



# First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

*The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover*

*April 1, 2025*

I've been thinking about Charles Plumb lately. Charles Plumb was a U.S. Navy jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent six years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and now speaks on the lessons learned from that experience.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!"

"How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb. "*I packed your parachute,*" the man replied.

Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man shook his hand and said, "*I guess it worked!*" Plumb assured him, "*It sure did. If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today.*"



Charles Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, "*I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat, a bib in the back, and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said 'Good morning, how are you?' or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot, and he was just a sailor.*"

## **Serve even when you are not seen in the act.**

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each parachute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn't know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, "*Who's packing your parachute?*" Who has done something that has helped make your day safer – or easier, or more pleasant – or who have you witnessed "packing" for someone else?

Each of us are touched by people who provide what we need to make it through the day. Some help inadvertently. Praise that person anyway. You are supporting the kind of behavior you respect – making it more likely to happen again.

Plumb also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory - he needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute, and his spiritual parachute. He called on all these supports before reaching safety.

Sometimes in the daily challenges life brings, we miss what's really important. We may fail to say "hello," "please," "thank you" or "congratulations" – looking that person full in the face, without speaking the words. As you go through this week, take the time to recognize those who "packed your parachute." And use your time to pack someone else's parachute. As it says in Hebrews 13:16 — "**Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.**"

## **Thank you for packing mine.**

I am sharing this with you today, dear church family, as just one more way of thanking you for your part in packing my parachute week in and week out. What a blessing you are!

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:*

Jon, Shannon & Jonathan Rogers, Kenzie Rogers,  
Bryan, Donna & Jessie Ross, Anthony & Sheila Rowe,  
Gary & Debbie Royals, Donna Rudisill.



## **IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL**

None

## **GREETERS FOR APRIL 6**

8:45am - Annette Walker

11:00am - Tamara Hite

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



## **MEMORIALS**

### **General Fund**

In memory of Jerry Sierzenga by:  
Diane & Mark McGinnis and  
Justine Sierzenga

### **Methodist Men**

In memory of Harold Thornburg by:  
James & Jeanette Davis  
Nancy Clarke  
Lynn & Rita Watson  
Lisa Rudisill  
Donna Rudisill  
Armando & Joyce Lagunas

### **Music Fund**

In memory of Dolores Setzer by:  
Nancy Clarke

### **Neighbor's Table**

In memory of Nell Johnson by:  
Nancy Clarke

### **Youth Fund**

In memory of Dolores Setzer by:  
James & Jeanette Davis  
Armando & Joyce Lagunas

## **THANK YOU**

Thank you to my church family for the cards, notes, prayers, visits and awesome food which brought a smile to my face each day as I healed from my fall.

Blessings to each of you,

Alice Woods

## **LOCATION OF CLASSROOMS FOR April 6 & April 13**

**FAITHBUILDERS CLASS - MEET IN  
CONFERENCE ROOM**

**CROSSROADS CLASS - MEET IN  
PARLOR**

## **WE NEED HANDS!**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 3**  
**&**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 8**

**9:00AM**



**WE HAVE OVER 300 WOODEN CROSSES  
TO PAINT!**

**COME HELP AND ENJOY FELLOWSHIP!**

# NEWS TO USE



## ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food request through April 9th is **March Madness food drive**. 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.

### LENTEN VOLUNTEER INITIATIVE

In the spirit of Lent, Ashure Ministry is asking folks to consider doing their Lenten discipline with the ministry, and SERVE 40 hours from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday. No registration required. Just volunteer and the computer will calculate your hours.

Monday, April 7th, is FMCC's designated volunteer day at Ashure Ministry. Any amount of time you can volunteer will be greatly appreciated.

### MARCH MADNESS

From now until April 9, there is a food drive for Ashure Ministry with a little friendly competition. You can donate food OR money for your favorite team. Food counts as 2 points per pound. Money counts as 3 points per dollar. Boxes with team labels are located in the narthex and CFLC. Don't see your team? No problem!! (Mine is not there either!) Place your food in the box labeled "other". Be sure to indicate your team preference. If donating money, please indicate team preference, and give donation to Anita Deal. With food donations brought to Ashure and money donated, Duke & WVU are the top 2 teams for FMCC! If those 2 teams are not your choice, you may place food in the boxes in the Narthex or CFLC. Your team could also benefit from a check written to Ashure Ministry designating team preference. Of course, the real winners of this March Madness food drive are the clients at Ashure Ministry. Hours of operation are 8:30am-4:30pm Thanks!



