The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

November 5, 2024

#### Out of the Woods — "Seeds We Sow"

I can't track down if this is true or simply an apocryphal story but I share it with you as it was shared with me. The man's name was Fleming, and he was just a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to eke out a living for his family, he heard a distant cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired up to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. He was panicked. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse home. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy that farmer Fleming had saved. "I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life."

"No, I can't accept payment for what I did," the farmer replied, waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel. "Is that your son?" the nobleman asked.

"Yes," the farmer replied proudly.

"I'll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow to a man you can be proud of."

And that he did. In time, Farmer Fleming's son graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin.

Years afterward, the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia. What saved him? Penicillin. The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill. His son's name? The one who had been saved from the bog? Winston Churchill!

Through the prophet Hosea, God says, "Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers righteousness on you." (10:12).

QUESTION: What seeds are you sowing this week that will bear fruit in the future? How are you investing your time? Where are you spending your money and energy? What words and deeds are you planting into the hearts and lives of those around you?

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

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:

Scottie, Kim, Nathan & Holly Hentschel, Gary, Jennifer, Robbie & Charlie Herman, Al, Lisa & Lucas Hernandez, Joe & Tamara Hite, Jack & Gaye Hoke, Dianne Hollar.

#### A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Brentley "Brent" Eugene Rudisill, 78, of Vale and husband of Peggy Rudisill, died Monday, October 28, 2024 at his residence.

A memorial service with military honors to celebrate Brent's life was held on Sunday, November 3, 2024 at 2:00pm at First Methodist Church of Conover. Rev. Woods officiated. Inurnment followed at the church columbarium. The family received friends prior to the service from 12:30 to 1:45pm at the church.

Memorials may be made to First Methodist Church of Conover and designated for the Youth Fund or for the General Fund as requested by the family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Peggy and the family during this difficult time.



## <u>Greeters for</u> November 10, 2024:

8:45am - Kim & Stan Reed

11:00am - Lisa & Donna Rudisill

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



## **NEW ADDRESS**

Gilda Pennell 1086 Lee Cline Road Conover, NC 28613

#### **IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL**

None

## A Note of Very Grateful Thanks to My Church Family,

Words can hardly express my profound gratitude for all of you. I want to thank you for the incredible outpouring of love and support you have given me during this past month for Pastor Appreciation.

I especially want to thank you for the abundant generosity you have shown me. You were all extremely generous in your love. God has richly blessed me and Beth through you and we are so grateful to be here at First! Thank you very much for your love!

Pastor John (and Beth)

# THE ANGELS ARE SINGING!



Hard to believe Christmas is just around the corner and it is time to order **POINSETTIAS**Order one or two or more for: The glory and honor of your Lord; That loved one that is celebrating a glorious heavenly Christmas; That loved one that you see every week or that lives around the world and will see in a few weeks; In honor of someone you hold dear

Whatever the reason, lets flood the church with the color of celebration as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, **JESUS!** What a wonderful name!

Order forms are located on the railing near the organ bench in the Sanctuary. Fill out your form, attach your payment and place in the box. Any questions please see Jeanne Laws or Anthony Price.

## **NEWS TO USE**

#### **ASHURE NEWS**

The Ashure Ministry food request for November is flour, cornmeal & sugar. 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.





## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

It's SHOEBOX TIME!! Don't forget to get one or more Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes located in the narthex, Sunday school hallway, and CFLC. Labels to indicate whether your child is a boy or girl and their age range are on the tables with the shoeboxes. The label is to be taped to the outside of your box, and the envelope with your \$10 S&H should be placed in the box. Happy shopping and packing!

Deadline for shoeboxes to be returned to the church is Sunday, November 17, 2024.

#### **NOVEMBER BLESSINGS**

November is a great time to count our blessings and to send words of gratitude and encouragement to those we love and care about.

Would you remember our shut-ins and homebound members with cards, phone calls, and messages during the season of Thanksgiving, letting them know how much they mean to our church family?

On December 3rd, you are invited to join us as we go out to visit these special church members and kick off the Christmas season. We will go out in groups to visit those who can't be with us during the holiday season and deliver a special gift to each one. Please be at the church by 1:30 to be a part of this ministry.

We look forward to seeing everyone on the 3rd.

