



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

January 3, 2024

2024 — A Fresh Canvas Awaits!

"Not that I have already obtained all this...but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:12-14

Thomas Jefferson once said, "I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past." Last week we took a look back at some of the major changes this last year held. This week, we turn our attention to this new year and some of what the future will hold for us. It's exciting! Check it out....

PRAYING THROUGH THIS YEAR AS A CHURCH

Every member of our church family has stood before the congregation and made a pledge...a promise, to be part of our church. The first way we promise to be part of our church family is through your prayers...by supporting one another, and our ministries through intentional prayers.

To that end, we've begun a process where **every person can sign up to pray for a specific day**. Maybe you'd be willing to pray on the day that corresponds to your birthday or your anniversary or some other significant date. As Beth mentioned in last week's newsletter, we'll be amazed at what God does as we unite our hearts as a family in prayer.



You can sign up on the calendar in the narthex area or online through the Signup Genius link.

ENJOY A DINNER WITH JOHN & BETH AT THEIR HOME!



Pastor John & Beth will be hosting a series of dinners in their home for smaller groups (6-10 people) to come and share a meal, build deeper bonds, and give you a chance to talk about your hopes, dreams, and desires for your personal family and our church family.

We're hoping this will be a fun (and relaxing) environment to connect, laugh a little, and hear from you. It'll be a chance to learn more of your story and also hear your reflections or thoughts about where God might be leading our church. If you're single, this is for you. If you're a family of five, it's for you too. This is for everyone, so join us.

Sign ups will be coming soon. Plan to "be our guest" for a bit of food and fellowship.

WE'RE LISTENING — CHILDREN AND YOUTH FORUM WANTS YOUR INPUT

There will be two forums in **January (17th & 22nd)** for parents (and grandparents) to think together and hear more of your hopes and wishes for what these ministries might look like as we continue to look for ways to invest in our youngest disciples of Jesus. Be praying about the ways we might build their faith and trust in 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:

Taylor, Victoria, & Olivia Little, Gerald & Sandy Loftin,
Jason & Jina Loftin, Andrea Long,
Susan Long, Bart & Jackie Lowdermilk & Jessie Crooks.

THANK YOU

Rick and I thank each of you, our Church family, for the beautiful cards, the goody bag filled with so many neat things, your continued prayers and the love you show so often in so many ways. We also are very appreciative of the carolers who were so kind to visit and offer beautiful Christmas music which we thoroughly enjoyed.

Again our thanks and love to each of you.

Linda Parker



IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

None

MEMORIALS Local Missions (Neighbor's Table)

In memory of Leta Tucker by:
Sharpe Bible Class

Youth Fund

In memory of Leah Lowdermilk by:
Fellow 1986 graduates of Newton-Conover
High School:
Beth Pittman Phillips
Laura Bock Ferrell
Lisa Helene Sanders
Sherry Goodin Ebel
Nancy Sinnett Tharpe (roommate at ASU)



Parents of preschool-high school!

I need to hear from you and your kids!

I will be having two meetings in January to hear the wishes and ideas for ministry from parents and kids of all ages. Parents and children/teens are welcome to attend. Both meetings will address the whole range of ministry for these ages, so feel free to attend either one or both. If you can attend both, you will be able to be more involved in the discussions. If you cannot attend either, I still want to hear from you, so please contact me individually to set up a time to talk. (Beth Woods 336-480-4551 or woods777@aol.com)

Meeting date & times:

Wed, Jan 17 6:30-7:30

Mon, Jan 22 6:30-7:30

Location: conference room (we'll move if we need more space!)

Please come and give input about what you want your ministry to be in 2024 and beyond! Be thinking about the frequency of meetings, location of meetings, types of studies, service projects, and retreats or other trips.

NEWS TO USE

GOODTIMERS - SAVE THE DATE!

WHEN: January 17th at 12:00 Noon

WHAT: Soup Luncheon and desserts

WHERE: Connor Family Life Center

If you can provide either a pot of soup or a dessert to share with the group, please call Eddie Warren at (828) 464-9643.



Let's go Visit Noah's Ark!

