



First Methodist Church

OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

July 30, 2024

This week in our Bible studies we're focusing on the story of Jesus walking on the waters. You'll remember the story. Right after the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus sent the disciples ahead to the other side of the Sea of Galilee while he remained behind for some solitary prayer time.

As they made their way across, a storm rose up that hindered them. They were struggling. Late in the night, suddenly they saw a figure (Jesus) walking out on the waters. The disciples became panicked and "terrified." However, immediately Jesus spoke a word to calm their hearts.

Confused and unsure, Peter challenged, **"Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water."**

When Peter stepped out of the boat and walked on the water, he experienced a miracle. What Peter experienced was literally phenomenal. But then something happened. He took his eyes off of Jesus and when he did, he began to sink. **"But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. 'Save me, Lord!' he shouted."** (Matthew 14:30, NLT)



Peter took his eyes off the Lord, put them on the storm, and disrupted the miracle. That's a spiritual truth for all of us. If at any point we take the focus off of Jesus, we will sink. Our futures will sink. Our plans will sink. Our ministries will sink. We will sink.

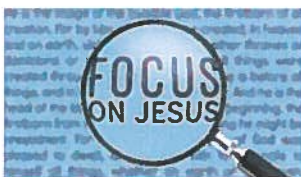
Don't allow the winds and waves of chaos to steal your focus. When Jesus is the center, several things happen.

#1 Perfect Peace — First, when Jesus remains your focus, your heart is filled with perfect peace. Isaiah 26:3 says: **"You [God] will keep in perfect peace all who trust in You, all whose thoughts are fixed on You!"**

#2 True Unity — Second, when Jesus remains your focus, you'll experience true unity with fellow believers. Focused on the Lord, you won't become distracted by the "winds and waves" of anything in this world that might cause seek to pull us away from Christ or one another [hmmmm, including politics?]. When we focus on Jesus, we focus on who unites us — Jesus, rather than on what has the potential to divide us. 1 Corinthians 12:13 says we were **"all baptized into one Body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit."** (1 Cor. 12:13, NLT)

#3 Spiritual Stability — You become firmly established. You won't be moved by whatever opinion or trend is being floated in front of you. You'll abide faithfully, steadfastly to Jesus' values. Nothing will be able to shake you. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, **"Anyone who listens to My words and follows them will be like a person who built his house on solid rock."** (Matthew 7:24)

#4 Effectiveness — Finally, when Jesus remains your focus, you remain effective. You know, Jesus is still the answer, and the gospel is still our mission. Sometimes we have the tendency to get off message. When Jesus remains your focus, He remains your message. When that happens, you remain effective.



So if the winds and the waves are around, keep your eyes on Jesus. When the storm passes, you'll look back and say, "I stood faithful. I kept my joy, my love, my peace." Keep your eyes on Jesus."

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:

Zoey Boston, Jody, Michelle & Spencer Brackett,
Brooke Carswell, Tara, Cody, Hayden & Harper Brackett,
Paul Brantner, Andy, Wende, Kaela & Colt Briggs.

GREETERS NEEDED

We are in need of Greeters for the 8:45am service and the 11:00am service on the following dates:

August 18
August 25
Sept. 1
Sept. 8
Sept. 15
Sept. 22
Sept. 29



Harold Thornburg (828) 464-6826 or (828) 315-1953

Special Notice

We are excited to announce that a professional videographer will be capturing video footage during several upcoming events and activities to create new videos for our church. These videos will be used for outreach and to enhance our worship services. Please be aware of the following dates and times when filming will take place:

- **Monday, August 5th** – Outreach Ministry at Ashure Ministries (245 East N Street, Newton)
- **Tuesday, August 6th** - Group Bible Study
- **Sunday, August 18th** - 8:45AM & 11:00AM
Worship Services and Sunday School

We appreciate your understanding and support as we work to create these valuable outreach assets for our church family.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Beth Woods or Lindsay Keisler (828-446-3729).

Thank you for helping me make this a success!

Lindsay Keisler



IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

None

MEMORIALS **Sound System Fund**

In memory of Mary Rudisill by:
Susan Riverbark & Carolyn Wilson
Amanda Moose
Carol & David Bostian
Donna & Timothy Hollar
Cliff & Debbie Wike
Bruce & Michelle Cloninger
Gary & Donna Bigelow
Kevin, Jennifer, Olivia & Sophie Inman,
Chris, Tyler & Kebony
(Custom Changes)

Flower Fund

In memory of Mary Rudisill by:
Nancy Clarke

Music Fund

In memory of Mary Rudisill by:
Buck & Anne Calloway
Linda Birchfield

Prayer Walk Fund

In memory of Mary Rudisill by:
Ralph & Patricia Hatch

TRUSTEES MEETING

SUNDAY
AUGUST 4
3:00pm

The meeting will be held in the
Crossroads Classroom
In the CFLC.

