



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

December 17, 2024

CHRISTMAS EXPECTATIONS

Donald Dugan tells about when his daughter, Nancy, was about 4 years old. He and his wife had tried to prepare Nancy for Christmas by talking to her about the real meaning of Christmas and why the family celebrated it.

Christmas morning, of course, was magically wonderful. There were lots of presents and toys all around. A few days later she was talking with her older sister about what a great Christmas she had. Then she said, "I sure hope Joseph and Mary have another baby sometime!"

Nancy understood the connection between Christmas and the baby Jesus, but she missed the point of it all.

At four that's understandable. Sadly, though, some folks much older than Nancy still make the same mistake. This Christmas be sure to keep your focus on the One whose birth is all we need!

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Fear not. For I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger"

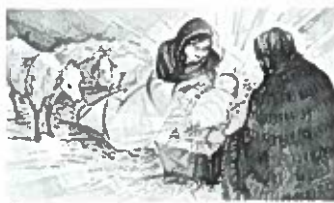
Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men, on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go up to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

—Luke 2:8-20



Merry Christmas!

Pastor John

A Note of Grateful Thanks

Words can hardly express our profound gratitude for you. Beth and I and the whole rest of our church staff want to thank you for the incredible outpouring of love and support you show us throughout the year.

We especially want to thank you for the abundant generosity you have shown us during Christmas. From cards and candy and baked goods to your generous love offering, you were all extremely generous in your love to us. God has richly blessed us, and we are so grateful to be here at First!

Thank you very much! Pastor John & your FMC staff & ministry team



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:

Margaret Kilpatrick, Jessica Kincaid,
Sarah Kiser, Clyde & Carol Kistler,
Dennis & Jo Ellen Knecht, Katie & Sara Knecht.

A SYMPATHY NOTE

Linda "Lou Lou" Smith, mother of Scottie Smith, girlfriend of Billy Sprouse, died Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at Heritage Care.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Scottie, Billy and the family during this difficult time.



A Christmas Invitation

A CHRISTMAS INVITATION

Christmas is a time for sharing, spending time with family and friends and our loved ones. Too many spend it alone or just the two of them. Just the same you are loved and are a member of a Special Family.

The Price family would like to invite anyone that would like to join us for Brunch on Christmas Day at 11:30 AM. All you need to bring is yourself. Just come and enjoy the fellowship and spending time with family and friends. I do ask that you let me know, but if you just show up, that is okay too. Our GOD will provide.

When: December 25th @ 11:30AM
Where: the Home of Anthony Price
2723 Kool Park Road NE, Hickory NC 28601
828-228-6467 (text or leave a voice mail)

Come and join us! "Look what GOD has done."
Anthony Price

P.S.

To all of my church family, there is someone you see every day that will spend Christmas alone, invite them in. "For there is room in your inn".

IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

Buck Calloway at Atrium Health (At home)
Everest Hedrick WFBMC (At home)
Dianne Hollar (At home)
Mark Pennell (At home)
Mark Deal (At home)



Christmas Eve - Candlelight Communion Service

**Tuesday,
December 24th
4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.**

You are invited to bring your family (*come as you are*) on Christmas Eve, as we celebrate the coming of the Christ child with two special Christmas candlelight & communion worship services at **4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.**

These services will be a time of prayer, reflection and meditation. Familiar Christmas music and candles will help provide an atmosphere of reverence as we ponder the miracle of this holy night.

Greeters for December 22, 2024

8:45am - Lisa Johnson; Donna Mull

11:00am - Tommie Anderson - Jackie Lowdermilk

December 29, 2024

8:45am—Bill & Brenda Novotny

11:00am - 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.



NEWS TO USE



ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food request for December is **Reverse Advent Calendar boxes**. 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.

Boxes for the Reverse Advent Calendar donations for Ashure Ministry are in the narthex and the CFLC. Please take a box and fill it with the foods listed on the side of the box. Filled boxes are to be returned to Ashure Ministry or FMCC by December 18. Thank you in advance for helping to supply food for others in the county, especially during this blessed season of the year.

NO NEWSLETTER WILL BE SENT OUT NEXT WEEK.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED WED., DEC. 25TH AND THURS., DEC. 26TH.

Please pick up your 2025 offering envelopes but do not use until Jan. 5th.

DEADLINE FOR 2024 CONTRIBUTIONS:

Please turn in all contributions by Noon on Tuesday, Dec. 31st for 2024.



