



# First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

*The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover*

*December 3, 2024*

Longing is the experience of feeling the lack of something you deeply desire. It's the recognition that things are not as they should be. This is the feeling of Advent. During Advent, we prepare for the great celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas. And we do it through the practice of waiting, the practice of extended hope. In worship, there's a song we sing that expresses this desire.

*Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us  
Let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.*

— Charles Wesley, 1745

This longing is not like wishful thinking or the deep pining for something that may never be, and perhaps never was. The longing of Advent is for the One who will make all things right - the Messiah; who has come once and will come again. In Advent, we are surrounded by the awareness that this posture of waiting - of longing - is our ever-present reality. Waiting and longing for all we were created to experience which hasn't fully come to completion: love, perfection, and complete peace.

The ancient Franciscan monks expressed this longing in a beautiful chant based on Isaiah 45:8 that in Latin is called *Rorate Caeli Desuper*: "Drop down dew, ye heavens from above, and let the clouds rain down the Just One." That "Just One," of course, is the Messiah.

The promise of the longing we feel is sung in Advent carols and hymns, because sometimes - as I said in my sermon yesterday - music (or a song) is the best way to express it. We anticipate with joy the hope that Christ's birth offers all people.

There's a great verse in the book of Psalms that I've grown to appreciate:  
**"For He satisfies the longing soul..."** (Psalm 107:9, NKJV).

It's such a simple sentence, but it encompasses all that mankind has been seeking for millennia. Deep in our hearts, it's God whom we long for and ultimately only God fills us. He is the One who refreshes our souls and dwells in our innermost hearts, meeting those needs and desires that seem to be so elusive. We hunger for Him, and He alone satisfies.

So this Advent season, may we learn to wait in hope, trusting that the God who was born two thousand years ago will come again, first into our own hearts, and then, at last into this weary world.

Grace and Peace as we enter this Advent season! *Pastor John*

*Come* THOU  
LONG EXPECTED  
*Jesus*

# \*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:

Melissa Hunsucker, Susan & Mack Hunsucker,  
Mike & Greta Induni, Patsy Isaac,  
Will & Sue James, John, Leisa, Sophia & Taylor Job.

## ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food **request for December is Reverse Advent Calendar boxes.** 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.

Boxes for the Reverse Advent Calendar donations for Ashure Ministry are in the narthex and the CFLC. Please take a box and fill it with the foods listed on the side of the box. Filled boxes are to be returned to Ashure Ministry or FMCC by December 18. Thank you in advance for helping to supply food for others in the county, especially during this blessed season of the year.

Special thanks to all who participated in Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes! Our church completed 123 boxes!! That does not include the several boxes completed online. This is such a wonderful message of God's love to children and families around the world.



## Greeters for December 8, 2024:

8:45am - Rona Saunders, Charles Reed

11:00am - Cliff & Debbie Wike

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



## IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

Everest Hedrick at CVMC (ER - at home)

## **MEMORIALS**

### General Fund

In memory of Carol Dickinson by:  
Junior & Anita Deal

In memory of Brent Rudisill by:  
Junior & Anita Deal

In memory of Tom Watson by:  
Clark Sunday school class

### Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Brent Rudisill by:  
Methodist Men of FMCC

### Sound System Fund

In memory of Luke Sigmon by:  
His grandparents, Brad & Kim Little

## SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER

Bags are in the Commons Area for each of our homebound and nursing home residents. Please fill the bags with cards, notes, or sweet tokens of love and cheer so that they can be delivered before Christmas.

### The deadline is December 15th.

Bags will be delivered on several occasions when we go out Christmas caroling. **One group will be singing and spreading joy on December 18th at 5:00pm, and another will go on December 19th at 1:30pm.** Plans for a third group will be announced soon. Please plan to join us for this special time together.

Thank you so much for your kindness to these special church members who can't be with us in person.



# NEWS TO USE

## ERROR ON THE POINSETTIA LIST

In preparing the list for the Poinsettias, an Honorarium was overlooked. Please accept my apologies for this oversight.

GIVEN BY: Al & Lisa Hernandez  
IN HONOR OF Charles & Lucy Rockett

The corrected list is included on an insert to this Newsletter.

## LOVE OFFERING FOR PASTOR / STAFF

We will receive a love offering for the Pastor & Staff members from now until this Sunday, December 8th. We will receive the love offering at the end of both services. The gift will be presented to the Pastor & Staff at our Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 15th at the 11:00 am service.

Thank you,  
Jenny Harris, Chairman  
Staff Parish Relations



## THANK YOU

Our sincere thanks to you, the First Methodist Church of Conover and the very talented members of your Prayer Shawl Ministry for your love, support, prayers and the most beautiful gifts of the blanket and shawl that covered us in prayer during Charles' critical heart illness. We definitely felt the prayers and compassion during this most difficult time. I am so thankful that by the grace of God, Charles is recovering and will be coming home tomorrow, November 22nd. Prayers answered!

