



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

February 27, 2024

Something very special happens this week, something that only happens once every four years —this week has a leap day!

February 29 means we have another square on the calendar, and another chance at life in 2024. Every four years, we add an extra day to our calendar to keep our measure of time in sync with the Earth's orbit around the sun. This extra day (February 29th) has significance beyond just adjusting our calendar.



You might not know it, but the concept of leap year has been around for thousands of years, and has been used by various cultures to keep their calendars in sync with the changing seasons. In ancient Rome, the idea of leap year was first introduced in 45BC by Julius Caesar. In the ancient Hebrew calendar (which is a lunar-based calendar), a 13th month was added seven times every 19 years to the twelve lunar months in its common years to keep its calendar year from drifting through the seasons.

Despite its historical significance, the leap year is often overlooked in our daily lives. We go about our routines and schedules, rarely stopping to consider the extra day that is added every four years. However, this extra day can serve as a reminder to pause and reflect on the passing of time and how we are using it.

Time is a recurring theme in the Bible, and God's timing is perfect. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says: **"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."**

The leap year can help remind us that time is not a static, unchanging entity. Instead, it is something we need to adjust and manage to ensure we are in sync with the world around us.

As Christians, we also believe that our time on earth is a gift from God, and we are called to use it wisely. In Ephesians 5:15-16, we are instructed to **"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."**

The leap year can serve as a reminder to evaluate how we are spending our time and whether we are using it in a way that aligns with God's will for our lives. It's an opportunity to reflect on our priorities, make necessary adjustments, and seek God's guidance in all that we do.

So as we get to celebrate this extra day this year, let's make the most of this extra day and all the days that follow, using them to serve God and others, living a life that is pleasing to Him.

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:

Randy, Jody & Quentin Porter, Betty Prater,
Anthony Price, Harley Price,
Stephen & Haniel Price, Wendy & Justin Price.



IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

Tony Garrison at Wake Forest Baptist MC
Linda Dooley at Wake Forest Baptist MC

PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER

The Preschool is excited to be hosting our first official 2024 Fundraiser 📄 Paperpie {formerly Usborne} "Cards for a Cause!" Our cause is to improve our playground.

\$32 per box with the following options:

🎂 Kids Birthday Box {30 cards}

🍕 All Occasions 1 {30 cards}

🍷 All Occasions 2 {30 cards}

🌟 Holiday Cards Box {50 cards}

✉️ Thanks & Blanks {30 cards}

An order form will be located in the Lobby. All payments can be dropped in the Preschool Dropbox in the Sunday School Wing. All orders need to be completed by Wednesday, March 13th. Payment can be CASH or CHECK made out to 'Colleen Fox'.

If you have questions contact, Colleen Fox,
cmfox810@gmail.com.

EASTER BLESSINGS

Can you believe that in just five more weeks we will be celebrating Easter? We hope you will join us in spreading love and blessings to our homebound and nursing facility members.

Easter bags have been placed in the commons area with the names of our 11 recipients. Please bring an Easter card and/or treat to add to each bag, either on Sunday mornings or during the week. The names are also listed in the Newsletter.

The deadline will be March 17th so that the bags can be delivered before Easter.

Thank you so much for your amazing support of this ministry.



Volunteers Still Needed!



We will host our church and community children for a Holy Week experience on March 16. The children will walk through the events of the week before Jesus' death and resurrection. We need a lot of volunteers to help make this experience run smoothly. Several people have volunteered, but we need a few more! We need YOU to come share the love of Christ with our children!

March 16 -- 10 am

We need people to lead groups of children through the stations, tell a portion of the story, or lead a craft. Jo Ellen Knecht is coordinating the activities and will provide guidance for all the activities. We also need a crew to hide Easter eggs. Please let Beth Woods know if you can help! (336) 480-4551 or woods777@aol.com

NEWS TO USE



Time to Register! A Few Spots Still Open! Noah's Ark/Creation Museum Trip

We have 27 people registered for our bus trip to visit the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky, and the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky. We need a few more passengers in order to have a bus to ourselves. (Finley Cloninger will be our driver, with Harold Roberson serving as "Assistant Trip Director!")

If you've been thinking about going or if you know anyone (doesn't have to be a church member) interested in this trip, please have them contact Beth Woods at 336-480-4551 or woods777@aol.com. Information and Registration sheets are on Beth's door. The information is also on our website, www.fmccconover.org, accessible by the QR code below.

May 20-23, 2024 -- Price Per Person: Double room \$699; Triple room \$639; Quad room \$609; Single room \$889 You can choose who to room with.

If you want to join the trip, please fill out a registration form and return it to Burke Christian Tours or to Beth, with a \$200 deposit. (Checks made out to Christian Tours. There is also a credit card option if you call the tour office (800-476-3900).



PASTOR'S QUIZ

Lazarus was a

- a. rich man
- b. doorman
- c. beggar man
- d. thief

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT By Our Presence February 25, 2024

Sunday School:
105

Worship:
8:45am Service 121
11:00am Service 134
255

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 14,379.00
(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)	
Children's Bank	43.07
Disaffiliation Fund	400.00
Total	\$ 14,822.07

ECCCM TAKES NEW NAME!!!

