



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

March 25, 2025



Six months ago this week (September 27, 2024), Hurricane Helene hit the US with gale force winds, spawning tornadoes, flooding, mudslides, power outages, and unspeakable devastation. Helene was one of the costliest weather disasters in history, causing an estimated \$78.7 BILLION in damages. The official death toll is 249 deaths, with several people still unaccounted for.

Untold thousands of hours of rescue efforts have been poured out for those devastated by this hurricane. Only God knows the amount of donations in cash, material goods, food, and equipment that has been given to help. Rebuilding is happening. Comfort has been given in so many loving ways. And I know this church has been part of that effort.

So, why am I writing about this now? Last Friday, I had the opportunity to visit with a family friend who lives in Black Mountain. She took me into Swannanoa to see a coffee shop that is trying to rebuild so they can serve their community. I experienced the well-known phenomena that “pictures don’t do it justice.” Friends, the devastation is still there.

Yes, the rebuilding is happening. People are still giving. But I don’t want us to forget that the need is also still real.

I’m issuing a challenge to YOU... our church family at First Methodist Church of Conover to pray, think, and find ways to continue to reach out to those in need. Specifically, I challenge you to look up a church or organization in one of the affected areas. Call them and ask what they need. How can we help? Maybe it’s money; maybe it’s sending supplies (but let’s find out what they need and not just send what we think they need!); maybe it’s sponsoring a fun day for the children; maybe it’s food... I don’t know. If you have the means to drive to an area that is hurting, go eat in a restaurant or shop in a bookstore. Support their local economy.

As this 6-month mark comes this week, let’s try to find a way to be a neighbor – a Good Samaritan -- to the mountains of North Carolina.

Blessed to be serving with you,

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:

H.W. & Martha Robertson, Pat Robinson,
Pete & Phyllis Robinson, Charles & Lucy Rockett,
Dan & Kathy Rockett, Doug, Samantha, Wyatt,
Jack & Reese Rockett.

IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

None

GREETERS FOR MARCH 23

8:45am - Steve & Janice Pitts

11:00am - Katie Rockett

If you would like to greet your church family on Sunday mornings, please contact Nancy Wall at (704) 325-0330.



MEMORIALS

Methodist Men

In memory of Harold Thornburg by:
Jeff & Michelle Sierzenga
Kent & Annette Walker
Jimmy & Cindy Clark
Emmett & Jane Wike
Doug & LaRue Black

Music Fund

In memory of Harold Thornburg by:
Jan Barbersek

In memory of Dolores Setzer by:
Jan Barbersek

Sharpe Bible Class

In memory of Harold Thornburg by:
Pat & Alice Woods

Youth Fund

In memory of Dolores Setzer by:
Emmett & Jane Wike
Bunker Hill Class of 1960
(Our 12th grade English teacher)

A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Ann Anderson, sister of Gary Herman, died Saturday, March 15, 2025.

A visitation will be held on April 11, 2025, from 3-3:45pm, followed by a memorial service beginning at 4:00pm. Both will take place at Poplar Springs Baptist Church located at 4710 All Healing Springs Road, Taylorsville, NC 28681.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Gary, Jennifer, Robbie, Charlie and the family during this difficult time.

LOCATION OF CLASSROOMS FOR March 30, April 6 & April 13

**FAITHBUILDERS CLASS - MEET IN
CONFERENCE ROOM**

**CROSSROADS CLASS - MEET IN
PARLOR**



LENTEN LUNCHEON & RECITALS

WHERE: Corinth Reformed Church in Viewmont,
150 16th Ave. NW, Hickory, NC 28601
WHEN: Fridays - March 21, 28, April 4, 11 and 18

Light lunch served at Noon, Recitals begin at 12:30pm (30 minutes in length).
No tickets or RSVP required, concerts are free, all are welcome!
Our own organist, Kevin Haney, will be performing the recital on Friday,
March 28th. Come out and support Kevin and enjoy a free concert!



NEWS TO USE



ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food request for March is **March**

Madness food drive. 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.

LENTEN VOLUNTEER INITIATIVE

In the spirit of Lent, Ashure Ministry is asking folks to consider doing their Lenten discipline with the ministry, and SERVE 40 hours from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday.

No registration required. Just volunteer and the computer will calculate your hours.

Thanks to the 15 FMCC volunteers who gave of their time at Ashure Ministry on Monday, March 3.

