



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

November 7, 2023

> Enough

That's what we've been thinking about this fall. This math symbol that reads "*more than*" and then the word "enough." Together, it reads "More than enough." That's something we'd all like to have, isn't it?

Who hasn't found themselves saying things like:

...it sure would be nice to have "*more than enough*" **time** to get everything done.

... it sure would be nice to have "*more than enough*" **money** to not have to count my pennies.

...I wish I had "*more than enough*" **patience** with my kids/spouse/boss.

...I'd like to have "*more than enough*" **zest** to feel excited about things these days.

A lot of folks feel like there's simply "not enough." Maybe even you.

But into our lives comes our Lord, who is a God of "MORE THAN ENOUGH."

He can and does give us "more than enough" of whatever He knows we need.

Believing that truth is a matter of trust.



Sunday you will have an opportunity to express your trust in this God who richly blesses us with more than we need. What would First Methodist Church of Conover look like if we truly believed we couldn't fall short because God provides "more than enough?"

Do you know *you* are the way God has provided "more than enough" for the ministries of our church? *You* are how our ministry is able to change the heart of some child, to guide one of our youth, or to reach out in care for someone (near and far) who is in need.

YOU ARE THE WAY GOD WANTS TO MAKE SURE FMC-CONOVER HAS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO DO THAT.

This **Sunday** will be Stewardship Sunday at our church. And your response will allow us to faithfully plan for the ways our church (your church) will be able to fulfill God's calling next year.

I believe God and this church mean enough to you that you'll offer yourself in two concrete ways:

first, by making a financial faith commitment for 2024;

and **second**, by offering **not just** your finances, but the gifts of your abilities & time too.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor John 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:

Chip, Mary Beth & Keri Hennessee, Scottie, Kim, Nathan & Holly Hentschel, Gary, Jennifer, Robbie & Charlie Herman, Al, Lisa & Lucas Hernandez, Aubrey & Ashley Hite, Jack & Gaye Hoke.

THANK YOU

Dear church family,
Thank you so very much for the kind words, sweet cards, gifts and well wishes bestowed on me to celebrate 20 years of being employed by First Methodist Church of Conover. God has truly blessed me with the best job in the world - administering to His people! May God bless you all!
Robin Mays, Administrative Assistant

Tis the Season

The Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons are fast approaching and once again the Caring Ministry would like to spread love and joy to our homebound and nursing facility members. If possible, would you please remember these special members with a card this month and let them know how thankful we are for each of them? Also start thinking of ways to remember them at Christmas. Bags will be placed outside Beth's office right after Thanksgiving. We invite you to bring Christmas cards and goodies to add to the bag either on Sunday morning or during the week. Names are listed in the newsletter each week. Our deadline will be **December 12th** so that the bags can be delivered before Christmas. Thanks for all the ways you bless these sweet friends throughout the year.

The Caring Ministry Team

Dear FMC-Conover Members,

Thank you all so very much for the many cards, gifts, and love offering I've received for Pastor Appreciation month. Most of all, thank you for your kind care and prayers for me and my family. Your generosity and genuine love and support are so deeply appreciated.

I look forward to our strong continued ministry together as we follow Jesus here at First.

Love, Pastor John

IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

Debbie Wike at home
Connie McCoy at CVMC



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to Madigan & Frankie Gioscio on the birth of their son, Atticus Haddon Gioscio.

Atticus was born September 22, 2023 and weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces. He was 20 inches long.

Congratulations to the proud parents and to the proud grandparents, Tony & Jenene Nellenbach.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Zachary Franklin Garrison, Jr. was born October 31, 2023. He weighed 9 pounds, 2 ounces.

The proud parents are Zach & Miranda Garrison. The proud grandparents are Tony & Margaret Garrison.

Congratulations to the family!



ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS

It's that time of year again! With the Advent and Christmas season fast approaching, we will again be offering you the opportunity to order poinsettias in honor or memory of your loved ones. Order forms are available through Sunday November 19. There will be a collection box for your orders and money located on the rail behind the organ bench, or you can hand deliver to Susan Hunsucker.

Poinsettias are **\$12.00** each and checks should be made payable to FMCC with a designation of "poinsettia" in the memo section.

****ALL ORDERS MUST
BE IN BY
NOVEMBER 19th****



NEWS TO USE



FOLLOW FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CONOVER!

If you use Facebook and haven't already "Followed" our church page, please do that as soon as you can! We have increased the frequency of posts there and it's a great source for information about upcoming events. On Facebook, just search for "First Methodist Church of Conover" and click the "follow" button.

