



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

February 6, 2024

MISSION FOR BOSTON FARM BLESSING BOX

Dear Church Family,

It's hard to believe Valentine's Day is just around the corner. Love will be in the air. However, for First Methodist Church of Conover, love is ALWAYS in the air. If there is one thing I love about this church, it's the church's passion for helping others. Here is an opportunity that you may want to participate in as it supports one woman in her mission to serve her community with a simple, re-crafted cupboard.

The woman I am talking about happens to be my mother, Judy H. Boston (82 yrs - she will get me for telling you this). Together my mom, the idea generator, and with my dad (85 yrs.), the head cupboard construction supervisor, they have established the Boston Family Farm Blessing Box. The blessing box sits on the corner of the Boston Farm and serves primarily the Oxford School community, but anyone is welcome to "take what you need and leave what you are able." My mother keeps the box well stocked each week and monitors the fresh produce that is left, making sure it fresh. I am not sure of her strategy, but I can tell you the non-perishables are well balanced-- a little bit of this and a little bit of that. Her mission to minister to others has picked up quite the following. We see the blessing box working within the community as folks leave notes of appreciation stuck to the cupboard door. We call it the blessing box because those who give are blessed and those who benefit from it are blessed also.

Join us in collecting canned goods for the Boston Farm Blessing Box during the month of February. Help us show God's Love to the folks in the Oxford Community and honor one of his greatest commandments - Love your Neighbor as Yourself (Mark 12:28-34). Thank you for your consideration, participation, encouragement and support of the Boston Farm Blessing Box. Collection boxes will be located in the Narthex and in the hallway behind the Sanctuary by the water fountain.

Now, let's show our love and fill those boxes with cans/boxes of love.

Donna (Boston) Ross



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:

John & Donna Mull, Marie Mull,
Gary & Tammy Muller, Mark & Lynn Murphy,
Tony & Jenene Nellenbach, Heather Norman &
Ayvah Hearne.

IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

None

A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Connie McCoy, age 70 and a member of First Methodist Church of Conover died Thursday, February 1, 2024 at Catawba Valley Medical Center.

Arrangements are incomplete at this time.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her sons, Chris and Thomas and the family during this sad time.

NEWS FROM OUR CARING MINISTRY

It feels like Christmas was just yesterday. But Valentine's Day is right around the corner, and Easter won't be far behind! Since Valentine's Day is a time to show our love for others, the Caring Ministry would love for you to bless our shut-ins and homebound members with lots of snail mail expressing your love and concern for each of them over the next month. Names and addresses are in the newsletter each week. After Valentine's Day, bags will be placed in the Common's area for you to fill with cards and goodies which will be delivered before Easter. The deadline for filling the bags will be March 17th. Please consider being a part of the delivery team and let Susan Hunsucker know that you would like to help spread love and smiles to some special men and women.



THANK YOU

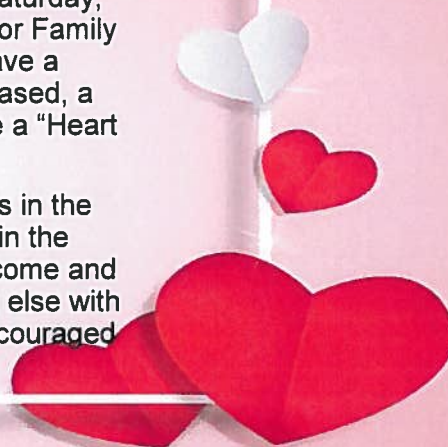
Church family,
On behalf of The Corner Table, we would like to express our appreciation for the support we have received through your donations. Through your monetary support we are able to "Feed the Need" in our community. We appreciate your care and concern for those who are less fortunate.

Blessings,
The Corner Table

THE NEST invites You.....

Ladies of the church, please join The Nest on Saturday, February 10th from 10am until noon in the Connor Family Life Center for our next get together. We will have a brief, but meaningful program that is Biblically based, a light snack and of course an opportunity to have a "Heart to Heart" talk with other women!

If you haven't been able to join one of the events in the past, it is a fun way to get to know other ladies in the church and community. We encourage you to come and bring a friend. You don't need to bring anything else with you. This is your time to be surrounded and encouraged by other women of faith! RSVP to Jenny Harris at (828) 358-5900.



NEWS TO USE



Time to Register! Noah's Ark/ Creation Museum Trip

We have about 40 people interested in going on a bus trip to visit the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky, and the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky. That means we will have a bus to ourselves. (And Finley Cloninger will be our driver, with Harold Roberson serving as "Assistant Trip Director!")

May 20-23, 2024... Price Per Person: Double room \$699; Triple room \$639; Quad room \$609; Single room \$889 You can choose who to room with.

By the way, the capacity of the bus is 46. We have almost that many on the "Interested" list. So, if you want to move from the "Interested" list to the "I'm Going!" list, you must fill out a registration form and return it to Burke Christian Tours or to Beth, with a \$200 deposit. Checks should be made out to Christian Tours. There is also a credit card option if you call the tour office (800-476-3900).

Information and Registration sheets are on Beth's door. If you would like them by email, please contact Beth Woods at 336-480-4551 or woods777@aol.com.

I (Beth) have visited the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter and can wholeheartedly recommend them. Both venues are expertly crafted and Biblically accurate and both will educate and encourage you. They are well worth the effort to visit!



PASTOR'S QUIZ

"Ask, and it shall be given you," said Jesus, after illustrating the relative power of

- a. friendship
- b. insolence
- c. importunity
- d. forgetfulness

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT By Our Presence February 4, 2024

Sunday School:
114

Worship:
8:45am Service 136
11:00am Service 133
269

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 19,053.00
(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)

Children's Bank	148.50
Disaffiliation Fund	300.00
Harvest Festival (T-shirts)	36.00
"Hoops for Christ"	40.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	<u>200.00</u>

Total \$ 19,777.50

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.

