



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

January 23, 2024

NEVER MEANT TO DRIVE

He was five years old, and his mommy wasn't feeling well. So she was taking a nap. His little two-year-old sister wanted an ice cream cone, so he did what Mommy would do. Yeah. He picked up the car keys Mommy had left on the kitchen table, took his little sister out to the car, put her in the back seat, turned on the car and somehow started driving (this is a true story). Then Mr. Five-Year-Old pulled out into the main thoroughfare at the corner. Thankfully, a police officer saw the car going by apparently without a driver from what he could see. That got his attention! He pursued the mystery car and managed to get the driver to pull over. Needless to say, there was one shocked policeman when he opened the door and saw a little boy at the wheel. I'd say it's a pretty good thing he stopped him.



That little guy was never meant to drive. Just like you and me - our life I mean. The One who gave you your life, He's the One who's supposed to be driving your life. In the New Testament, it says that we were **"created by Him and for Him"** (Colossians 1:16). There's a fundamental reason that we continue to wonder what the purpose of our life is; the fundamental reason no relationship, no accomplishment or experience, or even religion has filled the "purpose-hole" in our heart. It's the reason so many people continue to end up feeling lonely and lost. We insist on driving our lives when God is supposed to. But that leads to trouble!

In Isaiah 53:6, the Bible says: **"We all, like sheep, have gone astray; each of us has turned to his own way."** The result is described a little later in a subsequent chapter: **"Your sins have separated you from your God"** (Isaiah 59:2). Here we are, cruising down the road without Jesus, the One we were made by and made for. That explains so much of our frustration, our hurt, and even the times we've crashed – it's all because we are obsessed with doing the driving.

And to all of us, God comes along and says, *"If you want your life to work, if you want to have a relationship with Me, you have to let go of the wheel."* We have to turn it over to the Lord and let Him be in charge.

In the same verses that talk about us going our own way, God goes on to say, **"The Lord has laid on Him (God's Son, Jesus) the iniquity (or the wrong doing) of us all... the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him."** Jesus actually went to a cross to absorb all the guilt of all our wrongdoing so we could be forgiven and reunited with the God who made us; so we could make it into His heaven when we die.

But we have to let go of the wheel. We have to abandon trusting in ourself enough to let go and trust the One who died and rose again for us. If you insist on hanging onto the wheel of your life, you'll ultimately drive it over the cliff of an eternity away from God. Talk about a disastrous decision!

Today, the same God who made you and gave His Son for you, is saying to, *"Let go of the wheel so I can take your life where I meant for it to go."* Letting go of that wheel will result in the greatest peace you could ever experience, because the one who was supposed to drive will finally be driving.

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:

Jennifer & Todd Miller, Angie & Trevor Monk,
Greg Monk, Harry & Trenia Monk,
Johnny & Denise Moose, Debbie & Erin Moritz.

IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

None

MEMORIALS **General Fund**

In memory of James "Jim" Horst by:
Harry & Cindy Hollifield

Neighbor's Table

In memory of Leta Tucker by:
Cliff & Debbie Wike

NEWS FROM OUR CARING MINISTRY

It feels like Christmas was just yesterday. But Valentine's Day is right around the corner, and Easter won't be far behind! Since Valentine's Day is a time to show our love for others, the Caring Ministry would love for you to bless our shut-ins and homebound members with lots of snail mail expressing your love and concern for each of them over the next month. Names and addresses are in the newsletter each week. After Valentine's Day, bags will be placed in the Common's area for you to fill with cards and goodies which will be delivered before Easter. The deadline for filling the bags will be March 17th. Please consider being a part of the delivery team and let Susan Hunsucker know that you would like to help spread love and smiles to some special men and women.



Gift from the Girls' Small Group

The Girls' Small Group has prepared a special gift to the congregation to be presented at the Contemporary Worship Service at 8:45 on January 28. They used their artistic talents to illustrate one of the songs that the Praise Team will sing that day.

It's inspiring to see their interpretations of this song, so I encourage you to attend or watch the service online that day.



Journey to Jerusalem Prayer Walk

Organizational Meeting – Sunday, January 28 at 2:00

We have just under 2 months until the opening day of our Journey to Jerusalem Prayer Walk. For those who have never experienced it, this is an immersive walk-through experience that tells the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, from prophecies to birth, through His ministry, and to His death and resurrection. For the week of March 24-29, the Connor Family Life Center will be totally transformed into winding passageways that tell this moving story with scenes, sounds, costumed characters, and live action. It is an enormous undertaking that requires many hours of work from many people. And we can use YOUR help! We need people willing to set up room dividers, hang fabric, set up scenes, and act as costumed hosts.

