Bibles.
4. **Puerto Rico, May-June 2026:** Pastor Jason will be leading a team of 9 people from FMCC to a mission trip in Puerto Rico. This team will be involved in evangelism and building projects.
5. **South Africa, August-Sept 2026:** Pastor John and Beth Woods are both elected delegates to the Global Methodist Church General Conference. There will be 442 delegates from all over the world meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, to discuss and vote on foundational policies for the Global Methodist Church. The delegates will also elect our next slate of Bishops. John and Beth will end this working trip with a vacation around South Africa.
6. **Cambodia** – no currently planned trips. Pastor Jason has long been involved with several ministries in Cambodia and hopes to return there soon.
7. **Uganda** – no currently planned trips. Our church has two points of contact with Uganda. First, the African Children's Choir who we hosted in Sept 2025 (and who will be returning to Conover in May 2026) is based in Uganda. We will continue to support this organization. Second, our North Carolina Conference of the Global Methodist Church is partnering with the Uganda Conference of the Global Methodist Church. We took up a special offering for this partnership at our Christmas Eve Services. Additional donations can be made through the NC GMC Conference website: [www.ncglobalmethodist.org/](http://www.ncglobalmethodist.org/).

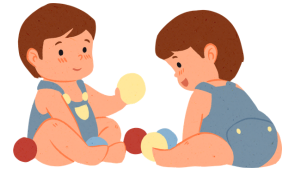


## Greeters

Thank you for serving! If possible, please be present outside the sanctuary about 20 minutes before the service starts, smile, say, "Welcome! Would you like a nametag?" and "Would you like some information about our church and our ministries?" Then assist by opening the doors to the sanctuary and direct them to the ushers for a bulletin and further assistance.

- Mar 1:** 8:45 - JoEllen Knecht  
11:00 - Greg & Joy Flynn
- Mar 8:** 8:45 - Cliff & Debbie Wike  
11:00 - Jean Slate
- Mar 15:** 8:45 - Ron & Ginny Ward  
11:00 - Joy Watts & Marie Mull
- Mar 22:** 8:45 - Sue Dwiggins  
11:00 - LaRue Black
- Mar 29:** 8:45 - Kim Little  
11:00 - Mark & Beth Travis

## Nursery Volunteers



We need volunteers to be a second set of hands for our church nursery! Our staff nursery worker is present every week, but there needs to be a second adult for safety and practical purposes.

There is a monitor in the nursery, so you can still watch the worship service!

- Mar 1:** 8:45 - Amber Hendren  
11:00 - Kim Reed
- Mar 8:** 8:45 - Jackie Tekieniewski  
11:00 - Donna Mull
- Mar 15:** 8:45 - Leah Workman  
11:00 - Tracy Workman
- Mar 22:** 8:45 - LaRue Black  
11:00 - Cindy Clark
- Mar 29:** 8:45 - Alexa Rodriguez  
11:00 - Lisa Johnson



## Members in Nursing 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's cell - (704) 460-4919

**Margaret Kilpatrick** - Abernethy 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



Easter is a wonderful time to share God's love! Please let these members know we love them with a card, phone call, or visit in the coming weeks. We will not do a bag since we did one for Valentine's Day, but watch for something special in May!

## 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

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



# Thank You

Thank you for the many cards, kind words, prayers and support during the loss of James. He loved his church!

Jeanette Davis and the James Davis Family

## Stewardship Report

### By Our Presence February 8, 2026

Sunday School	147
8:45am Service	143
11:00am Service	<u>169</u>
Total	312

### **God's Tithe & Our Gifts**

**General Fund	\$44,644.45
Children's Bank	76.00
Kenya Mission Trip	600.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	25.00
Puerto Rico Mission Trip	<u>900.00</u>
Total	\$46,245.45

### By Our Presence February 15, 2026

Sunday School	137
8:45am Service	116
11:00am Service	<u>154</u>
Total	270

### **God's Tithe & Our Gifts**

**General Fund	\$16,291.00
Children's Bank	36.00
Kenya Mission Trip	200.00
Local Missions	25.00
Methodist Men's Fund 5	0.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	1,350.00
Puerto Rico Mission Trip	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total	\$18,952.00

Extra Deposit 2/17/26 \$ 4,211.46  
(Sales & Use Tax Refund/Jul-Dec/2025)

## Memorial gifts

### Local Missions

In memory of James Davis by:  
Nancy Clarke

### Methodist Men's Fund

In memory of H.A. Slate by:  
Jean Slate  
Danny & Sandy Baucom

### Music Fund

In memory of Don Hedrick by:  
Cheryl Hedrick

### Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of James Davis by:  
Jean Slate  
Robin Mays

In memory of Sybil Windsor by:  
Robin Mays

### General Budget

In memory of James Davis by:  
Isabel Beall  
Bob & Lois Goodson

In memory of Sybil Windsor by:  
Bob & Lois Goodson

## Honorariums

### Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Jon and Shannon Rogers  
& Kevin Haney by:  
Clyde & Carol Kistler



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