Wishing a blessed holiday season for all.

Sincerely,  
Charles and Brenda Gantt  
(Grandparents of Evan Matson & wife, Sydney;  
Great grandparents of Eli Matson)



## PASTOR'S QUIZ

The angel of the Lord instructed Joseph to call Mary's son Jesus, for He was to

- a. restore Jerusalem
- b. transmit messages from the Lord
- c. save His people from their sins
- d. preach love, not hate

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

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT By Our Presence November 24, 2024

Sunday School:  
95

Worship:  
8:45am Service 139  
11:00am Service 147  
Total 286

### God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 14,190.00  
(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)

Children's Bank 32.00  
Hoop's for Christ 715.00  
Pastor's Discretionary Fund 400.00  
Poinsettias 1,301.00

Total \$ 16,638.00

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT By Our Presence December 1, 2024

Sunday School:  
100

Worship:  
8:45am Service 151  
11:00am Service 135  
Total 286

### God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 20,720.00  
(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)

Children's Bank 28.50  
Pastor's Discretionary Fund 100.00  
Sound System Fund 100.00  
Staff Love Offering 360.00

Total \$ 21,308.50

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

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

### THANK YOU

We are writing to express our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support of the Carolina Caring Foundation and Carolina Caring. Thank you for your recent Murder Mystery Fundraiser to benefit our Center of Grief and Healing which raised \$2,845.00. Your generosity and commitment have made a significant impact on our mission to provide compassionate care and support to those in need.

We look forward to continuing our partnership and making a difference together.

With sincere appreciation,

Tara H. Bland  
Executive Direction  
Carolina Caring Foundation

Kelly Tate  
VP of Patient & Caregiver Experience

Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

c. save His people from their sins  
(Matthew 1:21)

### 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



## EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE



### THE NEST INVITES ALL WOMEN...

Women of the church, please join us for our next Nest event on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the Connor Family Life Center. We will have refreshments, a short Christmas program, and a fun ornament exchange game. Please bring a wrapped Christmas ornament for the game. We ask that you keep the value of the ornament modest (\$10 or less). Please let Jenny Harris know via text or call at 828-358-5900 if you can make it. We would love to know if you are bringing friends as well!

## Eli and the kids say "THANK YOU!!"



Thank you to everyone who helped make our Advent Celebration a great success! Special thank you to Ralph Hatch for feeding us and to Mike Stewart for creating such a cute Eli the Donkey! You really stepped up to help the kids with crafts, games, packing Blessing Bags, and sharing your time and heart as a "Table Buddy" during dinner. THANK YOU!

We packed 75 Blessing Bags at this event, which were added to the 40 that had already been packed. So, we were able to send 115 bags to bless children and teens in western North Carolina (primarily in Swannanoa and Burnsville, as well as other hard-hit towns)! These bags were added to those collected by at least 8 other churches in our area and will be delivered by Highways and Hedges Ministry later this week.

## HEY, MORE NEWS TO USE



### Church-wide Movie Outing

Sunday, December 8

Showing time TBA, but we'll aim for the early evening show. **(We will send out a phone message and post on FaceBook when the theatre posts the showtimes.)**

Join us for a fun afternoon of laughter and celebrating the meaning of the Christmas Season with an outing to the movie, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. It is showing at the AMC theatre in Hickory (2000 Catawba Valley Blvd SE, Hickory).

We will meet at the theatre. Everyone will purchase their own tickets (in advance, if possible). Watch for announcements closer to the date regarding showtime.

### Mark your calendars!

#### Fellowship meal with a special Christmas presentation from our children and youth!

*Saturday, Dec 14 at 5:00pm  
in the Connor Family Life Center*



We will enjoy fellowship over a meal (chicken pie and winter squash - please bring desserts), and after dinner you will be treated to a special Christmas presentation from our children and youth. It will be a "don't miss!" kind of night!

**\*\*\* Any children or youth who would like to have a "narrator" speaking part (to be read, not memorized), please let Beth know by Dec 10.**

## 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

Dottie Aycock-Harris - Terra Bella Newton (Room A5&6)  
1088 Radio Station Road, Newton, NC 28658  
(704) 460-4919 - Ron's cell phone  
noghost@bellsouth.net - email address



James Davis - Abernethy Laurels (Memory Care Center)  
Mail to: Jeanette Davis  
210 Leonard 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 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, Apt. 109, Hickory, NC 28601

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



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.





