



# First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

*The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover*

*July 8, 2025*

## **WHERE WAS GOD IN THE FLOOD?** Written by Scott Reece, shared by Bishop Greenway

Over the past few days, my heart has wrestled deeply with the tragedy unfolding in Texas. The floodwaters have swept away more than cabins, they've shaken families, broken hearts, and left many of us asking the hard questions. As a shepherd, I'm supposed to have answers, but sometimes, I just have tears. This isn't a post filled with easy explanations, it's one born out of pain, prayer, and the unshakable truth that even in the flood, God is still present.

This is the heart-wrenching tension we must sit with, one that stretches both the human soul and the theological framework of even seasoned believers. Could God have stopped the flood? Yes.

Could He have preserved every life? Absolutely.

Did He have the power to send angels, divert waters, or awaken every camper before danger came? Without question.

And yet, He didn't. Not in the way we prayed. Not in the way we hoped.

This is where we enter the sacred realm of mystery. Even the Apostle Paul, caught up to the third heaven, confesses: **"Now we see through a glass, darkly..."** 1 Corinthians 13:12. There are moments in life where divine sovereignty doesn't align with human expectation, and in those moments, our theology must not collapse, it must deepen. We often ask, **"Why didn't God act?"**, but what if the deeper question is, **"Why does He sometimes choose restraint, even when it breaks His own heart?"** The cross is our clearest example. Jesus could have called twelve legions of angels to prevent His crucifixion, but He didn't. Not because He couldn't, but because there was a greater purpose at work, a redemptive plan hidden within suffering.

Could this be one of those moments? We do not claim to know the full mind of God (Isaiah 55:8–9), but we do know this, His delay is never His absence and His silence is never His apathy. Sometimes God restrains His hand so that a greater Kingdom revelation might emerge, even through the ashes of grief.

Let's be clear, this tragedy is not a sign of God's judgment on these children, this camp, or this region. This is not wrath, it is travail. Creation is groaning. The earth is trembling. And the Kingdom is advancing through birth pains, not comfort (Matthew 24:8). This flood did not take God by surprise, but nor was it His delight. We serve a God who weeps with us (John 11:35) and enters into our suffering with scars of His own.

Though we cannot answer every "why," the believer's voice must anchor the people of God in what is unshakably true: He is still good, His goodness is not circumstantial, it's covenantal. The cross remains the proof of His love, not our circumstances. He is still just. His justice may not be immediate, but it is inevitable, every tear will be accounted for, every injustice will be made right, every hidden pain will be healed. He is still present. Even in the storm, He was there, in the cries, in the chaos, in the quiet miracles. He is "Emmanuel," God with us, in the flood as much as in the fire.

He is still working. As Romans 8:28 declares: **"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."** This does not mean all things are good, it means that even the worst thing, like a flood that takes young lives, can become the soil for divine redemption. Let's not allow mystery to give way to unbelief, let's not allow pain to steal our posture of faith.

This is the time for the *Ekklesia* to weep and war, to mourn with those who mourn, to declare the goodness of God even in the valley, to contend for a generation that has been shaken. We don't have all the answers, but we have a God who still speaks, a Gospel that still saves, and a Kingdom that cannot be shaken.

# **\*PRAYERS, PRAISES AND NEEDS\***

## **QUEEN ESTHER MEETING**

On Wednesday, July 9, Queen Esther's circle will host a speaker from Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. ALL are welcome to attend the 1:00pm meeting to be held in the Faithbuilders classroom in the CFLC. Please come to hear more about this ministry that touches the lives of so many.

### ***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:*

Margaret & Frances Allen, Charlie & Tommi Anderson,  
Jim, Carolyn & Jennifer Ball, Jan Barbersek,  
Welby, Samina, Adam, Ashley, Abella & Avril Barnabas,  
William, Margrat & Perry Barnabas.

## **NURSERY VOLUNTEERS**

### **July 13**

8:45am - Leah Workman  
11:00am - Tracy Workman

### **July 20**

8:45am - Nancy Wall  
11:00am - Need volunteer

We need volunteers for July 20. If you are available to volunteer, please contact Beth via email at woods777@aol.com or call her at (336) 480-4551.



## **Bible Quiz**

In a parable of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, someone named Lazarus features prominently while other characters go unnamed. Who is Lazarus in this story?

- A. a friend Jesus raised from the dead
- B. a rich man dressed in fine linen
- C. a poor beggar at the rich man's gate
- D. the brother of the poor man
- E. an angel who carried the poor man to heaven



## **IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL**

Mike Induni at CVMC (at home)  
Everest Hedrick (Children's Hospital Philadelphia)

## **SYMPATHY NOTE**

Charles Reed, age 87, died Wednesday, July 2, 2025 at his residence. "Charlie" was a member of First Methodist Church of Conover.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held Friday, July 11, 2025 at First Methodist Church of Conover at 11:00am in the sanctuary. A reception will follow in the Connor Family Life Center for the family to receive and greet family and friends.

Our prayers are with Rona Saunders-Reed, Andrea (Robert) Skyler, Greg Reed (Lisa Kennedy) and Karen Martin (Chip Miller) during this difficult time.

## **Greeters for July 13**

8:45am - Kathy Martin  
11:00am - Donald & Carolyn Scronce

### **July 20**

8:45am - Marsha & David Phillips  
11:00am - Steve & Alice Christmas

### **July 27**

8:45am - Amber & Justin Hendren  
11:00am - Cindy & Jimmy Clark

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

The correct answer is located on the back of the Newsletter.

