



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

November 12, 2024

OUT OF THE WOODS — Thinking about “Hands”

Back in the 15th century, in a tiny village near Nuremberg, Germany lived a family with 18 children. Eighteen! Just to keep food on the table, the father toiled 18 hours a day at his trade.

Despite their seemingly hopeless condition, two of the father's children had a dream. They both wanted to pursue their talent for art, but they knew full well their father would never be financially able to send either of them to study at the Academy.

After many long discussions in their crowded bed, the two boys worked out a pact. They would toss a coin. The loser would go to work in the nearby mines and, with his earnings, support the other brother at the Academy. Then, in four years, when the first brother completed his studies, they would switch. That way, both would eventually be able to go to school.

They tossed a coin one Sunday after church. Albrecht won the toss and went off to Nuremberg. Albert went down into the dangerous mines and, for the next four years, financed his brother, whose art at the Academy caused an immediate sensation. Albrecht's etchings, his woodcuts, and his oils were even far better than most of his professors, and by the time he graduated, he was beginning to earn considerable fees for his commissioned works.

When the young artist returned home, the family held a dinner to celebrate Albrecht's triumphant homecoming. After the meal, Albrecht rose to offer a toast to his beloved brother for the years of sacrifice that had enabled him to fulfill his ambition. His closing words were, *“And now, Albert, blessed brother of mine, now it is your turn. Now you can go to Nuremberg to pursue your dream, and I will take care of you.”* All heads turned to the far end of the table where Albert sat, with tears streaming down his pale face, as he sobbed. *No ...no ...no ...no” he said.*

Finally, Albert wiped the tears from his cheeks. He glanced down the table at the faces he loved, and then, holding his hands close to his cheek, he said softly, *“No, brother. I cannot go to Nuremberg. It is too late for me. Look what four years in the mines have done to my hands! The bones in every finger have been smashed at least once, and lately I have been suffering from arthritis so badly that I cannot even hold a glass to return your toast, much less make delicate lines on parchment or canvas with a pen or a brush. No, brother ... for me it is too late.”*

Today, Albrecht Dürer's masterful portraits, sketches, charcoals & woodcuts hang in many museums, but I bet you're only familiar with one of his works. In fact, you may well have grown up with a copy hanging in your home.

One day, to pay homage to his brother for all that he had sacrificed, Albrecht painstakingly drew his brother's battered hands with palms together and thin fingers stretched skyward. He called his powerful drawing simply *“Hands,”* but the world almost immediately opened their hearts to his great masterpiece and renamed his tribute of love *“The Praying Hands.”* The next time you see a copy, take a second look. Let it be your reminder that no one - no one - ever makes it alone!



IT'S ALL IN THE HANDS!

GRACE & 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:

Jimmy & Mary Jean Hollar, Clarence & Gaye Hood,
Charles, Mary & Matthew Hornick, Elizabeth Hornick,
Kaitlin Hornick, Sim Horst.

THANK YOU

Dear sweet church family,

The grief support team at Carolina Caring would like to thank the church for the financial gift and support given to the Grief and Healing Center thru the murder mystery. Thank you to Dana and Margaret for writing a story filled with laughter and suspense. The actors were amazing and funny. Thank you to the Methodist Men for preparing a delicious meal. And thanks to everyone who worked behind the scenes, along with each one who attended. I realize that individuals gave of their time and their talents, and I can not be more grateful. Your kindness is much appreciated. Blessings,

Annette Walker



ATTENTION GOODTIMERS!

We will gather for our November "PIZZA" luncheon on Wednesday, November 20th at 12:00pm.

If you are able to bring or make a dessert, please contact Eddie Warren at (828) 464-9643.

Greeters for November 17, 2024:

8:45am - Linda Parker & Eddie Warren

11:00am - Tommi Anderson, Jackie Lowdermilk & Gaye Hoke

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



IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

None

MEMORIALS Sound System Fund

In memory of Brent Rudisill by:
Jeanne Abernathy
Melissa Hunsucker
Susan Long & Kim Sigmon

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Brent Rudisill by:
Jean Slate

Youth Fund

In memory of Brent Rudisill by:
J.R. Sigmon
Teresa & George Byers
Pat & Alice Woods
Brad & Kim Little
Camelia & Donald Rudisill

IT'S CHRISTMAS! THE ANGELS ARE SINGING!