NEWS TO USE

ASHURE NEWS

Monday, August 5, is FMCC's designated day for volunteering at Ashure Ministry. Thanks for your overwhelming support of this ministry!

The Ashure Ministry food **request for August is canned food.** 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.



ASHURE'S VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

We are recognizing Sylvia Hansmann as our July Volunteer. She has been one of our most faithful volunteers over the past several years. She started coming here a few years ago after it was suggested that she give volunteering at Ashure Ministry a try by a member of her church, First Methodist Church of Conover. Originally Sylvia worked with us in the food pantry. However, one day she went over to help the folks working with the thrift store donations. There were many donations coming in that day and Sylvia saw the need for extra help. She greatly enjoyed helping in this area as well as the people she worked alongside. She's been working with the thrift store ever since!

What Sylvia likes most about coming to Ashure Ministry is the feeling that she is giving back through her efforts. She has known, at times in her life, what it is to live without and to be in need. She feels that God has blessed her, and she wants to pass those blessings along to those in our area who are less fortunate. She says coming to Ashure Ministry makes her feel complete. She sees the need first hand and she really appreciates the opportunity to serve at an organization where people are focused on working together to meet those needs. Sylvia has been an amazing addition to our Ashure Ministry family. Thank you Sylvia, for everything you do for the ministry and the community we serve!



PASTOR'S QUIZ

Because he had been raised from the dead, Lazarus was

- a. assured of a long life
- b. in imminent danger of being put to death
- c. liable to contract diseases
- d. uncertain of his friends

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence July 28, 2024

Sunday School:
123

Worship:

8:45am Service	114
11:00am Service	136
Total	250

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 15,807.00
--------------	--------------

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

Children's Bank	35.00
Flower Fund	25.00
Music Fund	90.00
Prayer Walk Fund	100.00
Sound System Fund	695.00
VBS Mission Project	600.00
Total	\$ 17,352.00

HARVEST FESTIVAL FOR JESUS PLANNING STARTING SOON!

Our annual Harvest Festival for Jesus will be held in late October. We will open our grounds to the community for a day of fun, prizes, and sharing of our faith. Like we did last year, we will be giving away Bibles and Bible story books. We will also have games, food, and music! An event of this magnitude needs a lot of workers, and we will have a place for YOU!

To get started with planning and preparation, we will have a meeting at 2:00 on Sunday August 11 in the Conference Room. Please join us if you are able to help us plan. Thank you!

Beth Woods (email: woods777@aol.com or call/text with questions: (336) 480-4551.)

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

Newton-Conover Florist - Newton

Blooms Greenhouse - Conover



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

b. in imminent danger of being put to death
(John 12:9-11)

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

School Supplies and Backpack Program

School will be starting in a few weeks and we want to help where we can to assist children that may not have the funds to purchase school supplies. The Corner Table handles the Backpack Program. They are collecting food items to be sent home with children who need food over the weekend. Please look at the lists of items below and bring them July 21 – August 25. Containers will be located in the narthex and the commons area near the church offices. Thank you for loving and caring for the children of our community.

Missions and Outreach Committee

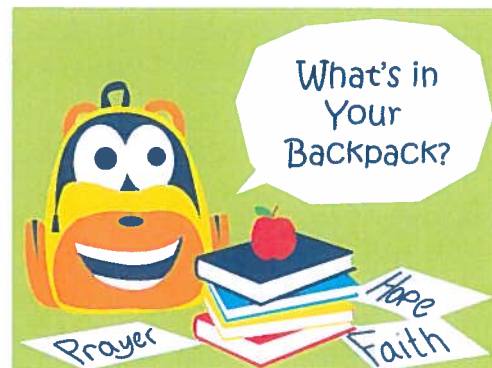
School Supplies: Some of the most requested items:

Backpacks/book bags (no wheels), 24 count boxes of crayons, 24 count boxes of colored pencils (Crayola products are the best.), composition notebooks, paper, glue sticks, pencils, scissors (K- 5th sizes), headphones (Some brands can be found at Walmart for around \$10.00.) NO ear buds, pencil top erasers, pencil boxes, pencil pouches with clear fronts

Backpack Program:

Kid-Friendly Individual Snack Items: Granola Bars, Peanut Butter Crackers, Peanuts, Popcorn, Goldfish, Fruit Snacks, Cheez-Its.