Though we would miss you, it may even be a more loving gesture, for your own health and the health of all those at church, for you to stay home to rest and recuperate until "all clear."



ECCCM
Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry, Inc.

The **February food request** is canned or boxed pasta, pasta sauce and macaroni. These items along with any grocery bags may be placed in the red bins in the hallway between the CFLC and Beth's office. Thank you.

Volunteer day for our church has changed to the first Monday in the month for 2024. Our next volunteer day will be Monday, Feb. 5th.

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

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

2024 FLOWER CHART

The new 2024 Flower Chart has been posted in the hallway outside the church office.

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

ABC Florist - Newton

Newton-Conover Florist - Newton

Blooms Greenhouse - Conover



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

c. importunity
(Luke 11:5-9)

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

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

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 - 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

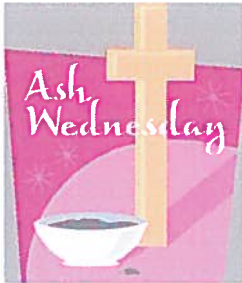
If you know of any members that should be added to our list, please contact the church office at (828) 464-4635.

Ash Wednesday Service of Ashes

Combined Service with Mt. Pleasant Methodist

Wednesday, February 14th, 7:00-7:45 p.m.

in the sanctuary



Ash Wednesday is a day of penitence, marking the start of the season of Lent. On this day we are reminded of our own humanity, mortality, and the hope of resurrection Jesus Christ offers each of us. Our sins and past failures are put into the light of who we are yet to be, by the grace of God.

With our Ash Wednesday service, we officially begin the Lenten season with a Service of Ashes. During the service, you may choose to have the sign of the cross made with ashes (from last year's Palm Sunday palms) on your forehead as a sign of your repentance and faith. Join us for this spiritually moving service.

This year, we will have the opportunity to host Mt. Pleasant Methodist (from Sherrill's Ford). They are renovating their sanctuary and didn't want to have to cancel their Ash Wednesday service, so we've invited them to join us for this combined church worship experience. Help us host our neighbors and fellow GMC-ers.

IN PREPARATION FOR THIS POWERFUL SERVICE, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO FAST UNTIL YOUR EVENING MEAL.

Heroic St. Valentine

We probably think of romance when Valentine's Day comes. That's fine, but as Paul Harvey used to say, you really should know the rest of the story....

St. Valentine was a Christian priest and martyr who lived about A.D. 270. The Roman emperor at the time was Claudius II. As a successful general, Claudius would not allow his soldiers to marry, because he wanted to make sure they could go to battle quickly. He thought family ties would make the men reluctant to leave home. Because Valentine promoted marriage and family life, he was jailed and later convicted of going against the orders of the emperor. He was martyred on February 14th, the day we remember him and our loved ones.



While in jail, the jailer's daughter befriended him. He wrote her a letter of appreciation and signed it "From Your Valentine." The tradition of exchanging valentines grew out of that heartfelt gesture.

While in prison and before his death, he converted 46 guards and their families to Christianity. In 498 A.D., Pope Gelasius declared February 14th as St. Valentine's Day.

Valentine's love for God and humanity has made him "the patron of love" in the Roman Catholic Church and for people around the world. By the mid-1700s it was common practice for friends and sweethearts to exchange trinkets made in the shape of hearts or to send handwritten notes of affection on February 14th.



Preparation for “Journey to Jerusalem” Prayer Walk

We have just under 7 weeks until the opening day of our “Journey to Jerusalem” Prayer Walk. For those who have never experienced it, this is an immersive walk-through experience that tells the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, from prophecies to birth, through His ministry, and to His death and resurrection. For the week of March 24-29, the Connor Family Life Center will be totally transformed into winding passageways that tell this moving story with scenes, sounds, scents, costumed characters, and live action. It is an enormous undertaking that requires many hours of work from many people. And we can use YOUR help! We need people willing to set up room dividers, hang fabric, set up scenes, and act as costumed hosts.

Work days:

- Between February 26 and March 2, Nancy Wall will be leading a crew to cover the windows. If you can help with this task, call Nancy at (704) 325-0330.
- On March 3 at 2:00, a crew will be moving all the crates and supplies from the storage building into the CFLC. All hands are welcome!
- Week of March 3- March 9, the three classrooms in the CFLC will be set up. To volunteer to help with these, contact Anita Deal (828) 320-3194, Jeanette Stewart (828) 315-0821, Ginny Ward (239) 218-1647 or Beth Woods (336) 480-4551
- On March 10 at 2:00, a crew will be assembling the divider walls and hanging fabric on them to create pathways through the CFLC. All hands are welcome!
- On March 17 at 2:00, a crew will be setting up scenery in the Commons Area and hallways. All hands are welcome!
- There will also be work going on throughout the week of March 17-24, so feel free to stop by and offer your assistance.
- On March 24, right after the late service, a crew will be setting up the last of the hallway scenery.
- Each night of the Prayer Walk (March 24, 25, 26, 27, and 29 – 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 March 30, beginning at 10:00, 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.

Other needs:

- We still need several young men who are willing to portray Jesus. This is an emotional and difficult role, but it is vital to the story and makes such a strong impact on our visitors. Contact Anthony Price if you can help here. (828) 228-6467
- 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!
- Watch Facebook and the newsletter for other preparatory workdays. We will have some light assembly work (can be done sitting!) that needs to be done in late February.