Last week, ECCCM became Ashure Ministry. This is due in part to our service area extending to ALL of Catawba County, not just the eastern section. Our dedication and commitment to help those facing a food and/or financial crisis remains unwavering. This new opportunity to serve the entire county represents a tremendous honor and privilege.

The word "Ashure" is derived from a dessert dish believed to be Noah's first meal after the flood. Our new logo also embodies our mission with a central cross representing our outreach in Jesus' name, encircled by the people of God forming a supportive community.

Time for March Madness at Ashure Ministry!! Not so much the basketball games, but a friendly competition in the form of a food drive. Please donate food OR money on behalf of your favorite college team. Each pound of food counts as 2 points, and each dollar counts as 3 points. The team with the most points wins the challenge.

FMCC is participating in this March Madness food drive. Team designated boxes will be located in the Narthex in which you may place your food from March 1 - April 10. **Monetary donations may be taken to ASHURE MINISTRY, mailed to ASHURE MINISTRY at P O Box 31, Newton, or given to Anita Deal. Checks should include your team choice and FMCC in the memo line.**

The **March food request** for Ashure Ministry is March Madness Food Drive.

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. beggar man
(Luke 16:20)

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



Preparation for “Journey to Jerusalem” Prayer Walk

The “Journey to Jerusalem” Prayer Walk is coming soon! This immersive walk-through experience tells the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, from prophecies to birth, through His ministry, and to His death and resurrection. It draws nearly 1000 visitors from our community each year. 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, 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:

- ASSEMBLY workday – Thursday, February 29 – 10 am – noon. Come celebrate “Leap Day” with us by helping assemble give-away items for both the Prayer Walk and the Easter for Children events. This will be mostly sitting down and low stress, with a good opportunity for fellowship too!
- Between February 26 and March 2, Nancy Wall will be leading a crew to cover the windows. If you can help with this task, call Nancy at (704) 325-0330.
- On March 3 at 2:00, a crew will move all the crates and supplies from the storage building into the CFLC. All hands are welcome!
- Week of March 3- March 9, the three classrooms in the CFLC will be set up. To volunteer to help with these, contact Anita Deal (828) 320-3194, Jeanette Stewart (828) 315-0821, Ginny Ward (239) 218-1647, or Beth Woods (336) 480-4551.
- On March 10 at 2:00, a crew will be assembling the divider walls and hanging fabric on them to create pathways through the CFLC. All hands are welcome!
- On March 17 at 2:00, a crew will be setting up scenery in the Commons Area and hallways. All hands are welcome!
- There will also be work going on throughout the week of March 17-24, so feel free to stop by and offer your assistance.
- On March 24, right after the late service, a crew will be setting up the last of the hallway scenery.
- Each night of the Prayer Walk (March 24, 25, 26, 27, and 29 – not open on Maundy 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 March 30, beginning at 10:00, 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!

EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE

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!)

Lunch: Friday, March 1 at 12:00 noon – 3 spots open

Early Dinner: Monday, March 11 at 5:00 pm – 4 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.)

Save the Date! April 20 – 9 am - Noon

First Methodist Hosting NC GMC Missions Conference!

The NC GMC is partnering with One Mission Society and their 1-day Church Training Workshops to provide regional workshops across the state. The intention is to help EVERY CHURCH in the NC GMC develop an intentional missions plan for their church, impacting the church's ministry from their neighborhood, their city, regionally, and globally.

First Methodist Church of Conover will host one of these events on April 20 (Saturday) from 9-12. It will be open to churches all around us. We will be responsible for providing refreshments, use of A/V equipment, tables & chairs, and housing the speakers. The training content will come from One Mission Society.

Churches of all types will be able to gain from this training- small churches needing to start a missions strategy to large churches who want to take a day to re-energize around a well-defined program, and every type in between. In a nutshell, this workshop will help both churches and Circles to grow missions and mission participation with a clear and compelling mission plan.

Watch this brief video to see the 5 ways that churches will come away with this clear and compelling plan to engage in mission: vimeo.com/798873205. The video talks about doing this training in each church but the GMC has chosen to broaden its impact by coming together to offer this training in groups across the state.

Remember, in the GMC, missions will arise from every local church -- from every church and every church's neighborhood -- to our regional, national, and global missions. As we hear God's call to "witness boldly," the GMC wants to equip churches to be effective in every area of mission God calls us to.

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)

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

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.