We are pleased to sponsor the children from Conover School for our Angel Tree again this year. The Conover School is a separate public school for children of various ages that have disabilities. Each child has specific needs, so we try to give exact information for the items that will accommodate each child.

The Angel Tree will be setup in the area outside of Beth's office. The tree will be up by Sunday, November 24. If you are able to attend the services, you can select a name from the tree. Please write your name on the sign-up sheet along with your phone number.

**Gifts will be due back by the end of the 11:00 church service on Sunday, December 8.**

I realize that it may not be convenient to select a name from the tree or shop for an angel. I have setup an email address [angelsfmcc@yahoo.com](mailto:angelsfmcc@yahoo.com) so you can communicate with me directly if you want to participate in the Angel Tree ministry this season. I will be happy to select an angel for you from the tree and/or do the shopping for you. If you are interested in this option, please email me now at the address above. Just let me know what you wish to do. If you want me to do the shopping, please let me know how much you want to contribute in the email you send to me. You can pay me via cash, check, or Venmo.

We appreciate your help with this and we know that these children will be blessed with your kindness! Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 828-320-9904. Thank you so much!

Dana Little





## Calling All Veterans

The Vets at Mt Pleasant Methodist Church are having a **Vets Coffee Call**  
**3rd Wednesday Each Month in our Christian Life Center**  
**0800-1000 (or until the coffee runs out)**

No program No agenda

Just other Vets to talk to, complain to, or “remember when” with and it’s all FREE!

Besides, who else but another Vet is going to understand??

It doesn’t matter where you served or when you served. You served...so did we.

Come have a cup with us

Mt Pleasant Methodist Church

4136 Mt Pleasant Rd

Sherrills Ford, NC 28673

(704) 483-3087



## Poinsettias Given in Honor of and in Memory of (2024)

### **Given By:**

Charlie & Tommi Anderson  
Danny & Sandy Baucom  
Steve & Alice Christmas

Bruce & Michelle Cloninger  
Greg & Joy Flynn  
Randy & Diane Howard  
Leonard & Julie Lawing  
Andrea Long  
Al & Lisa Hernandez  
Dave & Cheryl Markland  
Marie Mull

Robert Pannell  
Gilda Pennell  
Mark Pennell  
David & Brenda Putnam  
Jean Slate  
Mike & Jeanette Stewart  
Andrew & Chloe Thompson  
Harold Thornburg

Wayne & Virginia Thornburg  
Annette Walker  
Rick & Nancy Wall  
Ron & Ginny Ward  
John & Beth Woods

### **Given By:**

Jeanne Abernathy  
Charlie & Tommi Anderson

Jim, Carolyn & Jennifer Ball

Danny & Sandy Baucom

Linda Birchfield  
Doug & LaRue Black

### **In Honor Of:**

Luisa Toro Bryan  
Alex, Hiley, Jolie & Margaret Baucom;  
Jacob, Ashley & Walker Drum  
Alice Motes; Emma Christmas;  
Bonnie Christmas; Letti Franckhauser  
Don Lingerfelt  
Betty Flynn  
Dr. Garland Wampler  
Our Grandchildren  
Paul, Katherine, Chandler, Mattie & Justin  
Charles & Lucy Rockett  
Logan Hite (grandson)  
Buck & Anne Calloway; H.W. & Martha  
Robertson  
Sherry Pannell  
Mark, Faith & Randy  
Brittany, Cody, Logan, Saryn & Gilda  
Dave & Cheryl Markland  
Church Staff  
Jon & Shannon Rogers; Kevin Haney  
Our Children, Drew & Jessica  
Jeff, Kim & Lee Thornburg; Michael & Laurie  
Cashion  
Children and Grandchildren  
Linda Birchfield  
Our Children  
Our Family  
Sandra Woods; Our Family

### **In Memory Of:**

Randy Abernathy  
James W. Clark, Jr.; Mr. & Mrs. Larry Thomas;  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Ball, Sr.; Norman & Catherine  
Holler  
Fred & Doris Safrit; Margaret Baucom;  
Mary Baucom; Benjamin Baucom  
Ray Birchfield  
Fay & Betty Black; Jim & Hughleen Murray

(continued over)



## Poinsettias Given in Memory of (2024) - continued

### Given By:

Bruce & Michelle Cloninger  
James & Jeanette Davis  
Mark & Rita Deal  
Gray & Ginger Doub  
Greg & Joy Flynn  
Ronnie & Jean Hampton

