



First Methodist Church

OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

February 13, 2024

JESUS' OVERFLOWING LOVE FOR US

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God (1 John 4:7 NLT).

Love is in the air! You likely haven't been able to miss the aisles filled with heart-shaped candy, chocolate, flowers, and lovey-dovey-filled greeting cards! This is a reminder that Valentine's Day is here (February 14) if you need a reminder!

It's very common to hear someone say, "Oh, I love your shoes," "Oh, I love cheese," or "Oh, I love (fill in the blank)." This is quite an exaggeration and has added to society's misconception of the true meaning of love.

So, what is love, and what does the Bible say about it? One example of love we see in Scripture is found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. This is the well-known love passage:

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever!

This is a tall order! To love someone else this way isn't natural for our human (sinful) nature, but as believers, we have the Holy Spirit of God living within us. Through the Holy Spirit's power, we can love precisely as Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8!

Love is a central theme of God's character. We read in John 3:16 that God loved the world so much He sent His Son to die on our behalf so that we could be in perfect community again with God forever. God's redeeming love is fulfilled by Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

We can display God's redeeming love in our lives by how we treat others and interact with them, putting others' needs above our own and forgiving graciously as we've been forgiven (Ephesians 4:32).

Jesus says: ***"You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind"*** (Matthew 22:37). He says it is the first and greatest commandment, and it is necessary to being able to carry out the second greatest commandment to ***"love your neighbor as yourself."***

As we continually surrender our nature to Jesus Christ and give all of our heart, soul, and mind to Him, He fills our souls with His Holy Spirit. It becomes part of who we are and transforms us. His love overflows from us. When that happens, we have an abundance of love for others. It is evidence of His loving, redeeming work in us!

Loving and being loved from the overflow of God's heart - that's a great Valentine's Day!

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:

Wendy Norman, Bill & Brenda Novotny,
Christine Osborne & Carter Rathbone, Rick & Linda Parker,
Elbert & Lee Ann Parris, Jerry & Julie Patterson.

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.



IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

None

UPPER ROOMS

The Mar. / Apr. "Upper Room" devotional books are available for pick-up. They are located on the sofa table outside the Conference Room and upstairs by the water fountain. You can read the same daily devotional that is in the book each day by going online to this website:

<http://www.upperroom.org/devotional/>



MEMORIAL **Local Missions Fund**

In memory of Connie McCoy by:
Dennis & Jo Ellen Knecht



Volunteers Needed!



EASTER
4
CHILDREN

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.

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. We just need YOU to come share the love of Christ with our children! Please let Beth Woods know if you can help! (336) 480-4551 or woods777@aol.com

NEWS TO USE



Time to Register! 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 serving as "Assistant Trip Director!")

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.

By the way, the capacity of the bus is 46. We have almost that many on the "Interested" list. So, if you want to move from the "Interested" list to the "I'm Going!" list, you must fill out a registration form and return it to Burke Christian Tours or to Beth, with a \$200 deposit. Checks should be made out to Christian Tours. There is also a credit card option if you call the tour office (800-476-3900).

Information and Registration sheets are on Beth's door. If you would like them by email, please contact Beth Woods at 336-480-4551 or woods777@aol.com.

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!

ATTENTION GOODTIMERS!!!

Please put the date of Thursday, February 22 on your calendar. We are planning to go to the Lucas Mansion in Hiddenite to view the River Cane Renaissance Exhibit.

This exhibit is on loan from the Mountain Heritage Museum in Cullowhee and is being featured in the Lucas Mansion's art gallery free to the public.

River cane, a native bamboo species, has great historical and ecological significance in the Appalachian region. Native Americans found a variety of uses for river cane. The native plant was used to create baskets, containers, mats, and even shelters.

We plan to leave the church at 10:00am and travel to Hiddenite to the Lucas Mansion. We will have lunch after we view the exhibit.

Eddie Warren



PASTOR'S QUIZ

The parable of the servants, one of whom knew his lord's will, while the other did not, showed that, of every one to whom much is given

- a. to him still more will be given
- b. to him no more will be given
- c. of him much will be required
- d. of him little will be required

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT By Our Presence February 11, 2024

Sunday School:
102

Worship:
8:45am Service 121
11:00am Service 111
232

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 9,302.00
(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)

Children's Bank 20.00
Harvest Festival (T-shirts) 112.00
Local Missions 50.00
The Chosen - Books 530.00
Total \$ 10,014.00



ECCCM
Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry, Inc.

The **February food request** is canned or boxed pasta, pasta sauce and macaroni. 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.

Thanks to the 10 FMCC members who represented our church last Monday on our volunteer day. What a blessing it was to see all of you!

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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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. of him much will be required
(Luke 12:41-48)

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

We have just under 6 weeks until the opening day of our "Journey to Jerusalem" Prayer Walk. For those who have never experienced it, this is an immersive walkthrough 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, 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.

Other needs:

- We still need several young men who are willing to portray Jesus. This is an emotional and difficult role, but it is vital to the story and makes such a strong impact on our visitors. Contact Anthony Price if you can help here. (828) 228-6467
- 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!

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.