PASTOR'S QUIZ

The wise men, because they saw in the East the star of Him who had been born King of the Jews, came to

- a. Jerusalem
- b. Bethlehem
- c. Nazareth
- d. Capernaum

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT **By Our Presence December 15, 2024**

Sunday School:
90

Worship:	
8:45am Service	159
11:00am Service	169
Total	328

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 11,144.00
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(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)

Children's Bank	20.00
"Hoops for Christ"	15.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	<u>100.00</u>

Total	\$ 11,279.00
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Deposited 12/10/24 \$100 - Staff Love Offering

Fri. Dec. 20 4:30 - 8:00 pm 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! Beth Woods 336-480-4551.



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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Conover, NC



Mark your calendars for January 28 from 6-6:45 for an initial meeting of Heartfelt Ministries. We will meet in the Parlor for a time of prayer and sharing. Heartfelt is a group of ministries that will provide prayer and other spiritual support. This will include grief support, but will be more than that.

Will you pray now for this ministry? Pray that God will call and equip those who will be providing leadership. Pray for discernment about what experiences will help participants to grow in their faith. Pray for GOD to be honored and glorified in all that we do!

Romans 12:15 encourages believers to "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."

If you'd like to share your thoughts, please contact Beth Woods at 336 480-4551 or woods777@aol.com.

Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

a Bethlehem
(Matthew 2:1-2)

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

2025

January

First Methodist Church
OF CONOVER

Office: 828-464-4635
office@fmccconover.org
Pastor John: 336-480-4550
Beth Woods: 336-480-4551
www.fmccconover.org



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

NOTES

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.
Methodist Men is a monthly dinner for all men.
Neighbor's Table is a monthly meal for anyone in need.
*Call the church office for more info on any of these opportunities.

5

8:45 Worship
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship

No Youth meeting

6

9:00 Volunteer
day at Ashure
Ministry

12

8:45 Worship
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship

Youth meeting 5-7

13

19

8:45 Worship
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship

No Youth meeting

20



Office closed - MLK Day

26

8:45 Worship
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship

Youth meeting 5-7

27

1



Office closed

2

6:30 Hand & Foot
Office closed

3

6:30 Dominoes

4

11

8:30-12:30 Hoops Games
5:00 Fellowship dinner
and Bingo
(Bring soup or dessert)

10

6:30 Dominoes

18

8:30-12:30 Hoops Games

17

6:00 Methodist Men
6:30 Hand & Foot

16

10:30-11:45 Bible Study
12:00 GoodTimers
1:00 Hand & Foot
5:30-8:30 Hoops Practice
7:00 Choir practice

15

25

8:30-12:30 Hoops Games

24

23

10:30-11:45 Bible Study
1:00 Hand & Foot
5:30-8:30 Hoops Practice
7:00 Choir practice

22

31

8:30-12:30 Hoops Games

30

30

10:30-11:45 Bible Study
1:00 Hand & Foot
5:30-8:30 Hoops Practice
7:00 Choir practice

29

28

6:00 - 6:45 Heartfelt
Ministries first meeting
7-8:15 Bible Study

2025

January



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

5

12



Wayne Thornburg
Brandon Bigue

13



Roxie Slaughter

14

19



Taylor Carter
Jacob Scott



David & Cheryl
Markland

20



Michael Greco
Juanita Whisnant

21



Layla Deal
Hayley Matthews

22

26



Brandon Hedrick
Michele Moritz
Debbie Wike

27



Lucas Hernandez



Fred & Ann Cook

28



Tony Garrison
Jonathan Myers

29



Anne Calloway
Greta Induni
Carolyn Whitlock

30



Nancy Wall

31



Linda Birchfield
Wende Briggs
Amber Hendren
Lori Schulze
Lori Sigmon

1



Evelyn Tozer

2



Eric Clark
Beth Travis

3



Pam Lowdermilk

4



David Phillips

7

8



Carolyn Ball

9



Tommie Hall

10



Loni Barbersek
Donna Mull

11



Evelyn Brooks
Carole Cloninger
Dennis Knecht

12



Wayne Thornburg
Brandon Bigue

13



Roxie Slaughter

14

16



Jimmy & Cindy
Clark
Gerald & Sandy
Loftin

17



Laurie Cashion

18



Joy Flynn
Mark Pennell
Sydney Roberts
Reese Rockett

19



Taylor Carter
Jacob Scott



David & Cheryl
Markland

20



Michael Greco
Juanita Whisnant

21



Layla Deal
Hayley Matthews

22

23



Robert Matthews

24

25



Andy Briggs

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 Assisted Living (Room 107)
4174 Shook Road, Claremont, NC 28610
(828) 381-4988 - Rick's cell (828) 381-7328 - Linda's cell

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

**NEWEST BAPTIZED MEMBER OF
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CONOVER
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024**



Kimberly Wike
3978 Shad Lane
Catawba, NC 28609

Email: kimberlytwike59@gmail.com
(828) 446-2628

(Pictured left to right: Kim Wike & husband, Steve)