



# First Methodist Church

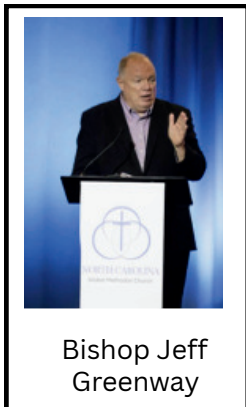
## OF CONOVER

A GLOBAL METHODIST COMMUNITY

Monthly Newsletter for July 2026

## North Carolina GMC Annual Conference Report

**Gerald Loftin** (our FMC-Conover Lay Delegate), **Beth Woods** (a General Conference delegate) and I just returned from the NC Annual Conference—where the Holy Spirit was present in some powerful ways.



Bishop Jeff  
Greenway

We gathered as part of the 402 GMC churches in North Carolina. As our Bishop (Jeff Greenway) reported, it was more worship and revival than simply a church business conference. We heard amazing preaching from Bishop Carolyn Moore and Rev. Tom Mabry. We also honored our current Bishop (who steps down Nov. 1) and our Conference Superintendent, Rev. David Banks (who steps down July 1). Both are transitioning to Senior Status (our GMC term for retirement). They have given clear, grace-filled and godly leadership over the past couple of years (Jeff for two, David for 3½ years). On July 1, our current Associate Conference Superintendent, Rev. Kari Howard will become our new Conference Superintendent.

Fourteen men and women were ordained into ministry, and we recognized our global mission partnerships with Uganda and West Congo. There was a palpable spirit of unity and a strong sense that the Lord is just getting started with His work among us here in the NC GMC!

## Global Methodist Church— 2026 General Conference

***Beginning August 30 in Johannesburg, South Africa***

The GMC General Conference unites clergy and lay delegates worldwide for prayer, worship, and decision-making that will shape the direction and future of the Global Methodist Church. It serves as a vital time for spiritual renewal and discerning God's will together.

Beth and I were both elected to be two of our NC delegates (laity and clergy) for this significant event. It's a great honor for us and we anticipate representing FMC and our NC GMC Conference well.

This historic gathering marks the first full General Conference for our denomination. (The Convening Conference two years ago had a limited agenda). It's significant to note that we will be gathering in South Africa. As Mike Grant, the Chair of the General Conference Commission notes: "Hosting the conference in South Africa offers us an opportunity to celebrate the rich diversity and growing witness of the Global Methodist Church across the world. It's not just a conference location—it's a visible expression of who we are becoming."



Our purpose is to begin to set some of our denominational doctrine (especially on key issues), to foster collaboration among our churches world-wide, and to ensure transparency and clarity in the governance of our GMC.

Friends, as I reminded our Annual Conference in my report to them...God is good, all the time!

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor John*



# Welcome!

The Staff-Parish Committee is pleased to welcome Melissa Cashmore to our staff as our new Office Manager beginning July 6. Melissa holds a Master of Business Administration from Abilene Christian University and comes to us with a wealth of experience in church management and communications. She is currently serving as Director of Staff and Parish Administration at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Hickory. Her expertise in financial management and communication systems will make her a great asset to our church.

Melissa and her husband, William, are proud parents of six. They chose Hickory as their family's home after William retired from service in the Marine Corps. They are enjoying staying active and exploring the beauty that God gave us in North Carolina. Like many of our congregation, they also have their favorite sports teams – you'll have to get to know Melissa and find out if you cheer for the same ones!

Please give Melissa some time to get oriented in her new position but then feel free to drop by and introduce yourself to her. She is excited to meet all of you!

## Retirement Reception for Robin Mays

Our Administrative Assistant, Robin Mays is retiring after almost 23 years of faithful service to our church. Please join us for a reception in her honor.

Sunday, June 28  
at 2:00



Alexander County Public Information Officer Gary Herman has been named the recipient of the 2026 NC City & County Communicators (NC3C) Chris Coulson Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognizes communicators whose service, leadership and commitment to excellence have made a lasting impact on local government communications throughout North Carolina.

"I am truly honored and humbled to receive the Chris Coulson Lifetime Achievement Award," Herman said. "NC3C has been an important part of my professional journey, and I am grateful for the friendships, mentorship and opportunities the organization has provided over the years. To be recognized by my peers is very meaningful."