Randy & Diane Howard  
Melissa Hunsucker  
Susan Hunsucker  
Leonard & Julie Lawing  
Jeanne Laws  
David & Robin Little  
Andrea Long  
Dave & Cheryl Markland  
Tony & Kathy Martin  
Harry & Trenia Monk  
Tony & Jenene Nellenbach  
Gilda Pennell  
Mark Pennell  
David Phillips  
Marsha Deal Phillips  
Sue Prather  
David & Brenda Putnam  
Stan & Kim Reed  
Gail Sanders  
Don & Vata Shook  
Powell & Virginia Sigmon  
Jean Slate  
Gene & Beverly Swithenbank  
Harold Thornburg

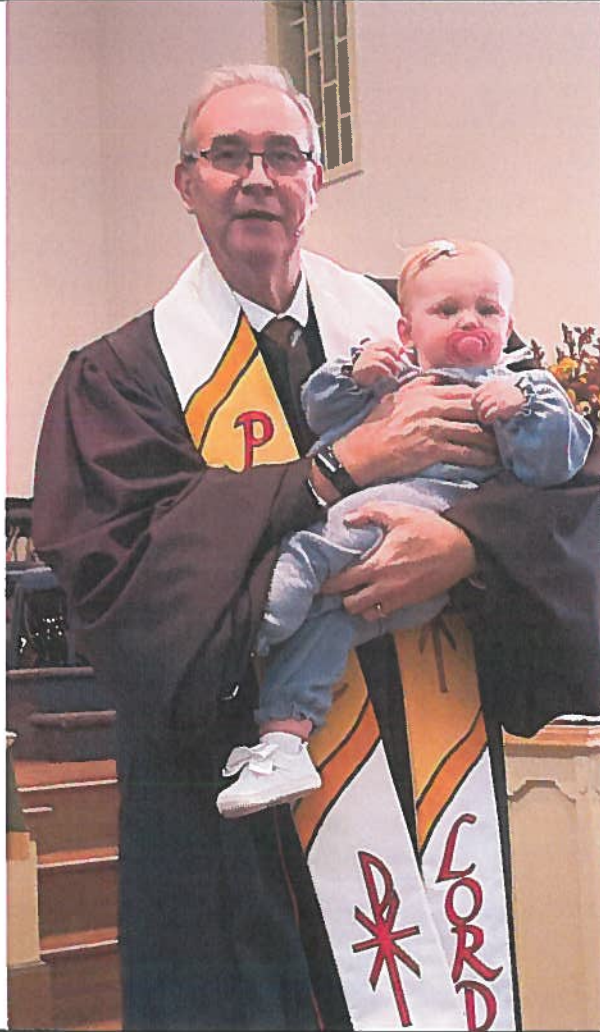
Wayne & Virginia Thornburg

Diane Turbyfill  
Annette Walker  
Dan & Karen Windham  
David & Tracy Workman

### In Memory Of:

Frank & Rachel Cloninger  
Jimmy Davis; Bob & Margaurite Mitchell  
Ellie Rose Keisler; Betty H. Fisher; Rob & Wilma Deal  
Bud & Rita Bruner; M.G. & Joan Doub  
Bill Flynn; Mr. & Mrs. John E. Jenkins  
Ronnie's parents and four siblings; Jean's mother,  
Neil; Ronnie & Jean's daughter, Jill  
Mr. & Mrs. Kelly Howard; Mrs. Mary Ann Wampler  
Clude & Jan Harris, Jr.  
Lorance & Sadie Clark  
Forrest & Margaret Lawing; Betsy & Noel Wheeler  
Gary W. Laws  
Sam & Helen Gantt; J.D. & Inabelle Little  
Sam H. Long, III  
Carroll Baker  
Terry Martin  
Trevor Monk  
Our parents  
Marvin & Alan Pennell  
Alan Pennell; Marvin Pennell  
Ferris Phillips  
Jerry Deal  
Bob Prather  
George & Polly Sigmon; Lawrence & Ellen Putnam  
Keith Wilcoxon; Don & Verna Reed  
Peter & Jeffrey Sanders  
Fred Gardner, Jr.  
Clinton & Amelia Sigmon; C.D. & Helen Clay  
H.A. Slate  
Loved Ones  
Ruthie Thornburg, Frank Sigmon Family;  
Cecil Thornburg Family  
Ralph & Edith Coulter; Lee & Katherine Thornburg;  
Nancy Thornburg  
Roger Turbyfill; Ray Mull; Venus Mull; Mary Tagye  
Betsy Hemmings  
Charles & Lee Windham; Forrest & Margaret Lawing  
Willard & Dot Workman; Jim & Nancy Shook

**NEWEST BAPTIZED MEMBER OF  
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CONOVER  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2024**



Margaret Leigh Baucom  
282 Heritage Circle  
Taylorsville, NC 28681

(Daughter of Alex & Hiley (Davis) Baucom)  
(Grand-daughter of Danny & Sandy Baucom  
and Leigh Davis)  
(Sister of Jolie Baucom)