# NEWS TO USE



The Ashure Ministry food request for July will be **snacks for kids**. 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.

2429.2! That is the number of hours that FMCC volunteers served in 2024! That total gave our church the distinction of serving the most hours. Thanks to each and everyone of you!

Here are the June statistics for FMCC at Ashure Ministry:

Food donated - 73 pounds

Volunteers - 16

Volunteer hours - 206

Thank you, Anita Deal

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence July 8, 2025

Sunday School:  
79

Worship:  
8:45am Service - 104  
11:00am Service - 130  
Total 234

### God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund \$ 21,379.00  
(Needed weekly for budget: \$15,258)

Children's Bank 156.00  
Kenya Mission Trip 1,800.00  
Total \$ 23,335.00

## THANK YOU

To my dear family in Christ, thank you so much for your unending love through prayers, cards, financial assistance, and messages. You, through God working through you, have been a great blessing to me, my family, and my daughter throughout this 2nd cancer recurrence. I can't tell you how loved and special this makes me feel. Not only that, it has been a great comfort in knowing God is always present during the good and the bad times. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart! I'm so thankful to have you all and to have grown up in such a wonderful community in Christ. God is always good!

Blessings and love,  
Katie Rockett

## THANK YOU

Rick and I send our sincere thanks to our loving church family for all the goodies placed in the July 4th bag. It's always a treat for Rick to see each and every item! We are so thankful for the love and care shown by so many. We also thank everyone who took the time to deliver these bags and our thanks to Debbie Wike and Dianne Hollar.

Linda Parker

## Attention Amazon Customers!

*{Isn't that everyone??!}*



We need the brown paper packaging from Amazon packages for a VBS craft. If you have any and can bring it to church, there is a collection box outside Beth's office. Thank you!

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. a poor beggar at the rich man's gate.  
(Luke 16:19-31)

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. John Woods pastor@fmconover.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@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

# Vacation Bible School ...For Adults?!?

Yes, we will have morning VBS sessions for adults (God's children of all ages!) on **July 15 and 16 from 10 am – noon, with lunch to follow at noon.**

We will be studying together our BIG God's love for us, how that is revealed in His creation and His plan for our lives. We will have some fun (but not too crazy) activities that I promise you will enjoy. We will be making some useful and meaningful "crafts" (not the cool bug eyes that the kids will be making, though!) I can't spoil all the surprises. You'll just have to trust me when I say I'm certain you'll enjoy the study, activities and the fellowship. And if you like to eat, you'll enjoy the lunches!

I do need to know by July 10 if you will be coming to one or both sessions so that I can have enough supplies and food, so please RSVP to the church office or to me directly at (336) 480-4551 or [woods777@aol.com](mailto:woods777@aol.com). I promise, you will not have to run relay races or play duck, duck, goose!

*Oh, magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together!*



## Vacation Bible School

**5:30-7:30**

**July 13, 20, 21, 22**  
**at First Methodist**  
**Church of Conover**  
**(dinner included)**

**REGISTER NOW!**

(use QR code or  
clickable link on  
Facebook or website:  
[www.fmccconover.org](http://www.fmccconover.org))



**10am - noon**

**August 9 at**  
**Conover City Park**  
**(bring bathing suits and**  
**towels for splashpad!)**

## VBS Preparation Days

**July 8 at 3 pm** Last batch of cutting and collating for VBS. (All hands welcome! Some of this can be done at home in advance. Stop by Beth's office after July 2 to pick up materials.)

**July 10 at 9:30 am** All hands-on deck to finish assembling pieces of crafts and decorations.

**July 12 from 3-5 pm** Set up and decorate the CFLC.

# 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

**Elaine Biles** - In a nursing facility in Indiana. Send  
mail to her son, Jim at:  
1140 S. Michigan Ave.  
Greensburg, IN 47240

**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

**Armando Lagunas** - 1515 28th St., Lane SE  
Hickory, NC 28602

**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.

# July YOUTH EVENT SCHEDULE



**11**  
JULY

**SWIMMING & PIZZA  
@ CONOVER POOL**  
221 5TH AVE NE, CONOVER NC 28613 4PM - 8PM





**12**  
JULY

**CARWASH FUNDRAISER  
FOR CAMP**  
9AM - 12PM @ THE CHURCH



**18**  
JULY

**SWIMMING & PIZZA  
@ CONOVER POOL**  
221 5TH AVE NE, CONOVER, NC 28613 4PM - 8PM





**20**  
JULY

**PARENT & YOUTH MEETING  
TO DISCUSS CAMP**  
4PM @ THE CHURCH



**26**  
JULY

**CRAWDADS GAME**  
BUILDING 429 CONCERT AFTERWARDS  
EVERYONE INVITED! MEET @ 5PM  
FRONT GATE

## EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE



**Queen Esther Circle**

**Wed, July 9 at 1:00**

**Faithbuilders Classroom**

**All women are invited!**

## POTLUCK DINNER & ICE CREAM!

**SAT. JULY 12 -- 5:00**



We need about 12 people to bring ice cream. Please sign up at Beth's office door if you want to bring ice cream. Others can bring toppings or meal items (entrees or sides). No need to sign up for anything except ice cream!

## *Christian Yoga/Exercise Class for All*



**Thursday, July 17**

**10:00 – 11:15**

**CFLC**