MARCH MADNESS

From now until April 9, there is a food drive for Ashure Ministry with a little friendly competition. You can donate food OR money for your favorite team. Food counts as 2 points per pound. Money counts as 3 points per dollar. Boxes with team labels are located in the narthex and CFLC. Don't see your team? No problem!! (Mine is not there either!) Place your food in the box labeled "other". Be sure to indicate your team preference. If donating money, please indicate team preference, and give donation to Anita Deal.

With food donations brought to Ashure and money donated, Duke & WVU are the top 2 teams for FMCC! If those 2 teams are not your choice, you may place food in the boxes in the Narthex or CFLC. Your team could also benefit from a check written to Ashure Ministry designating team preference. Of course, the real winners of this March Madness food drive are the clients at Ashure Ministry.



**JOIN US
FOR A
TIME OF
PRAYER**

**6:00 - 6:45 Every Tuesday
in the Parlor (upstairs)**



PASTOR'S QUIZ

Jesus instructed unqualifiedly against observance of the following rule from the Old Testament:

- "Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment."
- "Thou shalt not commit adultery."
- "Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement."
- "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth."

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence March 23, 2025

Sunday School:
109

Worship:
8:45am Service 159
11:00am Service 128
Total 287

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 15,381.00
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$15,258)</i>	
Children's Bank	15.00
Methodist Men of FMCC	315.00
Music Fund	50.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	1,000.00
Sharpe Bible Class	50.00
Youth Fund	135.00
Total	\$ 16,946.00

EASTER BLESSINGS



It is time to share our love with our homebound and nursing home members. Bags have been placed in the commons area with the names of our 11 members. Would you fill an Easter egg with some sweet treats, trinkets, a favorite scripture, or a personal note to brighten someone's day? Please place your egg and/or cards in the bags **by April 6th** so they can be delivered before Easter. You can find the names listed in the newsletter. If you would like to help deliver bags please let Susan Hunsucker know.

This would be a great opportunity for families with young children to serve together. Thank you once again for your amazing support of this ministry.

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

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

2025 FLOWER CHART

If you would like to sign up to place flowers in the Sanctuary one Sunday in honor of or in memory of someone, please call the church office at (828) 464-4635 to schedule a date.

Please do not write your name on the flower chart but call the church office.

A slide will be shown at both services on the Sunday that you choose with the information given by you.

The following florists have a key so that they can deliver the flowers on a Saturday:

Twigs & Twine - Conover

Newton-Conover Florist - Newton

Blooms Greenhouse - Conover



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:
d. "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth."
(Matthew 5:21-42)

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. John Woods pastor@fmconover.org (828) 464-4635 (336) 480-4550 - cell 208 2nd St NE, Conover
Minister of Youth/Outreach	Jason Shoup jsgodson@yahoo.com (828) 381-1174 1409 5th St. Ct. 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

STILL MORE NEWS TO USE

Visioning Team

Our church leadership has launched a Visioning Team that will focus on critical priorities to ensure our church continues to grow, thrive, and fulfill God's mission in our community. This effort builds on the "Joel Committee" visioning exercise we conducted in 2019. The team's goal is to create a strategic plan that will guide God's work at First Methodist Conover for the next 5-7 years. They will address **Discipleship and Outreach, Communications and Evangelism, Facilities, and Leadership Development.**

The team is asking the entire congregation (members and friends) to support this effort in two specific ways:

- 1. PRAY.** The bedrock of discernment is prayer. Please pray that this team will hear and heed God's direction for our church.
- 2. Share your ideas.** While the team is made up of a cross-section of our congregation and a strong effort was made to include people from various stages of life, we know that others have perspective and experience that would complement this process. So, if you have ideas on what our church should be doing, community or church needs that should be addressed, or even just questions that should be considered, please contact a team member (listed below) as soon as possible (meetings are already underway).

