



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

April 15, 2025

Easter Symbols

***For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. – 1 Corinthians 1:18***

Over the last 2,000 years, Christians have used a variety of symbols to talk about Easter. Some of these symbols—like eggs and the Easter bunny—have been adopted by the wider culture, but it's worth exploring what these symbols tell us about Jesus' resurrection.

First, there's the **egg**. More than a pretty way to deliver candy, an Easter egg represents the idea of new life coming out of something that appears dead. The hard shell of the egg represents the sealed tomb where Jesus' body is laid and cracking the shell shows God rolling away the stone at the resurrection. Although the practice of decorating eggs pre-dates Christianity, there is an ancient Eastern Orthodox tradition of dying eggs red like the blood Jesus shed for us on the cross.



Another Easter tradition is to fast from meat and eggs during Lent, and to decorate the eggs in anticipation for breaking the Lenten fast on Easter morning.

Another popular symbol is the Easter **bunny**. If you're familiar with the expression "breeding like rabbits," perhaps it's not much of a stretch to understand how a rabbit could become a symbol for new life. From there, the bunny can be a reminder of the new life Christians find in Jesus' resurrection. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Perhaps a less familiar Easter symbol is the **rooster**. First, the rooster reminds us of the Good Friday story, when Peter denied Jesus three times before the rooster crowed. In addition, the rooster's crowing welcomes the coming of the new day. Many churches have a rooster on the top of their steeple, symbolizing the power of the risen Jesus Christ to break the darkness of our sin and announce the hope of a new day.

On many Easter banners, you'll notice a brightly colored **butterfly**. Coming out of a cocoon, the butterfly emerges into its new, beautiful form, like Jesus coming out of the tomb.



Similarly, the Easter **lily** again represents new life coming out of something that looks dead. At the beginning of the new season, the flower springs up out of the bulb buried underground. The lily's pure color shows the purity of our new life in Christ, and the flower's shape resembles a trumpet proclaiming the good news of what God has done for us.

Finally, the most important Easter symbol of all is the **empty cross**. Only God could transform this ugly symbol of execution and death into the ultimate emblem of life and hope. Now, the cross is bare, the tomb is empty, and Jesus is alive! And because He lives, we too shall live. Sunday we will celebrate and proclaim that: "Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again." As you look forward to Easter this coming Sunday, may these symbols continue to remind you of God's love, power, and promise for you!

Anticipating celebrating the joy of the resurrection!

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:

Don & Carolyn Scronce, Guynell Sears,
Jay Shepherd, John & Cynthia Sherbert,
Don & Vata Shook, Jason, Alisha, Jady & Gavin Shoup.



BABY in bloom

JOIN US FOR A BABY SHOWER HONORING

LINDSAY KEISLER

SUNDAY,
APRIL 27
12:00 - 3:00 PM

All are invited to the CFLC to celebrate the newest addition to the Keisler family!

Registered at babylist.com

A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Priscilla "Sim" Horst, age 94 and a member of First Methodist Church of Conover, died Saturday, April 12th at the home of her daughter, Pam Stodghill.

Arrangements are incomplete at this time.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her daughters, Pam Stodghill and Kim Cline and the rest of the family during this sad time..

A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Hunter Gregory Flynn, age 24 and the grandson of Greg & (Joy) Flynn, died April 2, 2025.

A Celebration of Life service was held Saturday, April 12th at 2pm at West Cramerton Baptist Church.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Greg, Joy and the family during this difficult time.

IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

Everest Hedrick at Duke

GREETERS FOR APRIL 20

8:45am - Wesley & Brandie Tucker

11:00am - Donna & Lisa Rudisill

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

A NOTE OF THANKS

As a newer member of this congregation, I want to especially thank you for the many cards, phone calls, delicious food and visits during my recent radiation treatments for eye lymphoma. It has meant so much to have your caring and support. I truly feel blessed to be a part of this special family.

