



First Methodist Church

OF CONOVER

A GLOBAL METHODIST COMMUNITY

Monthly Newsletter for August 2026

Wow, what a summer our church family has had already!

➤ **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** was FANTASTIC! Kids and fun and laughs and an energetic glow-light party made for a memorable week. Be sure to check out the pictures a little further down in this newsletter. A HUGE thanks to Amber Hendren, Beth Woods and all the many volunteers who went all-out to make this such a success.



➤ Our **newest adult Sunday School class** has had a terrific start as well. Meeting in the Life Center has given this group a chance meet around tables – thus giving a cozier connection while still meeting as a large class. If you're not part of a Sunday School class yet, you're missing a lot of goodness. There's a class that's just right for you, I promise.

➤ Our new Office Manager, **Melissa Cashmore**, has gotten off to a great start. If you haven't had an occasion to talk to her yet, you're in for a treat. When you call or come by, it'll be her friendly voice you hear. She's still learning names and who's connected to who, so be sure to offer a kind reminder if you have the opportunity to speak to her.

➤ Our **Fellowship Dinners** have definitely been a summer highlight. We've had two in July and both had record participation. Ralph Hatch's pasta night was wonderful and the July 4th (on the 3rd) involved lots of yummy homemade ice cream. What a treat!



....And looking ahead!

➤ Along with 7,000+ Global Methodist congregations, we start the **countdown to our GMC General Conference**. I hope you'll join our church family (*and the rest of our denomination*) as we pray for the decisions and direction of our General Conference, which begins August 30 and meets in Johannesburg, South Africa. You're invited to pick a day & time and commit to praying for this event (see the prayer guide in this newsletter).

Of special note, **Beth and I were both elected** to be part of the global delegation to General Conference (Beth as a laity representative and John as a clergy representative). It's a great honor for us to represent both FMC-Conover and our NC Conference at this event.

➤ **Ceilings**. Who even thinks about ceilings? We are now. Over the years, the ceiling of our sanctuary has seen better times. In late August and early September, it will receive some needed TLC, and along with the sanctuary proper, will be painted. As a result, we **need to be out of the sanctuary space for 3 weeks**.

➤ Because of the work being done in the sanctuary, we will **meet to worship in the Life Center** those weeks - - **AUGUST 30, SEPTEMBER 6, AND SEPTEMBER 13**. We will have a **combined worship experience** those weeks (so one single worship service) **at 10:30am**. Our Sunday School time will begin at 9:30. There have been a number of people looking for an opportunity to get to know some of those "other folks" (you know, from the other worship service), and this will be a perfect opportunity. Join us as we worship together as one whole church family those Sundays!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor John



CROSS - KINGDOM - MINISTRIES

TAKING THE GOSPEL TO THE NATIONS

AUGUST 2026
MINISTRY UPDATE

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel

MARK 16:15

Greetings!

Praise the Lord, brothers and sisters!

I am excited to share with you the wonderful works of our Lord. God has been moving mightily in our ministry, and we are grateful for all He continues to do. This past month, we were blessed with opportunities to share God's Word with three wonderful congregations. Already, our August calendar is filling up, beginning with an invitation to travel to Gaston County to preach the Gospel during the first week of the month. Praise the Lord!

Our ministry in Kenya continues to move into its next season of growth.

Through your faithful prayers and generous support, we have been able to provide much-needed resources for both the orphanage and our church planting efforts. Contributions have allowed us to repair electrical problems and fix roof leaks at the orphanage, providing a safer place for the children. We have also received generous support for our church-planting missionaries, including the purchase of three motorbikes that will enable them to reach remote villages with the Gospel.



Orphanage roof leaks repaired



Bunk Beds



3 Motorbikes purchased

God continues to bless these efforts. Two of our five church plants have now outgrown the homes where they first began meeting and are actively searching for nearby buildings to rent. In addition, our Maasai church plant has been offered land on which to build a permanent church. What an incredible answer to prayer! Praise the Lord!



Church family gathering



Children's ministry



Bible teaching in the village

The ministry in Cambodia is also beginning to take shape.

We have been in ongoing discussions with our missionary partner there as we develop a plan to begin planting churches. We are also prayerfully considering starting a Bible school through his existing vocational school. Lord willing, we hope to schedule a mission trip to Cambodia in February as we continue to follow God's leading.



Children's ministry in Cambodia



Church meeting



Teaching the Word

Thank You!

