



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

January 7, 2025

Wouldn't it be nice to have **future binoculars** (lenses that would reveal the future)? If I had them, I could have saved myself a lot of grief over the years. You too?



While we don't have future binoculars, we have something even more valuable: faith. By faith, we are assured of a future we can't see (yet). How so? Seeing the future would be seeing outcomes. Faith is trusting in God regardless of outcomes.

And if we could see outcomes, we would trust in them more than we would trust in God. But because we trust in God's promises, character, and integrity—*who He is*—more than *what* we see, want, or expect, we can be confident of our future even if we don't know the outcomes in advance.

But to be sure, the Lord DOES have hopes and intentions for His work among us. My mind turns again to that passage from Jeremiah: ***"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*** – Jeremiah 29:11

With that in mind, I want to urge us as a church family to continue to prayerfully look ahead to what the Lord has in store for us. As I've said in worship several times lately, the Lord is moving ahead in new and exciting ways. And I believe He is calling us to follow after Him...to partner with Him, and to embrace what He wants to make happen right here in our midst at First Methodist and in our greater community.

Some of you have been part of our church family long enough to remember that 7 years ago, we created a Joel Committee who were tasked with discerning where the Lord was leading us in our ministries. They met multiple times and that vision was discussed, prayed over, and eventually adopted by our entire church. I am happy to report that this coming Sunday we will be announcing the fulfillment of yet another portion of that vision. **[Note: This Sunday would be another really great Sunday to be worshipping with us so you might hear this announcement!]**

By the way, all of this has happened in spite of the twin hurdles of a global pandemic and our denominational disaffiliation. HOW REMARKABLE! As we said last Sunday, *"God is good....all the time!"*

Now that we find ourselves on the cusp of nearly fulfilling the Joel Committee vision, I invite you to be in prayer about what the Lord is hoping to accomplish next.

Finally, I want you to hear that I believe whatever level of spirituality we now enjoy (in our church and in our lives); whatever degree of faith in Jesus Christ we now have; whatever strength of commitment and consecration; whatever degree of obedience, hope, or charity is ours; and whatever level of abilities we have already obtained — it will not be sufficient for the wonderful and amazing work that lies ahead. We must continue to lean even more firmly onto that Solid Rock which is Jesus Christ. There was a song a long time ago with lyrics that said: *"My future's so bright, I gotta wear shades."*

So it is for First Methodist Church. Grab your sunglasses!

Grace and Peace as we begin 2025!

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:

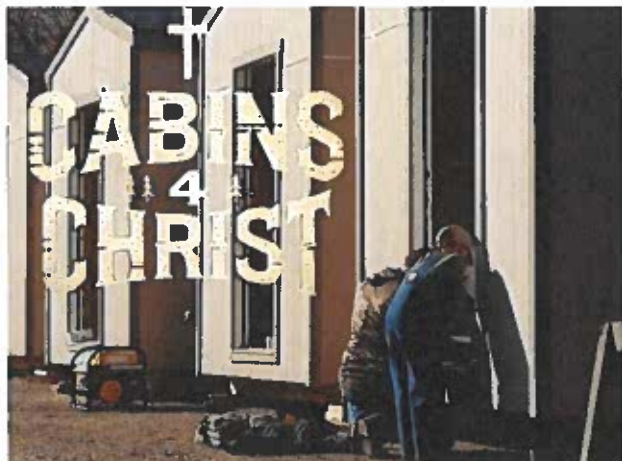
David & Robin Little, Gary & Kelly Little,
Scott, Andrea, Sady & Chase Little, Gerald & Sandra Loftin,
Jason & Jina Loftin, Mary Logan.

Cabins4Christ

FYI – Thank you for the money you donated last year to NC Global Methodist Church Annual Conference to be used to help our brothers and sisters in western North Carolina after Hurricane Helene. On December 29, 2024, a post was on Facebook that stated that enough was donated by our conference to financially support 25 cabins with Cabins4Christ. Later a post gave details about how you or a team could volunteer to work on these cabins. The host church is Providence GMC in Forest City. Here we will have the ability to construct these cabins and house teams. Those wanting more details about this mission project can go to the NC Global Methodist Church Annual Conference website or

Greg Grabbs
GMC NC Disaster Relief Ministry
336-583-5557
outreachchair@concordchurchrox.org
ggrabbs@gmail.com

Mission and Outreach Chairperson
Lois Goodson



IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

None

January 12, 2025

8:45am - Linda Parker, Eddie Warren

11:00am - Jean Slate, Jackie Lowdermilk

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



ATTENTION GOODTIMERS!!!

The Goodtimers will get together on Wednesday, January 15th for a luncheon at 12:00 noon. Traditionally we will have a variety of soups and desserts! Please contact Eddie Warren at (828) 464-9643 or via cell phone at (828) 612-5564 and let him know what you are planning to bring.

Invite a friend to join us!



