

First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

December 5, 2023

All in Good Time: The Stable's Timely Arrival

"Is it Christmas yet? When will it be Christmas?" Those are questions I heard more than once as our children were growing up. I bet you did too. Waiting for Christmas to come seems to be such a difficult thing...and not just for kids. I saw early displays of Christmas décor and potential Christmas gifts stacked right beside the Halloween decorations in one store this fall.

The wise philosopher who wrote the book of Ecclesiastes admired God's perfect sense of timing. The God of the universe, he noticed, **"has made everything beautiful in its time"** (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

The place where we see God's amazing timeliness most clearly is in the person and life of Jesus Christ. As we reflect on the works of Almighty God, the words of Ecclesiastes also point us toward the Son who shares all of the Father's divine perfections.

When we scan the life of Jesus in the Gospels, we see a Savior who always knew what time it was, starting with his dramatic entrance into the world. There was a time to be born—just the right time, in fact. The Bible says that **"when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman"** (Galatians 4:4).



At just the right time—when the Gentiles were tired of serving the old pagan gods, when the Jews were weary of trying and too often failing to keep God's law, when the Greeks had given the world a common language, when the Romans had established (relatively) safe and easy travel across the Roman Empire and the Mediterranean—Jesus was born in a stable, bearing a timely and beautiful message of salvation for the entire world.

Given our desperate need for a Savior, he did not arrive a moment too soon, but right in time to do what he needed to do to save us. And so, this season of Advent becomes a reminder of God's perfect timing. It was perfect in the timing of Jesus' birth and it's still perfect for His work in your life even now.

Psalm 40 says, ***"I waited and waited for the Lord. Now, at last, he has stooped to me."***

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

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:

Will & Sue James, John, Leisa & Sophia Job,
Adam, Melissa, Mackenzie & Tyler Johnson,
Ken & Martha Johnson, Nell Johnson,
Roger, Lisa, Megan & Will Johnson.

HONORARIUM

Disaffiliation Fund

In honor of all the office volunteers in 2023 by:
Robin Mays



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

Nancy Clarke (at home)

Christmas with The Nest

Saturday, December 9th

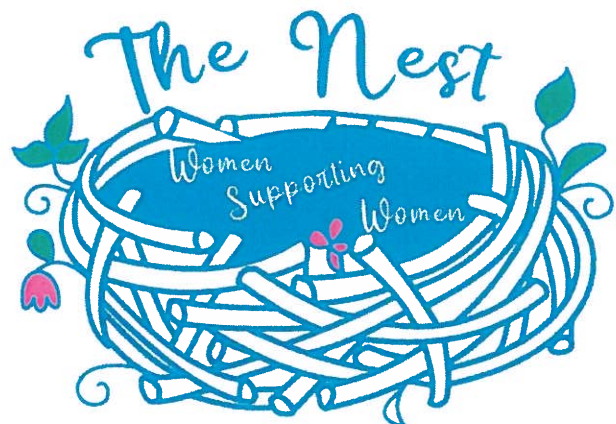
10:00 am – noon

Connor Family Life Center

All ladies of the church are invited (and bring friends!) for light snacks, music, games, and a good dose of Christmas cheer!

Please bring a Christmas tin with a small gift inside for a fun game. The gift can be homemade or store-bought! (Ideas: cookies, candy, scarf, socks, candle, soap, gift card, etc.) Just limit it to less than \$20, please!

RSVPs would be appreciated. Text or call Jenny Harris at (828) 358-5900.



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!

Fa la la la la la

You are invited to join our congregation as we spread Christmas cheer with joyful noise and go caroling in the area!

Bring your family and start a new tradition with your church family. There will be four opportunities, and you can join us for one or all four times.

We will meet at the church on December 21st at 1:30 and on December 21st at 6:30 at Abernethy Laurels. The third group will meet on December 12th at 1:30 at the church or at Terra Bella in Newton.

More details will follow for the fourth group.

Please mark your calendars and join us for this special Christmas tradition.