**JOIN US  
FOR A  
TIME OF  
PRAYER**

**6:00 - 6:45 Every Tuesday  
in the Parlor (upstairs)**



## PASTOR'S QUIZ

The specific warning of punishment by hell fire is first encountered in the Bible when Jesus warns that one should not

- a. say, "Thou fool"
- b. look at a woman lustfully
- c. say more than simply "yes" or "no"
- d. refuse him who would borrow

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

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

**By Our Presence March 30, 2025**

Sunday School:

100

Worship:

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| 8:45am Service  | 170        |
| 11:00am Service | 148        |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>318</b> |

### God's Tithe & Our Gifts

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| General Fund                                | \$ 16,541.00        |
| <i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$15,258)</i> |                     |
| Children's Bank                             | 79.00               |
| Methodist Men of FMCC                       | 250.00              |
| Music Fund                                  | 25.00               |
| Neighbor's Table                            | 25.00               |
| Pastor's Discretionary Fund                 | 1,500.00            |
| Youth Fund                                  | 75.00               |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <b>\$ 18,495.00</b> |

## EASTER BLESSINGS



It is time to share our love with our homebound and nursing home members. Bags have been placed in the commons area with the names of our 11 members. Would you fill an Easter egg with some sweet treats, trinkets, a favorite scripture, or a personal note to brighten someone's day? Please place your egg and/or cards in the bags **by April 6th** so they can be delivered before Easter. You can find the names listed in the newsletter. If you would like to help deliver bags please let Susan Hunsucker know.

This would be a great opportunity for families with young children to serve together. Thank you once again for your amazing support of this ministry.

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



Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

a. say, "Thou fool"  
(Matthew 5:22)

## CHURCH STAFF

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Pastor  | Rev. John Woods<br>pastor@fmccconover.org<br>(828) 464-4635<br>(336) 480-4550 - cell<br>208 2nd St NE, Conover |
| Minister of Youth/Outreach                    | Jason Shoup<br>jsgodson@yahoo.com<br>(828) 381-1174<br>1409 5th St. Ct. NE, Conover                            |
| Office Administrator /<br>Financial Secretary | Robin Mays<br>office@fmccconover.org   |
| Coordinator of Lay Ministries                 | Beth Woods<br>woods777@aol.com<br>(336) 480-4551 - cell  |
| Music Director/Choir                          | Jon Rogers<br>jsrogers99@gmail.com<br>(828) 244-7019   |
| Music Director/Praise Team/<br>Pianist        | Shannon Rogers<br>srog101@gmail.com<br>(828) 244-6124  |
| Organist                                      | Kevin Haney<br>khaney01@gmail.com<br>(704) 914-6510  |
| Preschool Director                            | Julie Robinson<br>(828) 466-3158<br>preschool@fmccconover.org  |
| Lead Nursery Worker                           | Pilar Tobar  |
| Custodian                                     | Luisa Toro Bryan   |
| Church Office                                 | (828) 464-4635   |
| Website:                                      | www.fmccconover.org  |

## STILL MORE NEWS TO USE

### Can You Help? Informational Meeting for Leaders April 6 at 3:00



Our Children's Ministry Team, led by Amber Hendren and Alisha Shoup, is planning some exciting opportunities for our Pre-K-5<sup>th</sup> grade children. April 27, May 4 and May 18, we will have three introductory sessions of AWANA to give you a taste of the full program that will be kicking off in the fall. This program combines Bible study, games, snacks, and a ton of fun! We are excited to bring this ministry to First Methodist.

But we need YOUR help! We would like to have teams leading each area. Could you be a teacher or assistant, game coordinator, snack provider, materials prepper, or prayer warrior? Please pray about this opportunity and come to an informational meeting for potential leaders April 6 at 3:00. Meeting will be in the Clark Sunday School Classroom (upstairs above the office).



## March Madness Food Collection



Bring non-perishable food items to "vote" for your favorite basketball team. (They don't have to still be in the tournament!) Just place your donations in the box marked with your team of choice. The real winners are the people who are helped by Ashure Ministries!

Boxes are in the Narthex and in the Commons Area

# THROUGH APRIL 9

## HEY, EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE



### “Journey to Jerusalem” Prayer Walk

April 13-18, 2025

Preparation is UNDERWAY! (Take a look in the CFLC and you'll see the transformation beginning to take shape.)

**Contact Anthony Price (828) 228-6467 for information about helping with the Prayer Walk in any way.**

#### Work days:

- There will be work going on throughout April 1-12.
- On April 13, right after the late service, a crew will be setting up the last of the hallway scenery.
- Each night of the Prayer Walk (April 13, 14, 15, 16, and 18 – not open on Maunday 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](mailto:woods777@aol.com) or (336) 480-4551.
- On April 19, beginning at 9:00, 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!

### Helping Hands Needed



Do you have a little bit of spare time 2-3 times a month? We need someone to pick up the cardboard gathered in several spots in the church and take it to the recycling center. (There's a cardboard recycling center in front of the Post Office.)

We try to be good stewards and recycle when we can. Cardboard tends to accumulate quickly and we need someone willing to help.

