



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

February 11, 2025

February naturally invites us to think about our hearts. Love is in the air. Stores are decorated with pink and red. Flowers are everywhere. Many good things vie for our affections, yet there is great value in pausing to assess what our hearts love most. Why? ***"Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."*** (1 Samuel 16:7)



Because it's what God cares about, it is prudent of us to assess the desires of our hearts on a regular basis. So on this Valentine's week, consider these three questions to assess the health of your heart, and in turn, let God's love take root freshly, enabling you to love others well.

1. What objects capture my attention?

I am acutely aware of my divided heart. I long to focus my time and energy on those things that matter most in light of eternity but quickly become distracted by the cares of this world. Perhaps you can relate.

Think about King Solomon. While Solomon was building the temple for the Lord, he was simultaneously building extravagant, luxurious accommodations for himself. Worrying about what I will wear, how I look, or how much money I have tends to usurp the peace found in trusting God's goodness. Psalm 119:37 reminds me to ***"Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word."***

2. How can I guard my heart?

Guarding something like our hearts can easily translate into safe boundaries or wise discernment. And you wouldn't be wrong. In my sermon a few weeks ago, we thought about this passage from Proverbs: ***"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."*** (Prov. 4:23)

It seems like a bold statement to declare that everything we do flows out of the desire of our hearts, and yet I know that to be true in my own life. What I long for determines how I spend my time, how I spend my money, and even what I choose to watch at night. Mike Wilkerson, author of *Redemption*, says it this way: ***"What the heart loves, the will chooses, and the mind justifies."*** So, let's be mindful this month of where we can say "no" and, in turn, place healthy boundaries around our hearts.

3. Which words exit my mouth?

Sometimes we forget just how connected our mouths are to our hearts. But scripture speaks of their relationship time and time again, reminding us that words are actually an overflow of the heart. Solomon says this in Proverbs: ***"The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence. Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses...The wise lay up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool brings ruin near."*** (Proverbs 10:11-14)

The Bible reminds us that life and death lie in the power of the tongue. Our words can either wound or bless. Jesus used His words to offer healing, love, understanding, and grace to those around Him. Ask Him to give you a pure heart, so your words will reflect that to others around you.

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:

Marie Mull, Gary & Tammy Muller,
Mark & Lynn Murphy, Tony & Jenene Nellenbach,
Heather Norman & Ayvah Hearne, Wendy Norman.



YOU HAVE A HEART OF GOLD

Church family,

There are no words that can express how much our church family has been there for us and the Lingerfelt family during this time. The meal you provided after Dad's service, the time spent with family, all the cards, memorials, and kind words are just priceless!

We love our church family! You're the Best!!!

Bruce and Michelle Cloninger and the
Lingerfelt family

NEW ADDRESS

Armando & Joyce Lagunas
1515 28th Street Lane SE
Hickory, NC 28602

Home Phone: (828) 855-0088
Cell Phone: (828) 381-1731

IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

Harold Thornburg at CVMC (ICU)
Anthony Price at Frye RMC (At home)

February 16, 2025

8:45am - Kim & Stan Reed

11:00am - Cliff & Debbie Wike

Anyone who wishes to be a greeter or usher,
call Harold Thornburg at (828) 312-1953 - cell;
or home number (828) 464-6826.



GOODTIMERS NEWS

There will be no
Goodtimers Day Trip this
month due to concern
about COVID and flu. Stay safe!

We will have a meal and program to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Thursday, March 20 at 12 pm. (Note change to Thursday instead of Wednesday!). We will have a presentation by the St. Joseph's Irish Dancers. We will take up a love offering to show our appreciation for this group of about 25 young dancers. It's going to be a treat to see their talent!

The meal will be a baked potato (Irish potatoes!) bar. We will have potatoes and toppings for you to customize your meal. We invite you to bring a salad or dessert to share. If you have suggestions for good potato toppings, let us know!

