



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

October 15, 2024

"THIS IS THE LAST SONG I WANT TO LISTEN TO BEFORE I DIE."

It was a somewhat bewildering article to read this week for several reasons, not least of which was because of the topic. I hope this article (as we approach Halloween) doesn't give you the "heebie-jeebies." It's not something most people openly speak about, and maybe not even thought about: ***If you had a few moments before you die, and you were given the chance to listen to one final song on your death bed, what song would it be?*** A charity organization asked this exact question, and then listed the most popular songs chosen.

The article had a list of the most frequently requested songs for people on their deathbed. What I saw didn't "compute" in me. The Top 10 list of songs included a song from The Beatles ("Hey Jude"), Queen ("These Are the Days of Our Lives"), and Cyndi Lauper ("Girls Just Want to Have Fun"). The number one song mentioned and wanted was Frank Sinatra's "My Way." [Mercy.]

Considering what you want to hear just before you die is really about not only what it means to die, but also what it means to be alive. Inevitably, questions about death lead to conversations about life. Death is the lens through which we consider what we have lived for.



One author has (informally) spent years asking people this question. As you might imagine, the playlist he accumulated was wildly varied. Some people go for pure beauty of sound—many mentioned symphony orchestras, jazz piano, and choral arrangements. All were on the list.

Some people focus on songs about death; songs that soothe and calm hearts in the face of that frightening abyss. These songs speak to the fleeting nature of life, the idea of simply passing by on the way to what's next. Some people like the idea of ending with that, forecasting what is to come.

Songs about love make people's death song list, too. Many of these have a distinctly melancholic tone to them. Songs that speak of a person's love for their family or nature or this life or our God.

As you might imagine, conversations around these songs range from morbid to funny and flippant. Maybe more importantly, this topic forces people to think about death as they (well, all of us) consider that one day, our time will be up too. It comes for us all, sooner or later, sometimes too soon, sometimes just late enough. If I were to ask you, what would you say?

By the way, I have my own thoughts, but maybe we could do much worse than considering this one:

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy God!*

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:

Ron & Dottie Harris, John & Sally Hartner,
Ralph & Patricia Hatch, Samantha Hawn,
Tim & Amy Hawn, Steve & Brenda Heafner.

Hurricane Helene Relief

We are collecting all kinds of supplies, however, the most pressing needs are:

- First aid supplies, including over-the-counter medications (i.e. Tylenol, Benedryl), triple antibiotic ointment, any antihistamines, antifungal creams, and antiseptics
- Food or gas gift cards
- Paper products (plates, napkins, cups)
- Socks
- Non-perishable food
- Ensure supplemental drinks
- Manual can openers
- Diapers (adult and baby)
- Baby Formula
- D Batteries
- Laundry Detergent

Pray
for those
impacted
by Hurricane Helene.

Items may be placed in containers located in the commons area on the office level. They will be taken to a NC GMC collection site in Maiden. Thank you for your support of our brothers and sisters in western North Carolina.

Greeters for October 20

8:25-8:45 – Jeanne Abernathy, Susan Long
10:40-11 – Nancy Wall, Sylvia Hansmann

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



IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

None

UPPER ROOMS

The Nov. / Dec. "Upper Room" devotional books are available for pick-up. They are located on the sofa table outside the Conference Room and upstairs by the water fountain. You can read the same daily devotional that is in the book each day by going online to this website:

<http://www.upperroom.org/devotional/>

JUST A FRIENDLY HEALTH REMINDER....

that in this cold and flu season, please be respectful of those around you during church activities and worship.