Lee Moritz	leemoritz2@gmail.com	828 850-4331
John Woods	pastor@fmconover.org	336 480-4550
Beth Woods	Woods777@aol.com	336 480-4551
Jason Shoup	jsgodson@yahoo.com	828 381-1174
Kent Walker	kwalker@abts.net	828 381-5918
Ralph Hatch	ralphhatch@yahoo.com	910 340-2039
Jimmy Clark	jimmyac55@outlook.com	828 217-5102
Tara Brackett	tarabackett0313@gmail.com	828 310-8027
Sue Prather	sureel0111@gmail.com	252 571-1981
Michael Harris	Michael12063546@gmail.com	828 409-4777
Lindsay Keisler	lkeisler@catawbachamber.org	828 446-3729



The Women's ministry, the NEST meeting that was originally scheduled for this Saturday, March 29 is being rescheduled. Watch for more information to be announced soon!

HEY, EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE



"Journey to Jerusalem" Prayer Walk April 13-18, 2025

Preparation is UNDERWAY! (Take a look in the CFLC and you'll see the transformation beginning to take shape.)

Contact Anthony Price (828) 228-6467 for information about helping with the Prayer Walk in any way.

Work days:

- Week of March 23- March 29, the three classrooms in the CFLC will be set up. To volunteer to help with these, contact Beth Woods (336) 480-4551, Jimmy Clark, (828) 217-5102, Bev Swithenbank (828) 320 5542, Jeanette Stewart (828) 315-0821, Anita Deal (828) 320-3194, Cindy Clark (828) 302-3217, or Tamara Hite (828) 514-5604.
- On March 30 at 2:00 pm, a crew will begin assembling the divider walls and hanging fabric on them to create pathways through the CFLC. Work on this will continue through this week.
- There will also be work going on throughout April 1-12.
- On April 13, right after the late service, a crew will be setting up the last of the hallway scenery.
- Each night of the Prayer Walk (April 13, 14, 15, 16, and 18 – not open on Maunday Thursday) we need about 25 costumed volunteers to sit quietly as part of the "scenery" and to provide assistance to visitors in the case of an emergency. Contact Beth Woods to volunteer (indicate which nights you are available) woods777@aol.com or (336) 480-4551.
- On April 19, beginning at 9:00, we will disassemble and pack away the entire set-up. This is an enormous task, and we need anybody who is willing to come donate even an hour or two.
- ♦ Prayers! Please begin now to bathe this ministry in your prayers. Please pray for the people working to provide this experience and for those who will visit. The story is powerful and God will use it to change lives!

Helping Hands Needed



Do you have a little bit of spare time 2-3 times a month? We need someone to pick up the cardboard gathered in several spots in the church and take it to the recycling center. (There's a cardboard recycling center in front of the Post Office.)

We try to be good stewards and recycle when we can. Cardboard tends to accumulate quickly and we need someone willing to help.

If you can do this, you can get more information from Robin Mays in the church office or from Beth Woods. Thank you!



Join us for

AWANA

Ages 3 - 5th Grade

Activities:

- Engaging Bible Study
- Music
- Games
- Snacks
- Lots of Fun!

Intro Dates:

Sunday, April 27

Sunday, May 4

Sunday, May 18

5pm - 6:30pm

Full Program to
Kick-Off in the Fall

Address:

First Methodist Church Conover
410 1st Ave N,
Conover, NC 28613

**Because Kids
Matter
to God**

Awana Clubs
Cubbies 
3 - 5 Year Olds

Awana Clubs
Sparks 
Grades K - 2nd

T&T **Truth & Training**
Grades 3 - 5

youth
Grades 6 - 12
will also meet
during this time



First Methodist Church
OF CONOVER

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 - TerraBella Newton, (Room B1)
1088 Radio Station Road, Newton, NC 28658
(Ron's cell - (704) 460-4919



James Davis - Abernethy Laurels (Memory Care Center)
Mail to: Jeanette Davis
102 Leonard Avenue, Room 210, Newton, NC 28658

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

Gilda Pennell - Abernethy Laurels (2103 Noble)
102 Leonard Avenue
Newton, NC 28658

Mary Ann Simpson - Kingston Residence (Room 214)
904 2nd Street NE, Hickory, NC 28601

Sybil Windsor - TerraBella Newton (Room C1)
1088 Radio Station Road, Newton, NC 28658



Don Hedrick - Mailing address: PO Box 542, Claremont, NC 28610
Physical address: 4028 E US 70 Hwy, Claremont, NC 28610
His wife, Cheryl's phone# (828) 381-7956