If you have questions or want to let us know what you can bring, please contact Beth Woods (336) 480-4551 or Jean Slate (910) 624-9843.

NEW ADDRESS

Hank Beck
Turning Point West Campus
1015 West Blvd.
Moultrie, GA 31768

NEWS TO USE

ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food request for February is **canned or boxed pasta, pasta sauce, or macaroni.** 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.

Thanks to the 16 volunteers from First Methodist Church of Conover last Monday at Ashure. Some of those 16 put together the newsletter. They did a 2 day job in 1 day! Way to go!

Here are the January totals for FMCC at Ashure Ministries:

Volunteers.....	16.00
Hours	170.90
Food.....	87.00 pounds

THANK YOU!



UPPER ROOMS

The Mar. / Apr. "Upper Room" devotional books are available for pick-up. They are located on the sofa table outside the Conference Room and upstairs by the water fountain. You can read the same daily devotional that is in the book each day by going online to this website:

<http://www.upperroom.org/devotional/>



PASTOR'S QUIZ

Jesus' utterance, that "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone," was occasioned by the devil's

- assertion to the contrary
- suggestion that Jesus turn stones to bread
- offer of bread to Jesus
- threat to deprive Israel of food

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence February 9, 2025

Sunday School:
108

Worship:	
8:45am Service	173
11:00am Service	147
Total	320

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 18,998.00
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(Needed weekly for budget: \$15,258)

Children's Bank	29.00
Hurricane Helene Relief	500.00
Joshua Bible Study Manual	20.00

Total	\$ 19,537.00
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Deposit 2/5/25:

Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$2,500.00
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Baton Recital: Gail Kale's Galaxies

Join us for an exciting and inspiring Baton recital presented by **Gale Kale's Galaxies** featuring talented young twirlers showcasing their skills and routines.

Artistic Director: Gail Kale Bordner

Hosted by: DMA Teen Majorette Queen Lilly-Ann Stewart

This recital will feature girls from ages 5 and up, all performing their beautifully choreographed baton routines. It is sure to be a wonderful display of talent, dedication, and teamwork.

Date: Sunday March 2nd

Time: 2:30 pm

Location: Connor Family Life Center, First Methodist Church of Conover



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

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Organization
U.S. Postage
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Conover, NC



2025 FLOWER CHART

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

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. John Woods pastor@fmccconover.org (828) 464-4635 (336) 480-4550 - cell 208 2nd St NE, Conover
Minister of Youth/Outreach	Jason Shoup jsgodson@yahoo.com (828) 381-1174 1409 5th St. Ct. NE, Conover
Office Administrator / Financial Secretary	Robin Mays office@fmccconover.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@fmccconover.org
Lead Nursery Worker	Pilar Tobar
Custodian	Luisa Toro Bryan
Church Office	(828) 464-4635
Website:	www.fmccconover.org

Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:
b. suggestion that Jesus turn stones to bread
(Matthew 4:3-4)

HEY, MORE NEWS TO USE

Journey to Jerusalem Prayer Walk

April 13, 14, 15, 16, & 18 (not Thurs)

Second Planning Meeting – Sunday, February 23 at 2:00



Plans are rolling for our 2025 Journey to Jerusalem Prayer Walk, but we still need you! We will have a second planning meeting on Sunday, February 23 at 2:00

For those who have never experienced it, let me describe this amazing ministry:

For the week of April 13-18, the Connor Family Life Center will be totally transformed into winding passageways using wooden frames draped in fabric. On the walls of these passageways and throughout the CFLC, we will display artwork, scripture, and objects that tell the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, from

creation to Jesus' birth, through His ministry, and to His death and resurrection. Guests from the community and church will walk through this "journey" and experience the sights, sounds, scents, and story of Jesus. Volunteers in costume will round out the experience by reenacting scenes and ensuring the safety of our guests. It is a moving experience that makes the "Story" of Easter come to life!

How can you help?

