



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

September 10, 2024

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

When I read this on the AP News this week, I knew it was too good not to share. It dovetails perfectly with what we've been talking about in worship and the biblical book of James.

When those blue lights appeared in the rearview mirror of her car about two years ago, then 20-year-old Abbie Rutledge knew she had done the wrong thing at the wrong place and time. But that all changed after she spoke to the trooper who pulled her over.

"I think it was the right person, right time and the right words said," Rutledge said.

She told J.T. Brown — the Alabama state trooper who pulled her over in August 2022 for speeding — that she couldn't afford a ticket. She was broke and in a dead-end job.

"And I told her, I said, 'Well, how about we talk about it then,'" Brown told CBS News.

Rutledge said their conversation *"went on for about"* 10 to 15 minutes, *"just talking about different career paths."* Their conclusion was that Rutledge would make a great nurse. So Brown let her off with just a warning. And on it he wrote, *"Promise me you'll go to scrub or nursing school, and slow down, and I won't give you a ticket."*

However, Brown said he "never" imagined that she would take it as seriously as she did.

"As soon as he left, and as soon as I got to where I was going, I started pushing myself toward that career," Rutledge said. *"And now I'm here."*

Rutledge graduated last month from the two-year surgical technology program at Beville State Community College in Jasper, Alabama. She now works as a surgical technician at the University of Alabama — Birmingham Hospital. She says she loves her new job and gives full credit to Brown, who attended her graduation.

"I wanted him to see the impression he made on me," Rutledge said. ***"Five minutes talking to anybody, even if you don't know them, can make the largest impact of their life, ever...You never know when it could happen."*** [emphasis added by Pastor John]

Brown went above and beyond asking for license and registration when he provided guidance and motivation to Rutledge. By taking the advice written on that warning, Rutledge not only helped herself, but she also returned the favor. *"She made my entire career worth it,"* Brown said.

Friends, those kinds of interactions can happen right here in Conover too! All it takes is a little effort and a willing heart filled with Jesus' grace! President John F. Kennedy once said, *"One person can make a difference, and everyone should try."* Which is an echo of what Jesus said: ***"You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world...Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven"*** (Matthew 5:13-16). Good words for us all!

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:

Jim & Jeanette Davis, Junior & Anita Deal,
Justin & Layla Deal, Mark & Rita Deal,
Taylor & Fara Dellinger, Toni & John Dilley.

IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

Spencer Monk at home

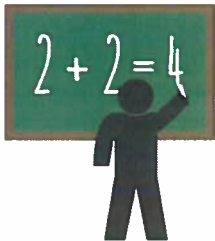
MEMORIALS

Music Fund

In memory of Tom Watson by:
Harry & Trenia Monk
Gail Sanders & Family
Eddie & Connie Henderson
Nancy McClure
Jimmy & Jane Martin

Library Fund

In memory of Carol Dickinson by:
Jimmy & Cindy Clark



**BACK TO SCHOOL with
THE NEST**
on Sunday, September
22nd at Noon

Women, you are invited to join us immediately after the second service in the Connor Family Life Center for lunch, fellowship, and fun.

We will learn how **ADDING** Jesus to your life can **SUBTRACT** stress and worry.

You do not need to bring anything, but we would love to know that you are coming and if you are bringing friends.

Women do not need to be a part of our church to attend.

Please RSVP to Jenny Harris by text or call to (828) 358-5900.

Greeters for September 15

8:25-8:45 – Steve & Brenda Heafner

10:40-11 – Tommi Anderson, Jackie Lowdermilk & Gaye Hoke

Greeters for September 22

8:25-8:45 – Can you help here?

10:40-11 – Tommi Anderson, Can you help?

Greeters for September 29

8:25-8:45 – Can you help?

10:40-11 – Tommi Anderson, Can you help?

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



THANK YOU

Dear church members,
On behalf of the staff, students and administration at Newton-Conover City Schools, we would like to Thank You for the very generous donation of school supplies that your congregation collected.

We cannot express what a blessing these supplies are for our teachers and staff to have in their classrooms and provide for students in need throughout the school year.

We are beyond grateful and know we cannot do what we do without a community of support behind us.

Thank you for being that community!
With Gratitude,
Heather & N-CCS Staff

HARVEST FESTIVAL PLANNING MEETING



**September 15 at
2:00pm**

**In the Faithbuilder's
Classroom**

NEWS TO USE

ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food **request for September** is **peanut butter and jelly**. 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.

Ashure Ministry's Annual "Share the Harvest" Banquet is October 19, at Hickory Metro Center. Music is by The Extraordinaires and the meal is prepared by Iazzo's. Tickets are \$40 and MAY BE PURCHASED FROM ANITA DEAL.



CATAWBA COUNTY HUNGER WALK

The Corner Table, Ashure Ministry, and Hickory Soup Kitchen will be hosting this year's Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 13. The purpose of the walk is to raise funds for hunger relief in Catawba County, and to heighten awareness of hunger issues within our community.

All proceeds from the Hunger Walk will be shared evenly between these 3 organizations. Please note the name change with deletion of "Eastern" and the addition of Hickory Soup Kitchen to the Hunger Walk as we now serve the entire county.

Registration forms are available for our church team. Please see Anita Deal for a form or to make a donation. You may also register online at cchungerwalk.com or by scanning the QR code on the flyer on the bulletin board outside Beth's office. Be sure to join First Methodist Church Conover team. In order to reserve a T-Shirt, registration will be due September 15. Tables for registration/donations will be in the Narthex and Sunday school hallway on Sept. 8th & 15th.