Because of your faithful prayers and generosity, lives are being changed for eternity.

We couldn't do this without you!

CONTACT US

- cross-kingdom.org
- jsgodson@yahoo.com
- P.O. Box 1783
Conover, NC 28613

Brothers and sisters, we ask that you continue to **pray earnestly** for us. The enemy has been relentless in his attacks on our family and ministry, but we know that our God is greater. The victory has already been won through Jesus Christ, and we stand firmly on His promises. We are humbled that God would choose to use ordinary servants like us for His glory.

Thank you for your faithful prayers, generous support, and partnership in the Gospel. Together, we are seeing lives changed and the Kingdom of God advanced around the world.

May God richly bless you.

Serving Christ,

Pastor Jason Shoup



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



3 Congregations preached this month



2 Church Plants expanding into buildings



3 Motorbikes purchased for missionaries



Orphanage improvements completed



5 Church Plants active



Lives being changed for eternity

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for our missionaries in Kenya and Cambodia
- Pray for the growth and protection of all our church plants
- Pray for the orphanage and the children in our care
- Pray for wisdom as we plan for a Bible school in Cambodia
- Pray for our mission trip to Cambodia in February
- Pray for our family as we continue to serve the Lord
- Pray for open doors and boldness to share the Gospel



WAYS YOU CAN PARTNER WITH US



SPONSOR A CHILD



PURCHASE BIBLES



PLANT A CHURCH



SUPPORT MISSION TRIPS



MONTHLY PARTNERSHIP

"Every gift makes an eternal difference!"

WAYS TO GIVE



ONLINE GIVING
Visit our website to give securely.



MAIL CHECKS TO:
Cross - Kingdom - Ministries
P.O. Box 1783
Conover, NC 28613

SCAN TO GIVE ONLINE



August. 2026



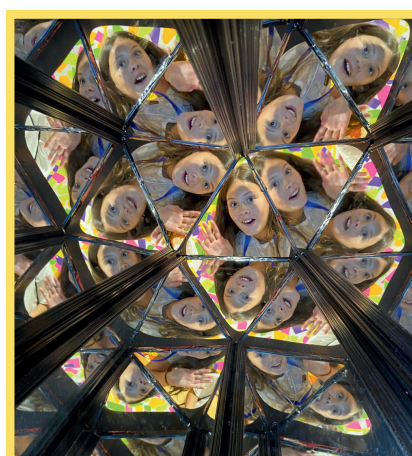
First Methodist Church

OF CONOVER
A GLOBAL METHODIST COMMUNITY

Office: 828-464-4635
office@fmconover.org
www.fmconover.org
On Facebook & YouTube

