



# First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

January 22, 2025

Dear Pastor John,

I have a question. When it was snowy and icy the other Sunday, we ended up having one combined worship service. It was GREAT!

I saw people I used to see but don't anymore because we now go to the other worship service. And I saw some folks I thought had left our church but now I see they just go to the other service. AND I sat by some terrific new people I didn't even know were a part of our church family.

Anyway, the combined service was REALLY GOOD!! I enjoyed our church worshipping together as a single church family.

My question is: why can't we have a combined service more often? I think that would be good for us.

Sincerely, JUAN TU-NO

Dear Juan,

Thanks for writing. I know what you mean. It was great being together, wasn't it? All of us worshipping collectively as one whole church family is good for a lot of reasons.

So why don't we do it more often? Up until now, we've had two limitations. First, our space isn't large enough for all of us to meet together in the sanctuary (sometimes it feels full already in each of the two individual services). It worked on that snowy Sunday because half our congregation didn't come in person, but instead joined us online.

Second, for the few times we do worship in the CFLC (like at Homecoming, or Youth Sunday), the sound hasn't really been great. Frankly, it's been hard to hear when we are in that space.

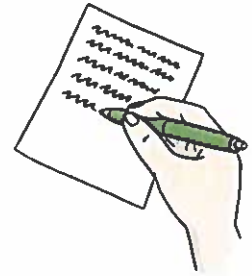
But over Christmas, our Trustees coordinated a significant upgrade to the sound in the CFLC, which means you can hear much better in there now. AND a video-feed has been installed so those who watch our worship online will now be able to watch when we're in the CFLC. I'm so grateful for our Trustees' investment in upgrading that system.

Juan, what I hope this means is we can now look for more opportunities to worship together in one service — maybe on a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday or some other times during the year. I'll be talking with our worship team and leadership about this and hopefully we can build more opportunities to be together like we did the other Sunday.

Let's keep thinking about more ways for our church to feel connected and unified. I think that honors Jesus' hope for us.

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:*

Karen Martin, Tony & Kathy Martin,  
Evan, Sydney & Eli Matson, Mike, Kelly, Laci &  
Haley Matthews, Robert Matthews, Robin & Windy Mays.



## **SOUL SISTERS** **SOUP SALE**

Join the Soul Sisters Circle  
at First Methodist Church of  
Conover for another  
heartwarming fundraiser!

Indulge in the delightful flavors of homemade goodness with our three delicious soups!

- **Soup Options:**
  1. Cheesy Potato
  2. Chicken with Wild Rice & Vegetables
  3. Hamburger Taco
- **Price:**  
\$6 per pint. Payment can be remitted at pick-up.
- **Purpose:**  
All proceeds will be dedicated to supporting local missions. Your generosity will make a meaningful impact on our community, reaching those in need.
- **Order Deadline:**  
Make sure to place your orders by Wednesday, February 5th. To place your orders, you may call Rita Deal at (828) 234-0632.
- **Pickup Details:**
  1. Date: Saturday, February 8th  
Time: 12pm-1pm
  2. Date: Sunday, February 9th  
Time: 10am-11am
  3. Location: Connor Family Life Center, FMCC

Don't miss out on this opportunity to savor delicious soups while contributing to a great cause.

Thank you for supporting the Soul Sisters Circle and local missions.

## **IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL**

Nancy Clarke at CVMC (out-patient)  
Bob Goodson at CVMC  
Ray Penley at home

## **January 26, 2025**

8:45am - Tracy & Leah Workman

11:00am - Lisa & Donna Rudisill

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



## **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."



# NEWS TO USE

## ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food **request for January** is **canned soup and broth**. 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.



## VALENTINE CHEER

Love is in the air and the Caring Ministry requests your help spreading love and joy to our homebound and nursing facility members. Bags will be placed this week outside Beth's office for our 12 congregational care members. We invite you to bring Valentine cards and goodies to add to each bag. **The deadline will be February 9th** so that we can deliver before Valentine's Day.

Thank you for your continued generosity in helping with this ministry. You are invited to join a group to deliver the bags during the week of the 9th and share in the joy of this ministry.