LOST ITEM

A pair of readers was lost at the 6pm Christmas Eve service. If anyone has found a pair of readers, frameless, rectangular in shape with plastic lenses, please contact the church office at (828) 464-4635.

Thank you.

NEWS TO USE

ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food **request for January is canned soup and broth.** 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.

Here are our totals for December 2024 and for the year.

December:

Food - 283

Volunteers - 14

Hours - 187.7

2024:

Food - 1134

Volunteers - 26

Shifts - 171

Hours - 2429.4

Y'all had by far the most shifts and hours by any church this year.



FMC Conover was represented (very well!) at the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes processing center in Boone at Samaritan's Purse. This December day of travel, laughter, and volunteering proved to be extremely rewarding and inspiring.



PASTOR'S QUIZ

John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, wore a garment of

- a. goatskin
- b. camel's hair
- c. papyrus
- d. wool

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence January 5, 2025

Sunday School:
107

Worship:
8:45am Service 158
11:00am Service 123
Total 281

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 15,015.00
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)</i>	
Children's Bank	55.32
Total	\$ 16,042.82

Deposited 12/31/24

General Fund	\$479.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$400.00
Total	\$879.00

Deposited 1/6/25 but was received with postmark of 12/30/24:

General Fund	\$1,595.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$ 100.00
Total	\$1,695.00



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

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FLOWERS



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

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

Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

b. camel's hair
(Matthew 3:1, 4)

EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE



prayer, visits, cards and phone calls. But sometimes, concerns are not known, so don't get the support needed.

Romans 12:15 encourages believers to "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn." The church is the best place to find comfort and strength in the face of life's difficulties. Personal stories of God's provision can inspire and encourage. Knowing that others are walking the journey with you or have walked it ahead of you brings hope and comfort. Our church family is a community in which this happens daily. You are faithful to support your brothers and sisters in Christ through

In late January, we will be launching a group of new ministries (Heartfelt Ministries) to help improve communication of prayer needs and to provide additional means of support to all our family. More information will be given in the next few weeks, so be watching for that. Initial plans include a regularly meeting prayer group, areas in the church building designated for prayer and for leaving prayer requests, some online or telephone options for prayer requests, a grief support group and other support ministries.

Right now, we would like to hear from you... what would YOU like this ministry to look like? Would you be interested in participating in some part of it? Most of all, would you please PRAY? Pray that God will call and equip those who will be providing leadership. Pray for discernment about what experiences will help participants to grow in their faith. Pray for GOD to be honored and glorified in all that we do!

HOOPS FOR CHRIST YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Our Hoops for Christ Youth Basketball ministry still needs YOU!

We need a few more people willing to provide encouragement and witness to the spectators by sharing a short (3-5 minute) devotional during half-time for each game. (4 games per Saturday – but you can split these with someone else.) Would you be willing to do this one Saturday? Be the face and voice of Christ for our community?

Devotionals needed for Saturdays: January 18 and 25, and February 1.

We also need people to provide refreshments (and make coffee – supplies provided) for a couple of our games. This can be as simple as doughnuts or cereal bars or a homemade treat. (Plan for about 80 servings.)

Refreshments needed for Saturdays: January 25 and February 1.

We'd love to have you come cheer for these players at a few of their games! It's the best free fun you can find on a Saturday morning! (Games on Saturdays Jan 11-Feb 1.) Most of all, pray for this ministry... the coaches, players, families, and all who will be impacted.

Please let me know if you are willing to help. Beth (336) 480-4551 or woods777@aol.com

HEY, MORE NEWS TO USE

New Church Directory Update

It's been slow going, but I have over 125 family units' pictures ready for the directory. But we still want to make sure everyone is included before we print them.

SO, if I haven't taken your picture or you haven't given me your information, let's get that done ASAP! I'll be available to take pictures at the fellowship dinner Saturday (Jan 11). I am also willing to take pictures any time I am at church (Just stop by or call to make sure I'm in... 336-480-4551.) You can also send me a picture by text or email.



Contact me if you need an information form (or follow the link on our website: www.fmccconover.org.)

ALSO: If I took your picture and you want copies of the pictures, email me a request and I will send them to you!! Woods777@aol.com

Churchwide Fellowship Meal Soup & Bingo

Saturday, January 11 at 5:00 in the Connor Family Life Center

Please join us for a chance to expand our fellowship and get to know each other better. Wear your nametag! (Please!) If you don't have one, we can make one for you!

We will enjoy fellowship and a warm meal. If you are able, please bring soup, bread or a dessert! BUT, PLEASE, come even if you can't bring something... we ALWAYS have plenty of food!!!



After dinner, we will mingle and play Bingo. It's always a lot of fun and it's a great opportunity to meet a new friend.



Sun, Jan 12, 5:00-7:00 Special game night with 4th & 5th graders-- Includes dinner – youth room

Sun, Jan 26, 5:00-7:00 Regular meeting; Includes dinner – youth room

Mark your calendars and invite a friend!

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, 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.