



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

June 17, 2025

Understanding Our Identity in Christ

Understanding our identity - who we truly are - helps us live in a way that is fulfilling and meaningful. It makes life worth living. Today, many people struggle with knowing their purpose because they've lost sight of why they were created and who they were created for. It's not only important to know *who* we are, but also *whose* we are.

When our identity is rooted in Christ, we can live with confidence and clarity, understanding our purpose.

1. My Identity in Christ Determines My Duty

Who I am determines what I do. Scripture says, *"As a man thinks in his heart, so is he"* (Proverbs 23:7). In 1903, author James Allen wrote about the power of thought in his book *As a Man Thinketh*. He explained how every individual holds the key to the conditions of their life - good or bad - and that by working intelligently and patiently on their thoughts, they can reshape their life and circumstances.

In other words, how we think about ourselves determines how we carry ourselves. That's why it's vital to remember what *Christ* says about you: *"I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made"* (Psalm 139:14).

2. My Identity in Christ Determines My Destiny

Who I am will determine where I go. The Bible tells us that God has plans for His children: *"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).

However, not everyone chooses to follow God's plans. Many follow their own paths based on a self-defined identity. But as Christians, we are called to *seek* God's direction: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight"* (Proverbs 3:5 - 6). God's plan is always better.

3. My Identity in Christ Determines My Devotion

Who I believe I am will determine how I devote myself to worship - and to whom I am devoted. Many people come to church but don't truly worship. Often, it's because they are carrying multiple conflicting identities: *I am a sinner. I am not worthy. I am a cook. I am a parent*. These labels can weigh us down and keep us from surrendering fully in worship.

Instead, we must remember our identity in Christ: *I am forgiven. I am His. I am created for His glory. I am loved. I am a child of God*.

Jesus has made a way for us to develop a real relationship with God. If you truly believe yourself to be a Christian, what will you do with that opportunity?

Jason Shoup, Minister of Youth and Outreach

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:

Dillon, Ashley, EmmaGrace, Silas & CaliWrynn Wike;
Emmett & Jane Wike; Kimberly & Steve Wike,
Beaver & Marsha Williams, Caroline Williams,
Nathan Williams.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

June 22

8:45am - Beth Travis
11:00am - Abella Barnabas

June 29

8:45am - Beverly Swithenbank
11:00am - Diane Howard

July 6

8:45am - LaRue Black
11:00am - Cindy Clark



IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

Bruce Cloninger at home

Greeters for June 22

8:45am - Marsha & David Phillips
11:00am - Sandy Loftin

June 29

8:45am - Robin Little
11:00am - Brenda Davis

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

A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Prayers for the Mark & Rachel Hamilton family. Mark's father, William Hamilton from Sistersville, WV, died on May 21, 2025.

A Celebration of Life service is planned for June 21, 2025 in Sistersville, WV.

Please keep Mark, Rachel, David, Emma and their families in prayer and surround them in travel mercies.

Grief Support Program

Save the Date! – June 23 at 6:00-7:30 pm



Annette Walker, member of First Methodist and Director of Grief Services at Carolina Caring, will be offering a program she calls "Grief 101" for us. This program, which will be held Monday, June 23 at 6pm, is aimed at helping people who have suffered a loss, but the information is good for all of us as we support loved ones in grief or prepare our own hearts for future grief.

Annette's program will be based on the book, "Tear Soup," a story centered around an old and wise woman, Grandy. She has suffered a big loss in her life and so Grandy heads to the kitchen to make a special batch of Tear Soup. It is a compassionate story that validates the grieving process and its impact on you- physically, emotionally, spiritually and cognitively. Learn how Tear Soup is a recipe for healing after a loss.

Galatians 6:2 reminds us to "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."

NEWS TO USE



The Ashure Ministry food request for **June** will be **cereal**. 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.

Thank you,
Anita Deal

THANK YOU

Words cannot begin to express our gratitude for all the many blessings our church family has bestowed upon us: the visits, phone calls, food, cards and to Ralph, Jimmy and Mike for finishing installing the basement apartment door that Ken was unable to complete. My heart is overflowing with love for each and every one of you. You all are truly the hands and feet of our Lord Jesus Christ here on earth.