Susan Hunsucker



## PASTOR'S QUIZ

When Christ appears a 2nd time, says Hebrews, it will be to

- a. deal with sin
- b. confirm the prophecies
- c. save those who look for Him
- d. save everyone

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

#### STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence November 3, 2024

Sunday School: 101

Worship:

8:45am Service 165 11:00am Service <u>155</u>

Total 32

#### God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 24,437.00 (Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)

Children's Bank 119.00
Columbarium 5,162.00
Harvest Festival 110.00
Residents of Heritage Care in Sugar Mountain 350.00

Pastor's Discretionary Fund 25.00
Sound System Fund 150.00
Total \$ 30.353.00

## DONATE FAMILY ORNAMENTS FOR THE CFLC FAMILY TREE

Through the years, we have collected various Christmas ornaments by families for the family tree in the Connor Family Life Center. If you and your family would like to place an ornament on the family tree in the CFLC, please put your name on the back of the ornament and place in the clear tub in the Narthex. The final day to receive Family ornaments will be November 27th. If you have ornaments after this date, please feel free to add them to the CFLC tree.

All those who would like to help decorate the Chrismon Tree in the Sanctuary and the Family Tree in the CFLC may help do so on Wednesday, November 27th at 9:00am.

Michelle Sierzenga

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

Newton-Conover Florist - Newton

Blooms Greenhouse - Conover



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz: c. save those who look for Him" (Hebrews 9:28)

#### **CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor Rev. John Woods

pastor@fmcconover.org (828) 464-4635 (336) 480-4550 - cell 208 2nd St NE, Conover

Office Administrator / Financial Secretary

Robin Mays

office@fmcconover.org

Coordinator of Lay Ministries Beth '

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@fmcconover.org

Lead Nursery Worker

Pilar Tobar

Custodian

Luisa Toro Bryan

Church Office

(828) 464-4635

Website:

www.fmcconover.org

## **EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE**

## **Our New Church Directory is Getting Close!**

We are nearing our goal! I (Beth) hope to have all pictures and information uploaded into the new directory program by the end of November, so please make sure you've given me your information as soon as possible!

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.)

Contact me if you need a form (or follow the link on our website: www.fmcconover.org.)



## Churchwide fellowship Meal and Game night

Saturday, November 9 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!)

We will enjoy fellowship and a warm meal. Meal provided, (Brunswick Stew and Chili Bar) please bring desserts!





After dinner, we will mingle and play board games or cards (or dominos... or any other type of game... puzzles, maybe?) Bring a few of your favorites! Whatever we play, we will be enjoying making new friendships and building stronger bonds of fellowship.

## Calling all 4th and 5th graders! Special Invitation!

Our  $4^{th}$  and  $5^{th}$  graders are invited to attend the Youth meeting THIS SUNDAY, Nov 10, for a night of fun and games. So, please join us in the Youth Room in the CFLC from 5-7 pm. We will eat dinner together and spend the evening in fellowship, learning, and fun!

Our youth are excited to host these special friends! We will also be making plans for other events for these youth and "junior youth" to do together!



## STILL MORE NEWS TO USE



Give the gift of Christmas to a child in Western NC

Fill a Gallon plastic zipper bag full of small items for kids of all ages!

Turn in bags by: December 1st
First Methodist Church in Conover

Suggested items:
Small coloring books
Crayons
Pencils/Pens
Notepads
Small stuffed animals
Candy
Capri Sun drinks
Small individual bags of snacks
Crackers
Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Socks
Gift cards for older kids

Pick a Girl or Boy - Label bag Pick an Age category: 2-5

2-5 6-10 11-14 15-18

Bags will be delivered on Dec 8th to Burnsville, Swannance, and other hard to reach areas in Western NC

> For more information: Contact Beth Woods

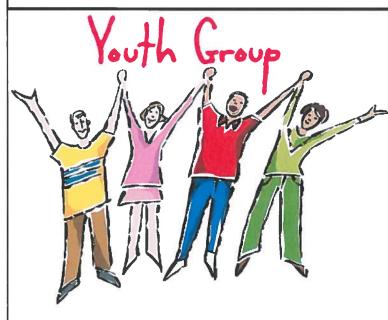


# Another Outreach Opportunity

While we don't want to detract from or compete with the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes, we are offering an opportunity to be in ministry to a child affected by Hurricane Helene. Several churches in Conover are working together to put together Blessing Bags for these children.

If you would like to participate, you can put together one or more bags or simply donate items to be put in bags. (see flyer to the left for ideas!) A collection bin will be placed in the Commons Area outside Beth's office.

We will be assembling bags from the donations at the Family Advent Celebration on December 1



Sun, Nov 10, 5:00-7:00 Special game night with  $4^{th}$  &  $5^{th}$  graders

Includes dinner – youth room

<u>Sun, Nov 17</u>, **No Youth Meeting** (conflict with other meetings)

Sun, Nov 24, 5:00-7:00 Movie night at church with dinner – youth room

Sun, Dec 1, 3:00-7:00 Help with Family Advent Celebration – CFLC, includes dinner

Sun, Dec 8, 5:00-7:00 No youth – churchwide movie outing

<u>Sun, Dec 15</u>, 5:00-7:00 Christmas party – details coming later



Registration will remain open until November 17th or until capacity is reached. Skills Day is November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8am-1pm. For more details about the season and to register, please use the link below. Once registration closes, we will follow up with further information.

