



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

January 9, 2024

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people."

Acts 2:46-47

It is clear in the Bible that sharing a meal is one of the ways relationships are established, deepened, and enjoyed. The Old Testament prophets often described life in the new heavens and earth as a divine banqueting table (Isa. 25:6; 55:1-2). In the New Testament, Jesus often reclined "at table" during His earthly ministry, engaging with people, furthering His kingdom work, fostering community, demonstrating reconciliation with God, and building genuine fellowship among His disciples (Luke 5:29; 7:36; 11:37; 14:15). The early church gathered regularly in homes to "break bread together" as an expression of their fellowship in Christ (Acts 2:46). And of course, Jesus calls us to gather around His Communion Table where we enjoy fellowship with Him and with our brothers and sisters (Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 10:15-17).

Christians enjoy sharing a meal because of the rich Biblical symbolism; because it is a tangible expression of service, love, and unity; and because of the opportunity it affords for fellowship and community. Practically, sharing a meal nourishes our need to know and be known because it facilitates face-to-face conversation. (excerpts from "Eating Together" by David Camera)

These thoughts express our (Pastor John and Beth) motivation to invite small groups of our congregation to share a meal at our house. We already love our church family and want to offer an opportunity to build deeper bonds and give you a chance to share your hopes, dreams, and ideas. We hope these will be relaxing times together and aim to eventually involve every member and friend of First Methodist Church! The first "round" of these meals will begin this month and more dates will be planned soon. There will be clipboards with sign-ups available this Sunday at both worship services and a Sign-up Genius online option will be available next week. The dates for the first few meals are:

Dinner: Thurs, Jan 25 at 6:00 pm	Dinner: Mon, Feb 5 at 6:00 pm
Lunch: Fri, Jan 26 at 12:00 noon	Lunch: Tue, Feb 6 at 12:00 noon
Dinner: Wed, Jan 31 at 6:00 pm	Lunch: Sun, Feb 11 at 12:30
Early Dinner: Thurs, Feb 1 at 5:00 pm	Dinner: Mon, Feb 12 at 6:00 pm

We look forward to hosting you!

Beth and 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:

Kurtis Lowdermilk, Larry, Pam & Bryson Lowdermilk,
Dave, Cheryl & Bradley Markland, Karen Martin,
Tony & Kathy Martin, Evan, Sydney & Eli Matson.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

LOGO/BRAND

Our First Methodist Church logo/brand is available at Embroidery Heaven in downtown Conover.

Congregation members may provide their own garments (jackets, polo shirts, travel bags or hats) to be embroidered or the shop can special order upon request. Thread color can be changed.

Feel free to reach out to Patricia Hatch with any questions or comments at (910)934-1707.



IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

Johnny Moose (at home)

A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

James "Jim" Oscar Horst, age 97 and a member of First Methodist Church of Conover, died Sunday, January 7, 2024 at Carolina Caring Sherrills Ford Hospice House.

Arrangements are incomplete at this time.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Sim, and their daughters, Pam & Kim.

MEMORIALS **Neighbor's Table**

In memory of Peggy Currie by:
Sharpe Bible Class

In memory of Leta Tucker by:
Bob & Lois Goodson



Parents of preschool-high school!

I need to hear from you and your kids!

I will be having two meetings in January to hear the wishes and ideas for ministry from parents and kids of all ages. Parents and children/teens are welcome to attend. Both meetings will address the whole range of ministry for these ages, so feel free to attend either one or both. If you can attend both, you will be able to be more involved in the discussions. If you cannot attend either, I still want to hear from you, so please contact me individually to set up a time to talk. (Beth Woods 336-480-4551 or woods777@aol.com)

Meeting date & times:

Wed, Jan 17 6:30-7:30

Mon, Jan 22 6:30-7:30

Location: conference room (we'll move if we need more space!)

Please come and give input about what you want your ministry to be in 2024 and beyond! Be thinking about the frequency of meetings, location of meetings, types of studies, service projects, and retreats or other trips.

NEWS TO USE

GOODTIMERS - SAVE THE DATE!

