



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

September 4, 2024

THE SMALL WORLD OF SELF-FOCUS

At Disney World there's this little boat ride that goes through this canal where you're surrounded by animated dolls from all over the world. French children, Eskimo children, Arab children, Indian children. You get the idea. And they are all singing to you, *It's a Small World After All*. (Don't you want to sing it with me?! Probably not.)

Going through the ride, you hear it about 50 times! It's really cute when they first start singing. And the song's okay for a little while. But by the time you hear it over and over, you're sick and tired of a small, small world.



You may have never been on the Small World ride, but you still might be sick of a small, small world. You might even be living in one and not even realize it. It's a world of frustration, negative thinking, sameness, and monotony. It's a small world. It's called the world of a self-focused "me."

God addresses this inwardly-focused kind of living in 2 Corinthians 5:15. ***"Christ's love compels us. He died for all that those who live should no longer live for themselves."*** That's supposed to be the radical effect of Christ coming into your life. Radical because it reverses the way we've been thinking since we were babies. When we were babies we expected the whole world to revolve around our needs. *"Time for me to eat, burp, wake up."* We were just totally focused on ourselves. No thought for how it affected everybody around you.

We're older now (some of us much older), but sometimes we can still act like we did when we were small — wanting all the attention to be on me; wanting my needs to be taken care of, my agenda to be carried out, my issues to be dealt with, wanting things my way.

There are two factors that can make us a pretty self-focused person. One is busyness. The other one is pain. But then think about Jesus' example. No one had more to do in a lifetime than He did. Talk about being busy! But He was constantly stopping for others, constantly forgetting himself to meet the needs of the people around Him. And pain didn't even change his "other-focused" heart. While He was on the cross, Jesus even cared about the people around Him and the ones who crucified Him.

When you invite Jesus into your life, it's this Jesus you get. And He wants you to be like Him. Not self-focused. A world that's only as big as you are is a world that's too small. Jesus invites us to break out, to start finding the needs around us and doing something about them, to focus on others instead of ourselves, to find our life, as He said, by giving it away. Not to lose your life by hanging onto it. When you make Him the center of your life, that old selfish "me" starts to die. Small worlds might be great for Disney, but not for the Lord's Kingdom!

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:

Sharon Crane, Drew Danner,
Steve & Michele Danner, Mala Dauber,
Gloria Davis, Hunter Davis.

NEW ADDRESSES

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

(All envelopes should be light colored.)

Robbie Herman
270 Dula Loop
Taylorsville, NC 28681
(App State Hickory Campus)

Zoey Boston
3360 Shell Hollar Road
Claremont, NC 28610
(App State Hickory Campus)

NEW PHONE NUMBER

Jeanette Davis
(828) 468-1103

Greeters for September 8

8:25-8:45 – Steve & Brenda Heafner

10:40-11 – Tommi Anderson, Jackie Lowdermilk & Gaye Hoke



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

IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

Spencer Monk at Caldwell Hospital (Rehab)
Beverly Swithenbank at Valdeese Hospital (At home)

NOTES OF SYMPATHY

Robert Richard Hanneman, Sr. of Whiting, New Jersey and brother of Ginny Ward, died September 1, 2024.

A Memorial Gathering for Bob will be held on Saturday, September 14, 2024 from 12pm - 2pm at Anderson & Campbell Funeral Home in Whiting, New Jersey followed by a Memorial Service at 2pm at the funeral home.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ginny, Ron and the family during this sad time.

Betsy B. Hemmings, age 80 and the wife of John Hemmings and mother of Annette Walker died Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

The arrangements are incomplete at this time. Bennett Funeral Home is serving the family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with John, Annette, Kent and the family during this sad and difficult time.

 IN OUR 
Thoughts and Prayers

MEMORIALS **Music Fund**

In memory of Trevor Monk by:
Jean Slate

In memory of Tom Watson by:
Jean Slate
FMCC Methodist Men
Jack & Betty Huss
Sharpe Bible Class
Brad & Kim Little
George Snow

NEWS TO USE

ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food **request for September** is **peanut butter and jelly**. 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'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. In order to reserve a T-Shirt, registration will be due September 15. Tables for registration/donations will be in the Narthex and Sunday school hallway on Sept. 8th & 15th.



PASTOR'S QUIZ

The gospel preached by me, wrote Paul, I received from

- a. another man
- b. two other men
- c. three other men
- d. no man

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT By Our Presence September 1, 2024

Sunday School:
102

Worship:
8:45am Service 125
11:00am Service 113
Total 238

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 17,202.40
(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)

Children's Bank 120.00
Music Fund 445.00

Total \$ 17,767.40

A NOTE OF THANKS

Our loving church family,

The family of Trevor Lee Monk gratefully acknowledges your kind expression of sympathy.

We deeply appreciate all the many encouraging cards and calls during this very difficult time. Most of all, having a wonderful church family's support with thoughts and prayers is so important!

With our sincere thanks and love,

The Trevor Monk Family

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

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CHRISTMAS IN SEPTEMBER

We are looking for some eager elves to help with a special Christmas project on September 25 at 1:00 in the Connor Family Life Center. You only need to be able to cut or tie a knot! If you have some great



scissors to cut cloth, please bring them with you. If we have lots of help, we will be finished in no time, and I know you will have fun! You might even learn something new!

