



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

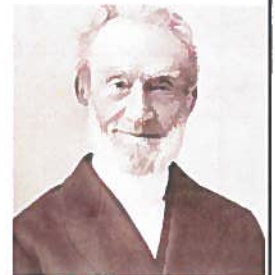
The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

September 17, 2024

George Müller is said to have read the Bible more than 200 times, many times while on his knees. Before his death, when he was asked by a reporter what he would still like to do, he replied, *"To read more of the Bible because I know too little about the excellence of Christ."*

George was the director of the Ashley Down orphanage in Bristol, England, where he cared for 10,024 orphans throughout his life. His commitment was based on God's promise found in Psalm 68:5 **"God is a Father to the orphans."**

Known as a figure wholly involved in the education of the children he cared for, he even provided an education beyond the usual norm for those times. He founded 117 schools that offered Christian education to 120,000 children — many of those children were without parents.



He said, *"If I, a poor man, can build and administer an orphanage without asking anyone for money or assistance, only through prayer and faith, this, together with the blessing of the Lord, could encourage God's children in faith, being, also a powerful testimony to the unbelievers about existence of God."*

The famous writer Charles Dickens himself visited George Müller to see for himself the treatment offered to the children. Dickens was so impressed that he wrote articles for several newspapers, an advertisement money can't buy.

And he didn't slow down just because he'd gotten older. Even after he turned 70, Müller traveled intensely, reaching 42 countries. He even spoke to White House authorities, all while sharing with everyone his rich experience with God.

On the day of Müller's funeral, all the factories in Bristol shut down. Thousands and thousands of people came to pay their last respects to the man who put himself at God's disposal and raised the equivalent of 180 million dollars through prayer and faith in Jesus.

Here's what Müller wrote about his conversion: *"When I surrendered myself totally to God, the love of money was gone, the love of a home was gone, the affection of wealth was gone, the love of worldly things was gone. God has become my everything. I found everything in Him [and] there is nothing else I wanted. And I stayed with Him, a happy man, a very happy man, seeking to only accomplish the things of God."*

Many more lives have been transformed because of Müller's faith and courage. Even if he is no longer among us, the work initiated by him still exists, and Müller's message echoes today: "God is real, He is a God in whom you can trust!"

"It is sufficient to trust in the living God," Müller said, "and not worry about earthly things, for the beginning of worry is the end of faith; and the beginning of faith is the end of worry." Those are good and timely words for us to reflect on all these years later!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor John

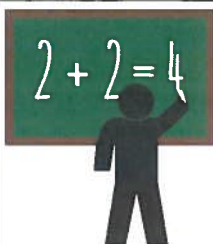
PRAYERS, PRAISES AND NEEDS

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:

Alma Dixon, Linda Dooley,
Gray & Ginger Doub, Jacob, Ashley & Walker Drum,
Sue Diggins, Ray & Judy Elkin.



BACK TO SCHOOL with THE NEST on Sunday, September 22nd at Noon

Women, you are invited to join us immediately after the second service in the Connor Family Life Center for lunch, fellowship, and fun.

We will learn how **ADDING** Jesus to your life can **SUBTRACT** stress and worry.

You do not need to bring anything, but we would love to know that you are coming and if you are bringing friends.

Women do not need to be a part of our church to attend.

Please RSVP to Jenny Harris by text or call to (828) 358-5900.

Greeters for September 22

8:25-8:45 – Pat & Alice Woods, Steve & Janice Pitts

10:40-11 – Tommi Anderson, Jackie Lowdermilk

Greeters for September 29

8:25-8:45 – Can you help?

10:40-11 – Tommi Anderson, Can you help?

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



IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

None

MEMORIALS

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Betsy Hemmings by:
Jean Slate

THANK YOU

Pastor John & First Methodist of Conover, Tom had only been a member of this church for two months. He loved this church. You reached out to me and my family in so many wonderful ways. The service was very special and I thank all who helped with it.

The many cards, calls, food and visits so helped with my grief.

Please continue to pray for me upon my return back to church.

Brenda Watson

THANK YOU

Dear church family,

Thank you for the many cards, goodie bags, and prayers during my mom's journey with dementia. You all made mom and dad feel cared for and loved. Since her passing, the kind words, hugs, cards, gifts, and prayers have continued to uphold us during this tender time of grief. We appreciate all the support and kindness. You have exemplified Jesus.

Warmest regards,

Annette and Kent Walker
John Hemmings

NEWS TO USE

ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food **request for September** is **peanut butter and 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.

Ashure Ministry's Annual "Share the Harvest" Banquet is October 19, at Hickory Metro Center. Music is by The Extraordinaires and the meal is prepared by Iazzo's. Tickets are \$40 and MAY BE PURCHASED FROM ANITA DEAL.



CATAWBA COUNTY HUNGER WALK

The Corner Table, Ashure Ministry, and Hickory Soup Kitchen will be hosting this year's Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 13. The purpose of the walk is to raise funds for hunger relief in Catawba County, and to heighten awareness of hunger issues within our community.

