



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

March 5, 2024

HOW STAYING THE SAME CAN COST US THE LOST

So why did the American colonists win the Revolution? Well, it wouldn't surprise you if you saw how the redcoats fought. They fought battles in the old-fashioned European way. They lined up in straight rows. The front row shoots. The next row rotates in while the others reload. Now, the colonists on the other hand didn't believe in lining up. They just came from everywhere. So those red uniforms all lined up in a rigid row? Well, that's like target practice. The colonists looked like they were disorganized, but their new way of fighting won the battle.



In Luke 5, the religious leaders are criticizing how Jesus is going about reaching people. The Pharisees and the people who followed them, they're complaining to Jesus' disciples, "**Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?**" Jesus answered them, "**It's not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I've not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**" Later He said, "**No one pours new wine into old wine skins, because the new wine will burst the skins. The wine will run out and the wine skins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into a new wine skin.**"

See, Jesus broke out of the religious mold to reach people that no one was touching - new wine skins. Now, in those days the bottles in Palestine were really animal skins. And the wine would ferment and it would give off this gas. And if the bottle was new and it had elasticity in the skin, then it gave with the pressure. If it was an old wine skin, it was dry and hard, and of course it burst.

Sometimes you have to replace an old idea with a new idea if you want God to do a new thing; if you want to reach people no one's been reaching. Remember those Revolutionary War soldiers? The redcoats? They were rigid and they lost. The ones who were flexible won the battle.

Maybe God is trying to do a new thing in your life, or maybe in our church, or in our ministries. We have to be open to the Lord's guidance. There are some things that never change and must never change; namely the Gospel, the message, the doctrine of Jesus Christ. That must never change. But the package? That can change. Never the message, but often the method will change.



The world of lost people and the world of the church have never been so far apart. They are the new unbelievers, America's post-Christians. They're biblically illiterate. They don't ever plan to go to a religious meeting to hear someone talk about a religious subject. Which means it will take a new approach to reach them. Or else we could just leave them lost like they have been.

In Jesus' day the religious people totally missed what God was doing because they wouldn't accept a new approach. The British soldiers in Revolutionary War times lost because they were rigid. We're in a battle for our community, our neighbors, the ever-living, never-dying souls of people. Their eternities are at stake. If God says, "**I'm doing a new thing,**" let's make sure we don't lose the battle by not being open to the Lord's new work among us.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor John

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:

Chelsea & Hernan Puga-Luna, Elizabeth Pullen,
Todd, Melissa, Evan & Addison Punch,
Dave & Brenda Putnam, Alex, Margaret, Grace & Blaire
Putzer, Judy Rayburn-Young.

EASTER BLESSINGS

Can you believe that in just a few more weeks we will be celebrating Easter? We hope you will join us in spreading love and blessings to our homebound and nursing facility members.

Easter bags have been placed in the commons area with the names of our 11 recipients. Please bring an Easter card and/or treat to add to each bag, either on Sunday mornings or during the week. The names are also listed in the Newsletter.

The deadline will be March 17th so that the bags can be delivered before Easter.

Thank you so much for your amazing support of this ministry.



IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

Tony Garrison at Wake Forest Baptist MC

NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Doris "Dot" Robinson Martin, age 90 of Catawba passed away on Thursday, February 29, 2024 at Carolina Caring Sherrills Ford Hospice House.

Doris is the mother of Tony Martin who, along with his wife Kathy, are members of FMCC.

A service to celebrate Dot's life was held on Sunday, March 3, 2024 at Catawba United Methodist Church in Catawba.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Tony, Kathy and the family during this sad time.



Worship Committee

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

will meet Sunday, March 10th at
5:30 pm.

Volunteers Still Needed!



We will host our church and community children for a Holy Week experience on March 16. The children will walk through the events of the week before Jesus' death and resurrection. We need a lot of volunteers to help make this experience run smoothly. Several people have volunteered, but we need a few more! We need YOU to come share the love of Christ with our children!

March 16 -- 10 am

We need people to lead groups of children through the stations, tell a portion of the story, or lead a craft. Jo Ellen Knecht is coordinating the activities and will provide guidance for all the activities. We also need a crew to hide Easter eggs. Please let Beth Woods know if you can help! (336) 480-4551 or woods777@aol.com

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.fmccconover.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 (800-476-3900).



Ashure NEWS

Time for March Madness at Ashure Ministry!! Not so much the basketball games, but a friendly competition in the form of a food drive. Please donate food OR money on behalf of your favorite college team. Each pound of food counts as 2 points, and each dollar counts as 3 points. The team with the most points wins the challenge.

FMCC is participating in this March Madness food drive. Team designated boxes will be located in the Narthex in which you may place your food from March 1 - April 10. **Monetary donations may be taken to Ashure Ministry, mailed to Ashure Ministry at P O Box 31, Newton, or given to Anita Deal. Checks should include your team choice and FMCC in the memo line.**

The **March food request** for Ashure Ministry is March Madness Food Drive.



