



# First Methodist Church

## OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

May 7, 2024

There's a part of the Bible you might not be familiar with. In fact, I would wager that very few Christians know about this. But I want to teach you because it's a part of our scripture that I'm "dwelling with" right now. It's a type of writing called "lament." In fact, there's a whole book called "Lamentations."

### What is Lament?

A lament is a prayer to God that expresses our sorrow, pain, or confusion. Lament should be the chief way Christians process grief in God's presence. Because many Christians have been taught to look on the bright side, Biblical laments can be jarring. And for believers whose lives have been relatively free from tragedy or heartbreak, lament might even seem unnecessary. It sure sounds like a downer.



But the world is broken. We are broken. We see and experience sadness and sickness and agony every day. On the news we see wars in foreign lands, stories of poverty and neglect, and a gunman killing children in schools. Of course, the brokenness is close to home, too: our children die in the womb; our brothers suffer with cancer; our neighbors lose their house in a fire; our friends turn away from church; our words cause deep wounds in our coworkers.

Last week's news of decisions the United Methodist Church made has brought me to a place of lament. If you were unaware, the UMC General Conference (which met in Charlotte), made monumental changes to a denomination many of us grew up loving. First, they repealed sexual prohibitions the Bible is crystal clear about by welcoming and allowing openly gay pastors. The UMC also voted to revert to a "separate but equal" approach to minorities in other parts of the world with a new "Regionalization Plan." Finally, mercy was withheld as they made no provisions for other churches to disaffiliate. Churches in the US who "waited to see what happened" have no choice now, and most churches outside the US were never given the option to choose whether to stay or leave the UMC.

I grieve each of these decisions. **More than grieve, I lament.** As I mentioned in worship, we will not bash or bad-mouth or attack the UMC. However, it is appropriate to express our lament.

What should a Christian do with sorrow? We must take it to the Lord! That's why almost a third of the Psalms and the entire book of Lamentations are concerned with lament. Like other emotions, God wants to hear about our pain. He wants us to lament. It's a God-approved vehicle for bringing Him our hurts, griefs, and regrets. When we do, God heals and mends our spirits... filling us with hope.

One day lament will be no more. The Bible says that God **"will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away"** (Revelation 21:4). Godly lament produces the fruit of hope in a future in which lament will have no place. So, Christian, gather your sorrows, bring them to our Heavenly Father, and pour out your heart in lament. He knows, He cares, and He is eager for you to trust Him in your sadness. It's where I'm taking my lament these days.

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:*

Gene & Beverly Swithenbank, Andy & Chloe Thompson,  
Alan, Jamie, Mackenzie & Madison Thornburg,  
Derrick Thornburg, Harold Thornburg,  
Jeff, Kim & Lee Thornburg.

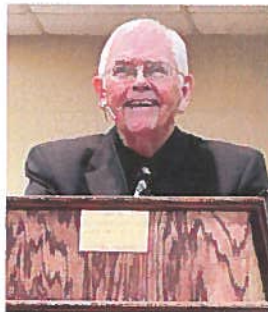
## **A VERY BIG "THANK YOU"**

What a great day in the life of our church this past Sunday!

Thank you to everyone who had a part in helping make our Homecoming service a success. Thank you to Pastor Mickey Moree for delivering God's message. For everyone who brought food, thank you so very much.

We had a good crowd of approximately 205 people. A good time was had by all!

Harold Thornburg,  
Homecoming Co-Chair



## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING**

**May 19th at 5:00 PM**

We ask that all Worship Committee members attend this meeting on May 19. We made a lot of progress at our last meeting, but we need to continue those discussions. We want to provide opportunities for all members to be a part of our worship services. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Jeannie & Anthony



**Worship Committee**

## **IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL**

None

## **MEMORIALS** **General Fund**

In memory of Carol Dickinson by:  
Lynn & Rita Watson  
Jane Wesdyk

## **Music Fund (Choir Stoles)**

In memory of Terry Martin by:  
Glenn Martin & Family

## **ATTENTION GOODTIMERS!!!**

Hi Goodtimers. Our May Lunch get together will be May 15th at 12 noon. We will have a salad and desserts lunch. We will have taco salad, chef salad, and garden salad with grilled or fried chicken finger toppings. If you can bring a dessert, please contact Eddie Warren at (828) 464-9643 to let him know what you will bring.

Thank you.



## **THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF**

The Staff of FMC Conover would like to thank the SPRC and their church family for the gift card of appreciation given to each of them at the 69th Homecoming celebration held Sunday, May 5, 2024.

The Staff are: Beth Woods, Robin Mays, Jon Rogers, Shannon Rogers, Kevin Haney, Luisa Bryan & Pilar Tobar.

