



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

August 27, 2024

Out of the Woods — “When Three Becomes Four”

Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, O king." He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks as a Son of God." Daniel 3:24-25

In his book, *Healing for Damaged Emotions*, David Seamands writes: “The day before my [open heart] surgery, a nurse came into my room to visit. She took hold of my hand, and told me to feel it. 'Now,' she said, 'during the surgery tomorrow you will be disconnected from your heart and you will be kept alive only by virtue of certain machines. When the operation is over, you will wake up in a special recovery room. But you will be immobile for as long as six hours. You may be unable to move, speak, or to even open your eyes, but you will be conscious.

During this time I will be at your side, holding your hand exactly as I am doing now. Although you may feel absolutely helpless, when you feel my hand, you will know that I will not leave you.' It happened exactly as the nurse told me, but I could feel the nurse's hand in mine for hours. And that made the difference!” Though my own [John's] experience was a little different, I can echo what David Seamands underwent.



In the book of Daniel, we read that as Daniel's friends (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) went through the fiery furnace, they discovered that they were not alone. And they weren't the only ones to recognize it. When King Nebuchadnezzar looked into the flames, he saw not three but four men walking about! The fourth man in the fire was the Son of God.

What these men lost in the adversity of the fiery furnace were the things that had bound them. What they gained was the certain comfort of God's company. The presence of Christ made the difference.

If you (or someone you know) are going through a time of “fiery” testing right now, let Christ's presence bring you comfort and peace. He will hold your hand. He will walk with you. And when it's over, you will come out stronger and freer than when you went in. Don't fear the fiery furnace; trust God.

I have chosen you and have not rejected you. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:9-10

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:

Monte & *Chase Connor, Ann & *Fred Cook,
Chris & Mary Ann Cooke, James & Donna Cooke,
Michael, Addie & Alex Copeland, Linville Couch.

IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

Spencer Monk at Caldwell Hospital

A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Tom Watson, age 81 of Newton and husband of Brenda Watson, died on Thursday, August 22, 2024.

A Service of Celebration was held on Sunday, August 25, 2024 at First Methodist Church of Conover with Pastor Woods officiating. The family received friends following the service in the CFLC.

Donations may be made to the Music Fund of First Methodist Church of Conover as requested by the family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Brenda and the family during this sad and difficult time.

NEW ADDRESS

Charlie Herman
Korea University
Seoul Seongbuk-gu
Anam-ro 145
C J International 625
Post Code 02841 - South Korea

(All envelopes should be light colored.)



Kicks Off Sept 8.

We are kicking off a new Sunday School curriculum for nursery through high school in September. It is from the ministry group called AWANA. The word AWANA stands for "Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed" and comes from the Bible verse II Timothy 2:15: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

We look forward to seeing our kids and youth growing in their faith and their understanding of a relationship with God. We have room for expansion in our leadership team, so if you are willing to partner with the faithful teachers we have, please let me know. We need regular teachers and substitute teachers as well as people who would be willing to occasionally mentor some of our young students. Most of all, we ask your prayer support for this program!

Greeters for September 1

8:25-8:45 – ??????????????????????

10:40-11 – Tommi Anderson, Gaye Hoke



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

**THE CHURCH OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, SEPT. 2**

(In Observance of Labor Day)

NEWS TO USE

ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food **request for August** is **canned food**. 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.

Ashure Ministry will be closed September 2 for Labor Day. Therefore, FMC CONOVER will have a volunteer day on Tuesday, September 3. Thank you, faithful volunteers for any inconvenience this may present. You are the BEST!!

Ashure Ministry's Annual Share the Harvest Banquet is October 19, at Hickory Metro Center. Music is by The Extraordinaires and the meal is prepared by Iazzo's. Tickets are \$40 and MAY BE PURCHASED FROM ANITA DEAL.



CATAWBA COUNTY HUNGER WALK

The Corner Table, Ashure Ministry, and Hickory Soup Kitchen will be hosting this year's Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 13. The purpose of the walk is to raise funds for hunger relief in Catawba County, and to heighten awareness of hunger issues within our community.

All proceeds from the Hunger Walk will be shared evenly between these 3 organizations. Please note the name change with deletion of "Eastern" and the addition of Hickory Soup Kitchen to the Hunger Walk as we now serve the entire county.

Registration forms are available for our church team. Please see Anita Deal for a form or to make a donation. You may also register online at cchungerwalk.com or by scanning the qr code on the flyer on the bulletin board outside Beth's office. Be sure to join First Methodist Church Conover team. Registration will be due September 15.