We are in the beginning stages of planning a bus trip to visit the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky, and the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky, sometime in the first half of 2024 (aiming for April, May, or June). I (Beth) have visited both of these sites and can wholeheartedly recommend them. Both venues are expertly crafted and Biblically accurate and both will educate and encourage you. They are well worth the effort to visit!

Price is dependent on the total number of people attending and the final itinerary. The estimated cost for this three-day trip is around \$650, which includes transportation, admission to both destinations, lodging, and some meals. If at least 30 people participate, we will have the bus to ourselves. Even if you can't make a firm commitment yet, please let Beth Woods know if you are interested. If we have enough interest, we will move forward with plans. (336) 480-4551; woods777@aol.com or sign up on Beth's office door.



PASTOR'S QUIZ

"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,"

- the shepherd who was needed by his flock
- Mary, after the birth of Jesus
- Simeon, who was not to see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ
- Anna, the eighty-four-year-old prophetess

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence December 31, 2023

Sunday School:

94

Worship:

8:45am Service 115

11:00am Service 89

204

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 15,853.23

(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,716)

Children's Bank 36.00

Disaffiliation Fund 200.00

Local Missions Fund 50.00

(Neighbor's Table)

Local Missions Fund 500.00

(Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

Youth Fund 90.00

Total \$ 16,729.23



ECCCM

Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry, Inc.

The **January food request** is canned soup and broth. These items along with any grocery bags may be placed in the red bins in the hallway between the CFLC and Beth's office. Thank you.

Volunteer day for our church will be changing to the first Monday in the month for 2024. Our next volunteer day will be Monday, Feb. 5th.

First Methodist Church
410 First Avenue North
Conover, NC 28613
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Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

c. Simeon, who was not to see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ
(Luke 2:25-29)

CHURCH STAFF

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

MORE NEWS TO USE



If you attended any of our recent services, you may have noticed the large January 2024 calendar in the narthex. I want to explain why it's there. It's our New Year's Resolution challenge!

We know you are already dedicated to praying for our church and we greatly appreciate that! But we thought it would be good to put a united focus on those prayers as we start a new year. We have accomplished so much over the past year with a new church name and identity and all the transition that has happened, so we want to spend time together in prayer to get 2024 kicked off right. The way we're doing that is to give you a chance to commit to praying for our church, specifically for God to lead us as we set goals and priorities. I'm just asking you to sign your name on at least one day and commit to praying for your church on that day. I think we'll all be amazed at all that God will do through a congregation that prays and listens! So, if you are willing to join this challenge, sign your name on a date. It's fine to have multiple people on one day, but I hope to have at least one name on every day. Thank you!

If you would rather sign up online, go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CAFAC29A7FE3-46980604-january>

I will transfer online sign-ups to the paper calendar. If you sign up online, you will get an email reminder a few days in advance,

Churchwide fellowship! Soup and Game night

**Saturday, January 13 at 5:00
in the Connor Family Life Center**

Special guests: all new members who have joined in 2023.
Please join us for a chance to expand our fellowship and get to know the wonderful members who have joined recently.



We will enjoy fellowship over warm bowls of homemade soup (spoiler alert: Pastor John makes a delicious chicken and wild rice and Beth's specialty is Brunswick stew...). We can't wait to try everyone's creations! Please bring soup or stew if you can. We'll provide crackers, paper products, and drinks.

After dinner, we will mingle and play board games or cards (or dominos... or any other type of game... puzzles, maybe?) Bring a few of your favorites! Whatever we play, we will be enjoying making new friendships and building stronger bonds of fellowship. (Second spoiler alert: this is a kick-off to Pastor John's next sermon series... come back on Sunday, Jan 14 to hear more!)

DON'T FORGET OUR MEMBERS IN NURSING FACILITIES AND OUR HOMEBOUND

Rev. Dixon Adams - Abernethy Laurels North Manor (Room 1035)

102 Leonard Avenue, 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

Connie McCoy - The Greens (Room 211)

3031 Tate Blvd. SE, Hickory, NC 28602

Rick Parker - Catawba Valley Living at Rock Barn (Room 107)

4174 Shook Road, Claremont, NC 28610

(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

Jim Horst, 317 8th Ave. NE, Conover, NC 28613

(864) 640-1235

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.