If you have symptoms of a cold or the flu (fever, sneezing, cough, running nose), avoid some of the friendly contact many of us like to share (like shaking hands, hugs, etc.) until those symptoms have been gone for at least 24 hours.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

Shoeboxes will be available this Sunday in the narthex, Sunday School hallway, and the CFLC. Please take as many as you plan to fill. The packing guidelines and labels are there with boxes for you to use. There is a \$10 shipping fee per box which is to be placed in the envelope and then put in the top of your filled shoebox. Anyone not wanting to shop but able to help with some shipping costs, please give your money/check to Anita Deal or Beth Woods. Please, please if you have any questions just ask Anita or Beth. **Deadline for boxes will be November 17.**



NEWS TO USE

ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food **request for October** is **hygiene items**. 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.

Thanks to all who participated in Catawba County Hunger Walk! Whether you walked, donated, or both, YOU were a vital part of making the Walk a success. Money was raised to meet Hunger needs and the issue of hunger in our area was made more prevalent.

Even though trophies were given out for various achievements, the REAL WINNERS of the Hunger Walk are those individuals/ families who will now have less food insecurities due to your compassion and generosity. THANK YOU!!



PASTOR'S QUIZ

You have been saved, wrote Paul,

- a. quite through your own efforts
- b. not at all through your own efforts
- c. partly through your own efforts
- d. by my efforts

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT **By Our Presence October 13, 2024**

Sunday School:
123

Worship:
8:45am Service 164
11:00am Service 134
Total 298

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 14,056.00
(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)

Children's Bank 67.00
Heritage Care Facility 100.00
Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief 4,601.00
"The Chosen" Bible Study Books 520.00

Total \$ 19,344.00

CORRECTION:

Last week's General Fund total had an error.
It was supposed to be \$32,067.00.

HOOPS FOR CHRIST **YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE**

REGISTER TODAY!

AGES KINDERGARTEN - 6TH GRADE
\$15 PER PARTICIPANT (INCLUDES LEAGUE SHIRT & TROPHY)
REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE ON NOVEMBER 17TH
OR WHEN WE REACH CAPACITY

A MINISTRY OF:



First Methodist Church
OF CONOVER

To register, please scan this QR code or contact
Beth Woods at woods777@aol.com.



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

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Organization
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2024 FLOWER CHART

We still have some open dates on the flower chart in October, November & December.

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:

b. not at all through your own efforts
(Ephesians 2:8-9)

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

STILL MORE NEWS TO USE

New Church Directory Update

We are off to a great start! We photographed 41 "family units" on Sunday. Let's keep going until we have 100%!

- We will be taking pictures on the front porch of the sanctuary (weather permitting) before early service and after late service on October 20, 27, and November 3. We will also be taking pictures from 9 am - 7 pm on Wednesday, October 16 and Friday, October 18. (NOTE: This is a change in previously published schedule.) **Just show up any of these times.** We will add more dates if needed.
- We need several people willing to take photos and enter data into a computer. You can sign up to help on Sign-up Genius (search for Beth's' email: woods777@aol.com) or directly with Beth.



Sun, Oct 20: 5:00-7:00 meet at church to help prepare for Harvest Festival (Dinner provided)

Sat, Oct 26: all day! Volunteer at Harvest Festival – set-up in the morning, run game 2-5, clean-up afterwards (Come for as much as you can!)

Sun, Nov 3: 5:00-7:00 Regular meeting with dinner – youth room

As disaster response efforts continue, many of our own congregation have been able to participate in some hands-on relief projects. Others are willing, but not quite sure where to turn, so we wanted to share this information that was published by the NC GMC Mission Team. These links will also be on our church website (www.fmconover.org) and Facebook page so you don't have to type them in!



Dear NC Global Methodist churches,

The GM Church of NC continues to work together to bring the light and hope of Jesus Christ amid darkness and destruction. Thank you for your patience as we continue to share Disaster Relief information with you.

To personally volunteer with one of the On Mission Network partners in North Carolina, NC Baptists on Mission, (This is who the NC GMC has partnered with for this effort.): <https://baptistsonmission.org/Mission-Projects/By-Mission-Type/Disaster-Relief/Hurricane-Helene/Get-Involved>

They are accustomed to accepting volunteers of all types and abilities. The form allows you to choose dates and supply other information for volunteering. Please be aware that the needs may be greater in a few weeks or even months than they are now. This is an ongoing effort!