**The Caring Ministry Team**



## PASTOR'S QUIZ

When Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John, John was

- a. overly persuasive
- b. ready
- c. reluctant
- d. despondent

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

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

**By Our Presence January 19, 2025**

Sunday School:  
119

Worship:  
8:45am Service 174  
11:00am Service 145  
Total 319

### **God's Tithe & Our Gifts**

General Fund \$ 20,501.00  
*(Needed weekly for budget: \$15,258)*

Children's Bank 21.00  
Joshua Bible Study books 580.00  
Pastor's Discretionary Fund 2,600.00

Total \$ 23,702.00



## A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

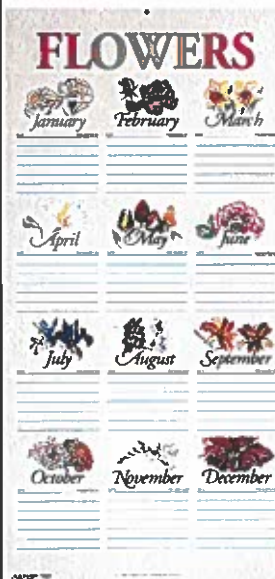
Donald "Papaw Piggy" Ervin Lingerfelt, age 92 of Hickory and father of Michelle Cloninger, died Saturday, January 18, 2025 at Trinity Village.

A memorial service to celebrate Donald's life will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2025 at 1:00pm at First Methodist Church of Conover. Rev. John Woods and Rev. Neil Bowman will officiate. The family will receive friends prior to the service from 11am to 12:45pm at the church.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Michelle, Bruce and the family during this sad time.

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

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



## 2025 FLOWER CHART

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:

c. reluctant  
(Matthew 3:13-14)

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. John Woods pastor@fmconover.org (828) 464-4635 (336) 480-4550 - cell 208 2nd St NE, Conover
Minister of Youth/Outreach	Jason Shoup jsgodson@yahoo.com (828) 381-1174 1409 5th St. Ct. 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

## EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE

### Introductory Meeting for Your Input January 28 -- 6:00 - 6:45 in the Faithbuilders Classroom in the CFLC



If you have ideas about or would like to participate in ministries that focus on prayer and support, please come to the Heartfelt introductory meeting on **January 28**. We will meet for less than an hour just before the Joshua Bible Study. Plan to meet from **6:00 to about 6:45** in the Faithbuilders Classroom in the Connor Family Life Center. Attending this meeting does not commit you to anything, but will give you the chance to help shape these new ministries.

If you'd like to share your thoughts prior to the meeting, please contact Beth Woods at 336 480-4551 or woods777@aol.com.

## Chili Fellowship Meal



Mark your calendars for Feb 8 at 5:00 for our February fellowship night and Chili meal. We need about 20 people to bring chili, others to bring cornbread, crackers, or biscuits, and others to bring toppings or desserts. We'll have divided bowls to allow you to sample several chilis at once. And you can vote for your favorite!

You can sign up to bring one of the items for the meal on Beth's office door or online at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CAFAC29A7FE3-54528357-chili>  
See the church Facebook page for a clickable link.

If all of the slots are filled, PLEASE just join us for a fun evening! You can bring something next time!



## HEY, MORE NEWS TO USE

6TH - 12TH graders are invited to come to an evening of inspiration, games, dinner (pizza!) and friends!

Sun., Jan. 26, 5:00-7:00pm

First Methodist Church  
of Conover



Mark your calendars and  
invite a friend!

Questions? Call or text  
Jason Shoup at  
(828) 381-1174 or  
Beth Woods (336) 480-4551



It's a NEW YEAR...  
Try a new pew!



After our recent combined service (due to snow on Jan 12), several members of our congregation mentioned that they enjoyed meeting new people in worship! This has led to us issuing a challenge: **Unbuckle your seatbelts (well, pew-belts!)** Once a month, sit in a different pew! Or even better... come to the service you don't usually attend! Why? It's much easier to get to know more people in our church if you can have conversations with them before and after the service.

Also, please wear your nametag and introduce yourself to those you don't know. With just a little bit of effort, ALL of us can be ambassadors for Christ, welcoming everyone to worship with us!

## 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)  
Mail to: Jeanette Davis  
102 Leonard Avenue, Room 210, 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 Assisted Living (Room 107)  
4174 Shook Road, Claremont, NC 28610  
(828) 381-4988 - Rick's cell (828) 381-7328 - Linda's cell

Mary Ann Simpson - Kingston Residence (Room 214)  
904 2nd Street NE, Hickory, NC 28601

Sybil Windsor - TerraBella Newton (Room C13)  
1088 Radio Station Road, Newton, NC 28658

Dottie Aycock-Harris - Mailaddress: 1449 Brookstone Drive, Hickory, NC 28602  
(Ron's cell - (704) 460-4919

Don Hedrick - Mailing address: PO Box 542, Claremont, NC 28610  
Physical address: 4028 E US 70 Hwy, Claremont, NC 28610  
His wife, Cheryl's phone# (828) 381-7956

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.