Contact Susan Hunsucker if you can help or if you have questions. Her email address is: susanhun840@gmail.com or you may call her at (828) 612-4319.

Thanks,
Susan Hunsucker



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

d. no man
(Galatians 1:11-12)

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. John Woods pastor@fmccconover.org (828) 464-4635 (336) 480-4550 - cell 208 2nd St NE, Conover
Office Administrator / Financial Secretary	Robin Mays office@fmccconover.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@fmccconover.org
Lead Nursery Worker	Pilar Tobar
Custodian	Luisa Toro Bryan
Church Office	(828) 464-4635
Website:	www.fmccconover.org

SOME MORE NEWS TO USE



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

Sun, Sept 15: TIME CHANGE TBA Regular meeting with dinner - youth room

Still need someone to host youth Sept 22 & 29 while Beth is at General Conference. This could be game night, movie, or a program. Let Beth know!

Youth Meals Sign up on Beth's office door!

If you would like to sign up to provide a meal for our youth, the sign up sheet is on Beth's door. Or you can contact Beth at 336-480-4551 or woods777@aol.com.

New Church Directory... (Is that a scary thought?)

You may have noticed that our church family is growing! And that is wonderful. We want to help members and friends get to know each other by providing names and contacts in an easily usable format. To that end, we will be creating a new church directory soon. This will be available in both digital and print format and will be easy to update regularly, so it won't become outdated. The photography will be done in-house, so you won't have to face a high-pressure sales pitch.

So... 1) If you are in the current directory, please check your information for accuracy, and 2.) watch for a letter in the mail soon that will tell you how to participate. We are aiming for 100% inclusion and accuracy!



We have a few openings for the September fellowship meals. These meals are Sept 8 at 12:30pm and Sept. 9 at 6:00pm. 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

EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE

What's All This Talk About Costa Rica?

Have you been hearing that Beth and Pastor John are going to Costa Rica in a few weeks? Are you curious about it? Well, most of the time there will be spent in meetings for the Global Methodist Church Convening General Conference. (Full disclosure: We will take a few days of vacation time too! Gotta go see the whales and sea turtles!)

There is a lot of serious business happening at General Conference, and we would love for you to understand the issues, give your opinions, and offer your prayerful support for the work of the delegates.

To that end, we will hold two informational sessions on **September 10 at 7:00 pm 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/>

Are you looking for your place in ministry? Do you want new ideas for the ministry you already do?

REGISTER NOW for the NC GMC Laity Convocation!

September 14, 10:00 – 4:00

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!

Registration is important so we can be prepared to serve lunch. (ALSO: we need a few volunteers to help lay out and serve a simple menu lunch that day!)

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.)

Open to ALL! Come find your place in ministry in our community!

STILL MORE NEWS TO USE

HELP WANTED

Weekly or fill-in – We need a few more teachers and assistants in our children & youth Sunday School department. If you are willing to teach or simply be present as a second adult, we can find your place! (See Andrea Little or Beth Woods.)

Wednesday, Oct 9, noon – join us for lunch and a special project for our shut-ins. We will go in teams to visit and deliver a treat to each of our home-bound our nursing home members. See Susan Hunsucker or Beth Woods for more details.

Thursday, Oct 10, 10 am – we will be painting several hundred wooden crosses that will be given away at Harvest Festival. All materials, brushes, and paint will be provided. Just wear clothes that can get messy and plan to have a good time!

Whole month of October – at your convenience – we will have several projects, including cleaning all the upholstered chairs in the church, applying stickers over the United Methodist insignia on our Hymnals and Bibles, and deep cleaning several areas of our buildings. Watch for more details next week!



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!

Pray in Unison -One and All

- **Pray** that God will be our fortress and defender against demonic forces that are determined to destroy our Country.
- **Seek** His divine protection and security in our increasingly troubled World.
- **Acknowledge** our complete dependence on His sovereign power, grace and mercy.
- **The most powerful weapon** we have for change is **prayer**:

Chronicles 7:14: If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

**Please join other Christians to pray simultaneously on each Monday morning in September starting at 9:00 AM
(September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30)**

**Pray alone or with coworkers,
friends, or family.**

Prayer is powerful in numbers.

CCHUNGERWALK.COM

SPONSOR START A TEAM
RAISE SUPPORT WALK
SPREAD THE WORD

CATAWBA
COUNTY



HUNGER
WALK



REGISTER NOW

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

BENEFITING



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.

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

James Davis - Abernethy Laurels (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 - 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 Living at Rock Barn (Room 107)
PO Box 1599, Conover, NC 28613
(828) 381-4988 - Rick's cell (828) 381-7328 - Linda's cell

Mary Ann Simpson - Abernethy Laurels (Room 138)
102 Leonard Avenue, Newton, NC 28658

Sybil Windsor - TerraBella Newton (Room C13)
1088 Radio Station Road, Newton, NC 28658

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

Alice Spencer - 1608 Hwy 16 North, Conover, NC 28613
(828) 464-6403

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