All proceeds from the Hunger Walk will be shared evenly between these 3 organizations. Please note the name change with deletion of "Eastern" and the addition of Hickory Soup Kitchen to the Hunger Walk as we now serve the entire county.

Registration forms are available for our church team. Please see Anita Deal for a form or to make a donation. You may also register online at cchungerwalk.com or by scanning the QR code on the flyer on the bulletin board outside Beth's office. Be sure to join First Methodist Church Conover team.



PASTOR'S QUIZ

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of

- a. meekness"
- b. impartiality"
- c. reproof"
- d. sternness"

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT **By Our Presence September 15, 2024**

Sunday School:
99

Worship:
8:45am Service 117
11:00am Service 108
Total 225

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$	9,655.00
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)</i>		
Children's Bank		18.40
Pastor's Discretionary Fund		<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$	9,698.40

GOODTIMERS' LUNCHEON

Attention Goodtimers: we will be having a covered dish luncheon this Wednesday, Sept. 18th at 12:00pm in the CFLC. All Senior Adults of the church are welcome. You may also invite a friend or family to come with you.

All that can, please bring a covered dish of veggies, a veggie casserole, or a dessert to share.

Meats and drinks will be provided.

Please call the church office at (828) 464-4635 and leave word with Robin if you plan on bringing something.

Thank you for your participation and we look forward to a fun time together!

Eddie Warren

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

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CHRISTMAS IN SEPTEMBER

We are looking for some eager elves to help with a special Christmas project on September 25 at 1:00 in the Connor Family Life Center. You only need to be able to cut or tie a knot! If you have some great



scissors to cut cloth, please bring them with you. If we have lots of help, we will be finished in no time, and I know you will have fun! You might even learn something new!

Contact Susan Hunsucker if you can help or if you have questions. Her email address is: susanhun840@gmail.com or you may call her at (828) 612-4319.

Thanks,
Susan Hunsucker



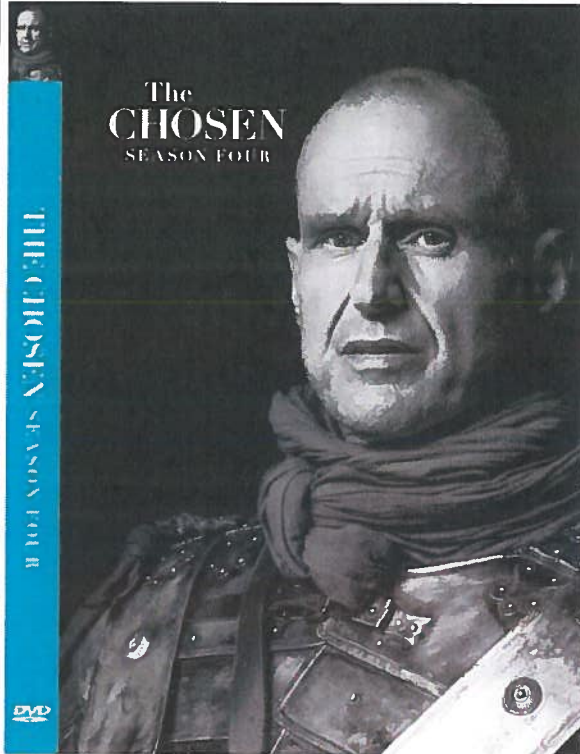
Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

a. meekness^{*}
(Galatians 6:1)

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. John Woods pastor@fmconover.org (828) 464-4635 (336) 480-4550 - cell 208 2nd St 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



FALL 2024 BIBLE STUDY

THE CHOSEN: Season 4

8 week study ❖ led by Pastor John

**Tuesdays, 7:00pm - 8:15pm or
Wednesdays, 10:30am - 11:45am**

Episode 1 is Oct. 8th / 9th ❖ Cost: \$10

You may watch the videos at
www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen.

**CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TO
SIGN UP and to pick up a book!
(828) 464-4635.**

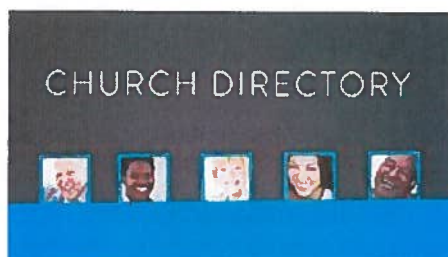
Pastor John

New Church Directory Coming Soon!

You may have noticed that our church family is growing. And that is wonderful! We want to help members and friends get to know each other by providing names and contacts in an easily usable format. To that end, we will be creating a new church directory soon. This will be available in both digital and print format and will be easy to update regularly, so it won't become outdated. The photography will be done in-house, so you won't have to face a high-pressure sales pitch.

So... 1) If you are in the current directory, please check your information for accuracy, and 2) watch for a letter in the mail soon that will tell you how to participate. We are aiming for 100% inclusion and accuracy!

We do need a few people who are willing to help make this happen. We are looking for a couple of volunteers to type and proofread contact information and several volunteers who are willing to take pictures. We will have stations for photography on Sunday mornings and a few other days in October.