The Preschool Staff are: Julie Robinson, Jamie Thornburg, Julie Caldwell, Cindy Pickren, Colleen Fox, Jessica Stewart and Emily Horton,



# NEWS TO USE

## Youth Retreat Opportunity – Registration is SOON

Rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade -12<sup>th</sup> grade youth are invited to attend a retreat at Fort Caswell located in beautiful Oak Island, North Carolina. It will be sponsored by CLUB Ministries and will be an incredible 3 days of fun and worship. From **August 9-11, 2024** youth groups are invited to attend this non-denominational event designed to educate, enlighten, and energize young people through the Word of God! There will be inspirational speakers, inspiring worship music, and free-time opportunities for youth groups to explore this incredible coastal region. For more details, see: <https://clubministries.com/surge/>

If you are interested in attending this retreat, **please contact Beth Woods (336) 480-4551 or [woods777@aol.com](mailto:woods777@aol.com)**. If we take a group, we will also need adult chaperones. The cost will be minimal, as the youth fund will cover most or all of the registration fee. We need to have at least tentative commitments by **May 12** in order to organize our group and submit a group registration.

## ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food **request for May is canned fruits and vegetables**. These may be placed in the red bins in the hallway between the CFLC and Beth's office along with grocery bags. Thank you for your ongoing support of this ministry!

You're Invited!

3rd Wednesday of each month from 8:30-9:30am.

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Join us for a tour & learn ways to get involved.

Reservations are required.

Go to [ashureministry.org/events](http://ashureministry.org/events) or call (828) 465-1702 ext. 116.

Ashure Ministry has provided food and financial crisis assistance for those in Catawba Valley for 55 years.



## PASTOR'S QUIZ

"One soweth, and another reapeth," said Jesus, specifying that His disciples were

- a. sowers
- b. reapers
- c. both sowers and reapers
- d. neither sowers nor reapers

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

## **STEWARDSHIP REPORT** **By Our Presence May 5, 2024**

Sunday School:  
46

Worship:  
10:30am Service 205

### **God's Tithe & Our Gifts**

General Fund	\$ 18,012.00
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)</i>	
Children's Bank	170.70
Disaffiliation Fund	100.00
Music Fund (Choir Stoles)	<u>400.00</u>
Total	\$ 18,682.70



Choir Stoles needed

## OUR FMCC CHOIR

As we continue to move forward as First Methodist Church of Conover, some of you may have noticed at the late service that our choir is not wearing the stoles as they once did. This is because some of them are embroidered with our former denomination's logo. So the choir is going to have to replace the stoles. They have put together the new stoles with Thomas Creative Apparel (Thomas Robes) and are in the process of ordering. Anyone that would like to support the Chancel Choir with the purchase of the new stoles, please make checks payable to FMCC and put "Music Fund - choir stoles" on the memo line.

Praise HIM with voice and song!  
Your FMCC Worship Committee



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

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

## Attention All Ark/Museum Trip Passengers!

If you are registered for the Ark/  
Creation Museum trip, you should have  
gotten a letter with your baggage tags  
from Christian Tours. If you haven't,  
please call them ASAP! (800-476-3900)

In addition, you should get an email from  
me (Beth) this week. If you don't receive  
an email, please check your spam folder,  
then call me if you still don't have it.  
(336)480-4551

We still have a few spots available... spread  
the word!

I'm so excited to be traveling with you!



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

b. reapers  
(John 4:36-38)

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. John Woods <b><a href="mailto:pastor@fmconover.org">pastor@fmconover.org</a></b> (828) 464-4635 (336) 480-4550 - cell 208 2nd St NE, Conover
Office Administrator / Financial Secretary	Robin Mays <b><a href="mailto:office@fmconover.org">office@fmconover.org</a></b>
Coordinator of Lay Ministries	Beth Woods <a href="mailto:woods777@aol.com">woods777@aol.com</a> (336) 480-4551 - cell
Music Director/Choir	Jon Rogers <a href="mailto:jsrogers99@gmail.com">jsrogers99@gmail.com</a> (828) 244-7019
Music Director/Praise Team/ Pianist	Shannon Rogers <a href="mailto:srog101@gmail.com">srog101@gmail.com</a> (828) 244-6124
Organist	Kevin Haney <a href="mailto:khaney01@gmail.com">khaney01@gmail.com</a> (704) 914-6510
Preschool Director	Julie Robinson (828) 466-3158 <b><a href="mailto:preschool@fmconover.org">preschool@fmconover.org</a></b>
Lead Nursery Worker	Pilar Tobar
Custodian	Luisa Toro Bryan
Church Office	(828) 464-4635
Website:	<a href="http://www.fmconover.org">www.fmconover.org</a>

# WHAT A MESS! VBS

## New Format:

**Kick-off June 25; main sessions July 16-18; celebration Aug 3**

Our VBS planning team has decided to try a new format for VBS this year. We'll have a kick-off session on June 25 which will be designed to generate excitement and be an outreach to the community. We will have three main sessions which will be a "typical" VBS on July 16, 17, and 18. Then we will have a celebratory wrap-up on August 3. The team hopes that this format will help reduce the five-day fatigue and will allow families who may be on vacation one week to be able to participate in the other sessions. We will evaluate afterwards to determine if this new format was successful.

