



# First Methodist Church

## OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

November 28, 2023

### The Three Trees

One of my favorite children's Christmas books is *The Tale of Three Trees* by Angela Hunt. (You can also find it in many other versions under names like *The Legend of the Three Trees* or simply *The Three Trees*.) In all these stories, there are three trees that end up playing a part in the life of Jesus. I won't spoil the story for you in case you haven't read it!

Today, I want to talk about the three trees of First Methodist Church of Conover! Each of our trees tells part of the story of Christmas at our church.

First, our tree of giving: The Angel Tree

It is set up in the Commons Area, near Beth's office.

Gifts are due back by the end of the 11:00 service December 10.



The Angel Tree is decorated with Christmas wish lists from students from Conover School. This school serves a population of students of various ages with disabilities.

If you would like to help, you can sponsor an angel by purchasing the requested gifts or asking Dana Little to shop for you! Contact her at [angelsfmcc@yahoo.com](mailto:angelsfmcc@yahoo.com) or 828-320-9904.

Second, our tree of connections: The Family Tree

It is set up on the stage in the CFLC.

Add an ornament any time!



The Family Tree is decorated with ornaments given by many members of First Methodist Church. Some ornaments bear the family names and a special date; others are anonymous. Together, they create a patchwork of connection through the years and across the miles.

You are encouraged to add an ornament that represents your family or yourself any time during the season. This tree will be enjoyed by the children and by attendees of The Chosen Bible Study and many others!

Third, our tree of symbolism: The Chrismon Tree

It is set up near the organ in the Sanctuary.

[Read the explanatory booklets in the pew racks!](#)



The Chrismon Tree is decorated with ornaments made by members of First Methodist Church many years ago. The word "Chrismon" comes from "Christ" and "monogram" and it refers to symbols that represent Christ. These range from crosses to crowns to stars to lambs. Each symbol has a particular meaning and each one helps tell the story of Christ at Christmas. Take a moment each Sunday of Advent to study these beautiful ornaments!

Thank you to Michelle Sierzenga and the decorating committee for hanging our greens and getting our building ready for Christmas! Thank you also to Ken and Martha Johnson for the amazing advent wreath in our front yard! Let these decorations help you to focus on the Reason for the Season!

Blessings,  
Beth Woods

# \*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:

Charles & Cindy Huffman, Melissa Hunsucker,  
Susan & Mack Hunsucker, Mike & Greta Induni,  
Bonnie Ingle, Patsy Isaac.

## **MEMORIAL**

### **Hoops for Christ**

In memory of Luke Sigmon's Dec. 3rd birthday by:  
his grandparents, Brad & Kim Little



## **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

## **CHRISTMAS CHEER**



Bags have been placed in the Commons Area for each of our homebound and nursing home residents. We only have two weeks to fill the bags with cards, notes, or sweet tokens of love and cheer so that the bags can be delivered before Christmas. The deadline is December 10th. Thank you so much for your kindness to these special church members who can't be with us in person.

The Caring Ministry Team

## **IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL**

None



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

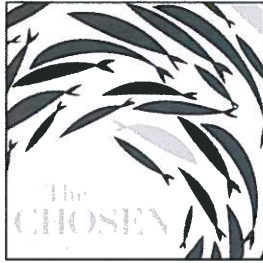
Our basketball ministry will be hosting nearly 70 children (and their families!) from our church and beyond for about 2 months of fellowship, discipleship, and basketball! And we need YOUR help!

(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, 23, January 6, 13, 20, and 27. 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 have 12 out of 24 games covered, 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. All Saturdays are still open for this opportunity.
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 THIS WEEK so we can get the schedules set.  
(336) 480-4551 Woods777@aol.com

# NEWS TO USE



## THE CHOSEN (Season 2)

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

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

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

## GOODTIMERS' DAY TRIP



Due to our Wednesday morning Bible Study, our December day trip has been moved to Thursday, December 7th. We will be going to Asheville to see the Gingerbread House Displays at the Grove Park Inn, see the Haywood Street Fresco, see the opalescent glass windows at The Cathedral Of All Souls, and have lunch at Moose's Restaurant. We will leave the church at 9am and return around 4pm. Please either sign up on our Goodtimers' Day Trip sheet on the Go-See-Do bulletin board or call Eddie Warren at (828) 464-9643! A "small" donation may be appropriate at the Fresco and Souls locations. The Ginger Bread House displays are free!

## BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

Please remember your December birthdays and December wedding anniversaries **Sunday, Dec. 3rd** by bringing your offering to the altar. Please give \$.10 for every year old and \$.25 for every year married. This is to help the children's church bank.



## PASTOR'S QUIZ

Because Zacharias did not believe the angel Gabriel, he was struck

- a. deaf
- b. blind
- c. dumb
- d. down

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

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT By Our Presence November 26, 2023

Sunday School:  
96

Worship:

8:45am Service	119
11:00am Service	111
	<u>230</u>

### God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 11,410.00

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

Children's Bank	68.00
Harvest Festival (T-shirts)	50.00
"Hoops for Christ"	100.00
Poinsettias	513.00
Staff Love Offering	<u>353.25</u>
Total	\$ 12,494.25



Pastor/Staff  
Appreciation

## LOVE OFFERING FOR PASTOR / STAFF

We will receive a love offering for the Pastor & Staff members 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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**ECCCM**  
Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry, Inc.

FMC Conover's designated volunteer day at ECCCM is Tuesday, December 5th. Any amount of time that day would be great. Of course, you can volunteer any day from the hours of 8:30am - 4:30pm.

The **November food request** is sugar, flour, and cornmeal. These items along with any grocery bags may be placed in the red bins in the hallway between the CFLC and Beth's office.

In order to help provide food for those in need, ECCCM is sponsoring a "Reverse Advent Calendar" food drive. Beginning December 1 and continuing until December 20, you are asked to place a certain food item in a box. You can then bring the box to the church or deliver it to ECCCM. Boxes and the food list will be available at the church this Sunday. This is a wonderful mission for an individual, family or group. Thank you for helping make someone's Christmas a little merrier.

Anita Deal, your ECCCM Representative

Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

c. dumb  
(Luke 1:19-23)

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. John Woods <b><a href="mailto:pastor@fmccconover.org">pastor@fmccconover.org</a></b> (828) 464-4635 (336) 480-4550 - cell 208 2nd St NE, Conover
Office Administrator / Financial Secretary	Robin Mays <b><a href="mailto:office@fmccconover.org">office@fmccconover.org</a></b>
Coordinator of Lay Ministries	Beth Woods <a href="mailto:woods777@aol.com">woods777@aol.com</a> (336) 480-4551 - cell
Music Director/Choir	Jon Rogers <a href="mailto:jsrogers99@gmail.com">jsrogers99@gmail.com</a> (828) 244-7019
Music Director/Praise Team/ Pianist	Shannon Rogers <a href="mailto:srog101@gmail.com">srog101@gmail.com</a> (828) 244-6124
Organist	Kevin Haney <a href="mailto:khaney01@gmail.com">khaney01@gmail.com</a> (704) 914-6510
Preschool Director	Julie Robinson (828) 466-3158 <b><a href="mailto:preschool@fmccconover.org">preschool@fmccconover.org</a></b>
Lead Nursery Worker	Pilar Tobar
Custodian	Luisa Toro Bryan
Church Office	(828) 464-4635
Website:	<a href="http://www.fmccconover.org">www.fmccconover.org</a>

## 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

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

# 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



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!

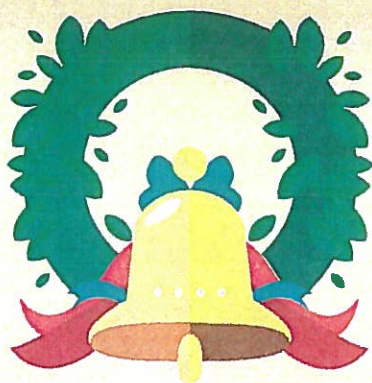
**We need a few more volunteers: teens? empty nesters? grandparents?**



**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.



## Poinsettias Given in Honor of and in Memory of (2023)

### Given By:

David & Brenda Putnam  
David & Brenda Putnam  
David & Brenda Putnam  
David & Brenda Putnam  
Melissa Hunsucker  
Marie Mull  
Marie Mull  
Alan, Jamie, Mackenzie & Madison  
Thornburg  
Ken & Martha Johnson  
Ken & Martha Johnson  
Momma Long  
Gammie  
Junior & Anita Deal  
Junior & Anita Deal  
Junior & Anita Deal  
Junior & Anita Deal  
Junior & Anita Deal  
Danny & Sandy Baucom  
Danny & Sandy Baucom  
  