STILL MORE NEWS TO USE

HELP WANTED

Sunday School Weekly or fill-in – We need a few more teachers and assistants in our children & youth Sunday School department. Specifically, we need another teacher/leader for the 4th-5th grade class and a second person/assistant for the youth (6th-9th grade) class. (See Andrea Little or Beth Woods.)

Youth counselors – our youth group is small but growing! And they are a lot of fun to hang out with. We need several more adults who are willing to give a bit of yourself and your wisdom to be present for youth meetings. I promise you'll get blessed in return!

Shut-in Visitation - Wednesday, Oct 9, noon – join us right after the Chosen Bible Study for lunch and a special project for our shut-ins. We will go in teams to visit and deliver a treat to each of our home-bound or nursing home members. See Susan Hunsucker or Beth Woods for more details.

Workday -- Thursday, Oct 10, 10 am – we will be painting several hundred wooden crosses that will be given away at Harvest Festival. All materials, brushes, and paint will be provided. Just wear clothes that can get messy and plan to have a good time! At this time, we will also have materials for assembling visitor bags and Harvest Festival goodie bags. I will also have the stickers to be put on the hymnals available at this time, but the work can be done at your convenience.



Sun, Sept 22: 5:00-7:00 Regular meeting with dinner – youth room

NO MEETING Sept 29

Sun, Oct 6: 5:00-7:00 meet at church to go putt-putting & get dinner out

Sun, Oct 13: Catawba County Hunger Walk

Sun, Oct 20: 5:00-7:00 meet at church to help prepare for Harvest Festival (Dinner provided)

Sat, Oct 26: all day! Volunteer at Harvest Festival – set-up in the morning, run game 2-5, clean-up afterwards (Come for as much as you can!)

Global Methodist Church General Conference

San Jose, Costa Rica

Sept 20-26, 2024



Delegate Beth Woods and Pastor John Woods will be attending the Global Methodist Church General Conference this month. Beth is one of the 364 voting delegates elected worldwide to conduct the business of this conference.

The primary goal of the conference is to finalize and adopt the GMC's Book of Doctrines and Discipline. As part of this process, the delegates will review, discuss, and vote on 204 petitions. These petitions address issues such as the election and function of Bishops, the organization of the Global Methodist Church (as written in our Constitution), the definition and naming of current and future Annual Conferences (the geographical region that churches belong to), and budget for the denomination. While much of the groundwork has been done over the past two years, these topics will be prayerfully discussed and decisions will be made. It is the fervent desire of the delegates that these decisions will be made under the influence of the Holy Spirit. To that end, we are asking all church members and friends to pray for this conference daily.

Rest assured, the delegates to General Conference are dedicated to upholding the primary importance of scripture. This statement is already a part of our official doctrine:

"HOLY SCRIPTURE. *The canonical books of the Old and New Testaments (as specified in the Articles of Religion) are the primary rule and authority for faith, morals, and service, against which all other authorities must be measured. "*

If you would like to follow along, watch streamed sessions, or just read more about the GMC, check out these websites:

<https://www.sotheworldwillknow.org/>

<https://globalmethodist.org/>

<https://www.gmcncpac.org/>

Or follow on Facebook: Friends of the Global Methodist Church, NC Global Methodist Church Provisional Annual Conference

HARVEST FESTIVAL

SAT, OCT 26 2-5 PM

This year's Harvest Festival for Jesus will be held October 26 from 2-5. We will open our grounds to the community 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 ANITA DEAL: 828-320-3194)
- volunteers to help children safely get on and off hayride wagons (CONTACT LOIS GOODSON: 828-465-2005)
- groups or individuals to run a carnival game-type booth (we have resources to help you plan this!) and give away smiles, prizes, and a moment of God's love (CONTACT SUSAN HUNSUCKER: 828-612-4319)
- groups or individuals to assist children with crafts and to paint faces or hands (CONTACT BETH WOODS: 336-480-4551)
- golf carts or similar vehicles that we can borrow to help with set-up and clean-up and shuttling visitors from distant parking (CONTACT 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, pray with visitors, monitor antique cars on display, or serve as floaters to help other workers (CONTACT BETH WOODS: 336-480-4551)
- household items (think yard sale...) to give away (CONTACT KEN JOHNSON: 828-244-4759)
- volunteers to paint wooden crosses to be given away (In the CFLC on Oct 10 at 10 am!)
- candy and other prizes to be given to our visitors (Orange bins will be in the narthex and commons area.)
- anyone willing to hang a poster in a public location (Pick them up from Beth's door anytime!)
- PRAYERS FOR ALL WHO ARE INVOLVED AND ALL WHO WILL ATTEND!

Wednesday, Oct 23, Thursday, Oct 24, Friday Oct 25 and Saturday morning, Oct 26: 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!

Thank you! Beth Woods (email: woods777@aol.com or call/text: (336) 480-4551.)

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
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 Living at Rock Barn (Room 107)
PO Box 1599, Conover, NC 28613
(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

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

Dolores Setzer - PO Box 1237, Conover, NC 28613
(828) 256-1421

Alice Spencer - 1608 Hwy 16 North, Conover, NC 28613
(828) 464-6403



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