Gary's dedication to public service and his passion for communicating with our citizens have made a tremendous impact on Alexander County," said Chairman Larry Yoder. "This recognition is well deserved, and we are proud to have him representing Alexander County."

NC3C President Adam Gaub added, "Those who know Gary best describe him as a helper — a person who is always willing to give of his time, whether it be for his peers, for his church, or for his community."

*Excerpted from an article in the Hickory Daily Record*



# July 2026



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

Office: 828-464-4635  
office@fmconover.org  
www.fmconover.org  
On Facebook & YouTube

John Woods: 336-480-4550  
Beth Woods: 336-480-4551



| SUN                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | MON                                                        | TUE                                                        | WED                                                                                  | THU                                        | FRI                                                      | SAT                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>NOTES</b><br>We have Sunday School classes for all ages.<br>Hand & Foot is a card game; all are welcome to come play!<br>Queen Esther is a women's group with a monthly program.<br>Goodtimers is for retirees or anyone who is free during the daytime.<br>Neighbor's Table is a monthly meal for anyone in need.<br>*Call the church office for more info on any of these opportunities. |                                                            |                                                            | 1<br>12:00 Heartfelt Prayer<br>7:00 Choir practice                                   | 2<br>10:00 VBS Workday<br>6:30 Hand & Foot | 3<br>5:00 Fellowship meal and ice cream<br>6:30 Dominoes | 4                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 5<br>8:45 Worship<br>10:00 Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship  | 6<br>9:00am Volunteer Day at Ashure Ministry               | 7<br>Adult Vacation Bible School 10-12 plus lunch<br>Vacation Bible School 5:30-8:00 | 8<br>9<br>10<br>11                         | 9<br>10<br>11                                            | 10<br>11             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 12<br>8:45 Worship<br>10:00 Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship | 13<br>8:45 Worship<br>10:00 Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship | 14<br>15<br>16<br>17                                                                 | 15<br>16<br>17                             | 16<br>17                                                 | 18                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 19<br>8:45 Worship<br>10:00 Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship | 20<br>8:45 Worship<br>10:00 Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship | 21<br>22<br>23<br>24                                                                 | 20<br>21<br>22<br>23                       | 21<br>22<br>23<br>24                                     | 22<br>23<br>24<br>25 |
| 26<br>8:45 Worship<br>10:00 Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 27<br>8:45 Worship<br>10:00 Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship | 28<br>29<br>30<br>31                                       | 27<br>28<br>29<br>30                                                                 | 26<br>27<br>28<br>29                       | 27<br>28<br>29<br>30                                     | 28<br>29<br>30<br>31 |



## IS THERE SOMETHING ON YOUR HEART?

Join us  
for a  
time of  
prayer!



**12 noon on Wednesdays  
in the Parlor (upstairs)**

### First Methodist Men



**Thursday, July 23 at 6:00 in the CFLC**

YOUTH  
OUTING  
to PELICAN'S!



**Sun, July 12 at 6:30**

All youth (rising 6<sup>th</sup> - just completed 12<sup>th</sup> graders) are invited to an outing to Pelican's Snoballs to get delicious, cool (cold!) treats. (no \$ needed - our treat!)

Meet at the GRAY House to load the vans to go get some summer fun! We will return to the GRAY House to play a few games. Parents can pick youth up at 8:30.

Questions? Ask Beth:

336-480-4551  
beth.woods@fmconover.org

## LIFE LESSONS from the BIBLE



New Sunday School  
class led by Pastor John

Join Pastor John for a new Sunday School class that looks at practical life lessons with Biblical truths. We'll meet in the CFLC at 10:00 on July 5 for an introductory lesson and fellowship, then begin with the first full lesson on July 12.

Questions? Ask Pastor John:

[pastore@fmconover.org](mailto:pastore@fmconover.org) or (336) 480-4550

### CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP DINNERS

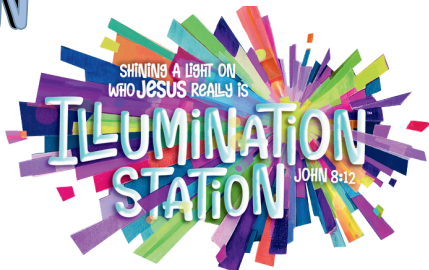


**FRI - JULY 3 AT 5:00  
PIZZA AND ICE CREAM!**

**SAT - JULY 25 AT 5:00  
MENU TBD**

JOIN US FOR THESE FUN CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP EVENINGS. WEAR YOUR NAMETAG AND MEET A NEW FRIEND!