Breakfast Items: Cereal Bars, Oatmeal Packets, Cereal Cups, Muffin Mix Packets



Annual Prayer Walk Volunteer Luncheon

We had so much fun at last year's Prayer Walk Volunteer Luncheon (about 30 of us) that we've decided to do it again! So, anyone who had any part in putting on the **Journey to Jerusalem Prayer Walk**, no matter how small or extensive-- from filling bags with black rocks to working as a character every night--is invited to come. Bring your other half, a best friend, the family or just yourself. It is a fantastic time of fellowship!

When? Sunday August 18th - 1:30 PM, gives us late service folks a chance to get there
What to bring? Bring your favorite covered dish (meats, vegetables, casseroles, deserts, etc). You all know, we all love to eat. A folding lawn chair too!

Where? Tent No 94 at Ball Creek Camp Meeting. Tent backs up to Buffalo Shoals Road. I will have a chair with blue balloons behind the tent. Pull in to unload, then park across the road. (If there is a mobility issue - no concern - pull in and we will unload and then take your car and park it for you.)

What do we do? Of course, we have our luncheon and sit around and talk...good old fashion gathering. Then anyone who wants to will walk around the circle and see folks that you did not realize had a tent sitting on their front porches swinging and relaxing the afternoon away. If the shack is open, we can stop by and get a scoop or two or of Deluxe Ice Cream. It is August and we are outside, so dress accordingly.

Without all of YOU, this ministry would never come to fruition. I am so blessed to have all of you. As always GOD knew what he was doing.

Side note.....Anyone and that is anyone that would like to join us is welcome to come.

LOVE YOU GUYS!! GOD is good all the time.....
Anthony Price. 828-228-6467 text if you have any questions

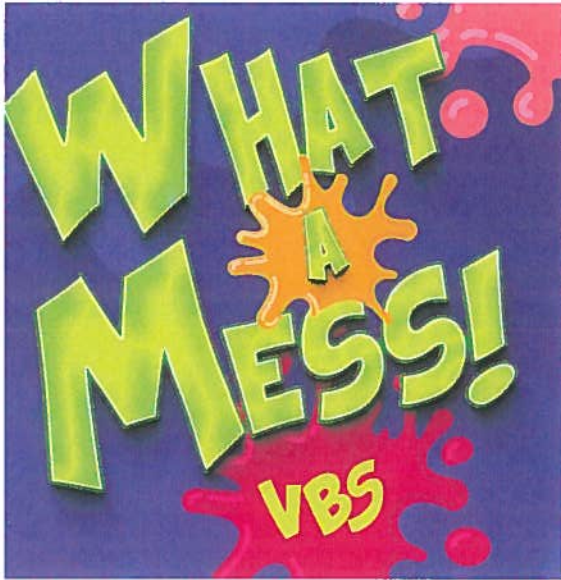
More information about Balls Creek Camp Meeting

In the sweltering heat of late summer, hundreds of families and groups of friends gather in the shade of an arbor and the front porches of wooden plank "tents," to enjoy a respite from the distractions of our world. Balls Creek Camp Meeting began as a Methodist gathering over 170-years ago. It is a temporary village of over 300 "tents" filled with old and new friends; Christians gathering for fellowship and faith-building services for two weeks in August. This year's camp meeting runs from Aug 11 -25. Evening worship services are held each night at 7:30; senior adults' luncheon on Aug 21, morning services on Aug 18 & 25.

Our church has a good representation among the tent-dwellers, but the services are open to all! If you are interested in attending, see the schedule posted outside Beth Woods' office or check out: <https://www.ballscreekcampground.org/Schedule>.

Special note to YOUTH!

There are two Youth Rallies during camp meeting... Aug 14 & Aug 21 at 7:30. I'll contact you soon to see if you'd like to attend one or both of these. We can go as a group! (Beth)



Don't forget... the mess continues

AUG 3

10:30 AM-12:30

We will celebrate how Jesus cleans up our sinful mess with a day of cleaner messy fun (water play!) Wear clothes that can get wet or a bathing suit with t-shirt over it. Bring a towel (and dry clothes if you wish!)

We will end our celebration with lunch from 12-12:30.

First Methodist Church (outside) We'll move indoors with less water in the case of stormy weather.



CHURCH FELLOWSHIP DINNER
(& GAMES!)

August 10th ❖ 5:00pm

Join us for our next Fellowship Dinner and Game Night. This will be a **covered-dish meal**, so be sure to bring something to share. We'll have time to enjoy being together and maybe a game or two to put some smiles on our faces and joy in our hearts.

Call and invite someone and tell them you'd like to sit with them at the dinner.

We have a place for you!

Every Sunday morning from 10:00 – about 10:45, Sunday School classes meet all over our campus. We have adult classes that work directly through scripture and adult classes that use a lesson book or video series. We have classes for children and teens from nursery age through high school.

