



# First Methodist Church

## OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

September 23, 2025

*"I call out, I cling, I want — and there is no One to answer — no One on Whom I can cling — no, Not One. — Alone ... Where is my Faith — even deep down right in there is nothing, but emptiness & darkness — My God — how painful is this unknown pain — I have no Faith — I dare not utter the words & thoughts that crowd in my heart — & make me suffer untold agony."*  
Mother Teresa, excerpt from *Come Be My Light*, as reported in *Time*.

As I read these words, I actually exclaimed in the middle of a public place, "What? This cannot be right!" But these are the words of Mother Teresa, the well-beloved woman who was declared a saint back in 2016. How can this be?

Perhaps you have not yet heard the debates concerning Mother Teresa and these letters. The book, *Come Be My Light*, contains personal letters to confessors and to Jesus, written by Mother Teresa. She wrote these letters over the course of fifty or so years, and they chronicle her own personal struggles with doubt and faith.

There are those, on the one hand, who say that these letters of doubt prove Mother Teresa to be a fraud. After all, she plainly states her lack of faith at times and her profound sense of doubt and abandonment. And there are others who believe that these letters are a ministry to anyone who has ever experienced doubt and darkness.

What makes someone "spiritual" anyway? Is it the absence of doubt or fear or loneliness or frustration or pain? Or, is it the continued ability to lean into our faith and love despite the emotional and spiritual turmoil that crop up in many lives? Mother Teresa certainly exemplified the latter....she felt so dark and alone, she struggled with what to do with her doubts, and yet, she shared the love of Jesus Christ with untold numbers of people. She lived out the love of Jesus Christ without straying from her mission of love.



I believe that most of us have the *intention* to live the way Mother Teresa did — loving, caring, sharing, helping. But, somewhere along the way, we get caught up in our own pain, our own problems, our own feelings of doubt and darkness, and we just can't see much beyond ourselves.

The call of God on all our lives is to live in a way that defies reason. And I think that's why her critics have so much of a problem with the raw reality of Mother Teresa's struggles. It makes no sense that someone who feels the acute absence of God would continue to serve this very God and love His people so faithfully.

What kind of person does this? A fraud? No, a saint. Mother Teresa's authentic faith shows us a glimpse of what God can do through the human heart. Even when that heart is being ripped open by the darkness of life, God's life pierces its way to the center and radiates love. May we all strive to allow God's light into our own dark nights.

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:*

Tony & Margaret Garrison, Jack & Meredith Geier,  
Bob & Lois Goodson, Thomas & Amber Guinn,  
Barbara Hager, Eli Hailey.

## **NURSERY VOLUNTEERS**

### **September 28**

8:45am - Beverly Swithenbank  
11:00am - Need help

### **October 5**

8:45am - Leah Workman  
11:00am - Tracy Workman

### **October 12**

8:45am - Ginny Ward  
11:00am - Lynn Haynes

We need volunteers. If you are available to volunteer, please contact Beth via email at [woods777@aol.com](mailto:woods777@aol.com) or call her at (336) 480-4551.



## **IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL**

Trenia Monk at Conover Rehab  
Eddie Henderson at CVMC

## **Greeters for September 28**

8:45am - Mark & Rita Deal  
11:00am - Michelle & Bruce Cloninger

### **October 5**

8:45am - Connie Henderson  
11:00am - Tommi Anderson

### **October 12**

8:45am - Debbie & Randy Bernhardt  
11:00am - Martha Robertson

If you would like to greet your church family on Sunday mornings, please contact Nancy Wall at (704) 325-0330.



## **A NOTE OF SYMPATHY**

Marsha Giles, sister of Diane Turbyfill, died Saturday, September 13, 2025.

Arrangements are incomplete at this time.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Diane and the family during this difficult time.



**Please remember to notify the church office if you have a change of address, change in phone number or change in email address.**

# NEWS TO USE



The Ashure Ministry food request for **September** will be **peanut butter & 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.

Thank you, FMCC, for your August donations to Ashure Ministry:

Volunteers	15.00
Number of volunteer hours	138.50
Pounds of food	10.00

This does not include the monetary donations from FMCC, many of which are recurring monthly donors.