Set up will begin 2-3 weeks in advance, but there are some tasks that can be done even earlier. We need help with publicity, planning, preparing guides in Spanish and English, as well as help during set-up and the run of the event.

If you are interested in helping, please attend the first organizational meeting on Sunday, January 28 at 2:00pm in the Clark Bible Classroom in the Connor Family Life Center. For more information, contact Beth Woods or Anthony Price (828) 228-6467.

NEWS TO USE



Noah's Ark/Creation Museum Trip

We have about 40 people interested in going on a bus trip to visit the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky, and the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky. That means we will have a bus to ourselves. (And Finley Cloninger will be our driver, with Harold Roberson assisting as announcer!) We are getting all the details set with Burke Christian Tours this week.

Tentative dates: May 20-23, 2024... Watch for final schedule and price soon.

I (Beth) have visited the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter 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!

Even if you can't make a firm commitment yet, please let Beth Woods know if you are interested by calling her at (336) 480-4551; emailing her at woods777@aol.com or by signing up on her office door.

Chili Cook-Off

Mark your calendars for Feb 3 at 5:00 for our February game night and "Chili Cook-Off." We need about 15 people to bring chili, others to bring cornbread or biscuits, and others to bring desserts. We'll have divided bowls to allow you to sample several chilis at once.

You can sign up to bring one of the items for the meal on Beth's office door or online at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CAFAC29A7FE3-47386451-chili>. See the church Facebook page for a clickable link.



PASTOR'S QUIZ

When Jesus began his public ministry he was about

- a. twelve years of age
- b. twenty-four years of age
- c. thirty years of age
- d. thirty-three years of age

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT By Our Presence January 21, 2024

Sunday School:
99

Worship:
8:45am Service 113
11:00am Service 128
241

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 15,480.00
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)</i>	
Children's Bank	42.00
Disaffiliation Fund	200.00
ECCCM	50.00
General Fund - Singer	200.00
Harvest Festival (t-shirt)	20.00
Local Missions (Tornado Victim)	500.00
Neighbor's Table	<u>50.00</u>
Total	\$ 16,542.00



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.

Volunteer day for our church has changed 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

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

2024 FLOWER CHART

The new 2024 Flower Chart has been posted in the hallway outside the church office.

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

ABC Florist - Newton

Newton-Conover Florist - Newton

Blooms Greenhouse - Conover



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

c. thirty years of age
(Luke 3:23)

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

MORE NEWS TO USE

SOUL SISTERS SOUP SALE

Join the Soul Sisters Circle at First Methodist Church of Conover for another heartwarming fundraiser! Indulge in the delightful flavors of homemade goodness with our three delicious soups.

**Soup Options:**

Cheesy Potato
Chicken with Wild Rice & Vegetables
Hamburger Taco

**Price:**

\$6 per pint. Payment can be remitted at pick-up.



Purpose: All proceeds will be dedicated to supporting local missions. Your generosity will make a meaningful impact on our community, reaching those in need.

**Order Deadline:**

Make sure to place your orders by Wednesday, January 31st.

**Pickup Details:**

Date: Saturday, February 3rd - Time: 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Sunday, February 4th - 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Location: Connor Family Life Center, First Methodist Church of Conover

Don't miss out on this opportunity to savor delicious soups while contributing to a great cause. To order, complete the form online at: <https://bit.ly/SoulSistersSoupSale> (scan QR code below) or contact Rita Deal at 828-465-7273.



Thank you for supporting the Soul Sisters Circle and local missions!

FELLOWSHIP MEALS AT THE WOODS' HOME

There are a few spaces still available for these meals. (Another set of later dates will be available soon!)



Fellowship Meals

Dinner: Thurs, Jan 25 at 6:00 pm – Full Lunch: Fri, Jan 26 at 12:00 noon – 2 spots open

Dinner: Wed, Jan 31 at 6:00 pm -- Full Early Dinner: Thurs, Feb 1 at 5:00 pm – Full

Dinner: Mon, Feb 5 at 6:00 pm – 1 spot open Lunch: Tue, Feb 6 at 12:00 noon – Full

Lunch: Sun, Feb 11 at 12:30 – Full Dinner: Mon, Feb 12 at 6:00 pm – 2 spots open

To sign up for one of these slots, contact Beth at 336-480-4551 or woods777@aol.com or use the online Sign-up Genius at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CAFAC29A7FE3-47259801-meals> (see First Methodist Church of Conover Facebook page for clickable link.)