PASTOR'S QUIZ

"Greater love hath no man than this," Jesus said to His disciples, "that a man

- show his friend the true glory of God"
- leave family and friends for the faith"
- return good to his friends for their evil"
- lay down his life for his friends"

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT **By Our Presence August 25, 2024**

Sunday School:
115

Worship:
8:45am Service 144
11:00am Service 146
Total 290

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 12,402.00
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)</i>	
Children's Bank	31.60
Total	\$ 12,433.60

NEEDED: CRUTCHES, ROLLATORS, WALKERS, WHEELCHAIRS

If you have "used but in good condition" crutches, rollators, walkers, or wheelchairs that you do not need anymore, please think about donating them for others who are in need.

You may bring them to the church and place them in the hallway outside of Pastor John's office. They will be picked up by HW Robertson and delivered to Samaritan's Purse in North Wilkesboro.

Thank you for your donations and God has a plan for each and every one of them.



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:

d. lay down his life for his friends"
(John 15:13)

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

EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE

Global Methodist Church General Conference Informational Sessions

Are you curious about the GMC General Conference coming up in September? Do you have questions about what will be decided? Are you willing to pray for the issues being discussed?

Then mark your calendars for two information sessions being planned for **September 10 at 7:00 and September 11 at 10:30 am.** (This is during Pastor John's normal Bible Study time, but Bible Study will not be meeting that week.). Come to one or both sessions to hear Beth and Pastor John explain the business of the General Conference and the plans being made. (Same information will be presented at both, but the question-and-answer part may vary.) We will then also pray together for God's guidance to prevail in all discussions and decisions.

If you would like to read more about General Conference, check out the website: <https://www.sotheworldwillknow.org/> There you can find a list of all the delegates from around the world, the legislative committees that will be meeting, the petitions that will be debated and voted on, a proposal for electing bishops, information about connectional commissions (these will direct the GMC in the future), the proposed constitution for the GMC, the current version of the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline, the plan of organization for the General Conference, and more.

NOTE: You can also pick up the handout for Pastor John's first Chosen Bible Study (scheduled for early October) at these meetings.

Register now for the NC GMC Laity Convocation! Open to ALL! Come find your place in ministry in our community! September 14, 10:00 – 4:00

The Laity Convocation is coming soon, and it is time to register now! The Lay Ministry Team of the NC Global Methodist Church has planned this event for all laity (that's everybody!) to come together for inspiration, connection, and practical help for being in ministry together. Our church is hosting this convocation, but it is open to all laity (members or not...), so invite a friend!

The planning team has been studying Thom Rainer's book "Pray And Go" and there will be a session lead by Thom's team from Church Answers, and I know they will inspire us with ideas for connecting people to Christ. If you would like to read this book in advance, it can be purchased from Amazon or most Christian book retailers. (It is not necessary to read it in order to attend the convocation.)

The NC GMC Lay Ministry Team will be leading breakout groups on these ministry topics:

Men/Women

Youth/Children

Young Adult/Evangelism and Prayer

Certified Lay Ministry/Missions

Lay Pastoral Ministries/Lay Worship Ministries

Click this link for the registration page for this event: <https://form.jotform.com/242144736883059>

(Registration information is also on our website and Facebook page or you can contact Beth Woods to register if you don't have computer capability.)

STILL MORE NEWS TO USE

Youth and Children's Ministry Opportunities Ahead!

We are making plans for our children and our youth to have regular meetings as well as special activities. In order to do this, I need other adults who are willing to help. I can't do this alone!

I still need someone willing to do Children's time at the 8:45 service September 22 and 28 while I am at the GMC General Conference in Costa Rica. You can do something simple like read a short story or just share a favorite Bible verse. It's really not hard!

If you would be willing to provide a meal for (always) hungry youth, share your time and love as a children's or youth counselor (regularly or occasionally), help chaperone an outing or retreat, provide a program (regularly or occasionally), teach Sunday School, or help in any other way, please let me know.

As always, I ask you to pray for our young members and their families and all who help shape the faith of these children and youth.

Thank you! Beth Woods (336) 480-4551 or woods777@aol.com



We have a few openings for the September fellowship meals. These meals are Sept 3, 4, and 9 at 6:00 and Sept 8 at 12:30. You can check availability and sign up on Signup Genius. Go to www.signupgenius.com and search by Beth's email address (woods777@aol.com). Or use this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CAFAC29A7FE3-47259801-meals>.

A clickable link will also be posted on our Facebook page. We will set another round of dates for October. We will continue these as long as there is interest!

Pastor John and Beth

**NEWEST MEMBERS OF
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH CONOVER
AUGUST 25, 2024**



Tamara & Joe Hite
3774 Ridge Drive NE
Conover, NC 28613

Tamara's cell: (828) 514-5604
Email: tamarahite@msn.com

Joe's cell: (704) 425-2150
Email: jahite@msn.com

Our Youth are On the Move!