God bless you!
Martha Drum, Ken Johnson & Sharon Sims



PASTOR'S QUIZ

"Let the dead bury their dead," said Jesus, upon

- a. leaving the leper colony after curing those still living.
- b. entering Capernaum.
- c. hearing a disciple's request for leave to bury his father.
- d. learning that the Pharisees refused to hear Him..

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence June 15, 2025

Sunday School:
89

Worship:
8:45am Service - 145
11:00am Service - 134
Total 279

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 12,698.73
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$15,258)</i>	
Ashure Ministry	25.00
Children's Bank	45.00
Kenya Mission Trip	50.00
Total	\$ 12,818.73

Red, White and Blue Surprises



Would you join us in welcoming summer with some special cards or surprises for our nursing home and homebound members? Bags are placed in the commons area for you to share your love and care with the 12 members listed in the newsletter. **Deadline will be June 29.**

Then on July 1st, you are invited to go with a group to visit and deliver the bags. As a special treat, some of you might want to make some special red, white or blue goodies to take to each person. (Can't wait to see how many different things you come up with!) Package each treat individually to make sharing them easier. You

would only need to bring 12 individual treats and meet in the commons area on July 1st at 1:00 to spread some summer cheer!

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

If you wish, you may make a donation in lieu of flowers and use the silk arrangements that are available.



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

c. hearing a disciple's request for leave
to bury his father.
(Matthew 8:21-22)

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. John Woods pastor@fmccconover.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@fmccconover.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@fmccconover.org
Lead Nursery Worker	Pilar Tobar
Custodian	Luisa Toro Bryan
Church Office	(828) 464-4635
Website:	www.fmccconover.org

MORE NEWS TO USE

Members in Nursing Facilities

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
Her husband, Ron's cell - (704) 460-4919

James Davis - Abernethy Laurels (Memory Care)
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

Members at Home

Don Hedrick - Mailing address: PO Box 542,
Claremont, NC 28610
Physical address: 4028 E US Hwy 70,
Claremont, NC 28610
His wife, Cheryl's phone (828) 381-7956

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

Charlie Reed - (At son Greg's house)
4476 Red Hill Circle, Denver, NC 28037
His wife, Rona's cell: 828-244-3450



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

Fundraising for Kenya Mission Trip

- Rada Cutlery catalog sales
- June 22 - hamburger lunch eat-in or to-go
- donations



Cross Kingdom Ministries and First Methodist Church of Conover have partnered together to send a team of 10 people to Kenya in September!

Team members are: Jason and Alisha Shoup, John and Beth Woods, Ruth Brown, Lisa Johnson, Gerhardt Rheeder, Alexa Rodriguez, Tracy Parsons, and Catherine Frye. We are looking forward to bringing the Gospel to villages, along with food and Bibles, Vacation Bible School for the children, and

discipleship to the local church leadership.

We have several efforts to raise support for this exciting time of ministry. From now through June 27, we are taking orders for Rada Cutlery. Use our exclusive link to place your order:
<https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=7131642.ef0e230>

(This link is clickable on the post on the First Methodist Facebook page) OR you can reach out to our team members to browse a catalog!

On June 22 we will be serving a hamburger lunch that can be eaten on-site or taken to-go. The team will have food ready at 10am and will serve until after the 11:00 worship service is over. We will take donations for the meal.

We are also grateful for donations made toward the cost of the trip (approximately \$2,000 per person will be needed, plus the cost of ministry supplies). These donations can be made through the church office, marked "Kenya Mission Trip." In the next few weeks, our mission committee will also set up collection boxes for donation of specific items that we will be taking for distribution there. We will publish a detailed list later.

Thanks for your prayers and support!

EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE



The date for the next "Sisters in Christ" meeting has been changed to 6/19 at 10:30. This is a group of caring ladies who send cards, gift bags, and other encouragement to our members who are going through a difficult time.

If you would like to join this group, you are welcome to attend the meeting in the Prayer Shawl room. If you have other questions or know someone who would enjoy a card or visit, please contact Kim Reed 217-552-2853 or Cindy Clark 828-302-3217.