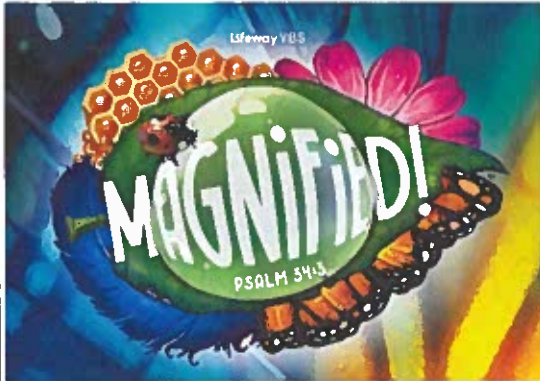
- 1) Volunteer for set-up. Beginning around March 19, we will have teams hanging black plastic in the windows; On March 23, we will begin setting up displays in the classrooms in the CFLC; On March 30, we will begin setting up walls to create the passageways through the CFLC; All that week, we will be hanging fabric. Throughout the weeks of March 30- April 11, we will be setting up displays and hanging art and scripture.
- 2) Volunteer to dress up in costume. We have costumed characters sitting in each room or area to monitor any needs and to pray for guests as they walk through. This is a low-key task that just about anyone can do.
- 3) Volunteer to help break down and store everything on April 19. We need many hands for this task as we will need to clear out in time for Neighbor's Table.
- 4) Watch for volunteer opportunities in advance.
- 5) Plan to attend and invite a friend!

If you are interested in helping, please attend the second organizational meeting on Sunday February 23 at 2:00 in the Faithbuilders Classroom in the Connor Family Life Center.

For more information, contact Beth Woods or Anthony Price (828) 228-6467.

EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE

Vacation Bible School 2025



*Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
And let us exalt His name together!*

Save the dates! July 13; July 20, 21, and 22; Aug 9.
Lots of fun is planned... including a special opportunity
for our congregation's adults!

More details to come soon!

Random needs and ministry opportunities

Hi church family! We frequently get asked, "What can I do to help?" And we greatly appreciate those kind offers. So, we've gathered a few ideas for you. Do any of these ideas interest you?

1. Provide meals for youth meetings
2. Drivers for youth outings
3. Provide snacks or juice for children's Sunday School classes
4. Visit thrift shops to look for artificial trees and plants for Prayer Walk
5. Building frames for blackening out windows for Prayer Walk
6. Driving lessons for adults who are newcomers to the United States
7. Academic tutoring for high schoolers
8. Transportation (on call or scheduled) for jobs and doctors' appointments
9. Make blankets or shawls for prayer ministry
10. Put out new ink pens in sanctuary
11. Adopt an area of our building to do a deep clean (walls, door frames, etc.)
12. Help clean out storage buildings or closets
13. Building shelves for storage
14. Help with programs for children (Sunday mornings or Sunday Evenings)

Contact Beth Woods if you would like more information about any of these opportunities!
336-480-4551 or woods777@aol.com

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)
Mail to: Jeanette Davis
102 Leonard Avenue, Room 210, Newton, NC 28658



Margaret Kilpatrick - Abernethy Laurels (Memory Care) (Room 2010)
102 Leonard Avenue, Newton, NC 28658

Robert Matthews - Heritage Care (Room 16)
3430 Lester Street, Conover, NC 28613

Rick Parker - Catawba Valley Assisted Living (Room 107)
4174 Shook Road, Claremont, NC 28610
(828) 381-4988 - Rick's cell (828) 381-7328 - Linda's cell

Mary Ann Simpson - Kingston Residence (Room 214)
904 2nd Street NE, Hickory, NC 28601

Sybil Windsor - TerraBella Newton (Room C13)
1088 Radio Station Road, Newton, NC 28658



Dottie Aycock-Harris - Mailing address: 1449 Brookstone Drive, Hickory, NC 28602
(Ron's cell - (704) 460-4919