The NC Conference of the Global Methodist Church is now able to accept donations online at the link below (or scan QR code).

<https://www.shelbygiving.com/App/Form/6ef0c3d1-897d-4280-9cb0-e74e3a4046cf>

Checks may be made payable to NC PAC and mailed here:

Carolyn Hindel

PO Box 667

Kings Mountain, NC 28086

Please put Disaster Response in the memo line on the check.



Current needs include propane heaters (and propane), sleeping bags and other gear for cold weather, and mattresses (boxed – all sizes). Shipping address for mattresses is:

Haywood Appliance

Attention: Jeff Brotherton

8805 Carolina Blvd.

Clyde, NC 28721

There are also volunteer opportunities through Samaritan's Purse:

https://www.spvolunteer.org/?_gl=1*kzuln*_gcl_au*MTU2ODI3NzA1My4xNzI4OTMxNTE4

Most of all, please continue to pray for all who were harmed and those who are helping!

HARVEST FESTIVAL

SAT, OCT 26 2-5 PM

We are in the “home stretch” for planning, but we still need you!

This year’s Harvest Festival for Jesus will be October 26 from 2-5. Harvest Festival is an afternoon for us to welcome our community to our church grounds for games, food, and more! Everything will be free to our guests, especially the warm welcome from our congregation.

We will have two giant inflatable play areas (slides and an obstacle course.) We will have displays of vintage cars, trucks, and farm equipment as well as vehicles from various emergency services. Groups and individuals will be hosting games (bag toss, floating duck game, etc.) and craft areas. Running constantly will be four tractor-drawn hayrides. We will also have a stage where we will enjoy demonstrations from a group of square dancers. Our fearless food crew will be preparing hot dogs and fixin’s to give away. In front of the 3-bay garage, our guests will have fun “shopping” in the free-giveaway “yard sale.” Then, they can participate in one of the ongoing cake walks and pick out a yummy dessert to take home. And, in the center of it all, we will be giving away Bibles and devotional books and taking prayer requests.

An event of this magnitude needs a lot of workers, and we have a place for YOU! We still need:

- volunteers to help for as little as 30 minutes, up to 3 hours helping children safely get on and off inflatable attractions (CONTACT ANITA DEAL: 828-320-3194)
- volunteers to help children safely get on and off hayride wagons and volunteers to ride on the hayrides to help maintain safety (CONTACT LOIS GOODSON: 828-465-2005)
- 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 (CONTACT SUSAN HUNSUCKER: 828-612-4319)
- volunteers to give Bibles and pray with visitors (CONTACT BETH WOODS: 336-480-4551)
- Volunteers to monitor antique cars on display, or serve as floaters to help other workers (CONTACT BETH WOODS: 336-480-4551)
- PRAYERS FOR ALL WHO ARE INVOLVED AND ALL WHO WILL ATTEND!

10 am - ? Wednesday, Oct 23, Thursday, Oct 24, Friday Oct 25 and 9 am on 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: woods777@aol.com or call/text: (336) 480-4551.)

“Murder at the Mall-Mart”

Please join us for a night of excitement at our annual murder mystery fundraiser dinner, “Murder at the Mall-Mart.” The Methodist Men are cooking the food again so you know it will be delicious!

We only have 175 tickets, so get yours before we sell out. To purchase tickets, use a colored envelope that will be available in the Narthex. Please write your name, how many tickets you wish to purchase and your guests’ names if you know who will be attending. Include your payment (cash or check made out to “The Nest”) and place completed envelopes in the offering plate or return to Dana Little (828-320-9904).

When: Saturday, November 2

Time: 5 PM

Where: Connor Family Life Center

Ticket Cost: \$20 adults and \$10 children 10 and under

Proceeds donated to “Carolina Caring’s Grief and Healing Center”



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 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

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.