



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

May 13, 2025

Forgiveness

I'm thinking about forgiveness at the moment. It's an extraordinary and amazing gift. It's also one that I've personally needed to receive myself this week. Maybe you too. Have you been hurt? Done wrong? Been bruised up emotionally? Made fun of, or bullied? We all have at one time or another. More than that, there've been times we were on the "doling out" end of some of that same activity that hurt us. We've hurt others. How do you handle that when it happens? If you're like most people, the idea of forgiveness is something we all want offered to us, but may struggle to give to others.

The Bible teaches that God made us, designed us, and that He loves us, which means He knows what is best for us. Forgiveness is one of the divine plans God has for each of us. Over and over in the Bible, we are told two unchanging truths about forgiveness.

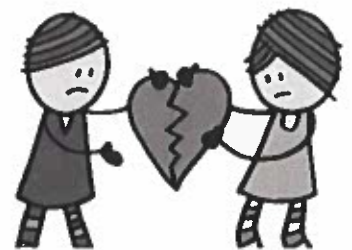


First, we need to be forgiven. It's the reason, the rationale, the cause for Christ's death on the cross. All of us have messed up, fallen short, caused hurt — to God, and to others. This point is driven home over and over in the scriptures.

And when we recognize that we've failed...or offended, or hurt, or botched things up, our only recourse to repair the relational damage we're inflicted, is to acknowledge what we've done and ask the Lord to forgive us. And the amazing news the Bible proclaims is that when we do ask, God is **"faithful and just, and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all [our] unrighteousness"** (1 John 1:9). I love what the Bible says in Psalm 103: **"As far as the east is from the west, so far has He**

removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12).

Second, the God who made us and knows what's best for us commands us to do the same thing: to forgive. Forgiveness is the supernatural lubrication that makes our lives together become more like Christ. God tells us to **"be kind, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, just as in Christ, God forgave you."** (Eph. 4:32). The Bible is quite clear to us just how important this is. The Lord wants us to understand that our own forgiveness from God is inextricably tied to our willingness to forgive others. This is what Jesus (Jesus!) says: **"For if you forgive others...your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions"** (Matt 6:14-15).



Clearly, the practice of forgiveness is God's best for us in the here-and-now and it's also His best for us for all eternity. Of course, it's not always easy, which is why Jesus offers to help us through His Holy Spirit, who is at work in us. But developing a forgiving heart can lift your heart, give you peace of mind and make you more like your Savior. Now that's good news!

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:

Gene & Beverly Swithenbank, David Tagye,
Andy & Chloe Thompson, Alan, Jamie, Mackenzie & Madison
Thornburg, Derrick & Joni Thornburg, Tyler Peile,
Jeff, Kim & Lee Thornburg.

JOIN US FOR A TIME OF PRAYER



6:30 Every Tuesday in the Parlor (upstairs)

Heartfelt is a group that meets weekly for about 45 minutes to pray for our church, specific needs, and our world! If you have a prayer request or would like to share in the blessing of this ministry, please join us or contact Tommi Anderson (828) 238-5717.



Queen Esther Circle

Wed, May 14 at 1:00

In Sharpe Classroom

All women are invited!

Join us for a "Get-to-Know-You" fun program with the women of our church!

IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

Ken Johnson at CVMC
Rona Reed at home
Wayne Thornburg at home

GREETERS for May 18

8:45am - Randy & Jody Porter
11:00am - Kelly Little

GREETERS for May 25

8:45am - Kim & Stan Reed
11:00am - Julie & Len Lawing

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

MEMORIAL

General Fund

In memory of Priscilla "Sim" Horst by:
Carol Preston

HONORARIUM

General Fund

In honor of Trenia Monk by:
Greg Monk

NEW ADDRESS

Charles Reed (Living with son, Greg)
4476 Red Hill Circle
Denver, NC 28037

**First
Methodist
Men**

DINNER

**Thursday, May 15
at 6:30 in the CFLC**



NEWS TO USE

ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food request for May will be **condiments including salad dressings, mayonnaise, catsup, mustard, hot sauce and BBQ sauce.** 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 Men's group for providing and serving the delicious BBQ meal at Ashure Ministry Golf Tournament last Thursday!! Your generosity helped raise funds to provide crisis assistance to those in Catawba County. Truly a blessing!

Anita Deal



PASTOR'S QUIZ

Do not "cast ye your pearls before swine," said Jesus, "lest they

- a. flee in fear."
- b. trample the pearls and turn to attack you."
- c. gulp them as common food."
- d. exhibit gross indifference."