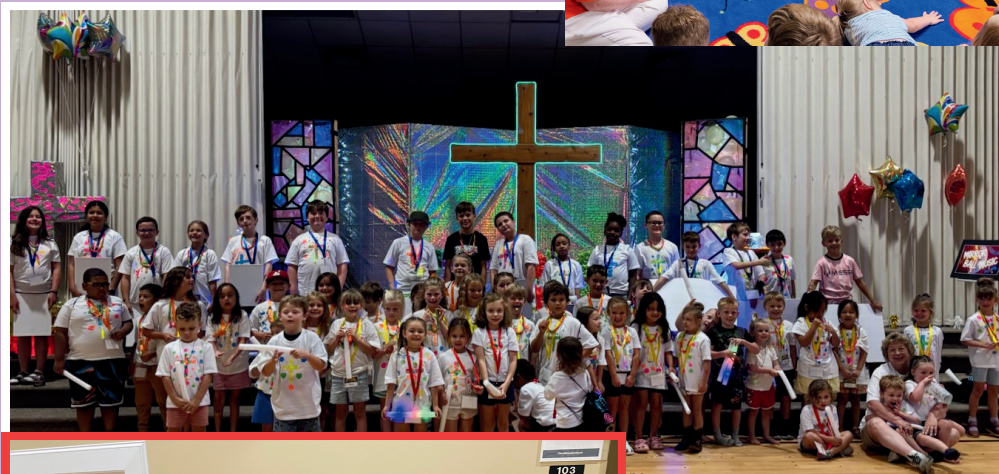


SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
NOTES We have Sunday School classes for all ages. Hand & Foot is a card game; all are welcome to come play! Queen Esther is a women's group with a monthly program. Goodtimers is for retirees or anyone who is free during the daytime. Neighbor's Table is a monthly meal for anyone in need. *Call the church office for more info on any of these opportunities.						
2 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	3 9:00 Volunteer Day at Ashure Ministry	4	5 12:00 Heartfelt Prayer 12:30 Hand & Foot 7:00 Choir practice	6 6:30 Hand & Foot	10 6:30 Dominoes	1 8
9 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	10	11 11:00 Diabetes Support Group	12 12:00 Heartfelt Prayer 1:00 Queen Esthers 7:00 Choir practice	13 6:30 Hand & Foot	14 11:30 Sisters in Christ Luncheon	15
16 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Camp Mtg Gathering @ Balls Creek (lunch) 2:30 Trustees 4:00 Finance Comm 5:00 Council Meeting	17	18 1:00 Sisters in Christ	19 12:00 Heartfelt Prayer 12:30 Hand & Foot 7:00 Choir practice	20 8:00 Goodtimers trip 9:30 Yoga 6:30 Methodist Men 6:30 Hand & Foot	21 6:30 Dominoes	22 5:30 Neighbor's Table
23 Blessing Backpacks 8:45 Worship 10:00 S. School 11:00 Worship	24 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Combined Worship	25	26 12:00 Heartfelt Prayer 7:00 Choir practice	27 6:30 Hand & Foot	28 6:30 Dominoes	29
		31				



VBS was GREAT!

Adults and kids had fun and learned about Jesus at Vacation Bible School. Thank you for your help, support, and prayers! See more pictures on our website.



CAMP MEETING **TIME!** Sun, Aug 16 at 1:00

Grab your lawn chair — it's that time of year again! Join us for our third annual Balls Creek Camp Meeting get-together.

Bring a favorite dish, finger food, or dessert to share — tea and soft drinks provided. Don't forget a chair to sit on.

Come enjoy good food, good company, and an afternoon of fellowship. We'd love to see you there!

Balls Creek Campground
2090 Buffalo Shoals Road
Catawba, NC 28609

Look for Tent #94, marked with blue balloons tied to a chair — parking is across the road.

A big thank-you to Anthony Price for opening up Tent #94 to all of us again this year!

LIFE LESSONS *from the* **BIBLE**

New Sunday School
with Pastor John



Join Pastor John's class exploring practical life lessons through Biblical truths. Meets Sundays in the CFLC during the Sunday School hour.

Questions? pastor@fmccconover.org • (336) 480-4550

First Methodist Men



Thursday, Aug 20 at 6:30 in the CFLC
All men invited!



Queen Esther Circle

When:

Wed, August 12 at 1:00

Where:

Meet at Sipes Orchard Home
4431 County Home Rd, Conover

Learn about the Home's outreach and take a campus tour. Meet us there or carpool from church.

All ladies welcome — please join us!

Questions? Chloe Thompson (704-254-5194)
or Jean Slate (910-624-9843)



Queen Esther Circle



Looking ahead to September — we're heading toward the mountains for cooler weather!

Join us for a trip to Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth & Families on Wed, September 9, leaving the church around 10:00. More details to come in August.

80 Lake Eden Rd, Black Mountain

Methodist Men

What a great turnout on July 16 — 32 men joined us for a wonderful meal, thanks to Ralph Hatch and his kitchen crew! Buck Calloway blessed us with a meaningful devotion to kick things off. We were also glad to give back, with donations toward the new kitchen freezer, Cross Kingdom Ministries, and Corbett's Army — a local 3-year-old battling leukemia.

Mark your calendars — we'd love to see you at our next meeting on August 20th!

Sisters in Christ



Birthday Luncheon

Join us as we honor those celebrating birthdays in July and August!

When: Friday, August 14 at 11:30

Where: L&L Catering and Bistro,
Hickory Furniture Mart,
2220 US Hwy 70

All ladies are invited — bring a friend!
Please sign up on sheet outside Beth's office.



**Interest/Info
Meeting
Aug 11 at 11:00**

**Meet at the GRAY House
(next to the church
parking lot)**

This group is open to anyone who wants to learn more about diabetes. Come out and ask questions, get help with counting carbs, and learn how to control your glucose levels. We want to help you understand diabetes, the good, the bad and the ugly.

This will be our first meeting to see who would like to take part in a monthly or bi-monthly, session. If we have enough interest, we will see about having a diabetes educator to come out and do a lunch and learn session.