Last week, our youth enjoyed two outings... first to a Youth Rally at Balls Creek Campground. We enjoyed great music lead by a youth praise team and an inspiring message, plus ICE CREAM from The Shack at Balls Creek! A huge THANK You to Adam Stewart for hosting us for a delicious BBQ dinner, too! It was a great experience!

Then, a small group of us went to see the movie, "The Forge." I don't typically promote things like this, but I highly encourage you to check out this movie. It is a story that will inspire people of all ages to take your walk with Christ seriously. It will make you laugh and cry!

NOTE: I will be out of the country for the last two weeks of September and would love to find someone willing to host or plan a program for the youth those weeks. If you are interested, please let me know!



Youth Plans for Sept-Dec 2024

Sun, Sept 8: 5:00-7:00 Regular meeting with dinner – youth room

Sun, Sept 15: 5:00-7:00 Regular meeting with dinner – youth room

Sun, Sept 22: 5:00-7:00 BETH GONE to COSTA RICA – IF SOMEONE ELSE WILL LEAD, Regular meeting with dinner – youth room

Sun, Sept 29: 5:00-7:00 BETH GONE to COSTA RICA – IF SOMEONE ELSE WILL LEAD, Regular meeting with dinner – youth room

Sun, Oct 6: 5:00-7:00 meet at church to go putt-putting & get dinner out

Sun, Oct 13: Catawba County Hunger Walk

Sun, Oct 20: 5:00-7:00 meet at church to help prepare for Harvest Festival

Sat, Oct 26: all day! Volunteer at Harvest Festival

Sun, Nov 3, 5:00-7:00 Regular meeting with dinner – youth room

Sun, Nov 10, 5:00-7:00 Service project – details coming later

Sun, Nov 17, 5:00-7:00 Regular meeting with dinner – youth room

Sun, Nov 24, 5:00-7:00 Regular meeting with dinner – youth room

Sun, Dec 1, 5:00-7:00 Movie night at church with dinner – youth room

Sun, Dec 8, 5:00-7:00 Regular meeting with dinner – youth room

Sun, Dec 15, 5:00-7:00 Regular meeting with dinner – youth room



Meals Needed for Youth Meetings!

Would you like to be REALLY appreciated??! Then, feed the youth! They love to eat! If you could provide a simple meal (pizza, chicken nuggets, spaghetti, etc.) for about 10 people, our youth and volunteers would be so grateful! (Funds available to pay for ingredients.) It can be any time during our normal 5:00- 7:00 youth meeting time. Plan to stay and eat with us and you will be doubly-blessed! Contact Beth for sign-ups.

CCHUNGERWALK.COM

SPONSOR START A TEAM
RAISE SUPPORT WALK
SPREAD THE WORD



REGISTER NOW

BENEFITING



**CATAWBA
COUNTY**



**HUNGER
WALK**

SUNDAY | 3PM
OCTOBER 13, 2024
DOWNTOWN NEWTON
(Frank & Sue Jones Amphitheatre)

WHY WE WALK

To provide meals to the
homes facing food insecurity
in Catawba County!

INFORMATION

2:00PM - Registration

2:45PM - Awards

(Top Team Fundraiser, Largest Team, Top Individual Fundraiser)

QUESTIONS

Ashure Ministry

(828-465-1702 | ashureministry.org)

The Corner Table

(828-464-0355 | thecornertable.org)

Hickory Soup Kitchen

(828-327-4828 | hickorysoupkitchen.org)





That means our Harvest Festival for Jesus is coming SOON! This year's Harvest Festival will be held October 26. We will open our grounds to the community for an afternoon of fun, prizes, and sharing of our faith. An event of this magnitude needs a lot of workers and we still have a place for YOU! Here's a list of SOME of our needs:

- volunteers to help for as little as 30 minutes, up to 3 hours helping children safely get on and off inflatable slides and bounce houses
- groups or individuals to run a carnival game-type booth (we have resources to help you plan this!) and give away smiles, prizes, and a moment of God's love
- groups or individuals to assist children with crafts and to paint faces or hands
- people to serve food, give away Bibles, pray with visitors, or serve as floaters to help other workers
- golf carts or similar vehicles to help with set-up and clean-up
- music... do you know of a performer or group that would be willing to provide live music for 30 minutes – an hour?
- people to paint wooden crosses to be given away (workday will be announced later!)
- candy and other prizes to be given to our visitors
- people willing to hang a poster in a public location
- PRAYERS FOR ALL WHO ARE INVOLVED AND ALL WHO WILL ATTEND!

Wednesday, Oct 23, Thursday, Oct 24, Friday Oct 25 and Saturday morning, Oct 26: Help set up boundary fences to keep children safely out of the road, set up tables, chairs, platforms, signs, and other infrastructure.