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence May 11, 2025

Sunday School:
87

Worship:
8:45am Service - 133
11:00am Service - 155
Total 288

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$	22,608.00
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$15,258)</i>		
Children's Bank		21.60
Total	\$	22,629.60



Thank You for Helping in Our Nursery!

We have a FULL SLATE of volunteers now through early July! Thank you for your willingness to serve. Below is the full list of those who signed up and we will publish 2 weeks at a time from here on out, as reminders. If you didn't get an opportunity to volunteer this round, watch for another round of sign-ups this summer.

	8:45 service (be there by 8:30)	11:00 service (be there by 10:45)
May 18	Sydney Matson	Michelle Cloninger
May 25	Alisha Shoup	Ruth Brown
June 1	Rebecca Stewart	Donna Boston Ross
June 8	Melissa Johnson	Kim Reed
June 15	Erin Moritz	Donna Mull
June 22	Beth Travis	Abella Barnabas
June 29	Beverly Swithenbank	Diane Howard
July 6	LaRue Black	Cindy Clark

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
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

If you wish, you may make a donation in lieu of flowers and use the silk arrangements that are available.

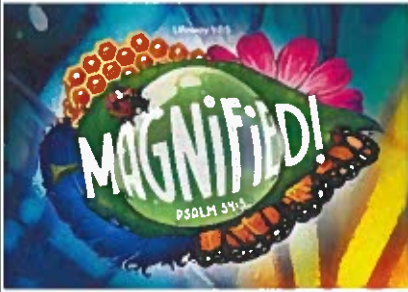


Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:
b. trample the pearls and turn to attach you."
(Matthew 7:6)

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. John Woods pastor@fmccconover.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@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



Vacation Bible School 2025

Meeting & Workday

*Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
And let us exalt His name together!*

Save the dates! Evenings of July 13; July 20, 21, and 22; Morning of Aug 9. Lots of fun is planned... including a special opportunity for our congregation's adults!

If you are willing to help with VBS this summer, **please attend a meeting on Monday, May 19 at 7 pm.** At this meeting, we will form our teams and distribute leader guides. It's going to be a great program with a place for everyone to serve! Come find out more.

WORKDAY: We will meet at **10:00 on Thursday, May 29** to work on materials and decorations for Vacation Bible School. It's going to be BIG! All hands are welcome for this workday.

Goodtimers*

Pizza and Salad Luncheon

Pizza provided;
need some salads and desserts to share!

Wednesday, May 21 - noon
in the Connor Family Life Center
Everyone is welcome to join us!

*Retirees and anyone available during the day!

EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE



Our Nurture Committee has formed a group of caring "Sisters in Christ" who send cards, gift bags, and other encouragement to our members who are going through a difficult time.

If you would like to join this group (brothers are welcome too!), or would like to support them, please contact Kim Reed 217-552-2853 or Cindy Clark 828-302-3217.

If you know of anyone who could use a bit of encouragement, please let us know that as well.

Christian Yoga/Exercise Class for All



Karen Windham will be offering a once-a month yoga class with Christian music and prayer. This is a guided class offering modifications and is a class that is taught "to the class." You will be using chairs and the wall for support. You will begin to explore your capabilities; and as a result, learn strategies to adapt to external and internal stresses. You will examine your strength and balance through creative poses and shapes.

This class is open to anyone who wants to get stronger or improve balance and flexibility in a supportive environment.

Initial class dates for this class are: June 12, July 17, and August 14. Classes will begin at 10 am in our Connor Family Life Center and will run for about 60-70 minutes to allow participants to move at their own pace.

To express interest or for questions, please contact Karen Windham at kafawindham4@gmail.com or (828) 381-9551.



JOIN US FOR A

DON'T
MISS OUT

COLOR PARTY

at

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
CONOVER

SUNDAY, MAY 18
5PM - 6:30

BIBLE STUDY • SNACKS •
COLOR POWDER PARTY

ALL AGES 3 YRS - YOUTH
INVITED



Please wear
old clothes!

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 - TerraBella Newton, (Room B1)
1088 Radio Station Road, Newton, NC 28658
Ron's cell - (704) 460-4919



James Davis - Abernethy Laurels (Memory Care Center)
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

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

Gilda Pennell - Abernethy Laurels (2103 Noble)
102 Leonard Avenue
Newton, NC 28658

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



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

Charlie Reed - (At son Greg's house)
4476 Red Hill Circle, Denver, NC 28037

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