Very soon, you'll be "in the know" about all the great things happening at our church. If you have anything you would like us to post on this page, please send it to Beth Woods (woods777@aol.com)

ALSO, if you are already following our page, feel free to "Share" any of our posts so that your friends can also see them! That's a great way to multiply how far out our church's message can reach!

Did you survive the "Murder at the County Fair?"

If you missed this show Saturday, you missed a good meal, toe-tapping music, lots of laughter, and a chance to help a good cause! Thanks to the Methodist Men, Dana Little, and a fun-loving cast, the "murder" was solved (and no actors were actually harmed!) and \$4000 was raised for The Corner Table!

Check our Facebook page for pictures!

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Attention Christmas Decorating Committee! We will be decorating the church Sanctuary on Friday, November 24th. We will meet at 9:00am to begin. You do not have to be on the Decorating Committee to help. We can use anyone and everyone that would like to help.

Thank you,
Michelle Sierzenga



PASTOR'S QUIZ

When Jesus said, "Take ye away the stone" from the cave, Martha objected that, since Lazarus had been dead four days,

- a. his features would be unsightly
- b. there would be an odor
- c. the grave cloths would have rotted
- d. it might prove too late

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence October 29, 2023

Sunday School:

96

Worship:

8:45am Service 136

11:00am Service 128
264

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 25,448.10

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

Children's Bank 376.40

Disaffiliation Fund 350.00

Total \$ 26,174.50

Deposit of Sales & Use Tax Refund:

\$ 233.72



SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOEBOXES ARE DUE SUNDAY, NOV. 12TH

Please bring your shoeboxes to the church Sunday and PLACE THEM ON THE ALTAR. They will be dedicated Sunday and delivered to the local drop off location next week. Thank you for your support of this great ministry!

FAMILY LIFE CHRISTMAS TREE

All church members who would like to add a family ornament to our Family Life Christmas Tree in the CFLC, that would be great. A collection box will be located in the Common's Area by Thanksgiving. Just drop off your ornament in the box. If it's after Thanksgiving, you may add the ornament to the tree.

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

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

ECCCM

Thank you for your continual donation of grocery bags to ECCCM. Hygiene products you donated in October are currently being distributed to our clients.

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.

Thanks, Anita Deal, your ECCCM Representative



Veterans ★ Day ★

Thank you for your courage,
dedication, and hard work.
And thanks to the military
families for their support,
resilience, and sacrifice.

Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

b. there would be an odor
(John 11:39)

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

Project AGAPE — MINISTRY TO ARMENIA



Sunday we had the great privilege of hosting Nara Melkonyan in our worship services. Nara is the Executive Director of Project AGAPE (**AMERICAN GREATER ARMENIAN PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS**), a North Carolina Methodist ministry to the people of Armenia.

As Nara shared in worship, Christians in Armenia are literally an oasis of Christianity, surrounded by the Muslim nations of Iran, Turkey, Azerbaijan, and the largely atheist nation of Russia.

Oppressed by war and religious persecution and upended by a series of devastating earthquakes, Project AGAPE seeks to care for the Christians in Armenia (many of whom have been dislocated from their own homes and cities) in very tangible and specific ways. Last week marked Project AGAPE's 30th year of ministry.

From physical resources like Christmas boxes, clothing, blankets, household supplies, etc., to vocational training and prayer support, Project AGAPE is building a program of support for these beautiful Christian sisters and brothers.

WE ARE BEING INVITED TO RESPOND TO PROJECT AGAPE IN 3 WAYS:

1. **Give funds for a Comforter Drive.** The refugees fleeing Artsakh have very little to help them face the coming winter. There is a factory there in Armenia where they can get twin-sized comforters for roughly \$20, plus some pillows and sheets. (Instead of shipping from here, it's much more cost-effective to purchase them there from a vendor who has agreed to give a special rate.)
2. **Christmas Boxes.** The packing list can be found by clicking the QR code here, or picking up a list here: <https://tinyurl.com/PACmasBox23>
3. **Becoming a partner with the "Fellowship of 1000"**, where they are seeking 1,000 supporters- individuals, small groups, etc.,- to pledge \$200 for 2024 (\$16.67/month) to help support the ongoing work of Project AGAPE.



Project Agape has been a partnership between the Methodists of North Carolina for 30 years. Our partnership with them goes beyond disaffiliation - Project Agape is independent of the U.M.C. You can learn all about how Project Agape is making a difference in the lives of this Christian war-torn country, at <https://projectagape-armenia.org>.

