

# First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

November 21, 2023

## 23,000 Breaths

***"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!"*** (Psalm 150:6)

One of the good things about the Thanksgiving holiday is that most of us get to "stop" our full and busy lives briefly so we can slow down and count our blessings. Which is a good thing, especially when you think about how easy it can be to take our blessings for granted!

I was recently reminded of how our Heavenly Father cares for us—in ways we rarely ponder.

The average person takes about 23,000 breaths a day. Unless we are sick, winded from running, choking, or experiencing something else out of the ordinary, we rarely give this complicated and amazing routine much thought.



Biologists tell us that the process of inhaling oxygen and exhaling carbon dioxide is a complex task that requires physiological precision in our God-designed respiratory system. And yet, we do it tens of thousands of times each day without so much as a second thought.

We tend to praise God and give Him thanks for those "big events" that take our breath away. Sometimes it is good to be reminded that our mighty God is blessing us each moment of each day.

This week, I hope you'll use your breath to praise the Lord and give Him thanks for our many, many blessings – not least of which are those 23,000 ones you definitely can't do without today.

Hear this word from the Psalms:

***Praise the Lord!***

***I will thank the LORD with all my whole heart as I meet with His godly people.***

***Great are the works of the Lord. All who delight in Him should ponder them.***

***Everything He does reveals His glory and majesty. His righteousness never fails.***

***He causes us to remember His wonderful works.***

***How gracious and merciful is our LORD!***

PSALM 111:1-4

Happy Thanksgiving!

*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:

Jim & Sim Horst, Jeannie Houston,  
Patricia Howard, Randy & Diane Howard,  
Tina & Sam Hudson, Bill & Anita Huffman.

## MEMORIAL

### General Fund

In memory of Betty Hoke Fisher and  
Elizabeth Rose Keisler by:  
Eddie, Kristin & Emily Bennett



## PROJECT AGAPE

(American Greater Armenian Partnership Efforts)

Those wishing to make a donation may write a check to **Project AGAPE**.

**Mail to:**  
Project AGAPE, Inc.  
PO Box 25453  
Winston-Salem, NC 27114

## Tis the Season

The Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons are fast approaching and once again the Caring Ministry would like to spread love and joy to our homebound and nursing facility members. If possible, would you please remember these special members with a card this month and let them know how thankful we are for each of them? Also start thinking of ways to remember them at Christmas. Bags will be placed outside Beth's office right after Thanksgiving. We invite you to bring Christmas cards and goodies to add to the bags either on Sunday morning or during the week. Names are listed in the newsletter each week. Our deadline will be **December 12th** so that the bags can be delivered before Christmas. Thanks for all the ways you bless these sweet friends throughout the year.

The Caring Ministry Team

## IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

Jennifer Ball (at Home)  
Mary Jean Hollar (at home)



## It's Almost Time for Hoops for Christ to Begin!

Our basketball ministry will be hosting nearly 70 children (and their families!) from our church and beyond for about 2 months of fellowship, discipleship, and basketball! And we need YOUR help!

(Don't worry, we have the basketball part covered... you don't need to know a thing about sports!) We DO need:

1. People willing to do a short devotional for the parents at halftime of the games on Saturdays. Game days are December 16, 20, January 10, 17, and 24. There are 4 games on each game day (8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30). You can volunteer for any or all games on a particular Saturday. As of today, I only have one person who has volunteered, so there's still PLENTY of opportunity for service!
2. People or groups willing to provide and prepare coffee, water, and light snacks for the parents and other spectators on Saturdays. This is a simple gesture of hospitality as a way to be the hands of Jesus.
3. People to come to the games and cheer the kids on! You don't need to have a favorite team... just come and cheer for the effort being made!
4. People to pray. We realize that basketball is the primary activity being done by the Hoops program, but it is intentional that the ministry is called Hoops for CHRIST. We want to be a witness to these families. We are actively planting seeds for Christ in our interactions with the players. We need you to cover the whole program in prayer.