If you can do this, you can get more information from Robin Mays in the church office or from Beth Woods. Thank you!



## 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

Dottie Aycock-Harris - TerraBella Newton, (Room B1)  
1088 Radio Station Road, Newton, NC 28658  
(Ron's cell - (704) 460-4919



James Davis - Abernethy Laurels (Memory Care Center)  
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



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

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

If you know of any members that should be added to our list, please contact the church office at  
(828) 464-4635.

**NEWEST MEMBERS OF  
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CONOVER  
SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025**

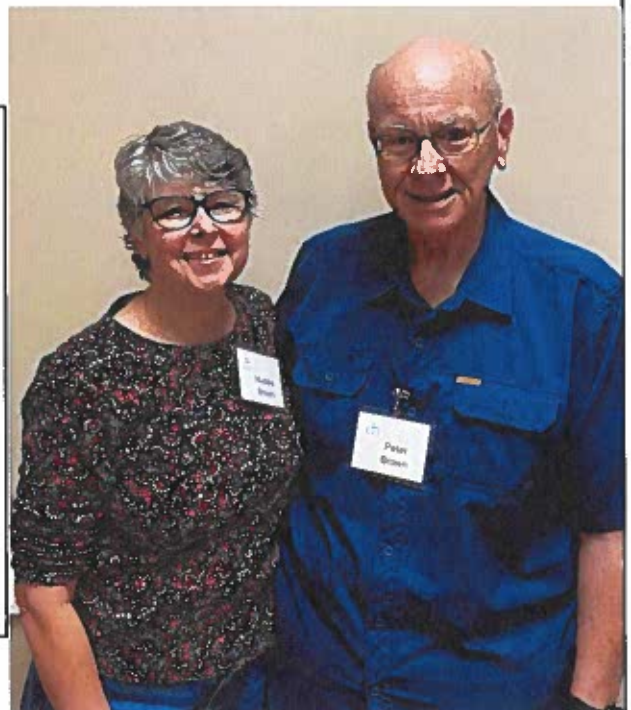
Joined at the 8:45am Service

Randy & Debbie Bernhardt  
4015 Hoke Street  
Claremont, NC 28610  
Home: (828) 241-4090  
Randy's cell: (828) 244-9197  
Debbie's cell: (828) 244-8168  
Randy's email: [bernhardtrandy@gmail.com](mailto:bernhardtrandy@gmail.com)  
Debbie's email: [bernhardtd11@gmail.com](mailto:bernhardtd11@gmail.com)



Joined at the 8:45am Service

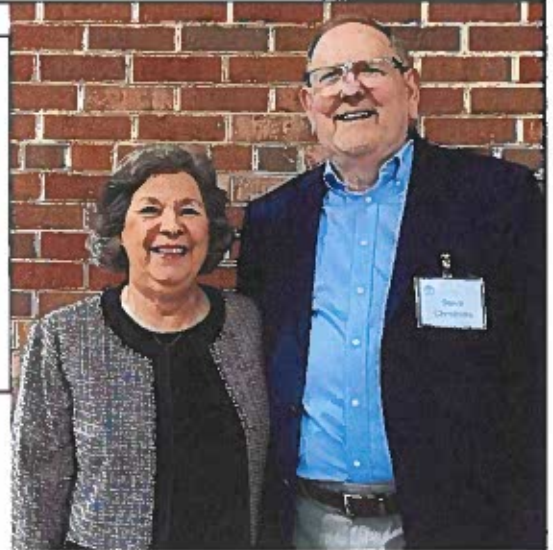
Peter & Maddie Brown  
966 Maple Glen Drive  
Conover, NC 28613  
Peter's cell: (203) 650-1404  
Maddie's cell: (203) 648-2415  
Peter's email:  
[peter.brown@ncglobalmethodist.org](mailto:peter.brown@ncglobalmethodist.org)  
Maddie's email: [mderosa654@att.net](mailto:mderosa654@att.net)





**NEWEST MEMBERS OF  
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CONOVER  
SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025  
(ALL JOINED AT 11:00 SERVICE)**

Steve & Alice Christmas  
318 9th Avenue NE  
Conover, NC 28613  
Steve's cell: (703) 901-2968  
Alice's cell: (704) 495-5983  
Email: [stevechristmas7@gmail.com](mailto:stevechristmas7@gmail.com)



Sharon Sims  
311 4th Avenue NW  
Conover, NC 28613  
Sharon's cell: (704) 517-8675  
Email: [ssims8675@yahoo.com](mailto:ssims8675@yahoo.com)

Rebecca (Becky) Vechik  
307 3rd Street NE  
Conover, NC 28613  
Home: (704) 325-3169  
Becky's cell: (828) 310-0471  
Email: [rvechik@yahoo.com](mailto:rvechik@yahoo.com)