WHEN: January 17th at 12:00 Noon

WHAT: Soup Luncheon and desserts

WHERE: Connor Family Life Center

If you can provide either a pot of soup or a dessert to share with the group, please call Eddie Warren at (828) 464-9643.



Let's go Visit Noah's Ark!

We are in the beginning stages of planning a bus trip to visit the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky, and the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky, sometime in the first half of 2024 (aiming for April, May, or June). I (Beth) have visited both of these sites 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!

Price is dependent on the total number of people attending and the final itinerary. The estimated cost for this three-day trip is around \$650, which includes transportation, admission to both destinations, lodging, and some meals. If at least 30 people participate, we will have the bus to ourselves. Even if you can't make a firm commitment yet, please let Beth Woods know if you are interested. If we have enough interest, we will move forward with plans. (336) 480-4551; woods777@aol.com or sign up on Beth's office door.



PASTOR'S QUIZ

When the boy Jesus stayed in Jerusalem, sitting among the doctors in the temple, both hearing them and asking them questions, he was"

- a. eight years old
- b. ten years old
- c. twelve years old
- d. fourteen years old

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT By Our Presence January 7, 2024

Sunday School:

113

Worship:

8:45am Service 108

11:00am Service 114
222

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 12,944.00

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

Children's Bank 32.00

Disaffiliation Fund 50.00

Neighbor's Table 100.00

Project Agape 150.00

Total \$ 13,276.00



ECCCM
Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry, Inc.

The **January food request** is canned soup and broth. 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.

Last Tuesday, FMCC was represented by 13 volunteers at ECCCM. WOW! That is amazing! Thank you volunteers and so many others for your continual support of this great ministry through your donations and prayers.

Volunteer day for our church will be changing 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

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Organization
U.S. Postage
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Conover, NC

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"Like" to add to your profile.



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

c. twelve years old
(Luke 2:42-49)

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. John Woods pastor@fmccconover.org (828) 464-4635 (336) 480-4550 - cell 208 2nd St NE, Conover
Office Administrator / Financial Secretary	Robin Mays office@fmccconover.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@fmccconover.org
Lead Nursery Worker	Pilar Tobar
Custodian	Luisa Toro Bryan
Church Office	(828) 464-4635
Website:	www.fmccconover.org

MORE NEWS TO USE

CONGRATULATIONS TO MAJ. BILLY BOSTON

Congratulations to our own Billy Boston for his 29 years in law enforcement. Billy Boston retired in December as a Major with the Catawba County Sheriff's Office.

One of the highlights of Billy's career was to travel to Washington, D.C. in 2014 with the Catawba County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard to compete against some of the largest law enforcement offices in the country.

Billy said the feeling was surreal of competing against the Chicago Police Department, the U.S. Border Patrol and the U.S. Capitol Police. Billy said that the sheriff's office was the smallest organization to compete that year. He said the experience was one he will always remember.

Billy retired on December 21, 2023 from a 29-year career in law enforcement. He spent 22.5 years of his career with the Catawba County Sheriff's Office.

Congratulations again to Billy on his retirement and for his service to the community!

Churchwide fellowship! Soup and Game night

**Saturday, January 13 at 5:00
in the Connor Family Life Center**

Special guests: all new members who have joined in 2023.
Please join us for a chance to expand our fellowship and get to know the wonderful members who have joined recently.



We will enjoy fellowship over warm bowls of homemade soup (spoiler alert: Pastor John makes a delicious chicken and wild rice and Beth's specialty is Brunswick stew...). We can't wait to try everyone's creations! Please bring soup or stew if you can. We'll provide crackers, paper products, and drinks.

After dinner, we will mingle and play board games or cards (or dominos... or any other type of game... puzzles, maybe?) Bring a few of your favorites! Whatever we play, we will be enjoying making new friendships and building stronger bonds of fellowship. (Second spoiler alert: this is a kick-off to Pastor John's next sermon series... come back on Sunday, Jan 14 to hear more!)

DON'T FORGET OUR MEMBERS IN NURSING FACILITIES AND OUR HOMEBOUND

Rev. Dixon Adams - Abernethy Laurels North Manor (Room 1035)
102 Leonard Avenue, 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

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 - 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.