Please let Beth Woods know where you can help with this ministry. Please call, text, or email before Dec 1 so we can get the schedules set.  
(336) 480-4551 Woods777@aol.com

# NEWS TO USE

Our mid-week Bible study begins again next week!

## THE CHOSEN (Season 2)

*Tuesdays, 7:00pm or Wednesdays, 10:30am*

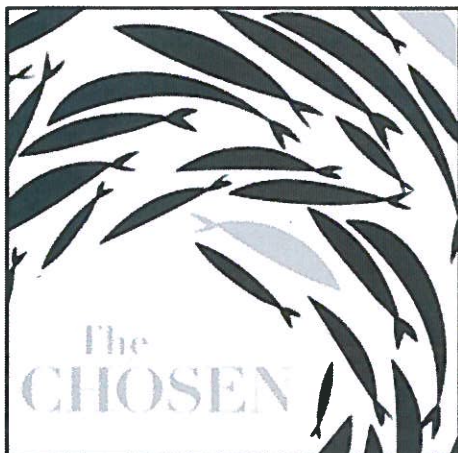
*Watch Party – every Sunday afternoon  
at 4:00pm*

Our Bible Study will begin again next week. This study will be following the next season of The Chosen (Season 2). This season introduces us to more of Jesus' disciples, most notably Simon the Zealot. We also will end with snippets of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. This will be a great study, so plan to be with us.

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE BEEN PART OF THE FIRST SEASON'S STUDY** to join us for Season 2... everyone is welcome! **NOTE:**

- Be sure to get your **manual** before the first lesson on Nov. 28/29.
- Watch the **first episode** before our first class (either on your own or at our Watch Party).
- Ask Jesus to **prepare your heart** for the lessons. He wants you to grow from by being a part of this class.

*P.S. - This season's study has been graciously underwritten by one of our newest church members who loves the Lord and loves being part of our church family! THANK YOU!*



## PASTOR'S QUIZ

The gospel according to Luke relates that the priest Zacharias did not believe the angel Gabriel's announcement that Elisabeth would bear a son, since she was

- a. a virgin
- b. not yet born
- c. old
- d. a Gentile

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

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

**By Our Presence November 19, 2023**

Sunday School:

78

Worship:

10:30am Service  $\frac{165}{165}$

### God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 22,713.89

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

Children's Bank 143.00

Disaffiliation Fund 4,100.00

Harvest Festival (T-shirts) 56.00

Poinsettias 36.00

Total \$ 27,048.89



Pastor/Staff  
Appreciation

## LOVE OFFERING

### FOR PASTOR / STAFF

We will receive a love offering for the Pastor & Staff members  
Sunday, November 26th,  
Sunday, December 3rd and

Sunday, December 10th. We will receive the love offering at the end of both services. The gift will be presented to the Pastor & Staff at our Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 17th at the 11:00 am service.

Thank you,  
Dave Markland, Chairman  
Staff Parish Relations  
Committee

First Methodist Church  
410 First Avenue North  
Conover, NC 28613  
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Conover, NC

## **CHRISTMAS DECORATING**

### **Attention Christmas Decorating Committee!**

We will be decorating the church Sanctuary on Friday, November 24th. We will meet at 9:00am to begin. You do not have to be on the Decorating Committee to help. We can use anyone and everyone that would like to help.

Thank you,  
Michelle Sierzenga



## **FAMILY LIFE CHRISTMAS TREE**

All church members who would like to add a family ornament to our Family Life Christmas Tree in the CFLC, that would be great. A collection box will be located in the Common's Area by Thanksgiving. Just drop off your ornament in the box. If it's after Thanksgiving, you may add the ornament to the tree.