Thank you,  
Anita Deal



## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR KENYA MISSION TEAM

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR OUR MISSION TEAM IN KENYA. THEY WILL BE THERE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30TH.

PRAY THAT THEY HAVE SAFE TRAVELS AND THAT THE CHILDREN AND ADULTS THAT THEY WITNESS TO WILL BE RECEPTIVE. PRAY THAT ALL THE MATERIALS THAT THEY TOOK WITH THEM WILL BE ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE.

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence September 21, 2025

Sunday School:  
97

Worship:

8:45am Service -	133
11:00am Service -	204
Live streaming	<u>17</u>
Total	354

### God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$	11,635.00
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$15,258)</i>		
Children's Bank		80.50
Kenya Bible Campaign		50.00
Church Furnishings Fund		<u>25,718.25</u>
Total		37,483.75



## SISTERS IN CHRIST BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10TH AT OLIVE GARDEN

All women of the church are invited to a luncheon at Olive Garden in Hickory on Friday, October 10th at 11:30 am. We will be honoring those who have birthdays in September and October. Lunch is on your own except the birthday girls will be treated.

There is a sign up sheet next to Beth's office for those wanting to attend. Please sign up by October 6th. If your birthday is in September or October, please put a star by your name.

For questions or if you need transportation, contact

Jeanette Stewart at (828) 315-0821 or  
Cindy Clark at (828) 302-3217 or  
Jean Slate at (910) 624-9843.

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

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

## APPLES, PUMPKINS, AND CARAMELS, OH MY!!!

Fall is almost here and what better time to share our love with our nursing home and homebound members! In the spirit of the season, let's shower them with symbols of the fall.

Bags will be located in the commons area for you to fill with cards, treats, and trinkets reminding them of apples, pumpkins, caramels or other seasonal ideas. Who can find the most interesting item to add to our bags???

Will you accept the challenge? We will have 12 bags to deliver locally and one person to remember with cards. Please place your items in the bags by October 19th so that they can be delivered that week. Thanks for helping to spread cheer to our special members!

Susan Hunsucker



## 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

# MORE NEWS TO USE

## Members in Nursing Facilities

**Rev. Dixon Adams** - TerraBella Newton (Room B7)  
1088 Radio Station Road, Newton, NC 28658

**Dottie Aycock-Harris** - TerraBella Newton, (Room B1) 1088  
Radio Station Road, Newton, NC 28658  
Her husband, Ron's cell - (704) 460-4919

**James Davis** - Abernethy Laurels (Memory Care)  
Mail to: Jeanette Davis 102 Leonard Avenue, Room 210,  
Newton, NC 28658

**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

**Trenia Monk** - Conover Nursing & Rehab Ctr.  
920 4th Street SW, 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 C1)  
1088 Radio Station Road, Newton, NC 28658

## Members at Home

**Elaine Biles** - In a nursing facility in Indiana. Send  
mail to her son, Jim at:  
1140 S. Michigan Ave.  
Greensburg, IN 47240

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

**Armando Lagunas** - 1515 28th St., Lane SE  
Hickory, NC 28602

**Lee Moritz, Sr.** - 103 County Home Road, Conover,  
NC 28613  
(828) 464-3383



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



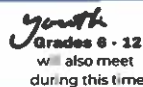
**Sundays**  
**4:00 – 5:30**

Each night  
consists of  
Bible Study,  
Games &  
Snacks

**NO meeting Sept 21 or Sept 28**

**Next meeting is Oct 5**

**Oct 12 is CRAZY SOCK night!**



To Register or for more info:  
Alisha Shoup  
ashoup3712@yahoo.com

## HARVEST FESTIVAL DONATION BINS ARE AVAILABLE



## IN THE NARTHEX AND COMMONS AREA

We need candy, toys, and other small prizes to be given away at the games at Harvest Festival.



## Bible Study examining *The CHOSEN*

(Season 5)

Taught by Pastor John

Starts - September 16 **or** 17

Tues evenings at 7:00 **or** Wed mornings at 10:30

Pick up books and handouts in the office this week!

If you have already picked up your book, make sure you have all the handouts for the upcoming week!