In a few weeks, we will be kicking off a “new” year for our children and teens classes with a switch to AWANA curriculum. Your Sunday School leadership team is excited about the possibilities for expansion with this curriculum!

If you are not already in a class, check out the descriptions on our website: www.fmconover.org and pick one to visit next Sunday! You'll find an enthusiastic welcome and a new family waiting for you!

What a fun, OLYMPIC-SIZED afternoon we had!!



We had so much fun with 15 athletes and 14 adult helpers (referees, coaches, chef/servers, cheerleaders, set-up and clean-up)! The athletes voted Gagaball as the favorite activity, closely followed by hamburgers and ice cream! If you've never played or even heard of Gagaball, watch for another chance to experience it... we will repeat that! (It was so exciting, I unfortunately didn't get any pictures! You'll just have to come see it for yourself next time!)

Special thanks to Ralph and Patricia Hatch for dinner and desserts!



August 2024

August 2024

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 28	29	30	31	Aug 1 6:30pm - Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room)	2 6:30pm Dominos (Faithblds class)	3 10:30am-12:30pm VBS Celebration (CFLC)
4 08:45am Cont. Worship (Sanctuary) 10am Sunday school/all 11am Trad. Worship 3pm Trustees' Meeting	5 09am-Vol. Day at Ashure 6:30pm Van 2 - Choir (Camp Meeting)	6 7pm-Bible Study (CFLC)	7 10:30am-Bible Study (CFLC) 1pm Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room) 7pm Choir practice	8 6:00pm Con. Comm. Partners (Crossroads) 6:30pm - Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room)	9 6:30pm Dominos (Faithblds class)	10 5pm Pot Luck/Game Night (CFLF/Kit.)
11 08:45am Cont. Worship 10am Sunday school/all 11am Trad. Worship 12-4pm Reese Reunion 2:00pm Harvest Fest.	12	13	14 1PM - Queen Esther's Circle (Clark Class) 1pm Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room) 7pm Choir practice	15 6:30-9pm Methodist Men (CFLC) 6:30pm - Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room)	16 6:30pm Dominos (Faithblds class)	17 5:30-6:30pm Neighbor's Table (CFLC & Kitchen 4-7pm)
18 08:45am Cont. Worship (Sanctuary) 10am Sunday school/all ages 11am Trad. Worship	19	20	21 09:00am-6pm Board Ord. Ministry 09am-Goodtimers' Trip 1pm Hand & Foot 7pm Choir practice	22 09:00am-6pm Board Ord. Ministry (CFLC/Youth Room) 6:30pm - Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room)	23 6:30pm Dominos (Faithblds class)	24
25 08:45am Cont. Worship (Sanctuary) 10am Sunday school/all ages 11am Trad. Worship	26	27	28 1pm Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room) 7pm Choir practice (Choir Room)	29 6:30pm - Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room)	30 6:30pm Dominos (Faithblds class)	31

First Methodist Church of Conover
Birthdays
Who = (everyone except removed); Filter = Birthday

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Cassandra Rockett Lauren Sigmon Megan Sigmon	2 Michelle Cloninger	3
4 Robin Mays	5 Marie Mull	6 Jabien Griffith Victoria Norman	7 Jordan Beatty Allen Califana Tony Rowe	8 Lillian Henderson Alli Miller	9 Mala Dauber NyKisha Peterson	10 Alma Dixon Cheryl Markland Wyatt Tremble
11 Bob Choppa Joni Thornburg	12 Chris Boston Al Kale	13 Barbara Stines Pat Woods	14 Billy Duncan	15 Adam Johnson	16 Kim Connor Melissa Punch	17 Hunter Davis Lisa Rudisill
18 Sydney Matson	19 Travis Connor	20 Charles Bandy	21 Ian Henderson Gaye Hood Angie Monk	22 Margery Adams William Barnabas Kalen Bolick Jonathan Rogers	23 Charlie Anderson Pete Robinson Wayne Windsor Mary Leslie Yount	24 Don Beatty
25	26 Emma Tozser	27 Julia Duncan Andy Greco Debbie Moritz	28 Devon Chambers Keri Hennessee Johnny Moose Gene Swithenbank	29 Hiley Baucom Chase Kiger Antwone Peterson Marea Pinto	30 Vivian Bandy Mike Induni Chloe Rockett	31 Powell Sigmon

First Methodist Church of Conover
Wedding Anniversaries
Who = (everyone except removed); Filter = Wedding

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Danny and Sandy Baucom	2	3
4 Mark and Rita Deal Andrew and Chloe Thompson	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Don and Andrea Beatty Ron and Dottie Harris	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 James and Carolyn Ball	22	23	24
25	26	27 Rick and Linda Parker	28 Charles and Vivian Bandy Jim and Jeanette Davis	29	30	31