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

c. old  
(Luke 1:13-20)

## **CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor

Rev. John Woods  
**[pastor@fmconover.org](mailto:pastor@fmconover.org)**  
(828) 464-4635  
(336) 480-4550 - cell  
208 2nd St NE, Conover

Office Administrator /  
Financial Secretary

Robin Mays  
**[office@fmconover.org](mailto:office@fmconover.org)**

Coordinator of Lay Ministries

Beth Woods  
[woods777@aol.com](mailto:woods777@aol.com)  
(336) 480-4551 - cell

Music Director/Choir

Jon Rogers  
[jsrogers99@gmail.com](mailto:jsrogers99@gmail.com)  
(828) 244-7019

Music Director/Praise Team/  
Pianist

Shannon Rogers  
[srog101@gmail.com](mailto:srog101@gmail.com)  
(828) 244-6124

Organist

Kevin Haney  
[khaney01@gmail.com](mailto:khaney01@gmail.com)  
(704) 914-6510

Preschool Director

Julie Robinson  
(828) 466-3158  
**[preschool@fmconover.org](mailto:preschool@fmconover.org)**

Lead Nursery Worker

Pilar Tobar

Custodian

Luisa Toro Bryan

Church Office

(828) 464-4635

Website:

[www.fmconover.org](http://www.fmconover.org)



## MORE NEWS TO USE

### DON'T FORGET our members in Nursing Facilities and our Homebound

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

102 Leonard Avenue, Newton, NC 28658

James Davis - (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, Abernathy 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 - Abernathy Laurels (Room 138)

102 Leonard Avenue, Newton, NC 28658

Sybil Windsor - TerraBella Newton (Room C13)

1088 Radio Station Road, Newton, NC 28658

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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

Leta Tucker 1108 Mayfield Circle NW, Conover, NC 28613

If you know of any members that should be added to our list, please contact the church office at (828) 464-4635.





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 set up in the area outside of Beth's office. The tree will be up by Sunday, November 26. 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 10.**

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](mailto: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 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

# Upcoming Children's Events

**Sun. Dec. 3**

**(10:00 - 10:45)**

## Advent wreath making event



## PreK-8th grade DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will gather at 10:00 in the Godly Play room (beside the 3&4 yr old SS class.) Each attendee will make an Advent wreath to take home. We will also have a lesson about Advent and the meanings of the candles. All children and middle school youth Pre-K through 8th grade are invited, and guests are welcome. (If you are bringing a guest or if you don't normally attend Sunday School, please let Beth Woods know you are coming so that we can have enough supplies!)

**Sun. Dec. 10**



## Birthday party for Jesus



**NEW DATE:**  
**Dec. 10**  
**5:00-7:00**

We will gather in the CFLC to celebrate the giving season and the Reason for the Season -- the gift of Jesus Christ! We will have a light meal and birthday cake, as well as a craft, story, and a visit from that red-suited gift-giver himself! Parents are welcome to stay or to use this time for errands.

**Fri. Dec. 22**

**4:30 - 8:00**

## OUR CHRISTMAS GIFT TO PARENTS...

Drop your kids (age 2-6th grade) off in the CFLC for a night of food, fun, games, and a movie while you finish Christmas shopping or wrapping! Or if you are super efficient and finished with all that (I want to know your secret...), just have an evening to relax! Kids are welcome in pajamas, with pillows and blankets for lounging to watch a movie. We'll provide dinner and entertainment from 4:30-8:00! RSVPs are appreciated!



**First Methodist Church**  
OF CONOVER  
A GLOBAL METHODIST COMMUNITY

**Beth Woods (336) 480-4551**  
**or woods777@aol.com**





JOIN US FOR

# Christmas with The Nest

**Saturday, December 9th  
10:00 AM - Noon  
Connor Family Life Center**

Ladies of the church, please join us (and bring friends!!) for light snacks, music, games and a good dose of Christmas cheer!

**Please bring a Christmas tin to the event with a small gift for a fun game. The gift can be homemade or store bought. Be creative! The size of the tin doesn't matter and we just ask that you spend no more than \$20.**

**(ideas: cookies, candy, scarf, socks, candle, soap, gift card, etc.)**

Response is not mandatory, but we would love to know how many people are coming! Text or Call Jenny Harris at (828) 358-5900.