



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

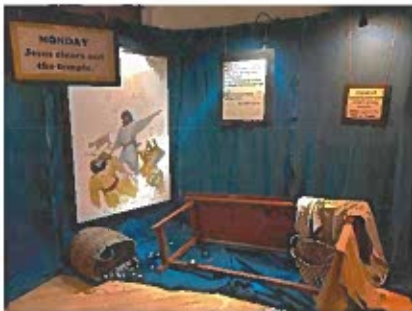
The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

March 18, 2025

"Journey to Jerusalem" Prayer Walk April 13-18, 2025



The "Journey to Jerusalem" Prayer Walk is coming soon! This immersive walk-through experience tells the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, from Creation and the fall, prophecies to birth, through His ministry, and to His death and resurrection.



The Journey to Jerusalem Prayer Walk draws nearly 1000 visitors from our community each year. For the week of April 13-18, the Connor Family Life Center will be totally transformed into winding passageways that tell this moving story with scenes, sounds, scents, 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.

Work days (All hands are welcome)!

- On March 22, at 9:00 am, a crew will begin to clear out rooms.
- On March 23, at 2:00 pm, a crew will finish clearing out rooms and begin to assemble the displays.
- Week of March 23- March 29, the classrooms in the CFLC will be set up. To volunteer to help, contact Beth Woods (336) 480-4551, Jimmy Clark, (828) 217-5102, Bev Swithenbank (828) 320 5542, Jeanette Stewart (828) 315-0821, Anita Deal (828) 320-3194, Cindy Clark (828) 302-3217, or Tamara Hite (828) 514-5604.
- On March 30 at 2:00, a crew will be assembling the divider walls and hanging fabric on them to create pathways through the CFLC. Work on this will continue through this week.
- There will also be work going on throughout April 1-12, watch for more details on this in future newsletters.
- On April 13, right after the late service, a crew will be setting up the last of the hallway scenery.
- Each night of the Prayer Walk (April 13, 14, 15, 16, and 18 – not open on Maunday Thursday) we need about 25 costumed volunteers to sit quietly as part of the "scenery" and to provide assistance to visitors in the case of an emergency. Contact Beth Woods to volunteer (indicate which nights you are available) woods777@aol.com or (336) 480-4551.
- On April 19, beginning at 9:00, we will disassemble and pack away the entire set-up. This is an enormous task, and we need anybody who is willing to come donate even an hour or two.
- Prayers! Please begin now to bathe this ministry in your prayers. Please pray for the people working to provide this experience and for those who will visit. The story is powerful and God will use it to change lives!

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:

Alex, Margaret, Grace, Blaire & Mack Putzer,
Judy Rayburn-Young, Charles & Rona Reed,
Greg Reed, Stan & Kim Reed, Gerhardt Rheeder,
Pierre, Laurette & Jarrett Rheeder.

IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

Brenda Watson at CVMC (at home)
Sue Dwiggins at Frye RMC (at home)

GREETERS FOR MARCH 23

8:45am - Donna Mull

11:00am - Marie Mull & Joy Watts

If you would like to greet your church family on Sunday mornings, please contact Nancy Wall at (704) 325-0330 or Sylvia Hansmann at (828) 302-9143..

A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Jerome (Jerry) Alan Sierzenga, age 62 of Hickory and brother of Jeff Sierzenga, died Monday, March 10, 2025.

Arrangements are pending at this time.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jeff, Michelle, Jacob and the whole family during this difficult time.

A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Ann Anderson, sister of Gary Herman, died Saturday, March 15, 2025.

Arrangements are incomplete at this time. Our thoughts and prayers are with Gary, Jennifer, Robbie, Charlie and the family during this difficult time.

A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

William McLean, brother-in-law of Kent Walker, died March 11, 2025. Arrangements are incomplete at this time. Our thoughts and prayers are with Kent, Annette and the family during this



MEMORIALS

Methodist Men

In memory of Harold Thornburg by:
Wayne & Virginia Thornburg
Bob & Lois Goodson
Linda Birchfield
Sharpe Bible Class
Ray & Pam Penley
Conover Home & Commercial Hardware

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Harold Thornburg by:
Charlie & Tommi Anderson

In memory of Dolores Setzer by:
Charlie & Tommi Anderson

In memory of Nell Johnson by:
Sharpe Bible Class

Youth Fund

In memory of Dolores Setzer by:
Bob & Lois Goodson
Ray & Pam Penley

LENTEN LUNCHEON & RECITALS



WHERE: Corinth Reformed Church in Viewmont,
150 16th Ave. NW, Hickory, NC 28601

WHEN: Fridays - March 21, 28, April 4, 11 and 18

Light lunch served at Noon, Recitals begin at 12:30pm (30 minutes in length).
No tickets or RSVP required, concerts are free, all are welcome!
Our own organist, Kevin Haney, will be performing the recital on Friday,
March 28th. Come out and support Kevin and enjoy a free concert!



NEWS TO USE



ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food request for March is **March**

Madness food drive. 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.

LENTEN VOLUNTEER INITIATIVE

In the spirit of Lent, Ashure Ministry is asking folks to consider doing their Lenten discipline with the ministry, and SERVE 40 hours from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday.

No registration required. Just volunteer and the computer will calculate your hours.

Thanks to the 15 FMCC volunteers who gave of their time at Ashure Ministry on Monday, March 3.