After the close of the festival:

- Take-down, Clean-up and Store-away EVERYTHING. Many hands make light work. Please plan to help if you can!

Thank you! Beth Woods (email to volunteer: woods777@aol.com or call/text with questions: (336) 480-4551.

September 2024




First Methodist Church

OF CONOVER
A GLOBAL METHODIST COMMUNITY



Office: 828-464-4634
office@fmccconover.org
Pastor John: 336-480-4550
Beth Woods: 336-480-4551
www.fmccconover.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1:45 Worship 9:00 S.School 1:00 Worship	2 Office closed	3 First day of Preschool 9:00 FMCC volunteer day at Ashure Ministry	4 1:00 Hand & Foot 7:00 Choir practice	5 6:30 Hand & Foot	6 6:30 Dominoes	7 10:00-4:00 NC GMC Laity Convocation
8 1:45 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 1:00 Worship 3:00 Youth Group	9	10 7:00 GMC General Conference Info	11 10:30 GMC General Conference Info 1:00 Queen Esther 1:00 Hand & Foot 7:00 Choir practice	12 6:00 Conover Comm. Partners 6:30 Hand & Foot	13 6:30 Dominoes	14 10:00-4:00 NC GMC Laity Convocation
15 1:45 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 1:00 Worship 1:00 Finance Comm. 3:00 Church Council 3:00 Youth Group	16	17 7:00 GMC General Conference Info	18 12:00 Goodtimers luncheon 1:00 Hand & Foot 7:00 Choir practice	19 6:30 Methodist Men 6:30 Hand & Foot	20 8:30-2:30 Goodwill Re-integration Simulation Exercise (CFLC) 6:30 Dominoes	21 5:30 Neighbor's Table
22 1:45 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 1:00 Worship	23	24	25 1:00 Hand & Foot 7:00 Choir practice	26 6:30 Hand & Foot	27 6:30 Dominoes	28 5:00 Fellowship meal
29 1:45 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 1:00 Worship	30	<div>NOTES</div> <div>We have Sunday School classes for all ages. Hand & Foot is a card game; all are welcome to come play! Queen Esther is a women's group with a monthly program. Goodtimers is for retirees or anyone who is free during the daytime. Neighbor's Table is a monthly meal for anyone in need. *Call the church office for more info on any of these opportunities.</div> <div></div>				

Birthdays

Who = (everyone except removed); Filter = Birthday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Dan Windham	2 Stefanie Hopkins Vicki Rockett	3 Andrew Arndt J.P. Jones	4 Tommi Anderson Ronald Thornburg Charmaine Van Rooyen	5 John Hartner Kim McDuffie Emma Muller Camryn Pittman	6	7
8 Allie Bunton Barbara Hager Cameron Myers Mark Travis	9 Ashley Drum Taylor Job Lee Jr. Moritz Hunter Williams	10 Bill Harris Anita Huffman Steven Myers Derrick Thornburg	11 Amber Boston Mary Ann Cooke Jesse Kale	12 Hank Beck	13 Taylor Dellinger Robbie Herman	14 Jean Connor Kevin McDuffie Shannon Rogers
15 Jeanne Abernathy Junior Deal Todd Miller	16	17 Caroline Williams	18 Joyce Lagunas Brody Mason Courtney Patterson Cynthia Sherbert	19 Erin Moritz Betsy Walker	20 Perry Barnabas Waylon Conner	21 Lois Goodson Dianne Hollar Jim Wofford
22 Atticus Goscio John Hemmings Mary Logan Billy Sprouse	23	24 Anne Barrier	25 Kenneth Johnson Thomas McCoy Linda Parker Alexander Rockett	26 Shirley Elliott Kyle Moritz	27 Jeanette Stewart	28
29 Robert Whisnant	30 Michael Harris Cliff Wike					

Wedding Anniversaries

Who = (everyone except removed); Filter = Wedding

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Thomas and Amber Guinn Keith and Tommie Hall Clarence and Gaye Hood	3	4 Junior and Anita Deal	5 Mike and Greta Induni John and Cynthia Sherbert John and Charmaine Van Rooyen	6	7
8	9	10 Mike and Anne Spencer	11 Alan and Melissa Fisher	12	13 David and Robin Little	14
15	16	17	18 Jimmy and Mary Jean Hollar	19 Michael and Laurie Cashion	20	21 Bruce and Michelle Cloninger Don and Cheryl Hedrick Dennis and Jo Ellen Knecht Jerry and Julie Patterson
22	23 Alex and Margaret Putzer Wayne and Virginia Thornburg	24	25 Bob and Cathy Choppa Tony and Kathy Martin	26 Bill and Jenny Harris	27	28
29	30					