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.

**NEWEST MEMBERS OF
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CONOVER
DECEMBER 17, 2023**



Kim & Stan Reed
975 Tracy Lane
Conover, NC 28613

Kim's cell: (217) 552-2853
Kim's email: kimreed1296@gmail.com

February 2024

February 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 28	29	30	31	Feb 1 6:30pm - Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room)	2 6:30pm Dominos (Faithbuilders classroom) Groundhog Day (United States)	3 0-8am-3pm Soul Sisters - soup (Kitchen - frig) 5pm Chili Dinner (CFLC 3-8pm)
4 2-4pm Baby Shower for Ashley Hite (CFLC reserved 10am-6pm) 4pm - "The Chosen" Video-View (Clark)	5 6pm Handbell Practice	6 09am-Vol. Day at ECCCM 7-8:30pm Chosen Bible Study (CFLC)	7 1pm Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room) 7am-4pm J.T. Russell (FB 7pm Choir practice All Day - Conference	8 6:30pm - Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room) All Day - Conference room (Rev. John & BOM)	9 6:30pm Dominos (Faithbuilders classroom) All Day...Set up for The Nest Fundraiser	10 5pm-Valentine's Dinner by The Nest (CFLC & Kit. 8am-10pm)
11 1:30-3:30pm Homeschool Homies Co-op (CFLC)	12 6pm Handbell Practice Presidents' Day (United States)	13 7-8:15pm Bible Study (CFLC)	14 1PM - Queen Esther's Circle (Clark Class) 1pm Hand & Foot 7pm Ash Wed. Service Valentine's Day (United States)	15 6:30-9pm Methodist Men (CFLC) 6:30pm - Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room)	16 6:30pm Dominos (Faithbuilders classroom)	17 5:30-6:30pm Neighbor's Table (CFLC & Kitchen 4-7pm)
18 4pm - "The Chosen" Video-View (Clark)	19 6pm Handbell Practice Presidents' Day (United States)	20 7-8:15pm Bible Study (CFLC)	21 09am-Goodtimers' Trip (Van 2) 10:30-11:45am Bible Study (CFLC) 1pm Hand & Foot 7pm Choir practice	22 6:30pm - Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room)	23 6:30pm Dominos (Faithbuilders classroom)	24 12pm Luncheon - Sharpe Bible Class (CFLC/Kit. 10am-3pm)
25 2-4pm CaliWrynn Wike birthday party (CFLC reserved 12-5pm) 4pm - "The Chosen" Video-View (Clark)	26 6pm Handbell Practice	27 7-8:15pm Bible Study (CFLC)	28 10:30-11:45am Bible Study (CFLC) 1pm Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room) 7pm Choir practice	29 6:30pm - Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room)	Mar 1	2

Birthdays

Who = (everyone except removed); Filter = Birthday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Brenda Heafner Margaret Kilpatrick	2 Jody Brackett Jessie Crooks Morgan Fulbright	3 Caylee Cannon Melissa Hunsucker
4 Vickie Stryker	5 Christine Van Rooyen Michael Van Rooyen	6	7 Betsy Hemmings Donna Ross	8 Christiney Haggins Cheryl Hedrick	9 Elaine Biles Taylor Rockett Hannah Whisnant	10
11 Gerald Loftin Anne Spencer	12 Matthew Hornick Caroline Porter Jean Slate	13	14 Melissa Fisher	15 Anna Rockett	16 Felicia Griffith Kyler Henderson Lisa Hernandez Brad Little Chris McCoy	17 Holly Hentschel Karen Martin Samantha Rockett Melissa Steelmon
18 Patricia Howard John Sherbert	19 Grace Ann Beatty Jack Hoke Josh Sigmon	20	21 Donna Chipley Doug Rockett CalliWrynn Wike	22 Finley Cloninger Tyler Johnson	23 Diane Howard Mack Little	24 David Rockett
25 Kelly Matthews	26 Kaitlin Hornick	27 Anita Deal Kathy Martin	28 Alex Putzer Donna Rudisill Ron Ward	29		

Wedding Anniversaries

Who = (everyone except removed); Filter = Wedding

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Scott and Michelle Gilleland	3 Clay and Vicki Rockett
4	5 Leonard and Patricia Walling	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Rodney and Darlene Burgess	13	14	15 Michael and Tammy Goode	16	17
18	19	20 Donald and Carolyn Scronce	21	22	23	24
25	26 Al and Lisa Hernandez	27 Eric and Kim Connor	28	29		