Lowdermilk Family  
Gilda Pennell's Family  
Harold Thornburg  
  
Lisa & Al Hernandez  
Randy & Diane Howard  
Ron & Ginny Ward

### Given By:

David & Brenda Putnam  
David & Brenda Putnam  
David & Brenda Putnam  
David & Brenda Putnam  
David & Brenda Putnam  
David & Brenda Putnam

### In Honor Of:

Robin Mays  
Rev. Dixon Adams  
Sybil Windsor  
Alvin Thornburg, Jr.  
Her family  
Buck & Anne Calloway  
Martha & Harold Robertson  
  
Wayne & Virginia Thornburg  
Our children - Sharon & Marion Sims  
Our children - Kim & Gray Johnson  
Justin Long  
Chandler, Mattie, Paul & Katherine Long  
Our Amazing Praise Band  
Our Fabulous AV/Tech Team  
Robin Mays  
Anthony Price  
Pastor John & Beth Woods  
Pastor John & Beth Woods  
Alex, Hiley & Jolie Baucom and  
Jacob, Ashley & Walker Drum  
Rev. Dixon & Marg Adams  
Gilda Pennell  
Jeff, Kim & Lee Thornburg, Laurie & Michael  
Cashion & Mick & Linda Sigmon  
Charles & Lucy Rockett  
Dr. Garland Wampler  
To the glory of God

### In Memory Of:

Polly Sigmon  
George Sigmon  
Ellen Putnam  
Lawrence Putnam  
Holten Thornburg  
Alvin Thornburg, Sr.

(continued over)





## Poinsettias Given in Memory of (2023) - continued

### Given By:

Mark & Rita Deal  
Mark & Rita Deal  
Jeanne Abernathy  
Elbert & Lee Ann Parris  
Elbert & Lee Ann Parris  
Alan, Jamie, Mackenzie & Madison  
Thornburg  
Andrea Long & children  
Junior & Anita Deal  
Linda Birchfield  
Danny & Sandy Baucom

Dolores Setzer  
Lowdermilk family  
Gilda Pennell's Family  
Jean Slate  
Linda Dooley  
Harold Thornburg  
Winford Tucker

Armando & Joyce Lagunas  
Debbie & Erin Moritz  
Debbie & Erin Moritz  
Kyle Moritz & McKensie Becker  
Kyle Moritz & McKensie Becker  
Randy & Diane Howard  
Dave & Cheryl Markland  
Diane Turbyfill  
Jim, Carolyn & Jennifer Ball  
Jim, Carolyn & Jennifer Ball  
Karla & Littlejohn McSwain  
Wayne & Virginia Thornburg  
Kathy & Tony Martin  
Susan Hunsucker  
Ron & Ginny Ward  
Sharon Hendricks  
Sharon Hendricks  
Sharon Hendricks  
Sharon Hendricks  
Sharon Hendricks

### In Memory Of:

Rob & Wilma Deal  
Carlos & Betty Hoke  
Randy Abernathy  
Elbert's Mom, Dad & Brother  
Lee Ann's Mother, Dad & Brother

Mack & Betty Lockman  
Sam H. Long, III  
Hayden Andrew Deal, our grandson  
Ray Birchfield  
Fred & Doris Safrit, Margaret Baucom,  
"Granny" Baucom & Benjamin Baucom  
Hugh Setzer  
Leah Lowdermilk  
Marvin Pennell & Alan Pennell  
H.A. Slate  
Buck Dooley  
Ruthie Thornburg & The Frank Sigmon Family  
Adelia Tucker, Beloved wife & best friend for  
58 years and forever  
Our parents  
Michael Moritz  
"Mimi" Betty Moritz  
Michael Moritz  
"Mimi" Betty Moritz  
Kelly & Jean Howard and Mary Ann Wampler  
Carroll Baker (Cheryl's father)  
My mother, Venus Mull  
Norman & Catherine Hollar  
James & Billie Ball  
Betty & Carlos Hoke  
Mr./Mrs. Ralph Coulter & Mr./Mrs. Lee Thornburg  
Terry Martin  
Lorance & Sadie Clark  
To the glory of God  
Vince, Chandler & Chance  
Petey, Avery & Alfalfa  
Mama & Daddy, James & Deanne Painter  
Anna, Sawyer, Priscilla & Maggie  
Elaine Karpik