Everyone is welcome... Members of our church.....
Your friends..... Family members

This get together is being hosted by
Anthony Price - Phyllis Brockwell - Jackie Lowdermilk

To God be the glory... Great things He hath done!



**Save
the
date**

**SUNDAY
OCT 4**



REGISTER

by Aug 31 to
get a t-shirt!

SELECT

"First Methodist
of Conover"
as your team!

2:00 - Registration

2:45 - Awards

3:00 - Walk starts

BENEFITING



CCHUNGERWALK.COM



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

*Thank you for praying for the
GMC General Conference
(South Africa, August 30-Sept 5).*



**Pastor John and Beth Woods
will attend General Conference as voting delegates,
and then will be on vacation through Sept 15.**

Please pray for:

1. Clear direction from The Holy Spirit on every petition.
2. Unified selflessness among the delegates (all acting for the greater good.)
3. Time and energy to accomplish all the tasks of the conference.
4. Safety in travel and the time there.

My prayer date and time: _____

**Our Church Council is asking you to pray for the
upcoming General Conference. There are more
comprehensive prayer guides on the GMC website
(www.beautyofholiness2026.org/prayer-guides).
You can choose a regular day and time block or
pray whenever you can!**

Good Timers*

Thursday,
August 20



**Winchester Creek
Farm
Waynesville, NC**

Goodtimers is taking a trip to Winchester Creek Farm in Waynesville, NC. This is a family-owned, 20-acre farm with rolling green pastures surrounded by the majestic Smoky Mountains. They raise adorable alpacas, llamas, and a variety of miniature farm animals — horses, cows, donkeys, goats, sheep, and pigs.

The trip will be August 20, leaving the church by 8am for an 11am tour. We'll also eat lunch in the Waynesville area and maybe make another fun stop. Cost will be around \$20 plus your lunch.

Watch for details soon from Jayne Davis!

* Goodtimers is for retirees or anyone available during the day!



Greeters

- Aug 2** 8:45 - Kim & Susan Sigmon
11:00 - Robin & Windy Mays
Inside Hall - Tommi Anderson
- Aug 9** 8:45 - Bill & Brenda Novatny
11:00 - Burr & Betsy Stokes
Inside Hall - Jean Slate
- Aug 16** 8:45 - Kevin & Nancy Boggs
11:00 - Christopher Tekieniewski & Coby
Inside Hall - Bill Pitts & Lynn Haynes
- Aug 23** 8:45 - Steve & Brenda Heafner
11:00 - Jackie Lowdermilk & Gaye Hoke
Inside Hall - Diane & Randy Howard
- Aug 30** Outside CFLC - Steve & Janice Pitts
One service at 10:30 Inside CFLC - Scott & Becky Ross
Near elevator - Leonard & Julie Lawing
- Sept 6** Outside CFLC - Jeanne Abernathy & Melissa Hunsucker
One service at 10:30 Inside CFLC - Sue Dwiggs & Brenda Davis
Near elevator - Cindy & Ed Surret
- Sept 13** Outside CFLC - Randy & Debbie Bernhardt
One service at 10:30 Inside CFLC - Ronnie & Jean Hampton
Near elevator - Leonard & Julie Lawing

Nursery Helpers

- Aug 2** 8:45 - Can you help?
11:00 - Abella & Ashley Barnabas
- Aug 9** 8:45 - Amber Hendren
11:00 - Tracy Workman
- Aug 16** 8:45 - Bill & Jenny Harris
11:00 - Abella Barnabas
- Aug 23** 8:45 - Bev Swithenbank
11:00 - Wende Briggs
- Aug 30** **ONE SERVICE @ 10:30** - Estrella Walker
- Sept 6** **ONE SERVICE @ 10:30** - Robin Mays
- Sept 13** **ONE SERVICE @ 10:30** - Joy Watts
- Sept 20** 8:45 - LaRue Black
11:00 - Rachel Hamilton
- Sept 27** 8:45 - Can you help?
11:00 - Melissa Johnson



Your Communications Committee is working hard on an updated website, mobile app, phone, text, & email systems, updated directory and MORE! If your contact information has changed recently, please let the church office know!

Coming Soon!

HOME **UND**
Ministry

Don't forget our shut-ins.
A card or note can brighten their whole week. Take a moment to send one to one of these saints — it means more than you know.

