



First Methodist Church

OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

March 26, 2024

EASTER THOUGHTS

There's a story told of two children playing together while a movie about Jesus' life was on television in the background. One of the children was Christian; the other wasn't. As the film reached the point of Jesus' crucifixion, the second child became more and more interested in what was happening on the television and began to neglect their play. Frustrated, the first child said, "*Never mind about that! He gets out of it in the end!*"

I wonder sometimes if this is our attitude toward Easter in the church too. It's tempting to fast-forward through Jesus' suffering and death to the Easter lilies and the happy ending. In a broken world, we long for happy endings.

A happy ending is the last thing Jesus' disciples expected. We read in the gospels that Jesus told the disciples three times that he must suffer and die and that he would be raised again on the third day, but they didn't understand him. They just couldn't believe it. We humans know something about death, and in our experience, death is final.

Perhaps that's why the first time Jesus referred to his upcoming death and resurrection, Peter actually talked back to him, rejecting his words. After Jesus' death and burial, John reports that the disciples hid away together in fear. On Easter morning Luke reports that when the women told the other disciples, they didn't believe them.



The disciples had experienced Jesus' crucifixion - a real, painful, shameful death - and were convinced that was the end of the story. They couldn't imagine a reality in which death didn't have the last word. And then everything changed.

On the church's liturgical calendar, Easter is called "*The Resurrection of Our Lord.*" That name reminds us of the deep power of God at work to save. The God who created the world out of nothing creates new life on the other side of death. Easter isn't the celebration that Jesus "*got out of it in the end.*" On Easter, we celebrate the fact that Jesus saw things through to the end, to the cross, to death, to the grave, and that God then raised him up to new life!

Our creeds and confessions of faith insist on this: Jesus was crucified, died and was buried. They confess just as clearly that Jesus rose from the dead. There is no narrow escape, no getting out of it. Without death, there can be no resurrection. Jesus' resurrection shows God breaking into our death-dealing world to give new and eternal life.

Former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams expressed it like this: "*God is never at the end of God's resources when we are at the end of ours. We really die, and God really remakes us. Creation and resurrection are inseparable activities in God's response to the death of God's loved ones.*"

As Paul wrote: "***Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.***" (1 Corinthians 15:54-57)

Happy Easter!

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:

Bryan, Donna & Jessie Ross, Debbie Royals,
Donna Rudisill, Lisa Rudisill, Mary Rudisill,
Lori Schulze.

IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

None

THANK YOU

A sincere thank you to our loving church family for the huge bag of goodies that you so kindly sent to Rick. He is enjoying each thoughtful card, all the candy and the various items that are special reminders of Easter.

Both Rick and I continue to be so thankful for all the love that you show to us.

Again, thank you. Linda Parker



CONNOR SCHOLARSHIP Applications Available

Applications are now being accepted for anyone wanting to apply for a Connor Scholarship. Application forms can be obtained from the church office by calling (828) 464-4635 or via email at office@fmccconover.org.

Please state whether you need a high school application or a college application. **Deadline is April 19th.**

Scholarships will be awarded on Sunday, June 2, 2024 at both services.

THANK YOU

Dear 1st Methodist of Conover,
A mere thank you is not enough. Thank you for the monetary gifts and your prayers. You all have been a blessing to us.

Also, thank you for the delicious meal on Saturday night.

The afghan is beautiful and I am enjoying it. Again, thank you!

Love, Scott & Penny Sigmon



CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP! MEAL AND GAME NIGHT SATURDAY, APRIL 6 AT 5:00PM IN THE CONNOR FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Everyone is invited to our monthly "Game Night" and salad & potato bar on Saturday, April 6th beginning at 5:00pm.

We will enjoy fellowship while preparing our salads and potatoes (Russett baking and sweet potatoes) with all the trimmings. Salad, potatoes, and fix'ins will be provided. If you are able, bring a dessert to share. After dinner, we will mingle and play "Candy Bar Bingo." That's Bingo and the prize will be a candy bar. We will be enjoying making new friendships and building stronger bonds of fellowship. Bring a friend!

THE CORNER TABLE NEEDS OUR HELP!

The Corner Table in Newton has asked local churches to support their Feed The Flock Gala by providing the following:

Gift Cards (valued \$20+) for a Gift Card Roulette Wheel

Silent Auction Gift Baskets – FMCC is providing a **Mother's Day Gift Basket** with items to pamper mom and an **Advent Book Basket** with children's Christmas books. (They can be found on Amazon this time of year.)

There is a clear plastic tote in the Narthex where you can place donations. Gift cards can be placed in the mailbox for "The Nest" or given to Jenny Harris.

If you have any questions or want to learn more about the wonderful things The Corner Table does for our community, please call Jenny Harris at (828) 358-5900. Thank you!