Hard to believe Christmas is just around the corner and it is time to order **POINSETTIAS**. Order one or two or more for: The glory and honor of your Lord; That loved one that is celebrating a glorious heavenly Christmas; That loved one that you see every week or that lives around the world and will see in a few weeks; In honor of someone you hold dear.

Whatever the reason, let's flood the church with the color of celebration as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, **JESUS!** What a wonderful name!

Order forms are located on the railing near the organ bench in the Sanctuary. Fill out your form, attach your payment and place in the box. Any questions please see Jeanne Laws or Anthony Price.

DEADLINE—NOVEMBER 17

NEWS TO USE

ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food **request for November** is **flour, cornmeal & sugar**. 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.

Thank you FMCC for your continual support of Ashure Ministry. In October, our church provided 15 volunteers with a total of 198 hours! You also donated 23 pounds of food. Along with this praise for our church, there were 12 volunteers who gave of their time last Monday on our church volunteer day. **THANK YOU!!**



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

DUE THIS SUNDAY

Thank you for participating in this ministry. While the items in these boxes are useful and a blessing to the children, a far greater purpose they serve is in showing the love of Jesus to the children and their families. **PLEASE PLACE YOUR BOXES ON THE ALTAR THIS WEEK IN PREPARATION FOR DEDICATION THIS SUNDAY.**

NOVEMBER BLESSINGS

November is a great time to count our blessings and to send words of gratitude and encouragement to those we love and care about.

Would you remember our shut-ins and homebound members with cards, phone calls, and messages during the season of Thanksgiving, letting them know how much they mean to our church family?

On December 3rd, you are invited to join us as we go out to visit these special church members and kick off the Christmas season. We will go out in groups to visit those who can't be with us during the holiday season and deliver a special gift to each one. Please be at the church by 1:30 to be a part of this ministry.

We look forward to seeing everyone on the 3rd.

Susan Hunsucker



PASTOR'S QUIZ

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of

- a. Satan"
- b. the secular authorities"
- c. the living God"
- d. the apostles"

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence November 10, 2024

Sunday School:
109

Worship:
8:45am Service 135
11:00am Service 137
Total 272

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------|
| General Fund | \$ 14,656.00 |
| <i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)</i> | |
| Children's Bank | 83.00 |
| Harvest Festival | 568.76 |
| Hurricane Helene Relief | 400.00 |
| Sound System Fund | 50.00 |
| The Chosen Bible Study books | 60.00 |
| Youth Fund | 305.00 |
| Total | \$ 16,122.76 |

DONATE FAMILY ORNAMENTS FOR THE CFLC FAMILY TREE

Through the years, we have collected various Christmas ornaments by families for the family tree in the Connor Family Life Center. If you and your family would like to place an ornament on the family tree in the CFLC, please put your name on the back of the ornament and place in the clear tub in the Narthex. The final day to receive Family ornaments will be November 27th. If you have ornaments after this date, please feel free to add them to the CFLC tree.

All those who would like to help decorate the Chrismon Tree in the Sanctuary and the Family Tree in the CFLC may help do so on **Wednesday, November 27th at 9:00am.**