This is the link for the registration form.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfUx3Ws-LoJcvenY-kHXj6ao2QjVXtx5TKWv1hihuMkZk-Wlg/viewform

It is also on our Facebook page and website (www.fmcconover.org) Skills Day is November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8am-1pm.

## **Church family:**

We need people willing to share a 3-5 minute devotional or encouraging word with the spectators during half time for each game (2 games per Saturday) and people willing to prepare coffee and provide snacks for the spectators during both games. Costs can be reimbursed.

Games will be: December 14 & 21; January 11, 18, and 25; and February 1.



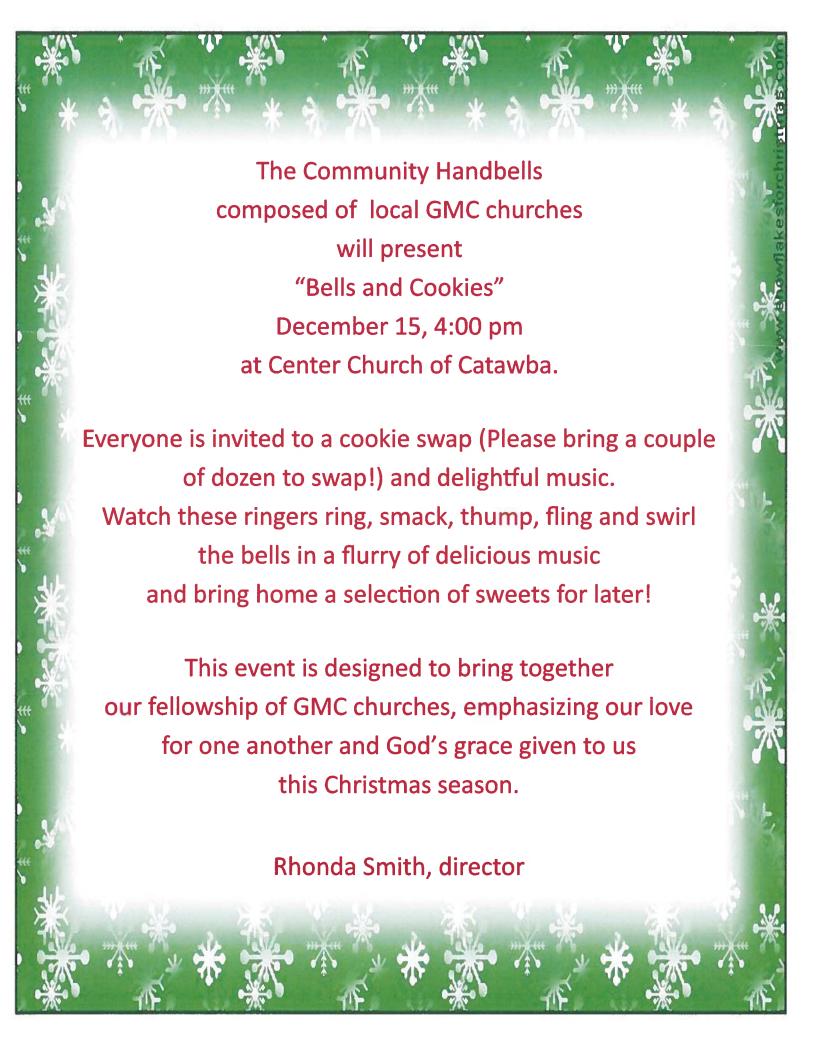
## Mark your calendars now for this special event!

Invite your friends and bring your whole family for this fun evening. We'll kick off the Advent season with stories, crafts, games, and dinner. You will go home with a plan for meaningful family experiences to share the rest of Advent.

We will also be packing Blessing Bags for children and teens who were affected by Hurricane Helene. This will be a chance for us to minister to those families and to be blessed ourselves in the process!

And you DEFINITELY don't want to miss the opportunity to meet Eli, the Donkey!

As always, I need help to make this event run smoothly! Please let me know if you are willing and available. Beth (336) 480-4551 or woods777@aol.com



#### 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

<u>Dottie Aycock-Harris</u> - 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



<u>James Davis</u> - 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

<u>Margaret Kilpatrick</u> - 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



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

<u>Dolores Setzer</u> - 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.