Gail Sanders



METHODIST MEN'S MEETING

Methodist Men

The Methodist Men will meet in the CFLC on Thursday, April 24th. A meal will be served at

6:00pm with a program to follow. We are requesting for 5-7 members to assist in setting up and preparing the meal.

If you are available to help, please be at the church by 5:00pm.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Rick and I sincerely thank everyone for the basket which was filled with so many lovely cards, yum-my candy and all of the reminders of Easter. We are thankful every day for our loving church family and all the love that we are shown.

Happy Easter to all and our thanks again.
Rick & Linda Parker

NEWS TO USE



ASHURE NEWS

The Ashure Ministry food request for April is canned

or dried beans. 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.

MARCH MADNESS FOOD DRIVE WINNERS

Coming in first with the most food and money collected was NC State followed by Duke and then UNC. Top team for our church was WVU followed by Duke and then Western Carolina. FMCC was the top church donor for March madness. Thank you, church family, for making this possible. With your generosity, more families in Catawba County are able to supply food for their families!

Anita Deal



PASTOR'S QUIZ

You are doing no more than do publicans (tax farmers, or alternatively, tax collectors), observed Jesus, if you

- a. salute only your superiors.
- b. love those who love you.
- c. lend only to those who lend to you.
- d. give only to beggars.

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence April 13, 2025

Sunday School:
105

Worship:
8:45am Service 186
11:00am Service 183
Total 369

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 11,935.31
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$15,258)</i>	
Children's Bank	40.00
Youth Fund	500.00
Total	\$ 12,991.31

TIME CHANGED

TIME OF PRAYER



6:30 Every Tuesday
in the Parlor (upstairs)

NO HEARTFELT PRAYER TIME THIS WEEK DUE TO PRAYER WALK!



Connor College Scholarship

Forms available in
church office.

Deadline April 27

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:

b. love those who love you
(Matthew 5:46)

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

MORE NEWS TO USE



**All week
(Sun-Fri)
except
Thursday**

6:00 - 8:30 each evening

MAUNDY
THURSDAY

April 17

Worship service at 7:00

Easter Services

SUNRISE
6:30 am
Trinity RUCC

Contemporary
8:45 am

Traditional
11:00 am

**Bring fresh
flower
cuttings to
"flower the
cross" on
Easter
morning.**





Join us for

AWANA

Ages 3 - 5th Grade

Activities:

- Engaging Bible Study
- Music
- Games
- Snacks
- Lots of Fun!

Intro Dates:

Sunday, April 27

Sunday, May 4

Sunday, May 18

5pm - 6:30pm

Full Program to
Kick-Off in the Fall

Address:

First Methodist Church Conover
410 1st Ave N,
Conover, NC 28613

**Because Kids
Matter
to God**

Awana Clubs
Cubbies
3 - 5 Year Olds

Awana Clubs
Sparks
Grades K - 2nd

T&T Truth & Training
Grades 3 - 5

youth
Grades 6 - 12
will also meet
during this time



First Methodist Church
OF CONOVER

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.

A decorative header featuring several gold bells and clusters of pink flowers with green leaves, set against a blue background.

SPRING CONCERT

featuring

Bells of Lake Norman

Saturday, April 26

6:30pm

Trinity Baptist Church

725 W. 13th St.

Newton NC

The Corner Table Presents



Drendel Auditorium, Hickory, NC
243 Third Avenue NE, Hickory, NC 28601

4-29-2025 | 6-8PM

"Standup to Hunger" is a variety show talent competition fundraiser to benefit the The Corner Table's Backpack Program. The show will feature a diverse lineup of local performers, including comedy, music, dance, and more! Standup to Hunger promises you a night filled with excitement, creativity, and unforgettable performances, all while raising vital funds for local children in our community. Don't miss this chance to support a great cause and enjoy a night of incredible talent!

Tickets: \$25/piece (Children under 2 are free)
Sponsorships Available

All proceeds benefit:



TICKETS
DONATE
SPONSOR



SCAN ME