



# First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

January 30, 2024

***“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good;  
and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil.  
For out of the abundance of his heart his mouth speaks.” — Luke 6:45***

In thinking about last week's sermon on SORRY, it got me thinking about not just that word, but the other words that we speak as well. Never underestimate the power of your words.

The terrific movie, *Stand and Deliver*, (it's an old one) portrays the story of Jaime Escalante who was an incredibly successful math teacher in a very rough high school in Los Angeles, California.

In his class were two students, both named Johnny. The first Johnny was a really bright student and a true joy to teach. But the other Johnny...well, that was a different story. The second Johnny wasted his talent and bucked authority. His attitude made it clear that school was at the very bottom of his priority list. However, at the first PTA meeting for parents that year, Johnny's mother asked Mr. Escalante for a report on her son's progress.

Jaime's reply was, *“Johnny is a joy to have in my class. I'm glad he is here.”*

The next day, the rebellious Johnny walked into the classroom with a new attitude and demeanor. He practically ran up to Mr. Escalante and said, *“Mr. Escalante, my mom told me what you said about me. I've never had a teacher who wanted me before.”* He very quickly became a model student, and quickly began to pull up his grades in that class.

Mr. Escalante had thought that Johnny's mother was the mother of the best student. His comments were meant for the first Johnny but in fact, he was actually talking to the “bad student” Johnny's mom. The results were dramatic.



The Bible makes it clear that the right word – spoken at the right moment and carefully crafted – has the power to cause dramatic change. I believe that's what God wants each one of us to do for the people around us. To speak goodness, and blessings and “the best” into someone else. It could have a bigger impact than you think. Encourage someone today!

***“Pleasant words are a honeycomb,  
sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.” Proverbs 16:24***

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:

Kyle Moritz, Lee & Michele Moritz,  
Lee Moritz, Sr., Dave & Janet Morrow,  
Matthew Morrow, Patrick, Crystal & McKenzie Morrow.

## IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

None

## **MEMORIALS** **General Fund**

In memory of Jim Horst by:  
Cliff & Debbie Wike



## **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.



## **BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES**

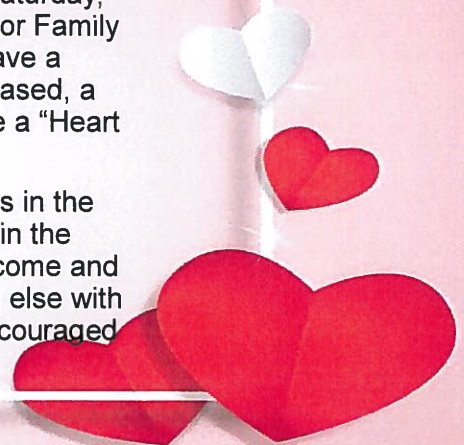
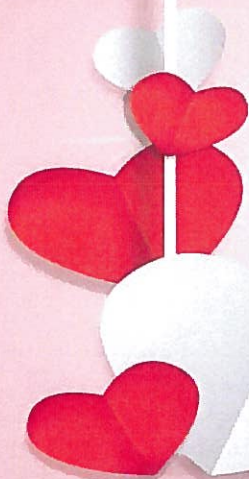
Please remember your February birthdays and February wedding anniversaries **Sunday, February 4, 2024** by bringing your offerings to the altar. Please give \$.10 for every year old and \$.25 for every year married. This is to help the children's church bank.



## THE NEST invites You.....

Ladies of the church, please join The Nest on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 10am until noon in the Connor Family Life Center for our next get together. We will have a brief, but meaningful program that is Biblically based, a light snack and of course an opportunity to have a "Heart to Heart" talk with other women!

If you haven't been able to join one of the events in the past, it is a fun way to get to know other ladies in the church and community. We encourage you to come and bring a friend. You don't need to bring anything else with you. This is your time to be surrounded and encouraged by other women of faith! RSVP to Jenny Harris at (828) 358-5900.



# 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!

## Chili Cook-Off

Mark your calendars for Feb 3 at 5:00 for our February game night and "Chili Cook-Off." We need about 15 people to bring chili, others to bring cornbread or biscuits, and others to bring desserts. We'll have divided bowls to allow you to sample several chilis at once.

You can sign up to bring one of the items for the meal on Beth's office door or online at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CAFAC29A7FE3-47386451-chili>. See the church Facebook page for a clickable link.