NEWS TO USE



Time to Register! A Few Spots Still Open! Noah's Ark/Creation Museum Trip

We will be taking a bus trip to visit the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky, and the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky. Finley Cloninger will be our driver, with Harold Roberson serving as "Assistant Trip Director!"

We still have several slots open for more passengers. So, if you've been thinking about going or if you know anyone (doesn't have to be a church member) interested in this trip, please have them contact Beth Woods at 336-480-4551 or woods777@aol.com. Information and Registration sheets are on Beth's door. The information is also on our website, www.fmconover.org, accessible by the QR code below.

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.

If you want to join the trip, please fill out a registration form and return it to Burke Christian Tours or to Beth, with a \$200 deposit. (Checks made out to Christian Tours. There is also a credit card option if you call the tour office at (800-476-3900).



Ashure NEWS

March Madness for Ashure Ministry (formerly ECCCM) seems to be progressing at FMC Conover as evidenced by the team boxes in the narthex. Don't be misled by the fullest box!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUAL SUPPORT OF THIS MINISTRY TO OUR COMMUNITY.

Ashure Ministry will be closed on Monday, April 1st. Therefore, our church volunteer day will be Monday, April 8th. Any amount of time is greatly appreciated.

NOTE: The red bins for collection of bags for Ashure Ministry are temporarily located in the Conference Room across from Beth's office.



PASTOR'S QUIZ

The parable of the servants left with their master's money to handle shows the danger of excessive

- a. apprehension
- b. speculation
- c. illegality
- d. deviousness

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT By Our Presence March 24, 2024

Sunday School:
88

Worship:
8:45am Service 134
11:00am Service 155
289

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 9,371.00
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$12,804)</i>	
Children's Bank	30.01
Ashure Ministry	
(March Madness - UNC)	25.00
Total	\$ 9,426.01

Fellowship Meals at the Woods' Home

As of last week, we've had the amazing experience of hosting a total of 128 church friends for meals in our home. If you are one of those, THANK YOU for spending time with us! We hope it was as much a blessing for you as it was for us.

If you haven't been able to join us yet, you haven't missed your chance! We will set another round of dates after Easter. We will continue these as long as there is interest!

Pastor John and Beth



First Methodist Church
410 First Avenue North
Conover, NC 28613
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Conover, NC



EASTER SUNDAY MORNING

6:30am - Sunrise
Service at Trinity
Reformed United
Church of Christ

Breakfast will be served
immediately after the
service.

BRING FRESH FLOWERS TO FLOWER
THE CROSS @ 8:45AM &
11:00AM;



8:45am - Contemporary
Service

10:00am - Sunday school

11:00am - Traditional
Service

Answer to this week's Pastor's Quiz:

a. apprehension
(Luke 19:12-26)

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. John Woods pastor@fmconover.org (828) 464-4635 (336) 480-4550 - cell 208 2nd St 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

Register now! Registration deadline April 6.

First Methodist Hosting NC GMC Missions Conference!

April 20 – 9 am – Noon

The NC GMC is partnering with One Mission Society and their 1-day Church Training Workshops to provide regional workshops across the state. The intention is to help EVERY CHURCH in the NC GMC develop an intentional missions plan for their church, impacting the church's ministry from their neighborhood, their city, regionally, and globally.

First Methodist Church of Conover will host one of these events on April 20 (Saturday) from 9-12. It will be open to churches all around us. We want anyone interested in missions of any type to plan to attend this workshop. We will have time together to cast vision and make plans for the mission work of First Methodist Church.

Remember, in the GMC, missions will arise from every local church -- from every church and every church's neighborhood -- to our regional, national, and global missions. As we hear God's call to "witness boldly," the GMC wants to equip churches to be effective in every area of mission God calls us to.

While the GMC will take registrations after April 6, they will cancel this workshop if we don't have at least 20 people from 6-7 churches registered by then. So, please register now if you are interested. The QR code below will take you to the registration link OR you can find the registration link on our website: www.fmconover.org, on our Facebook page, on the NC GMC site at www.gmcncpac.org/missions, OR you can email Beth Woods at woods777@aol.com and the link will be emailed to you. Options!



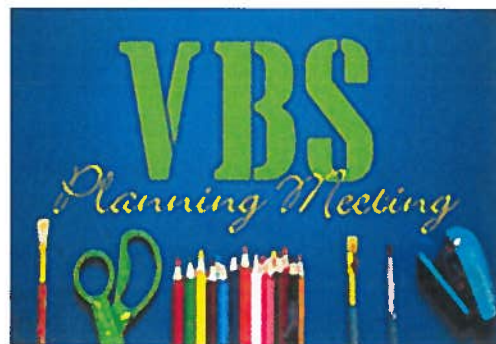
SCAN ME

VBS Planning Meeting April 21

Spring is upon us... which means summer isn't far away! We need to set a date for VBS, choose a theme, and establish a volunteer base. With this in mind, we will have an initial planning meeting on Sunday, April 21 at 6:30 in the Conference Room.