PASTOR'S QUIZ

In the fruit of the Spirit Paul did not specifically list

- a. humbleness
- b. joy
- c. meekness
- d. longsuffering

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT **By Our Presence September 8, 2024**

Sunday School:
93

Worship:
8:45am Service 138
11:00am Service 125
Total 263

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 17,955.00
(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)

Ashure Ministries	50.00
Children's Bank	76.00
Library Fund	50.00
Local Missions Fund	400.00
Music Fund	320.00
Trustees' Fund	25.00
Total	\$ 18,876.00

ASHURE MINISTRY SERVES **RECORD NUMBER CLIENTS!!**

On Tuesday September 3rd, Ashure Ministry provided food assistance to 467 families. The previous record was 439. Since extending our services to the entire county, our average daily number has increased to nearly 300. AND, First Methodist Church Conover, YOU were part of this record breaking number of clients on Tuesday, as 10 of you gave of your time on that day to volunteer. Those 10 from FMCC included 3 new volunteers to Ashure. How amazing!! Thank you!

Anita Deal,
FMCC Ashure Ministry Representative

First Methodist Church
410 First Avenue North
Conover, NC 28613
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CHRISTMAS IN SEPTEMBER

We are looking for some eager elves to help with a special Christmas project on September 25 at 1:00 in the Connor Family Life Center. You only need to be able to cut or tie a knot! If you have some great



scissors to cut cloth, please bring them with you. If we have lots of help, we will be finished in no time, and I know you will have fun! You might even learn something new!

Contact Susan Hunsucker if you can help or if you have questions. Her email address is: susanhun840@gmail.com or you may call her at (828) 612-4319.

Thanks,
Susan Hunsucker



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

a. humbleness
(Galatians 5:22-23)

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

HELP WANTED

Sunday School Weekly or fill-in – We need a few more teachers and assistants in our children & youth Sunday School department. Specifically, we need another teacher/leader for the 4th-5th grade class and a second person/assistant for the youth (6th-9th grade) class. (See Andrea Little or Beth Woods.)

Youth counselors – our youth group is small but growing! And they are a lot of fun to hang out with. We need several more adults who are willing to give a bit of yourself and your wisdom to be present for youth meetings. I promise you'll get blessed in return!

Shut-in Visitation - Wednesday, Oct 9, noon – join us right after the Chosen Bible Study for lunch and a special project for our shut-ins. We will go in teams to visit and deliver a treat to each of our home-bound or nursing home members. See Susan Hunsucker or Beth Woods for more details.

Workday -- Thursday, Oct 10, 10 am – we will be painting several hundred wooden crosses that will be given away at Harvest Festival. All materials, brushes, and paint will be provided. Just wear clothes that can get messy and plan to have a good time! At this time, we will also have materials for assembling visitor bags and Harvest Festival goodie bags. I will also have the stickers to be put on the hymnals available at this time, but the work can be done at your convenience.



Sun, Sept 15: TIME CHANGE 3:30-5:30 Regular meeting with dinner – youth room

Sun, Sept 22: 5-7 Regular meeting with dinner – youth room

NO MEETING Sept 29

Youth Meals Sign up on Beth's office door!

If you would like to sign up to provide a meal for our youth, the sign up sheet is on Beth's door. Or you can contact Beth at 336-480-4551 or woods777@aol.com.

EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE

NC GMC Laity Convocation

September 14, 10:00 – 4:00

We have almost 100 people already registered for this convocation! It's going to be a great day!

Whether you are attending or not, we could use a little bit of help in hosting this event.

- Making coffee and setting out pastries, etc. – Saturday morning 8:30-9:00
- Making individually packaged desserts (brownies, cookies, etc) -can be dropped off on Friday or Saturday morning
- Packaging box lunches – will prepare these Friday afternoon between 3-5
- Help setting out lunches – Saturday at 11
- Break-down and restoring chairs to places for Sunday morning – after event ends at 4:00 on Saturday.

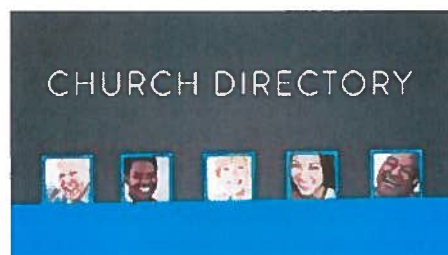
Thank you! Beth Woods

New Church Directory Coming Soon!

You may have noticed that our church family is growing. And that is wonderful! We want to help members and friends get to know each other by providing names and contacts in an easily usable format. To that end, we will be creating a new church directory soon. This will be available in both digital and print format and will be easy to update regularly, so it won't become outdated. The photography will be done in-house, so you won't have to face a high-pressure sales pitch.

So... 1) If you are in the current directory, please check your information for accuracy, and 2) watch for a letter in the mail soon that will tell you how to participate. We are aiming for 100% inclusion and accuracy!

We do need a few people who are willing to help make this happen. We are looking for a couple of volunteers to type and proofread contact information and several volunteers who are willing to take pictures. We will have stations for photography on Sunday mornings and a few other days in October.



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

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

Dottie Aycock-Harris - 1449 Brookstone Drive, Hickory, NC 28602
(704) 460-4919 - Ron's cell phone
noghost@bellsouth.net - email address



John 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

Alice Spencer - 1608 Hwy 16 North, Conover, NC 28613
(828) 464-6403

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

**NEWEST MEMBERS AND BAPTIZED MEMBERS OF
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CONOVER
SEPTEMBER 8, 2024**



FULL MEMBERS:
Brandon & Catie Hedrick

BAPTIZED MEMBERS:
Everest, Elliott, Eli, Eleanor & Ellis

3603 Bermuda Drive NE
Conover, NC 28613

Catie's cell (828) 455-3861