The team chose the theme, "What a Mess!" This curriculum focuses on how Jesus deals with our messes: our sins, mistakes, and weaknesses. Throughout the week we will look at these topics:

### Who Made This Mess?!

*"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* Romans 3:23

Adam & Eve, Genesis 3

### Jesus Loves a Good Mess!

*"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* Romans 5:8

Rich Young Ruler, Mark 10:17-27 & Genesis 3:21

### Confess Your Mess

*"If we confess our sins, he will forgive us."* 1 John 1:9

The Sinner's Prayer, Luke 18:9-14

### Address Your Mess

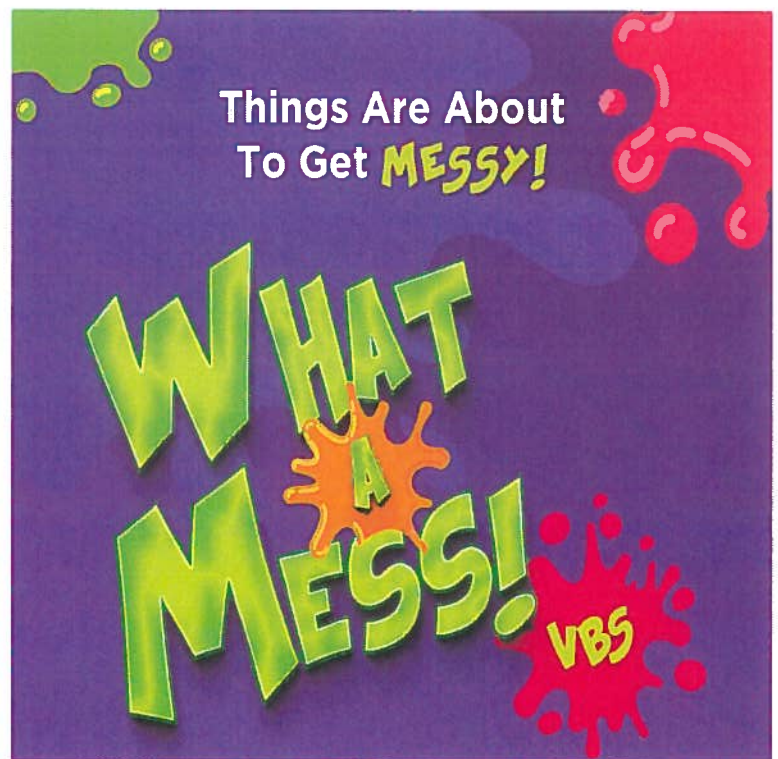
*"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!"* 1 John 3:1a

The Prodigal Son, Luke 15:11-22

### Address Their Mess

*"Forgive one another as the Lord forgave you."* Colossians 3:13

Judging Others, Matthew 7:1-5



All the while, we are going to have *lots* of messy fun, with messy snacks, games, crafts, science, and more! We will also be incorporating ideas from another curriculum that includes scavenger hunts.

We need dozens of volunteers for this ministry... if you're willing, we can find a job that suits your interest! Jobs range from dinner table buddy to group leader to daily clean-up crew. (Did I mention that it's going to be MESSY?!) Contact Beth Woods 336-480-4551 or [woods777@aol.com](mailto:woods777@aol.com) to sign up to help make some messy fun! Registration information for kids will be coming soon!

## EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE

### LIFE LINE SCREENING COMING MAY 16th

**Time is running out ....sign up today!**

Did you know?

"80% of strokes are preventable, according to the American Heart Association and Life Line Screening provides valuable health screenings to detect the risk of stroke and cardiovascular disease".

You can take advantage of these health screenings today by signing up for the complete stroke screening package which includes four screenings for vascular disease.

Appointment times are filling up! Please don't miss your chance to make your appointment today before the event is full!

Pre-registration is required. Sign up now by calling toll free to **1-844-591-7160** or **text** the word "**circle**" to **216-279-1607** or visit <https://www.llsa.social/hzca>.



## 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.