Register online now!  
[cchungerwalk.com](http://cchungerwalk.com)



CATAWBA  
COUNTY 

HUNGER  
WALK 

SUNDAY | 3PM

OCTOBER 5, 2025

DOWNTOWN NEWTON

(Frank & Sue Jones Amphitheatre)

Onsite registration is at 2

## TIME OF PRAYER



**Time change:**  
**Tuesdays**  
**6:00**

(before Chosen Bible Study)  
In the Parlor - upstairs

# HARVEST FESTIVAL

**SAT, OCT 18 🍁 2-5 PM**

**Please let one of the area coordinators listed below know where you would like to serve.**

This year's Harvest Festival for Jesus will be October 18 from 2-5. We will open our grounds for an afternoon of games, prizes, and sharing of our faith. An event of this magnitude needs a lot of workers, and we still have a place for YOU! Here's a list of SOME of our needs:

- volunteers to help for as little as 30 minutes, up to 3 hours helping children safely get on and off inflatable slides and bounce houses (CONTACT JAMIE TREMBLE: 828- 545-8297)
- bake cakes, cookies or goodies for the cake walk (CONTACT ANITA DEAL: 828-320-3194)
- volunteers to help children safely get on and off hayride wagons and volunteers to ride on the hayrides to help maintain safety (CONTACT ANTHONY PRICE: 828-228-6467 OR VIRGINIA SIGMON: 828-234-0413)
- groups or individuals to run a carnival game-type booth (we have the games!) and give away smiles, prizes, and a moment of God's love (CONTACT BECKY ROSS: 828-308-8726 OR SUSAN HUNSUCKER: 828-612-4319)
- golf carts or similar vehicles that we can borrow to help with set-up and clean-up and shuttling visitors from distant parking (CONTACT GINNY WARD: 239-218-1647, RON WARD: 239-210-1456 OR ANTHONY PRICE: 828-228-6467)
- music... do you know of a performer or group that would be willing to provide live music for 30 minutes – an hour? (CONTACT ANTHONY PRICE: 828-228-6467)
- volunteers to prepare and serve food (CONTACT RALPH HATCH: 910-340-2039)
- volunteers to give away Bibles and pray with visitors (CONTACT PATSY ISAAC: 828-851-6466 OR BETH WOODS: 336-480-4551)
- items (think yard sale...) to give away (CONTACT MARTHA JOHNSON: 828-244-5403 OR KEN JOHNSON: 828-244-4759)
- candy and other prizes to be given away (Orange bins are in narthex & commons area.)
- anyone willing to hang a poster in a public location (Pick them up from Beth's office)
- stuffing bags and writing notes for Bibles to be given away, Thurs, Oct 16 at 10 (inside CFLC).
- PRAYERS FOR ALL WHO ARE INVOLVED AND ALL WHO WILL ATTEND!

Wednesday, Oct 15; Thursday, Oct 16; Friday, Oct 17 and Saturday morning, Oct 18: Help set up boundary fences to keep children safely out of the road, set up tables, chairs, platforms, signs, and other infrastructure.

After the close of the festival:

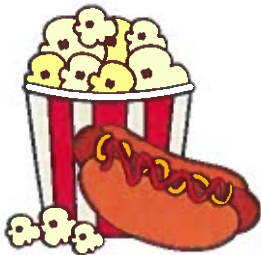
- Take-down, Clean-up and Store-away EVERYTHING. Many hands make light work. Please plan to help if you can!

# HARVEST FESTIVAL

FREE FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

SAT, OCT 18  
2-5 PM

ALL  
FREE!



Hay ride!  
Inflatables fun!  
Carnival games!  
Emergency vehicles!  
Display of vintage &  
classic vehicles!  
**AND MORE!**

Hot dogs, Cotton  
Candy! Popcorn!  
Cake walk! **FREE!**  
Wear your costume!

"Yard sale items"  
give-away!  
Free Bibles and  
prayer!



ALL  
FREE!