Michelle Sierzenga

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



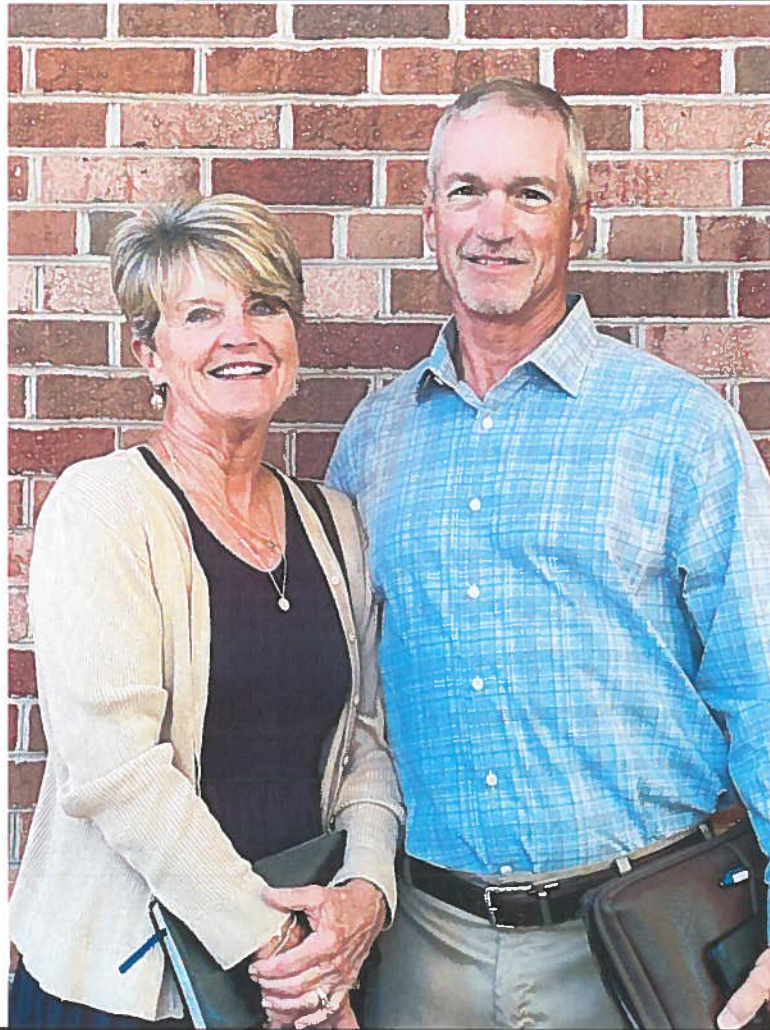
Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

c. the living God"
(Hebrews 10:31)

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 |

**NEWEST MEMBERS OF
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CONOVER
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024**



David & Marsha Phillips

**3660 Rock Bridge Drive NE
Conover, NC 28613**

**(704) 807-3426 - David's cell
(704) 724-3549 - Marsha's cell**

Marsha's email: mphillips080305@gmail.com

EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE

Our New Church Directory is Getting Close!

We are nearing our goal! I (Beth) hope to have all pictures and information uploaded into the new directory program by the end of November, so please make sure you've given me your information as soon as possible!

I am also willing to take pictures any time I am at church (Just stop by or call to make sure I'm in... 336-480-4551.)

Contact me if you need a form (or follow the link on our website: www.fmconover.org.)



Hoops needs your help!

HOOPS FOR CHRIST

YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Would you be willing to share a 3-5 minute devotional or encouraging word with the spectators during half time for each game (4 games per Saturday)?

Or would you be willing to prepare coffee and provide snacks for the spectators during the games? Costs can be reimbursed.

**Games will be on Saturdays: December 14 & 21;
January 11, 18, and 25; and February 1.**

Mark your calendars and plan to come cheer for these players at a few of their games! It's the best free fun you can find on a Saturday morning!

Please let me know if you are willing to help. Beth (336) 480-4551 or woods777@aol.com

STILL MORE NEWS TO USE



Operation BLESSING BAGS

Give the gift of Christmas to a child in Western NC

Fill a Gallon plastic zipper bag full of small items for kids of all ages!

Turn in bags by: December 1st
First Methodist Church in Conover

Suggested items:
Small coloring books
Crayons
Pencils/Pens
Notepads
Small stuffed animals
Candy
Capri Sun drinks
Small individual bags of snacks
Crackers
Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Socks
Gift cards for older kids

Pick a Girl or Boy - Label bag
Pick an Age category:
2-5
6-10
11-14
15-18

Bags will be delivered on Dec 8th to
Burnsville, Swannanoa, and other
hard to reach areas in Western NC

For more information:
Contact Beth Woods



Another Outreach Opportunity

Here's an opportunity to be in ministry to a child affected by Hurricane Helene. Several churches in Conover are working together to put together Blessing Bags for these children.

If you would like to participate, you can put together one or more bags or simply donate items to be put in bags. (see flyer to the left for ideas!) A collection bin is in the Commons Area outside Beth's office.

We will be assembling bags from the donations at the Family Advent Celebration on December 1.