JOIN US FOR A TIME OF PRAYER



**6:30 Every Tuesday
in the Parlor
(upstairs)**

Heartfelt is a group that meets weekly for about 45 minutes to pray for our church, specific needs, and our world! If you have a prayer request or would like to share in the blessing of this ministry, please join us or contact Tommi Anderson (828) 238-5717.

If you cannot join us on Tuesday evening, feel free to come by the church and pick up a weekly prayer list (left in the Parlor each week) and pray at a time that works for you. Also, feel free to leave prayer requests in the Parlor or on the Altar in the Sanctuary.

Christian Yoga/Exercise Class for All

Karen Windham will be offering a once-a-month yoga class with Christian music and prayer. This is a guided class offering modifications and is a class that is taught "to the class." You will be using chairs and the wall for support. You will begin to explore your capabilities; and as a result, learn strategies to adapt to external and internal stresses. You will examine your strength and balance through creative poses and shapes.

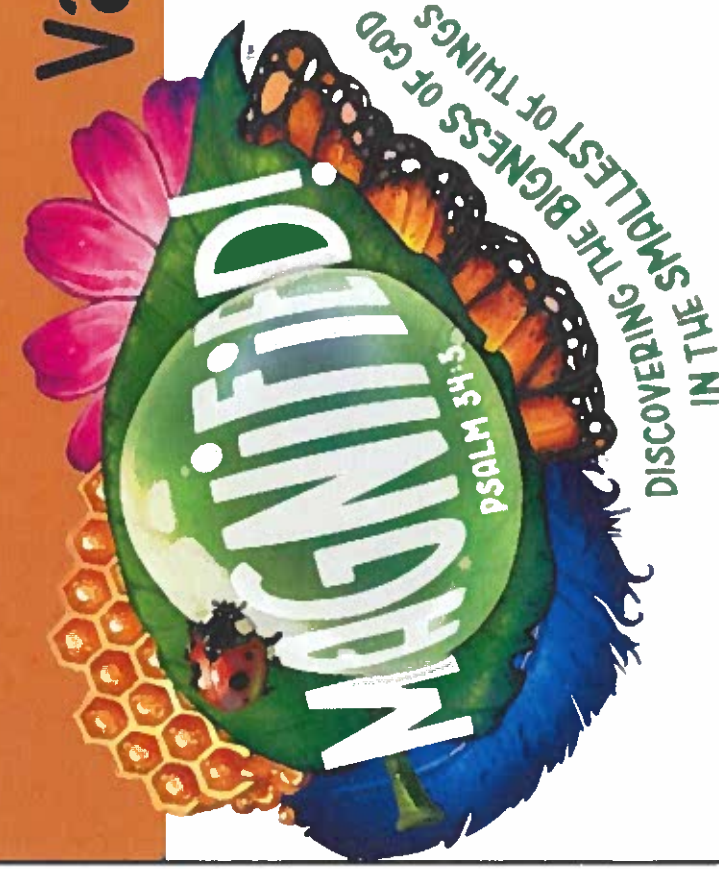


This class is open to anyone who wants to get stronger or improve balance and flexibility in a supportive environment.

For this summer, dates for this class are July 17 and August 14. Classes will begin at 10 am in our Connor Family Life Center and will run for about 60-70 minutes to allow participants to move at their own pace. Suggested equipment that will help you get the most out of the class include: a yoga mat, beach towel, yoga blocks, and a yoga strap.

If you are interested in participating or have other questions, please contact Karen Windham at kafawindham4@gmail.com or (828) 381-9551.

LOTS MORE NEWS TO USE



Vacation Bible School

5:30-7:30
July 13, 20, 21, 22
at First Methodist
Church of Conover
(dinner included)

10am - noon
August 9 at
Conover City Park
(bring bathing suits and
towels for splashpad!)

REGISTER NOW!

(use QR code or
clickable link on
Facebook or website:
www.fmconover.org)



**NEWEST MEMBERS OF FMCC
SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2025
AT THE 11:00AM SERVICE**



Dan Tremble & Wyatt Tremble
3933 Townes Blvd.
Terrell, NC 28682

Pictured left to right:
Dan, Jamie & Wyatt Tremble;
Pastor John Woods.