March 2024

March 2024							April 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
31							28	29	30				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 25	26	27	28	29	Mar 1	2
4pm - "The Chosen" Video-View (Clark) Prayer Walk Set-up (CFLC/classrooms/hall)	09am-Vol. Day at ASHURE 6pm Handbell Practice Prayer Walk Set-up	1pm-Prayer Shawl Ministry ((Pray. Shawl 7-8:15pm The Chosen Prayer Walk Set-up	1pm Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room) 7pm Choir practice Prayer Walk Set-up	6:30pm - Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room) Prayer Walk Set-up (CFLC/classrooms/hall)	4pm Set-up for wedding shower (CFLC 4-9pm 6:30pm Dominos (Faithbuilders	3pm Wedding Shower (CFLC 11am-4pm)
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4pm - "The Chosen" Video-View (Clark) Prayer Walk Set-up (CFLC/classrooms/hall)	09am-Vol. Day at ASHURE 6pm Handbell Practice Prayer Walk Set-up	1pm-Prayer Shawl Ministry ((Pray. Shawl 7-8:15pm The Chosen Prayer Walk Set-up	1pm Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room) 7pm Choir practice Prayer Walk Set-up	6:30pm - Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room) Prayer Walk Set-up (CFLC/classrooms/hall)	5:30-9PM Girl Scouts 6:30pm Dominos 7-11:30pm Confirmation Prayer Walk Set-up	Prayer Walk Set-up (CFLC/classrooms/hall ways/Common Area/etc.)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
4pm - "The Chosen" Video-View (Clark) Prayer Walk Set-up (CFLC/classrooms/hall)	1:30-3:30pm Homeschool Homies 6pm Handbell Practice Prayer Walk Set-up	7-8:15pm The Chosen BS (CFLC) Prayer Walk Set-up (CFLC/classrooms/hall)	10:30-11:45am Bible 1PM - Queen Esther's 1pm Hand & Foot 7pm Choir practice	6:30pm - Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room) Prayer Walk Set-up (CFLC/classrooms/hall)	6:30pm Dominos (Faithbuilders Prayer Walk Set-up (CFLC/classrooms/hall)	2-4pm Easter 4 Kids (CFLC 1-5pm) 5:30-6:30pm Neighbor's Prayer Walk Set-up
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
4pm - "The Chosen" Video-View (Clark) Prayer Walk Set-up St. Patrick's Day (United States)	6pm Handbell Practice 7-8:15pm Confirmation class (Conference Prayer Walk Set-up	7-8:15pm The Chosen BS (CFLC) Prayer Walk Set-up (CFLC/classrooms/hall)	10:30-11:45am Bible 12:00pm Goodtimers 1pm Hand & Foot 7pm Choir practice	6:30-9pm Methodist Men (CFLC) 6:30pm - Hand & Foot Prayer Walk Set-up	6:30pm Dominos (Faithbuilders Prayer Walk Set-up (CFLC/classrooms/hall)	Prayer Walk Set-up (CFLC/classrooms/hall ways/Common Area/etc.)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
08:45 & 11am-Easter Cantata 6-8pm Prayer Walk Prayer Walk Set-up	6-8pm Prayer Walk (CFLC/classrooms/Co 6pm Handbell Practice Prayer Walk Set-up	6-8pm Prayer Walk (CFLC/classrooms/Co Prayer Walk Set-up (CFLC/classrooms/hall)	6-8pm Prayer Walk (CFLC/classrooms/Co Prayer Walk Set-up (CFLC/classrooms/hall)	7pm Maundy Thursday Service (Sanctuary)	6-8pm Prayer Walk (CFLC/classrooms/Co Prayer Walk Set-up PRESCHOOL CLOSED	
31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6
6:30am - Sunrise Service (Trinity Reformed States) Easter Day (United States)						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Dolores Setzer	4 Rebecca Lucas	5	6 Andrea Long Chloe Thompson	7 Gilda Pennell Blair Putzer	1 Mackenzie Johnson	2 Hayden Bandy Jeff Sierzenga
10 Brian Kelly	11 Rita Deal Martha Johnson Randy Porter	12 Nancy Clarke Tina Hudson Lee Thornburg	13 Tara Brackett Patrick Morrow David Stedman	14 Coulton McGinnis Faith Pennell	8 Jennifer Ball Steven Heafner 15 Chip Hennessee John Van Rooyen	9 Chelsea Puga-Luna James Weaver 16 Lauren Spencer
17 Ashley Sierzenga	18 Jayden Kimsey	19 Michael Connor Kelly Little	20	21 Lisa Johnson	22 Chase Connor Debi Sprague Lynn Watson	23 Laci Matthews
24 Elizabeth Pullen Rachael Simmons	25 Mary Beth Hennessee Mary Hornick Janet Morrow Don Shook	26 Sue Dwiggins	27 Parker Garrison Kim Read	28 McCoy Keisler Morgan Williams	29 Eric Connor Alexander Copeland Trevor Monk	30
31 Debbie Royals						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7	1	2 Buck and Anne Calloway
10	11	12	13 Danielle and Josh Sigmon	14 Chip and Mary Beth Hennessee	15	16 Mark and Faith Pennell
17 Jeffrey and Jennifer Hefner	18 Steven and Brenda Heafner Adam and Melissa Johnson	19	20	21 Ryan and Angela Garrison Evan and Sydney Matson	22	23
24	25	26	27 Ron and Ginny Ward	28 Finley and Carole Cloninger	29	30
31 Karl and Vickie Stryker						