MARCH MADNESS

From now until April 9, there is a food drive for Ashure Ministry with a little friendly competition. You can donate food OR money for your favorite team. Food counts as 2 points per pound. Money counts as 3 points per dollar. Boxes with team labels are located in the narthex and CFLC. Don't see your team? No problem!! (Mine is not there either!) Place your food in the box labeled "other". Be sure to indicate your team preference. If donating money, please indicate team preference, and give donation to Anita Deal.



PASTOR'S QUIZ

"Ye are the light of the world," said Jesus to the disciples, warning against

- a. blinding others by overpowering display
- b. believing that others too have light
- c. hiding their light under a bushel
- d. assuming that all others will agree

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence March 16, 2025

Sunday School:
81

Worship:
8:45am Service 84
11:00am Service 135
Total 219

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

| | |
|---|-------------|
| General Fund | \$ 8,658.00 |
| <i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$15,258)</i> | |
| Children's Bank | 51.73 |
| Methodist Men of FMCC | 900.00 |
| Pastor's Discretionary Fund | 150.00 |
| Youth Fund | 125.00 |
| Total | \$ 9,884.73 |



**JOIN US
FOR A
TIME OF
PRAYER**

**6:00 - 6:45 Every Tuesday
in the Parlor (upstairs)**

EASTER BLESSINGS



Easter is just around the corner and it is time to share our love with our homebound and nursing home members. Bags will be placed in the commons area with the names of our 11 members. Would you fill an Easter egg with some sweet treats, trinkets, a favorite scripture, or a personal note to brighten someone's day? Please place your egg and/or cards in the bags by April 6th so they can be delivered before Easter. You can find the names listed in the newsletter. If you would like to help deliver bags please let Susan Hunsucker know.

This would be a great opportunity for families with young children to serve together. Thank you once again for your amazing support of this ministry.

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



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:
c. hiding their light under a bushel
(Matthew 5:14-16)

CHURCH STAFF

| | |
|---|--|
| Pastor | Rev. John Woods pastor@fmconover.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@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 |

THURSDAY

Goodtimers

Noon
Lunch & Irish
Dancers

Methodist Men

6 pm
Dinner at
Western Steer

S A T U R D A Y

MARCH 22 AT 5:00

POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP DINNER



Join us this Saturday, March 22 at 5:00 for a Potluck Fellowship Dinner! If you can, bring your favorite dish (or pick up a bucket of chicken or a dessert...don't stress!) If you're having a crazy week, just COME, don't worry... there will be plenty of food for all. Really, we just want you to come and enjoy the fellowship.

Special challenge: be sure you've met someone new or spoken to someone you don't know well before you leave to go home. These meals are a great opportunity to create new friendships and strengthen the bonds in our church family.

Also: if you know of someone who doesn't drive in the evening (or at all), why not call them and see if they would like to ride with you? You'll both be blessed.

STILL MORE NEWS TO USE



Visioning Committee

Our church leadership has launched a Visioning Committee that will focus on critical priorities to ensure our church continues to grow, thrive, and fulfill God's mission in our community. This effort builds on the "Joel Committee" visioning exercise we conducted in 2019. The committee's goal is to create a strategic plan that will guide God's work at First Methodist Conover for the next 5-7 years. They will address:

- 1. Discipleship and Spiritual Growth:** Strengthening teaching, small groups, and youth programs to deepen spiritual maturity and connections.
- 2. Community Engagement:** Expanding outreach initiatives to meet pressing local needs and be the hands and feet of Christ in our neighborhood.
- 3. Facilities and Infrastructure:** Planning for building upgrades, expansions, and enhanced services to support our congregation's growth.
- 4. Digital Ministry:** Investing in our online presence and livestreaming to extend our reach and share the gospel with broader audiences.
- 5. Leadership Development:** Equipping and empowering current and emerging leaders to serve with excellence and impact.

The committee is asking the entire congregation (members and friends) to support this effort in two specific ways:

- 1. PRAY.** The bedrock of discernment is prayer. Please pray that this team will hear and heed God's direction for our church.
- 2. Share your ideas.** While the team is made up of a cross-section of our congregation and a strong effort was made to include people from various stages of life, we know that others have perspective and experience that would complement this process. So, if you have ideas on what our church should be doing, community or church needs that should be addressed, or even just questions that should be considered, please write them down this week (meetings are already underway). You can give them to Robin (in the office), Beth Woods, Pastor John, Pastor Jason, or Lee Moritz. You can also email any of these people with your thoughts.



Special Activities for Children March 23 - During Both Worship Services

During both worship services on March 23, all children are invited to leave the service at the time normally set aside for their time with Beth and Amber.

The children will have a lesson, snack, and arts & craft project during this time and will be returned to the sanctuary to be reunited with their parents at the end of the service.



Join us for

AWANA

Ages 3 - 5th Grade

Activities:

- Engaging Bible Study
- Music
- Games
- Snacks
- Lots of Fun!

Intro Dates:

Sunday, April 27

Sunday, May 4

Sunday, May 18

5pm - 6:30pm

Full Program to
Kick-Off in the Fall

Address:

First Methodist Church Conover
410 1st Ave N,
Conover, NC 28613

**Because Kids
Matter
to God**

Awana Clubs
Cubbies 
3 - 5 Year Olds

Awana Clubs
Sparks 
Grades K - 2nd

 **Truth &
Training**
Grades 3 - 5

youth
Grades 6 - 12
will also meet
during this time



First Methodist Church
OF CONOVER

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

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