If you have any interest in VBS, if as a parent, volunteer, or advisor, PLEASE plan to attend this meeting!

For questions, contact Beth Woods (336) 480-4551.



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

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

Rick Parker - Catawba Valley Living at Rock Barn (Room 107)

PO Box 1599, Conover, NC 28613

(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

Carol Dickinson - 2069 21st Street SE Unit G

Hickory, NC 28602

(828) 855-3968

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.

April 2024

April 2024

May 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 31	Apr 1 OFFICE CLOSED Preschool Easter Break	2 10:30-11:45am Bible Study (CFLC) 1pm-Prayer Shawl 7-8:15pm Bible Study Preschool Easter Break	3 08:30am-5:30pm Bd Ord Min (Clark & CFLC) 1pm Hand & Foot 7pm Choir practice Preschool Easter Break	4 08:30am-5:30pm Bd Ord Min (Clark & CFLC) 6:30pm - Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room) Preschool Easter Break	5 6:30pm Dominos (Faithbuilders classroom) Preschool Easter Break	6 5pm Game Night-Meal (CFLC 4-9pm)
7 4pm - "The Chosen" Video-View (Clark)	8 09am-Vol. Day at Ashure 1:30-3:30 Homeschool Homies (CFLC)	9 7-8:15pm Bible Study (CFLC)	10 10:30-11:45am Bible 1PM - Queen Esther's 1pm Hand & Foot 7-8:15pm Confirmation 7pm Choir practice	11 6:30pm - Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room)	12 6:30pm Dominos (Faithbuilders classroom)	13
14 4pm - "The Chosen" Video-View (Clark) Anthony Price (CFLC)	15 Tax Day (United States)	16 7-8:15pm Bible Study (CFLC)	17 09am-Goodtimers' Trip (Van 2) 10:30-11:45am Bible 1pm Hand & Foot 7pm Choir practice	18 6:30-9pm Methodist Men (CFLC) 6:30pm - Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room)	19 6:30pm Dominos (Faithbuilders classroom)	20 09am-12 One Mission (GMC) (CFLC) 4:30pm Confirmants to help w/Neighbor's Table at 5:30pm
21 6:30pm VBS Planning Mtg. (Conference room)	22	23 5:45-7:15pm Confirmation class (CFLC / dinner)	24 1pm Hand & Foot (PSawl Room) 7pm Choir practice (Choir Room)	25 6:30pm - Hand & Foot (Prayer Shawl Room)	26 6:30pm Dominos (Faithbuilders classroom) Set-up for Youth Sunday (CFLC)	27 Set-up for Youth Sunday (CFLC)
28 09:30am SS 10:30am Worship (CFLC) YOUTH SUNDAY	29	30	May 1	2	3	4

Birthdays

Who = (everyone except removed); Filter = Birthday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Eddie Henderson Will Johnson	2 Eddie Henderson Will Johnson	3 Charlie Herman Brandon Miller Suzanne Spencer	4	5 Rylee Garrison Brittany Ponthieux Katie Rockett	6 Leisa Job Bryson Lowdermilk
7 James Zehmer	8 Jeanette Davis	9 Alice Spencer Alan Thornburg	10 Drew Danner Greg Reed	11 Jan Barbersek	12	13 Haley Beech Jimmy Hollar Gary Little Brandie Tucker Jane Wike
14 Behr Jones	15 Natasha Bunton Cathy Choppa John Woods	16 Carol Kistler	17 Logan Spencer	18 Aaron Little	19 Michael Copeland	20 Baker Yount
21 Owen Gilleland Melissa Johnson Elbert Parris Crystin Pittman Stan Reed Clay Rockett	22	23 Tristan Zinkhan	24 Daniel Moore	25	26 Gray Doub	27 Evan Matson Greg Monk Dave Morrow
28	29 Michael Goode Megan Johnson	30				

Wedding Anniversaries

Who = (everyone except removed); Filter = Wedding

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Ray and Pam Penley	12	13
14	15	16 William and Margrat Barnabas Larry and Pam Lowdermilk Don and Vata Shook	17 Gary and Tammy Muller	18	19 Bob and Lois Goodson John and Leisa Job Brad and Kim Little	20 Billy and Beth Boston
21	22 Steve and Michele Danner	23	24	25	26	27
28 Wesley and Brandie Tucker	29 Gary and Jennifer Herman	30				