First Methodist Church

OF CONOVER

410 First Avenue N








# First Methodist Church

OF CONOVER  
A LOCAL METHODIST COMMUNITY

John Woods: 336-480-4550 office@fmconover.org  
Jason Shoup: 828-381-1174 www.fmconover.org  
Beth Woods: 336-480-4551 On Facebook & YouTube



# October 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 10:30-11:45 Bible Study 7-8:15 Bible Study 7:00 Choir practice	2 6:30 Hand & Foot	3 6:30 Dominoes	4
5 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	6 9:00am Volunteer Day at Ashure Ministry	7 6:00pm Heartfelt Prayer 7-8:15 Bible Study	8 10:30-11:45 Bible Study 1:00 Queen Esther	9 6:30 Hand & Foot	10 6:30 Dominoes	11 5:00 Fellowship meal
 4-5:30		14 6:00pm Heartfelt Prayer 7-8:15 Bible Study	15 10:30-11:45 Bible Study 7:00 Choir practice	16 10:00 Christian Yoga	17 6:30 Dominoes	18 2:00 Harvest Festival
12 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	13 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship		15 7:00 Choir practice	6:30 Methodist Men 6:30 Hand & Foot	6:30 Dominoes	5:30 Neighbor's Table
 4-5:30		21 6:00pm Heartfelt Prayer 7-8:15 Bible Study	22 10:30-11:45 Bible Study 7:00 Charge Conf. @ Abernathy Memorial	23 6:30 Hand & Foot	24	25
19 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	20 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	26 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	28 6:00pm Heartfelt Prayer 7-8:15 Bible Study	9:00 Both Vans - Goodtimers	30 6:30 Dominoes	31 HALLOWEEN
 4-5:30		6:00pm Heartfelt Prayer 7-8:15 Bible Study	7:00 Choir practice	6:30 Hand & Foot		

## NOTES

We have Sunday School classes for all ages.  
 Hand & Foot is a card game; all are welcome to come play!  
 Queen Esther is a women's group with a monthly program.  
 Goodtimers is for retirees or anyone who is free during the day.  
 Neighbor's Table is a monthly meal for anyone in need.  
 \*Call the church office for more info on any of these opportunities

October

2025



ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Bill & Brenda Novotny
- 3 Ralph & Patricia Hatch  
Tony & Jenene Nellenbach  
Kent & Annette Walker
- 8 Gray & Ginger Doub
- 9 Alan & Jamie Thornburg
- 12 Shaun & Jennifer McCandless  
Bryan & Donna Ross
- 18 Charles & Lucy Rockett
- 19 Michael & Addie Copeland  
Scott & Becky Ross
- 21 Kim & Steve Wike
- 22 Tyler & Elizabeth Conner  
Gary & Kelly Little
- 23 Corey & Lindsay Keisler  
Dan & Jamie Tremble
- 26 Doug & LaRue Black
- 28 Ken & Martha Johnson
- 29 Jason & Jina Loftin
- 30 Coleman & Taylor Carter  
Bart & Jackie Lowdermilk



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Avril Barnabas
- 2 Adam Stewart
- 3 Ralph Hatch
- 4 Walker Drum
- 5 Bob Goodson  
Jonah McCandless  
Kathy Rockett  
Rick Wall
- 6 Eleanor Hedrick  
Everest Hedrick
- 8 Dixon Adams  
Randy Bernhardt
- 9 Gaye Hoke  
Evan Punch
- 11 Betsy Stoker
- 12 Adam Stewart  
Jennifer Hefner
- 14 Virginia Thornburg
- 15 Ray Elkin  
Bryan Ross
- 18 Nickolas Joyner  
Guynell Sears  
Holly Sherbert
- 20 Clarence Hood  
Patricia Walling
- 21 Doug Black  
Grace Putzer  
Mackenzie Rogers  
Jamie Thornburg
- 23 Robin Little  
Bart Lowdermilk
- 24 Crystal Morrow  
Christine Osborne  
Madison Thornburg
- 25 Alex Baucom  
LaRue Black
- 26 Adam Barnabas
- 28 Jon Rogers  
John Walker
- 29 Samina Barnabas  
Tanner Rockett
- 30 Margaret Allen  
Sharon Sims  
Rita Watson
- 31 Zachary Garrison  
Eli Hedrick