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)



Good  
timers



Queen  
Esther  
Circle

Goodtimers and  
Queen Esther Circle will join  
the Adult VBS instead of  
meeting in July.

## Workdays

(cut, assemble, etc)

Thurs, June 25: 1 pm

## Decorating workdays

Sat, June 27: 10 am

Thurs, July 2: 10 am

## VBS for KIDS

(age 3- completed 5th gr)

July 8-11 (Wed-Sat)

5:30 dinner. 6-8 program

Register  
online!



[www.myvbs.org/first-  
methodist-conover](http://www.myvbs.org/first-methodist-conover)

## VBS for ADULTS

(We want to have fun, too!)

Do you remember going to VBS as a kid? Well, you can still have a VBS experience, no matter your age. In this special VBS for adults, we'll have a lesson that mirrors what the kids are learning, we'll enjoy some nostalgic snacks, we'll laugh a lot and even take home some memories. Come let your heart be warmed and challenged!

July 7-9 (Tu-Th) 10am - 12 noon

lunch afterward (included)

Register  
with Beth!

336-480-4551 (cell)  
[beth.woods@fmconover.org](mailto:beth.woods@fmconover.org)  
828-464-4635 (office)

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

1  
Armando Lagunas  
Brenda Novotny

2  
Cole Hendren

4  
Ginny Ward

5  
Dana Little  
Susan Sigmon

6  
Mary Ann Simpson

8  
Jessie Ross

9  
Welby Barnabas

10  
Billy Boston  
Karen Windham

11  
Jeanne Laws  
Zoey Boston

12  
Kim Little  
Jason Shoup  
Kent Walker  
Joy Watts

15  
Keith Hall  
Mack Hunsucker

16  
Michele Danner  
Brenda Putnam

17  
Patsy Isaac  
Eli Matson  
Susan Reinhardt

18  
Mark Hamilton

19  
Margaret Putzer  
Andrew Thompson, Sr

21  
Kim Hentschel  
McKenzie Moritz  
Mack Putzer  
Beverly Swithenbank

23  
Rona Reed  
Marsha Williams

25  
Justin Hendren

26  
Samantha Hawn  
Sandra Loftin

28  
Peggy Rudisill

29  
Kaela Briggs  
Margaret Garrison

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

1  
Daniel & Karen Windham

12  
Richard & Gloria Huffman

17  
Debbie & Randy Bernhardt  
Taylor & Fara Dellinger

18  
Gary & Sharon Keuper

19  
Lee Jr. & Michele Moritz  
David & Tracy Workman

28  
Charlie & Tommi Anderson

30  
David & Brenda Putnam



## Nursery Help



Would you be willing to help in the nursery? Or to coordinate volunteers for nursery help? Call the church office or talk to Beth Woods.

Love to all,  
Robin Mays

Thank You

With sincere appreciation,  
The Corner Table

AND PRAY  
 CALLED BY MY NAME  
 HUMBLE THEMSELVES  
 SEEK MY FACE  
 I WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN  
 THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN  
 HEAL THEIR LAND  
 WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME  
 HUMBLE THEMSELVES  
 I WILL HEAR  
 SEEK MY FACE  
 AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED  
 HEAL THEMSELVES AND PRAY  
 HEAL THEIR LAND  
**IF MY PEOPLE**  
 FROM HEAVEN  
 I WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN  
 AND SEEK MY FACE  
 WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME  
 TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS  
**THEIR LAND**  
 PRAY AND SEEK HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY  
 HEAR FROM HEAVEN  
**HEAR**  
 CALLED BY MY NAME  
 TURN FROM  
 FORGIVE  
 HUMBLE  
 WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME

**RESTORING THE SOUL OF AMERICA**  
2 CHRONICLES 7:14

# Stewardship Report

## By Our Presence May 31, 2026

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Sunday School:    | 105        |
| 8:45am Service -  | 137        |
| 11:00am Service - | <u>141</u> |
| Total             | 278        |

## **God's Tithe & Our Gifts**

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| **General Fund           | \$13,449.00     |
| Children's Bank          | 63.00           |
| Music Fund               | 48.67           |
| Puerto Rico Mission Trip | <u>1,745.00</u> |
| Total                    | \$15,305.67     |

## By Our Presence June 7, 2026

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Sunday School:  | 106        |
| 8:45am Service  | 160        |
| 11:00am Service | <u>160</u> |
| Total           | 320        |

## **God's Tithe & Our Gifts**

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| **General Fund  | \$22,980.21   |
| Children's Bank | 81.00         |
| Columbarium     | <u>150.00</u> |
| Total           | \$21,870.00   |

## By Our Presence June 14, 2026

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Sunday School:    | 97         |
| 8:45am Service    | 174        |
| 11:00am Service - | <u>159</u> |
| Total             | 333        |

## **God's Tithe & Our Gifts**

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| **General Fund     | \$23,039.00   |
| Children's Bank    | 111.00        |
| Kenya Mission Trip | <u>200.00</u> |
| Total              | \$23,350.00   |

## By Our Presence June 21, 2026

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Sunday School:    | 85         |
| 8:45am Service    | 131        |
| 11:00am Service - | <u>160</u> |
| Total             | 291        |

## **God's Tithe & Our Gifts**

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| **General Fund         | \$10,833.15     |
| Ashure Ministries      | 50.00           |
| Children's Bank        | 96.00           |
| Pastor's Discretionary | 500.00          |
| Project AGAPE          | <u>1,589.00</u> |
| Total                  | \$13,068.15     |

# Memorial gifts

## General Fund

In memory of Mary Ann Cooke by:  
Pete & Melinda Keel  
Johnny & Ellen Hunsucker

**WITH LOVE  
& SYMPATHY**



Lewis James Mays, age 90 and brother of Arthur (Windy) Mays, died Sunday, June 14, 2026. A graveside service was held on Thursday, June 18, 2026 at Liledoun Baptist Church Cemetery at 2pm. Our thoughts and prayers are with Windy, Robin and the family during this sad time.

\*\*\*\*\*

Linville Philmore Couch, age 87 and a member of First Methodist Church of Conover, died Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at Westwood Hills Nursing & Rehab Center in Wilkesboro, NC. A service was held Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at Elkin Funeral Service. Our thoughts & prayers are with the family at this time.



*The Worship Committee has decided to offer monthly communion for the summer months. So, we will have Holy Communion in both services on July 5 and August 2.*

*If you are willing to be a communion server for either of these dates, please let Beth Woods or Gail Sanders know.*



**First Methodist Church**  
OF CONOVER  
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410 First Avenue North  
Conover, NC 28613

*Return Service Requested*

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

## Contact us!

|                                               |                                                                                     |                        |                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Senior Pastor                                 | Rev. John Woods<br>pastor@fmconover.org<br>(336) 480-4550<br>208 2nd St NE, Conover | Organist               | Kevin Haney<br>khaney01@gmail.com<br>(704) 914-6510         |
| Coordinator of Lay Ministries                 | Beth Woods<br>woods777@aol.com<br>(336) 480-4551                                    | Preschool<br>Director  | Julie Robinson<br>(828) 466-3158<br>preschool@fmconover.org |
| Office Administrator /<br>Financial Secretary | Robin Mays (ret. July 1)<br>Melissa Cashmore (start July 6)<br>office@fmconover.org | Lead Nursery<br>Worker | Pilar Tobar<br>(828) 781-1224                               |
| Music Director/Choir                          | Jon Rogers<br>jsrogers99@gmail.com<br>(828) 244-7019                                | Custodian              | Luisa Toro Bryan                                            |
| Music Director/Praise Team/<br>Pianist        | Shannon Rogers<br>srog101@gmail.com<br>(828) 244-6124                               | Church office          | (828) 464-4635                                              |
|                                               |                                                                                     | Website                | www.fmconover.org                                           |
|                                               |                                                                                     | Streaming              | Facebook and YouTube                                        |