MORE NEWS TO USE

DON'T FORGET our members in Nursing Facilities and our Homebound

Rev. Dixon Adams - Abernathy Laurels North Manor (Room 1014)
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 North Manor,
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.



Harvest Festival by the Numbers



As we have moved past Harvest Festival 2023, several people have asked me about numbers... how many people, how many dollars, how many hours...??? Honestly, I can answer some of those questions, but not all. Next year, we will try to get a better count of the number of people we served, as well as the number of people who were doing the serving. This year, I could only make a wild guess.

But, to reiterate my children's time message from last week, the only number that's really important is ONE. Jesus loves EVERY SINGLE PERSON who walked on our campus that day. And that's why we do what we do... to show the love of Christ to every ONE. I heard someone say once that "ONE" doesn't seem very important until that "ONE" is YOUR child or YOUR friend. That's how God sees us... every ONE of us.

I do have a number that I want to share, though, because I am asking that you continue to water these seeds with your prayers. We were able to give away 85 Bibles and 64 Bible storybooks to our visitors this year! I've heard stories from our volunteers at these tables that have given me spiritual goosebumps. People in our community came and received Bibles and encouragement to read them. More families now have fun, but theologically solid storybooks to read at bedtime. Lives will change if these people will use these gifts. So, please pray that the Spirit will motivate all of these families to open the Word of God and let it change their hearts. If even ONE person does, it is all worthwhile.

Beth Woods, Coordinator of Lay Ministries

Did You See the New Fashion Statement?



If you attended Harvest Festival, you may have seen some of our volunteers sporting snazzy new First Methodist Church t-shirts. Never fear! You too, can join this fashion trend! The rest of the t-shirts from our initial order are now available for purchase. Cost is \$18 per shirt and they are available immediately in all adult sizes from S to 4XL. When we run out of these, we will take pre-orders for the next printing. We can also order youth sizes. There is one t-shirt on display in the narthex, but the supply of shirts is in the commons area downstairs. Money can be left in the box near the shirts or given to Beth Woods.



It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas...???

Okay, I know it's not even Thanksgiving yet, and I'm sure not one to rush holidays, but we do need to begin to plan our annual children's Christmas events! I'm ready to hear ideas from families, enlist volunteers, and get some celebrations planned. I know we normally have a "Birthday Party for Jesus," and that's still on the calendar (tentatively) for December 17, but what do you want it to look like? What activities do your children enjoy? Would you like for our children to have a different experience this Christmas? How can we help our community's children really understand the Reason for the Season? Send ideas to me at woods777@aol.com! We will aim for a preparation meeting in late November or early December.

Beth Woods, Coordinator of Lay Ministries

LAST WEEK FOR REGISTRATION Hoops for Christ Youth Basketball Program

2023-2024 Season December 2 – January 27 Games on Saturdays, Practice on Wednesdays



The Hoops for Christ Youth Basketball Program is a basic fundamentals league for ages Kindergarten through 6th grade. All players will receive a team t-shirt, a weekly devotion, at least five games of play and a trophy.

The purpose of the Hoops for Christ program is to learn about the love of Christ through the game of basketball.

Registration is limited and will end on Sunday, November 12th or when we reach capacity.

The player registration fee is \$10. Scholarships are available.

Use the QR code to register. You will receive an email with further details once player registration closes. For specific questions, please reach out to Lee Moritz, Jr. (828-850-4331) or Lindsay Keisler (828-446-3729).

Would you like to be a part of the blessing of Hoops for Christ Basketball Program?

You don't even have to know how to play basketball! We need at 5-10 people who would be willing to give a very short (5-7 minute) devotional to the kids and parents at halftime of each game. It can be on any Christian topic and can be original or "borrowed." The only requirement is that it be presented with Christ's love. Games are on Saturday mornings in December and January.

If you are willing, please contact Beth Woods (336) 480-4551 or woods777@aol.com.

NEWEST MEMBERS OF FMCC SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023

Joined at 8:45am Service

Steve & Janice Pitts
720 Canova Court NE
Conover, NC 28613

Steve's cell - (828) 244-1324
Steve's email - steve-
pitts68@gmail.com

Janice's cell - (828) 244-0488



Joined at 11:00am Service

Jim, Carolyn & Jennifer Ball
4353 N NC 16 Hwy.
Conover, NC 28613

Jim's cell (910) 340-0930
Carolyn's cell (910) 340-8847

Email: ballbusfinserv@gmail.com