Nursing Home Caroling Trip



PASTOR'S QUIZ

When Mary entered the house of Zacharias and greeted her cousin Elisabeth, the babe leaped in

- a. Mary's womb
- b. Elisabeth's womb
- c. both their wombs
- d. in neither's womb

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence December 3, 2023

Sunday School:
97

Worship:

8:45am Service	124
11:00am Service	<u>126</u>
	250

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 21,788.00

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

Children's Bank	105.00
Disaffiliation Fund	550.00
Harvest Festival (T-shirts)	96.00
"Hoops for Christ"	520.00
Prayer Walk (Framing)	150.00
Staff Love Offering	<u>2,495.00</u>
Total	\$ 25,704.00



Pastor/Staff
Appreciation

LOVE OFFERING

FOR PASTOR / STAFF

We will receive a love offering for the Pastor & Staff members this 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
Return Service Requested

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



ECCCM
Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry, Inc.

The **December food request** is the reverse Advent calendar boxes. 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:

b. Elisabeth's womb
(Luke 1:36, 39-44)

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

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.

Ministry Opportunities!



Sun. Dec. 10

5:00 - 7:00 pm

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.**

Christmas Movie Party OUR CHRISTMAS GIFT TO PARENTS...

Fri. Dec. 22 4:30 - 8:00 pm

Drop your kids (age 2-6th grade) off in the CFLC while you finish Christmas shopping or wrapping! Or just have an evening to relax! Kids are welcome in pajamas, with pillows and blankets for lounging to watch a movie.

We'll provide pizza, snacks, and entertainment from 4:30-8:00! RSVPs are appreciated! (Beth Woods 336-480-4551)

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

Young Adult Christmas Outing

Thur. Dec. 21

meet at church at 6:00

Young adults (post-high-school) are invited to dinner with Pastor John at Carrabba's in Hickory. We will meet at church to carpool at 6:00 or meet us at Carrabba's at 6:25. Join us for Christmas fellowship and good food! RSVP to Pastor John by Dec 17 (336) 480-4550

HOOPS for Christ Update

Still need:

- someone to do **devotionals** Jan 13 at 11:00 and 12:00
- someone to provide **coffee & snacks** for parents Jan 6 & 13
- lots of people to come **cheer** at all the games (Dec 16, 23, Jan 6, 13, 20, 27)
- **prayers** for all participants



THANK YOU!



First Methodist Church
OF CONOVER
A GLOBAL METHODIST COMMUNITY

**Beth Woods (336) 480-4551
or woods777@aol.com**



meals on wheels
OF CATAWBA COUNTY

With the help of generous donors, Meals on Wheels of Catawba County was able to provide 133,364 meals to seniors in our community last year. This was accomplished with the help of 819 wonderful volunteers.

Meals on Wheels provides not only nutritious meals, but also essential safety checks and companionship, allowing seniors to live happier and healthier lives at home.



Catawba County Senior Nutrition Services relies on donations to serve our neighbors through the Meals on Wheels and Seniors Morning Out Programs.

Make a gift of any amount or sponsor meals with a gift of:

\$25 for one week

\$103 for one month

\$1,238 for one year

Donate online at MealsOnWheelsOfCatawbaCounty.org or

Make a check payable to: Catawba County Social Services, write "SNS 2023" in the memo line, and mail your check to:

Senior Nutrition Services
PO Box 207
Newton, NC 28658



For more information about Meals on Wheels of Catawba County, visit our website at MealsOnWheelsOfCatawbaCounty.org or give us a call at 828-695-5610.

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

Robin Mays	1	12/4/2023 2:13 PM
------------	---	-------------------

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Ron Harris Todd Punch	4	5 Tony Martin Craig Pinto	6 Judy Elkin Ronnie Hampton	7 Jayliah Kimsey-Peterson Harry Monk	1 Lawson Kincaid	2 Sally Hartner
10 Wesley Tucker	11 Tracy Barbersek Bruce Cloninger Tony Nellenbach Molly Wolford	12 Steve Danner Scott Gilleland Nathan Hentschel	13 Frances Allen Linville Couch Tracy Workman	14 Jenene Nellenbach	15 Carolyn Sronce	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						

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	1 Nick and Crystin Pittman Hernan and Chelsea Puga-Luna	2
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Clyde and Carol Kistler
17 Powell and Virginia Sigmon	18 Zach and Miranda Garrison Johnny and Denise Moose Jon and Shannon Rogers	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						