PASTOR'S QUIZ

After death Lazarus was

- a. sent to Hades
- b. carried into Abraham's bosom
- c. raised from the dead
- d. buried in the lepers' cemetery

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT By Our Presence March 3, 2024

Sunday School:
108

Worship:
8:45am Service 129
11:00am Service 131
260

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 19,356.00

(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)

Children's Bank 52.30

Disaffiliation Fund 100.00

Library Fund 100.00

Total \$ 19,608.30

PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER

The Preschool is excited to be hosting our first official 2024 Fundraiser Paperpie (formerly Usborne) "Cards for a Cause!" Our cause is to improve our playground.

\$32 per box with the following options:

Kids Birthday Box {30 cards}

All Occasions 1 {30 cards}

All Occasions 2 {30 cards}

Holiday Cards Box {50 cards}

Thanks & Blanks {30 cards}

An order form will be located in the Lobby. All payments can be dropped in the Preschool Dropbox in the Sunday School Wing. All orders need to be completed by Wednesday, March 13th. Payment can be CASH or CHECK made out to 'Colleen Fox'. If you have questions contact, Colleen Fox, cmfox810@gmail.com.

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

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

2024 FLOWER CHART

The new 2024 Flower Chart has been posted in the hallway outside the church office.

If you would like to sign up to place flowers in the Sanctuary one Sunday in honor of or in memory of someone, please call the church office at (828) 464-4635 to schedule a date.

Please do not write your name on the Flower Chart but call the church office.

A slide will be shown at both services on the Sunday that you choose with the information given by you.

The following florists have a key so that they can deliver the flowers on a Saturday:

Twigs & Twine - Conover

ABC Florist - Newton

Newton-Conover Florist - Newton

Blooms Greenhouse - Conover



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

b. carried into Abrahah's bosom
(Luke 16:22)

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. John Woods pastor@fmconover.org (828) 464-4635 (336) 480-4550 - cell 208 2nd St 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

MORE NEWS TO USE



"Journey to Jerusalem" Prayer Walk

Work days: All hands are welcome!

- On March 10 at 2:00, a crew will be assembling the divider walls and hanging fabric on them to create pathways through the CFLC.
- On March 17 at 2:00, a crew will be setting up scenery in the Commons Area and hallways.
- There will also be work going on throughout the week of March 17-24, so feel free to stop by and offer your assistance.
- On March 24, right after the late service, a crew will be setting up the last of the hallway scenery.
- Each night of the Prayer Walk (March 24, 25, 26, 27, and 29 – not open on Maunday Thursday) we need about 25 costumed volunteers to sit quietly as part of the "scenery" and to provide assistance to visitors in the case of an emergency. Contact Beth Woods to volunteer (indicate which nights you are available) woods777@aol.com or (336) 480-4551.
- On March 30, beginning at 10:00, 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 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!

Save the Date! April 20 – 9 am - Noon

First Methodist Hosting NC GMC Missions Conference!

The NC GMC is partnering with One Mission Society and their 1-day Church Training Workshops to provide regional workshops across the state. The intention is to help EVERY CHURCH in the NC GMC develop an intentional missions plan for their church, impacting the church's ministry from their neighborhood, their city, regionally, and globally.

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 will be responsible for providing refreshments, use of A/V equipment, tables & chairs, and housing the speakers. The training content will come from One Mission Society.

Churches of all types will be able to gain from this training- small churches needing to start a missions strategy to large churches who want to take a day to re-energize around a well-defined program, and every type in between. In a nutshell, this workshop will help both churches and Circles to grow missions and mission participation with a clear and compelling mission plan.

Watch this brief video to see the 5 ways that churches will come away with this clear and compelling plan to engage in mission: vimeo.com/798873205. The video talks about doing this training in each church but the GMC has chosen to broaden its impact by coming together to offer this training in groups across the state.

Remember, in the GMC, missions will arise from every local church -- from every church and every church's neighborhood -- to our regional, national, and global missions. As we hear God's call to "witness boldly," the GMC wants to equip churches to be effective in every area of mission God calls us to.

EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE

Children's Ministry News

VBS

Wow! It's March already! Our Children's Ministry will soon be turning attention to VBS and other summer programming. Please be watching this newsletter, our Facebook page, and Sunday morning announcements for information on a planning meeting to be scheduled in April.



MEMORIAL Library Fund

In memory of Connie McCoy by:
Guynell Sears



THANK YOU

I would like to express my deep appreciation for the Sunday overwhelming applause.

Having had a really bad year, it now seems so far in the past knowing I have lots of "support" and love. My love and hugs to you all!

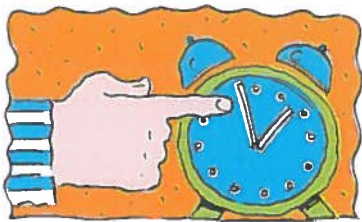
Betty Prater

THANK YOU

Dear Alan Thornburg,

Your church family would like to thank you for installing new shelving in the work room cabinets. It makes organizing all our colored paper, etc. so much easier. Your talents and thoughtfulness are much appreciated.

Your Church family



SET YOUR CLOCKS
Ahead!

REMEMBER!!!!

SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD
ONE HOUR BEFORE YOU GO
TO BED SATURDAY NIGHT,
MARCH 9TH.

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.