



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

February 18, 2025

In Proverbs 29, the Bible tells us that ***“where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained.”*** (The classic King James translation says that they ***“perish.”***) But thinking about this, it seems the opposite is also true: Without a people, the vision perishes. Without people who believe in the vision, and obey God, the task of fulfilling His vision will not be done.

Clearly, God has a vision. A plan for our lives. He wants to bless us. He wants us to experience His fullness and joy. He wants to meet our needs and lift our burdens and manifest His grace and love through us. God also has tasks for each of us to accomplish.

He also has a plan for our world. He desires peace on earth. He desires harmony and fellowship with people everywhere. He desires that people escape poverty and sickness and fear, and experience His goodness and forgiving power and mercy.



That intersection between His vision for us and His vision for the world is the place God is calling us to shine His light, to proclaim His goodness and to build His Kingdom. That's the place First Methodist of Conover is called to be.

Part of our work is to figure out what that looks like in some very tangible ways. What should our ministry look like next year? Or in the next eight years? What should we direct our efforts and prayers and ministries toward? How can we make Jesus “real and relevant” for homes and hearts and families around us? Who is God calling us to reach and how can we best do that?

These are significant questions. We find ourselves (as a church) at a point where we need to take some deliberate time prayerfully trying to discern this. *What does the Lord want our ministries to look like over the next 3, 7, or even 10 years? And what are the next steps God's calling our church to take to further His hopes and visions for our church and this community?*

Over the next few weeks, our church is going to embark on intentionally thinking about some of these questions. A small group of people have been asked to help us in this process, to guide us, to identify and share their understanding of God's plans. You may be asked to share your hopes for our ministries as well. I hope you will join me as we ask the Lord to open our hearts to see even more clearly His vision for our next steps here at First.

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:

Bill & Brenda Novotny, Christine Osborne & Carter Rathbone,
Robert Pannell, Rick & Linda Parker,
Elbert & Lee Ann Parris, Jerry & Julie Patterson.

MEMORIALS

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Nell Johnson by:
Susan Hunsucker

In memory of Dolores Setzer by:
Susan Hunsucker



A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you to our gracious church family for all the goodies placed in the Valentine's Day gift bag for Rick and many loving thanks to the ladies who made the delivery and visited with us. Rick is enjoying the sweet treats and we read each loving card including the ones made by our precious young friends! All the cards have made a beautiful door decoration and they will always be reminders of how blessed we are to be part of such a dear church family.

May God continue to bless each and everyone.
With much love, Linda Parker

WITH MUCH THANKS

I just wanted to say thank you to all that sent Valentines cards to Don Hedrick and for the candy. He sure enjoyed reading them and eating the candy. The thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Cheryl & Don Hedrick

IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

Harold Thornburg at CVMC (ICU)
Dana Little at CVMC (Room 442)

February 23, 2025

Anyone who wishes to be a greeter or usher, please call the church office at (828) 464-4635 to sign up. We need greeters this coming Sunday for the 8:45am service and the 11am service. Thank you.



Preparation & Planning Meeting

Feb 23 at 2:00
in the Faithbuilders Classroom

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.

COMING SOON:

***March Madness food drive

***SERVE 40-Lenten Volunteer Initiative
Details for both service opportunities will be in next week's newsletter.



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

To the devil's urging that He prove Himself the Son of God by casting Himself down from the pinnacle of the temple, Jesus replied that

- a. no pinnacle was high enough to test God's power
- b. casting the devil down would be a better proof
- c. it is written, "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God"
- d. a courageous devil would himself cast Jesus down

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence February 16, 2025

Sunday School:
94

Worship:
8:45am Service 121
11:00am Service 125
Total 246

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 10,302.00
(Needed weekly for budget: \$15,258)

Ashure Ministries 50.00
Children's Bank 18.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund 3,700.00

Total \$ 14,070.00

Refund of NC Sales & Use Tax
\$ 3,469.20

Correction to last week's report. There was only \$10.00 received for the Joshua Bible Study. The total was correct.

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
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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@fmconover.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@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

Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:
c. it is written, "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God"
(Matthew 4:5-7)

HEY, MORE NEWS TO USE



**YOUTH
DAY TRIP**

Sunday, February 23

Meet in the CFLC at noon for lunch;
travel to TOP GOLF! Return by 5:00.

cost: \$10

Please RSVP to Pastor Jason (828)-381-1174.

Join us for a time of prayer!

**Tuesday, February 25 -- 6:00 - 6:45
in the Parlor (upstairs above the office)**



Heartfelt Ministries will hold a time of inspiration and prayer on Tuesday, February 25. We will meet for less than an hour just before the Joshua Bible Study. Plan to meet from **6:00 to about 6:45** in the Parlor, which is located between the Sharpe Sunday School Classroom and the Library upstairs above the office).

**Children's Ministry Planning Meeting
March 2 at 5:00**



Pastor Jason and Beth are making plans for some exciting opportunities for our Pre-K-5th grade children and for our 6th grade-12th grade youth. But we need YOUR help! If you are willing to lend a hand - as a teacher, game coordinator, snack provider, materials prepper, or prayer warrior - please attend the planning meeting on Sunday, March 2 at 5:00 in the Conference Room. Attending does

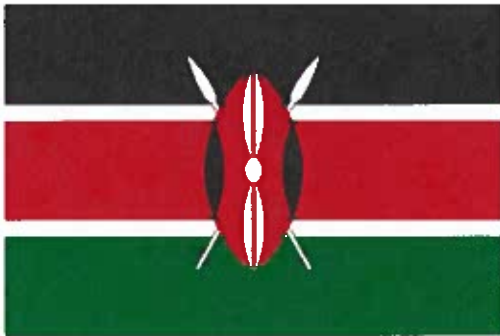
not obligate you to anything but gives you the opportunity to hear more about this ministry!

For questions, contact Jason Shoup (828)-381-1174.

Or Beth Woods (336) 480-4551.

Mission Trip to Kenya

Pastor Jason and church member, Ruth Brown, are organizing a mission trip to Kenya. They have worked with the pastors and the orphanage in the village of Kissi for years and look forward to including members of First Methodist Church on this next team. If you have questions or are interested in participating, please contact Jason at (828)-381-1174. Even if you cannot travel with the team, we ask that you support this outreach with your prayers, now and throughout this time of preparation.



September 19th - 30th 2025 [Dates will be finalized when plane tickets are purchased!]

- 3 days in Nairobi - Open air services and teaching local team
- 6 days in Kissi - Bible and food distribution in village, VBS for orphans and local children, teaching local team, Sunday service

Cost: \$2500.00: includes airfare, visa, hotels, meals and ground transportation.

Must be 18 or older and have a passport in hand.



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- Substance Use
- Aging

Get started today by signing up and taking a mental health assessment. Some assessments you'll find on CredibleMind are:

- Is it Job Stress or Burnout?
- What's your Mental Health Profile?
- How Strong is Your Resilience Network?
- Is Caring for Others Taking a Toll on You?
- Is Your Mind Full or Are You Mindful?
- What's Your Meditation Style?

By signing up, you will have access to: past assessment results to track improvement over time, your favorite resources, and handpicked CredibleMind resources right to your email!

No matter what you are going through, CredibleMind has resources to help with science-backed evidence you can trust.

Visit catawbacountync.crediblemind.com to get started



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

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