Lee Moritz, Sr. - 103 County Home Road, Conover, NC 28613
(828) 464-3383

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

April 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>NOTES</p> <p>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. Neighbor's Table is a monthly meal for anyone in need.</p>						
8:45 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	6 9:00 Volunteer day at Ashure Ministry	8 6:00 Heartfelt Prayer	9 1:00 Hand & Foot 7:00 Choir practice	10 6:30 Hand & Foot	11 6:30 Dominoes	12 10:00 Easter Egg Hunt
13 8:45 Worship - CANTATA 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship - CANTATA	14 6:00 Heartfelt Prayer	15 6:00 Heartfelt Prayer	16 6:00 Youth (Do Prayer Walk together)	17 7:00 Maundy Thursday worship service	18 9:00 Take down and pack up Prayer Walk	19 5:30 Neighbor's Table
<p>Journey to Jerusalem Prayer Walk 6-8:30</p>						
20 6:30 Sunrise Service (at Trinity Church of Christ) 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sun. School 11:00 Worship <i>Happy Easter</i>	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22 6:00 Heartfelt Prayer	23 1:00 Hand & Foot 7:00 Choir practice	24 6:30 Hand & Foot	25 6:30 Dominoes	26 5:00 Fellowship dinner (Menu TBD)
27 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Baby Shower for Keislars 12-3 drop-in (CFLC) 5:00 AWANA (3 yr - 12th grade)	28 6:00 Heartfelt Prayer	29 6:00 Heartfelt Prayer	30 1:00 Hand & Foot 7:00 Choir practice	<p>First Methodist Church OF CONOVER A GLOBAL METHODIST COMMUNITY</p> <p>Office: 828-464-4635 office@fmconover.org www.fmconover.org On Facebook & YouTube</p> <p>John Woods: 336-480-4550 Jason Shoup: 828-381-1174 Beth Woods: 336-480-4551</p>		



April 2025

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>Leisa Job</div> <div>Bryson Lowdermilk</div>	<div>James Zehmer</div>	<div>1</div> <div>Jeanette Davis</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Eddie Henderson</div> <div>Will Johnson</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Charlie Herman</div> <div>Brandon Miller</div> <div>Suzanne Spencer</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Rylee Garrison</div> <div>Brittany Ponthieux</div> <div>Katie Rockett</div>
<div>6</div> <div>Haley Beech</div> <div>Jimmy Hollar</div> <div>Gary Little</div> <div>Brandie Tucker</div> <div>Jane Wike</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Behr Jones</div>	<div>8</div> <div>Natasha Bunton</div> <div>Cathy Choppa</div> <div>John Woods</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Alan Thornburg</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Drew Danner</div> <div>Greg Reed</div>	<div>11</div> <div>Jan Barbersek</div> <div>Ray & Pam Penley</div>	<div>12</div>
<div>13</div> <div>Haley Beech</div> <div>Jimmy Hollar</div> <div>Gary Little</div> <div>Brandie Tucker</div> <div>Jane Wike</div>	<div>14</div> <div>Behr Jones</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Natasha Bunton</div> <div>Cathy Choppa</div> <div>John Woods</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Carol Kistler</div> <div>William and Margrat</div> <div>Barribas</div> <div>Larry and Pam</div> <div>Lowdermilk</div> <div>Don and Vata Shook</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Logan Spencer</div> <div>Gary & Tammy Muller</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Aaron Little</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Ruth Brown</div> <div>Michael Copeland</div> <div>Steve & Alice Christmas</div> <div>Bob and Lois Goodson</div> <div>John and Leisa Job</div> <div>Brad and Kim Little</div>
<div>20</div> <div>Catie Hedrick</div> <div>Baker Yount</div> <div>Billy and Beth</div> <div>Boston</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Owen Gilleland</div> <div>Melissa Johnson</div> <div>Elbert Parris</div> <div>Crystin Pittman</div> <div>Stan Reed</div> <div>Clay Rockett</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Lilly-Ann Stewart</div> <div>Steve and Michele</div> <div>Danner</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Logan Hite</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Daniel Moore</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Gray Doub</div>
<div>27</div> <div>Evan Matson</div> <div>Greg Monk</div> <div>Dave Morrow</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Wesley and Brandie</div> <div>Tucker</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Michael Goode</div> <div>Megan Johnson</div> <div>Gary and Jennifer</div> <div>Herman</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>Use your new church directory to send a greeting to these friends!</div> <div>(See Beth Woods if you need help getting your directory set up!)</div>		