## PASTOR'S QUIZ

The version of the Lord's prayer given in Luke 11 is, compared with that in Matthew 6,

- a. shorter
- b. longer
- c. about the same length
- d. shorter in words but longer in letters

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

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT By Our Presence January 28, 2024

Sunday School:  
109

Worship:  
8:45am Service 134  
11:00am Service 129  
263

### God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 22,902.00
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)</i>	
Children's Bank	32.00
Total	\$ 22,934.00



**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.

Volunteer day for our church has changed to the first Monday in the month for 2024. Our next volunteer day will be Monday, Feb. 5th.



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:

a. shorter  
(Luke 11:2-4; Matthew 6:9-13)

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. John Woods  
**[pastor@fmccconover.org](mailto:pastor@fmccconover.org)**  
(828) 464-4635  
(336) 480-4550 - cell  
208 2nd St NE, Conover

Office Administrator /  
Financial Secretary

Robin Mays  
**[office@fmccconover.org](mailto:office@fmccconover.org)**

Coordinator of Lay Ministries

Beth Woods  
[woods777@aol.com](mailto:woods777@aol.com)  
(336) 480-4551 - cell

Music Director/Choir

Jon Rogers  
[jsrogers99@gmail.com](mailto:jsrogers99@gmail.com)  
(828) 244-7019

Music Director/Praise Team/  
Pianist

Shannon Rogers  
[srog101@gmail.com](mailto:srog101@gmail.com)  
(828) 244-6124

Organist

Kevin Haney  
[khaney01@gmail.com](mailto:khaney01@gmail.com)  
(704) 914-6510

Preschool Director

Julie Robinson  
(828) 466-3158  
**[preschool@fmccconover.org](mailto:preschool@fmccconover.org)**

Lead Nursery Worker

Pilar Tobar

Custodian

Luisa Toro Bryan

Church Office

(828) 464-4635

Website:

[www.fmccconover.org](http://www.fmccconover.org)

## MORE NEWS TO USE

### SOUL SISTERS SOUP SALE

Join the Soul Sisters Circle at First Methodist Church of Conover for another heartwarming fundraiser! Indulge in the delightful flavors of homemade goodness with our three delicious soups.

**Soup Options:**

Cheesy Potato  
Chicken with Wild Rice & Vegetables  
Hamburger Taco

**Price:**

\$6 per pint. Payment can be remitted at pick-up.



**Purpose:** All proceeds will be dedicated to supporting local missions. Your generosity will make a meaningful impact on our community, reaching those in need.

**Order Deadline:**

Make sure to place your orders by Wednesday, January 31st.

**Pickup Details:**

Date: Saturday, February 3rd - Time: 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Sunday, February 4th - 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Location: Connor Family Life Center, First Methodist Church of Conover

Don't miss out on this opportunity to savor delicious soups while contributing to a great cause. To order, complete the form online at: <https://bit.ly/SoulSistersSoupSale> (scan QR code above) or contact Rita Deal at 828-465-7273.

**Thank you for supporting the Soul Sisters Circle and local missions!**



### Journey to Jerusalem Prayer Walk

#### Organizational Meeting

**Sunday, February 4 at 2:00 in the Clark Bible Classroom  
in the Connor Family Life Center**

We have just under 2 months until the opening day of our Journey to Jerusalem Prayer Walk. For those who have never experienced it, this is an immersive walk-through 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, 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.

Set-up will begin 2-3 weeks in advance, but there are some tasks that can be done even earlier. We need help with publicity, planning, preparing guides in Spanish and English, as well as help during set-up and the run of the event. And most important of all, we need you to be praying now for everyone who visits this ministry. Pray that their hearts will be open and ready to hear the Gospel.

If you are interested in helping, please attend the first organizational meeting on Sunday, February 4 at 2:00 in the Clark Bible Classroom in the Connor Family Life Center. For more information, contact Beth Woods or Anthony Price (828) 228-6467.

## DON'T FORGET OUR MEMBERS IN NURSING FACILITIES AND OUR HOMEBOUND

Rev. Dixon Adams - Abernethy Laurels North Manor (Room 1035)  
102 Leonard Avenue, 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

Connie McCoy - The Greens (Room 211)  
3031 Tate Blvd. SE, Hickory, NC 28602

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

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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.