



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

April 23, 2025

WHISPERS IN THE WOODS — CROSS-PURPOSES

LET ME ASK YOU A QUESTION TODAY....WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH?

Some might say to build buildings! Others that it's to meet each week for an hour or so dressed in your best clothes. Still others might suggest the purpose has to do with getting people into Heaven, or saving them from Hell. Let me share with you a great story that might give us some insight into the reason for the Church.

Puccini ("Poo-che-nee") was an Italian musician who composed the operas *La Boheme* and *Madame Butterfly*. It was during his battle with cancer in 1922 that he began to write *Turandot*, which many now consider his best opera.

He worked on the score day and night, despite his friends' advice to rest and to save his energy. When his sickness worsened, Puccini said to his students, "If I don't finish *Turandot*, I want you to finish it." He died in 1924, leaving the work unfinished.



Students gathered all that was written of *Turandot*, studied it in great detail, and then proceeded to write the remainder of the opera. The world premier was performed in the La Scala Opera House in Milan in 1926, conducted by Toscanini, Puccini's favorite student.

The opera went beautifully until Toscanini came to the end of the part written by Puccini. He stopped the music, put down the baton, turned to the audience, and announced, "Thus far the master wrote, until he died." There was a long pause; no one moved.

Then Toscanini picked up the baton, turned to the audience, and, with tears in his eyes, announced, "But his disciples finished his work." The opera closed to thunderous applause, and to a permanent place in the annals of great works.



Now that's a purpose I can understand! **To be a disciple who helps finish the work that the Master began.** That's a purpose I can be involved with...regardless of my age, learning, location, athletic ability, bank balance, marital status, talent or schedule.

Won't you join me in rethinking how you look at church and what we're about? The Master's work is yet unfinished.

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:

Jeff, Michelle & Jacob Sierzenga, Carl, Lori, Lauren & Megan Sigmon, Danielle & Josh Sigmon, Powell & Virginia Sigmon, Alma Jo & Rachael Simmons, Donald & Victoria Simpson.



BABY in bloom

JOIN US FOR A BABY SHOWER HONORING

LINDSAY KEISLER

SUNDAY,
APRIL 27
12:00 - 3:00 PM

All are invited to the CFLC to celebrate the newest addition to the Keisler family!

Registered at babylist.com

A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Priscilla "Sim" Horst, age 94 and a member of First Methodist Church of Conover, died Saturday, April 12th at the home of her daughter, Pam Stodghill.

A Service of Remembrance will be held at First Methodist Church of Conover at 11:00am on Saturday, May 3, 2025. The family will receive friends following the service in the Connor Family Life Center.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her daughters, Pam Stodghill and Kim Cline and the rest of the family during this sad time.

MEMORIAL

Music Fund

In memory of Terry Martin by:
The Martin Family

IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

Everest Hedrick at Duke

GREETERS FOR APRIL 27

8:45am - Jeanne Abernathy & Melissa Hunsucker

11:00am - Jeannie Houston

If you would like to greet your church family on Sunday mornings, please contact Nancy Wall at (704) 325-0330.

METHODIST MEN'S MEETING

The Methodist Men will meet in the Connor Family Life Center on Thursday, April 24th. A meal will be served at 6pm. We need 5-7 members to help set up and prepare the meal. A program will follow the meal.

Please invite a neighbor or friend to attend.



UPPER ROOMS

The May / June "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/>

JOIN US FOR A TIME OF PRAYER



6:30 Every Tuesday in the Parlor (upstairs)

Heartfelt is a group that meets weekly for about 45 minutes to pray for our church, specific needs, and our world! If you have a prayer request or would like to share in the blessing of this ministry, please join us or contact Tommi Anderson (828) 238-5717.

NEWS TO USE



ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food request for April is canned or dried beans. 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.

Anita Deal



PASTOR'S QUIZ

You should not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, said Jesus; that is, you should

- a. try to do but one good deed at a time
- b. overcome your baser impulses
- c. give alms in secret
- d. cut off either hand if it offends you

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



Connor College Scholarship

Forms available in church office.

Deadline April 27



THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

These words are not nearly enough to express our appreciation to

everyone who gave of themselves to make our 2025 Journey to Jerusalem Prayer Walk a faith-inspiring event. We hosted over 600 guests ("travelers") who were greatly blessed by this message and the experience they found at our church. This ministry truly takes thousands of hours – put in by many, many people – to bring it to life. And every task—from hanging fabric, signs and lights to welcoming guests as they entered, and from feeding our team to sitting quietly in a Biblical costume—is crucial. We were blessed by volunteers from within our church and from our community who portrayed Jesus in three different settings and other characters such as Roman soldiers, Herod, and the angel at the tomb. We have many extraordinary volunteers who give so much of themselves to help our community feel how very much Jesus loves us. A special "Thank you" to the Sunday School classes who graciously gave up their classrooms for a few weeks! And a huge "Thank You" to the dozens of workers who disassembled and put away the enormous volume of materials in just 6 hours!

Although our buildings are (almost) back to normal, this ministry is not over. We know you've been praying already – Thank you! Please continue to pray for the hearts of all who were touched by this. We had a "prayer request" box that was used every night by our guests. We don't have to know the particular information on those requests in order to pray for them. God knows the needs!

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence April 20, 2025

Sunday School:
87

Worship:
8:45am Service 236
11:00am Service 212
Total 448

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$	13,237.99
(Needed weekly for budget: \$15,258)		
Children's Bank		126.00
Music Fund		<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$	13,463.99

Correction to last week's General Fund:
\$12,451.31 instead of the amount that was listed.

Maundy Thursday Service attendance: 128

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
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



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

c. give alms in secret
(Matthew 6:3-4)

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



Conover Community Partners Presents



To Benefit the:

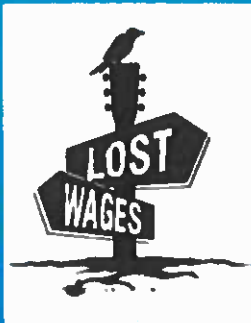


Children's
ADVOCACY & PROTECTION CENTER
OF CATAWBA COUNTY

FREE
to the
Public!

SATURDAY | MAY 3
11 A.M. - 6 P.M.

Live Music by



From 3-6 pm

Live DJ
Trophies
50/50 Raffle
Door Prizes
Vendors
Food Trucks
Beer Garden

CAR SHOW FOR A CAUSE!
ALL MAKES AND MODELS WELCOME!

Vehicle registration: \$20.00 (At the Gate)
Gates open at 10:00 a.m. for Car Show Vehicles

Conover Station | Conover City Park
361 5th Ave SE | Conover, NC 28613

Benefiting
The Children's Advocacy
and Protection Center
Catawba CountyCAPC.org

Contact Information:
Mark Minton 828-850-9160

Email:
conovercruzn.capevents@gmail.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

Dottie Aycock-Harris - TerraBella Newton, (Room B1)
1088 Radio Station Road, Newton, NC 28658
Ron's cell - (704) 460-4919



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

Gilda Pennell - Abernethy Laurels (2103 Noble)
102 Leonard Avenue
Newton, NC 28658

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

Sybil Windsor - TerraBella Newton (Room C1)
1088 Radio Station Road, Newton, NC 28658



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.