# December 2023

January 2024

December 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
08am-4pm Soul Sisters 4pm - "The Chosen" 4pm Finance Comm. 5pm Ch. Council Mtg.	6pm Handbell Practice	09am-Vol. Day at ECCM 1pm-Prayer Shawl 7-8:15pm The Chosen	10:30-11:45am Chosen 1pm Hand & Foot 4-11pm Van - Michele 5:30-8:30pm "Hoops"	6:30pm - Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room) 9am - Van - Goodtimers (Asheville)	6:30pm Dominos (Faithbuilders classroom) 8am....Set up for The Nest Meeting (CFLC)	7:30am-1pm "Hoops" Skills day (CFLC) 10am The Nest (CFLC) 8am-4pm)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
4-7pm Youth-Prog. Dinner (Ryan 4pm - "The Chosen" 5pm Birthday Party for	6pm Handbell Practice	7-8:15pm The Chosen Bible Study (CFLC)	10:30-11:45am Chosen 1PM - Queen Esther's 1pm Hand & Foot 5:30-8:30pm "Hoops"	6:30pm - Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room)	6:00pm-10pm Van - Staff 6:30pm Conov. Fire 6:30pm Dominos	07:30am-1pm "Hoops" games (CFLC) 5:30-6:30pm Neighbor's Table (CFLC &
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
CANTATA 1:30-3:30pm Homeschool Homies Co-op (CFLC) 6pm Handbell Practice	1:30-3:30pm Homeschool Homies Co-op (CFLC) 6pm Handbell Practice		09am-Goodtimers' Trip 10:30am Preschool 1pm Hand & Foot 5:30-8:30pm "Hoops"	1-5pm Van - Sharpe 6:30pm - Hand & Foot 6pm College Class Preschool Closed	4:30pm Kid's Christmas Party (CFLC reserved 6:30pm Dominos Preschool Closed	7:30am-1pm "Hoops" games (CFLC)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
4pm Xmas Eve Service (Sanctuary) 6:00pm Xmas Eve Christmas Eve (United	Christmas Day (United States) OFFICE CLOSED Preschool Closed	OFFICE CLOSED Preschool Closed	1pm Hand & Foot 5:30-8:30pm "Hoops" 7pm Choir practice Preschool Closed	6:30pm - Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room) Preschool Closed	6:30pm Dominos (Faithbuilders classroom) Preschool Closed	
31	Jan 1, 24	2	3	4	5	6
New Year's Eve (United States)						

Birthdays

Who = (everyone except removed); Filter = Birthday

11:56 am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Ron Harris Todd Punch	4	5 Tony Martin Craig Pinto	6 Judy Elkin Ronnie Hampton	7 Jaylah Kimsey-Peterson Harry Monk	8 Jim Davis Justin Deal Carolyn Scronce	9 Darlene Burgess Sylvia Hansmann
10 Wesley Tucker	11 Tracy Barbersek Bruce Cloninger Tony Nellenbach Molly Wofford	12 Steve Danner Scott Gilleland Nathan Hentschel	13 Frances Allen Lirville Couch Tracy Workman	14 Jenene Nellenbach	15	16 Alan Fisher William Novotny
17	18 Haniel Price-Mercado Carter Rathbone	19 Lynn Murphy David Putnam	20 Hayden Brackett	21	22 Rick Parker	23 Jeff Barrier Burr Stoker
24 Alyssa Myers	25 Connie Henderson	26	27 Jason Loftin	28 Jimmy Clark Annette Walker	29 Gary Muller Virginia Sigmon	30 Brooke Carswell Holly Connor
31 Michael Cashion Jennifer Miller Jacob Sierzenga Samantha Spencer						

11/28/2023

11:56 am

First Methodist Church of Conover

Wedding Anniversaries

Who = (everyone except removed); Filter = Wedding

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Jacob and Ashley Drum	4 Todd and Melissa Punch	5	6	7 Mark and Rachel Hamilton Stan and Kim Reed	8 Nick and Crystin Pittman Hernan and Chelsea Puga-Luna	9 Clyde and Carol Kistler
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Powell and Virginia Sigmon	18 Zach and Miranda Garrison Johnny and Denise Moose Jon and Shannon Rogers Jean Slate and H.A.	19 Jeff and Kim Thornburg Eddie and Carol Warren	20	21	22 Brandon and Larissa Vigue	23
24	25	26 Burr and Betsy Stoker	27 Scottie and Kim Hentschel Gene and Beverly Swithenbank	28	29	30 Dan and Kathy Rockett
31 Jennifer and Todd Miller						