Members at Home

Dottie Aycock-Harris
1449 Brookstone Dr
Hickory, NC 28602

Armando Lagunas
11515 28th St Lane SE
Hickory, NC 28602

Lee Moritz, Sr.
1103 Country Home Road
Conover, NC 28613

Lucy Rockett
2477 Birdie Ln
Conover, NC 28613

Members in Facilities

Rev Dixon Adams
TerraBella Newton (Room B7)
1088 Radio Station Road
Newton, NC 28658

Donna Chipley
Abernethy Laurels (Room 120)
102 Leonard Avenue
Newton, NC 28658

Margaret Kilpatrick
Abernethy Laurels Noble West
(Room 2103A)
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



**12 noon on Wednesdays
in the Parlor (upstairs)**

Stewardship Report

By Our Presence June 28, 2026

Sunday School: 89
8:45am Service - 131
11:00am Service - 144
Total 275

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

**General Fund \$16,469.00
Children's Bank 10.00
Vacation Bible School 48.67
Project Agape. 1,745.00
Total \$16,799.00

By Our Presence July 5, 2026

Sunday School: 136
8:45am Service 136
11:00am Service 157
Total 293

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

**General Fund \$14,163.00
Children's Bank 44.00
Total \$14,207.00

By Our Presence July 12, 2026

Sunday School: 126
8:45am Service 142
11:00am Service 136
Total 278

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

**General Fund \$19,182.95
Children's Bank 109.40
Total \$19,838.35

By Our Presence July 19, 2026

Sunday School: 111
8:45am Service 129
11:00am Service. 140
Total 269

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

**General Fund \$17,244.00
Music Fund. 25.00
Children's Bank 10.00
Total \$17,279.00

By Our Presence July 26, 2026

Sunday School: 140
8:45am Service 143
11:00am Service. 152
Total 295

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

**General Fund \$14,278.00
Ashure Ministry 50.00
Children's Bank 242.75
Total \$14,570.75

Memorial gifts

Music Fund

In memory of Elaine Biles by: Nancy Clarke

WITH LOVE
& SYMPATHY



Marion "Elaine" Biles, age 91 and a member of First Methodist Church of Conover, died peacefully Monday, July 6, 2026. Elaine spent her career as a Registered Nurse, most recently at Catawba Valley Medical Center, and was known for her compassion and devotion to her patients. A memorial service was held Friday, July 17 at First Methodist Church, with Pastor John Woods officiating; inurnment followed at the church columbarium. She is survived by her sons, Steven (Lisa) Biles and James (Kathy) Biles, along with her grandchildren. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this sad time.

Betty Jane Porch Flynn, age 95, mother of Greg Flynn, passed away peacefully on June 23, 2026. Betty was a devoted Christian known for her love of music and many years of faithful service in her church choir and Sunday school. Our thoughts and prayers are with Greg, Joy, and the family during this sad time.

Thank You

Dearest Church Family,
It has been overwhelming, the outpouring of your love, prayers, calls, visits, gifts, cards, but most of all — my retirement reception. What a "special day" it turned out to be. I was honored and humbled at the same time.
Thank you, Michelle Cloninger, and any helpers you had, for how well it turned out! Thank you, Bob Goodson, for the awesome poem you wrote to sum up my time at FMCC. Thank you to those who spoke with love of our time working together.
I was not expecting to retire for three more years, but God had other plans for me. Windy and I still covet your prayers. We are still attending FMCC and hope to see you all at the 11am service or at church events.
God's blessings to you all,
Robin



Ashure
MINISTRY

Thank you, FMCC volunteers! You gave over 2120 hours of your time to Ashure Ministries in the past year! What amazing servants' hearts you have shown!



First Methodist Church
OF CONOVER
A GLOBAL METHODIST COMMUNITY

410 First Avenue North
Conover, NC 28613

Return Service Requested

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Contact our ministry staff!

Senior Pastor

Rev. John Woods
pastor@fmconover.org
(336) 480-4550

Coordinator of Lay Ministries

Beth Woods
beth.woods@fmconover.org
(336) 480-4551

Office Manager

Melissa Cashmore
office@fmconover.org

Preschool Director

Julie Robinson
preschool@fmconover.org
(828) 466-3158

Lead Nursery Worker

Pilar Tobar
(828) 781-1224

Custodian

Luisa Toro Bryan

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



Church Office
General questions, prayer requests
& information



(828) 464-4635



office@fmconover.org



Watch live every Sunday
Find us on Facebook
and YouTube



Visit us online
www.fmconover.org

Scan the QR code to visit our website!