Youth Group



Sun, Nov 17, No Youth Meeting (conflict with other meetings)

Sun, Nov 24, 5:00-7:00 Movie night at church with dinner – youth room

Sun, Dec 1, 3:00-7:00 Help with Family Advent Celebration – CFLC, includes dinner

Sun, Dec 8, 5:00-7:00 No youth – churchwide movie outing

Sun, Dec 15, 5:00-7:00 Christmas party – details coming later

HEY, MORE NEWS TO USE



Church-wide Movie Outing

Sunday, December 8

Showing time TBA, but we'll aim for the early evening show.

Join us for a fun afternoon of laughter and celebrating the meaning of the Christmas Season with an outing to the movie, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. It is showing at the AMC theater in Hickory (2000 Catawba Valley Blvd SE, Hickory).

We will meet at the theater. Everyone will purchase their own tickets (in advance, if possible). Watch for announcements closer to the date regarding showtime.

Mark your calendars!

Fellowship meal with a special
Christmas presentation from our
children and youth!

Saturday, Dec 14 at 5:00
in the Connor Family Life Center



We will enjoy fellowship over a meal (menu TBA), and after dinner you will be treated to a special Christmas presentation from our children and youth. It will be a "don't miss!" kind of night!

YOU ARE INVITED TO MEET

Eli, The Christmas Donkey

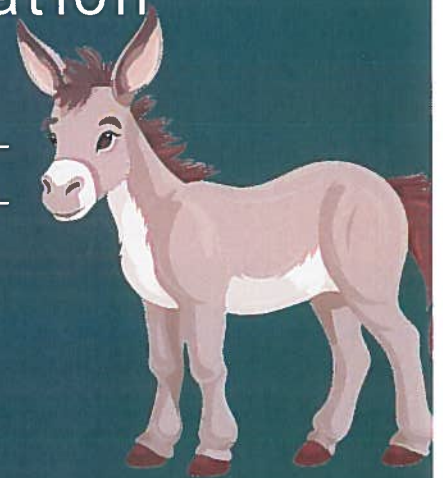
GAMES . CRAFTS . DINNER

A family Advent Celebration



| | | |
|--------|----------|--------|
| SUNDAY | DEC 1 | 5-7 PM |
|--------|----------|--------|

First Methodist Church
410 First Avenue N, Conover



Mark your calendars now for this special event!

Invite your friends and bring your whole family for this fun evening. We'll kick off the Advent season with stories, crafts, games, and dinner. You will go home with a plan for meaningful family experiences to share the rest of Advent.

We will also be packing Blessing Bags for children and teens who were affected by Hurricane Helene. This will be a chance for us to minister to those families and to be blessed ourselves in the process!

And you **DEFINITELY** don't want to miss the opportunity to meet Eli, the Donkey!

As always, I need help to make this event run smoothly! We'll be setting up for the event at 3:00 on Dec 1. Please let me know if you are willing and available to help. Beth (336) 480-4551 or woods777@aol.com



We are pleased to sponsor the children from Conover School for our Angel Tree again this year. The Conover School is a separate public school for children of various ages that have disabilities. Each child has specific needs, so we try to give exact information for the items that will accommodate each child.

The Angel Tree will be setup in the area outside of Beth's office. The tree will be up by Sunday, November 24. If you are able to attend the services, you can select a name from the tree. Please write your name on the sign-up sheet along with your phone number.

Gifts will be due back by the end of the 11:00 church service on Sunday, December 8.

I realize that it may not be convenient to select a name from the tree or shop for an angel. I have setup an email address angelsfmcc@yahoo.com so you can communicate with me directly if you want to participate in the Angel Tree ministry this season. I will be happy to select an angel for you from the tree and/or do the shopping for you. If you are interested in this option, please email me now at the address above. Just let me know what you wish to do. If you want me to do the shopping, please let me know how much you want to contribute in the email you send to me. You can pay me via cash, check, or Venmo.

We appreciate your help with this and we know that these children will be blessed with your kindness! Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 828-320-9904. Thank you so much!

Dana Little

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

Dottie Aycock-Harris - Terra Bella Newton (Room A5&6)
1088 Radio Station Road, Newton, NC 28658
(704) 460-4919 - Ron's cell phone
noghost@bellsouth.net - email address



James Davis - Abernethy Laurels (Memory Care Center)
Mail to: Jeanette Davis
210 Leonard 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

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

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 - Kingston Residence (Room ???)
904 2nd Street NE, Apt. 109, Hickory, NC 28601

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



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.