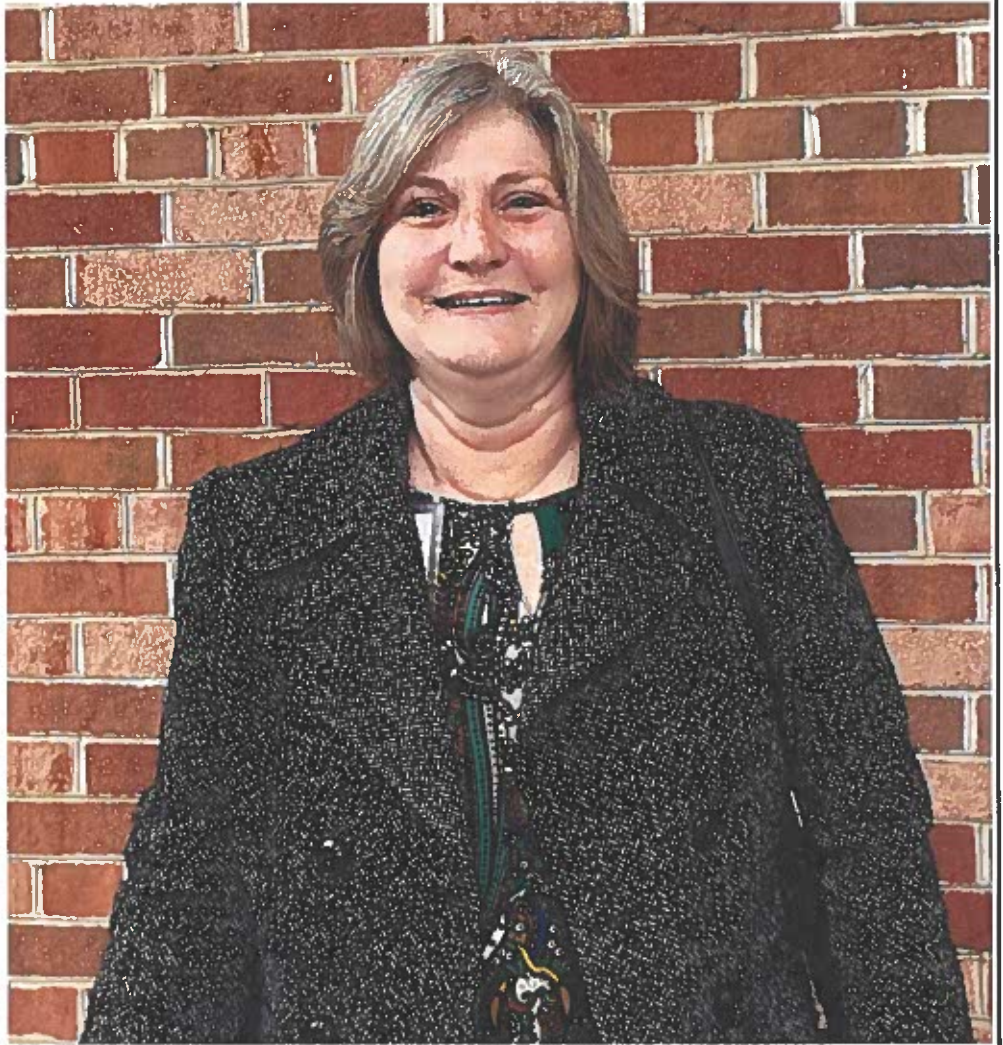
Don Hedrick - Mailing address: PO Box 542, Claremont, NC 28610
Physical address: 4028 E US 70 Hwy, Claremont, NC 28610
His wife, Cheryl's phone# (828) 381-7956

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.

**NEWEST MEMBER OF
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CONOVER
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025**



**Ruth Brown
1648 Farmington Hills Drive
Conover, NC 28613**

**Cell - (704) 904-6538
Email: rlbrown0419@gmail.com**