



First Methodist Church OF CONOVER

The Weekly Newsletter of First Methodist Church Conover

July 22, 2025

Reflections on the Psalms

As we work through this current sermon series, "Psalms of the Summer," I thought I'd share some reflections by the great Christian author, C.S. Lewis. Growing up in the reserved culture of 20th Century Great Britain, Lewis found that the Psalms opened up a whole new way of approaching God. He writes in his book, *Reflections on the Psalms*,

"If we think 'mirth' an unsuitable word for them (The Psalms), that may show how badly we need something which the Psalms can give us perhaps better than any other book in the world.

David, we know, danced before the Ark. He danced with such abandon that one of his wives (presumably a more modern, though not better, type than he) thought he was making a fool of himself. David didn't care whether he was making a fool of himself or not. He was rejoicing in the Lord...

The most valuable thing the Psalms do for me is to express that same delight in God which made David dance. I am not saying that this is so pure or so profound a thing as the love of God reached by the greatest Christian saints and mystics. But I am not comparing it with that, I am comparing it with the merely dutiful 'church-going' and laborious 'saying our prayers' to which most of us are, thank God not always, but often, reduced. Against that it stands out as something astonishingly robust, virile, and spontaneous; something we may regard with an innocent envy and may hope to be infected by as we read...

I want to stress what I think that we (or at least I) need more; the joy and delight in God which meet us in the Psalms. These poets knew far less reason than we for loving God. They did not know that He offered them eternal joy; still less that He would die to win it for them. Yet they express a longing for Him, for His mere presence, which comes only to the best Christians or to Christians in their best moments. They long to live all their days in the Temple so that they may constantly see 'the fair beauty of the Lord' (27,4). Their longing to go up to Jerusalem and 'appear before the presence of God' is like a physical thirst (42). Lacking that encounter with Him, their souls are parched like a waterless countryside (63,2). They crave to be 'satisfied with the pleasures' of His house (65,4). Only there can they be at ease, like a bird in the nest (84,3). One day of those 'pleasures' is better than a lifetime spent elsewhere (10).

There (in the Psalms)... I find an experience fully God-centered, asking of God no gift more urgently than His presence, the gift of Himself, joyous to the highest degree, and unmistakably real. What I see in the faces of these old poets tells me more about the God whom they and we adore."

C.S. Lewis was a world renowned literary scholar who was well versed in all of the great writings of the world. And yet, the Psalms, more than any other book, helped him enter into the presence of the Lord and echo the hunger and thirst that he had for God. We, also, can discover a greater delight and joy in the Lord as we allow the Psalmists to lead us in praise, thanksgiving and worship.

**As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?
PSALM 42:1-2, (NIV)**

I pray that you find joy and delight in the Psalms this summer!

Beth Woods

PRAYERS, PRAISES AND NEEDS



MEAL PREP & HELP WITH FUNERALS

If you are available to help prepare a side dish or to help as a server for funerals here at FMCC, please contact Michelle Cloninger at (828) 381-3184 to be added to a list of people she can call on when the need arises.

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:

Randy & Debbie Bernhardt, Elaine Biles,
Linda Birchfield, Doug & LaRue Black,
*Kevin & Nancy Boggs, Kalen Bolick.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

July 27

8:45am - Amber Hendren
11:00am - Ruth Brown

August 3

8:45am - Michele Moritz
11:00am - Estrella Walker

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



A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Gilda Pennell, age 94 and a member of First Methodist Church of Conover, died Saturday, July 19, 2025 at Abernethy Laurels in Newton, NC.

A memorial service will be held at First Methodist Church of Conover on Wednesday, July 23 at 11:00am. A time of visitation will follow the service in the CFLC of the church.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mark, Randy and the family during this difficult time.

IN/OUT OF HOSPITAL

Pastor John Woods at CVMC
Rick Wall (hospital in Gastonia)

MEMORIALS **General Fund**

In memory of Charles Reed by:
Karen Martin

In memory of Evelyn Brooks by:
Karen Martin

Music Fund

In memory of Terry Martin by:
Karen Martin

In memory of Charles Reed by:
Cliff & Debbie Wike

Greeters for July 27

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

August 3

8:45am - Rev. Peter Brown
11:00am - Sue Dwigings

August 10

8:45am - Kim & Brad Little
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.



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.

Thank you, Anita Deal

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Our Presence July 20, 2025

Sunday School:
110

Worship:

8:45am Service -	148
11:00am Service -	148
Total	296

God's Tithe & Our Gifts

General Fund	\$ 9,027.00
<i>(Needed weekly for budget: \$15,258)</i>	
Children's Bank	76.00
Music Fund	100.00
Kenya Mission Trip	100.00
Texas Flood Disaster Relief	50.00
Total	\$ 9,353.00

SAVE ^{THE} DATE

Sunday, Sept 7 evening concert



**Music
for Life**

We have the privilege of hosting the **African Children's Choir** for the opening concert of their 2025-26 touring season. You don't want to miss this fabulous concert! Watch for more information coming soon, but mark your calendars now!

Part of hosting includes providing **housing**. We will need about 10 homes that can host 2-3 children and an adult. Please talk to Pastor John or Beth if you are interested.

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY,

Words can't begin to express the gratitude we have in our hearts for the outpouring of love and support for the loss of our dad.

Thank you, for all the calls, text, cards, visits and goodies he received over the last 3 months. It meant so much to him.

We, as his family, would like to thank Pastor John for the beautiful service and a special thank you to the ladies group (Michelle Cloninger) for providing such a nice reception following the service. Dad loved this church family, and so do I!

Blessings,
Karen Martin

July 26 - Let's Go to a Hickory Crawdads Game!



There is a Christian concert after the game.

Sign-up sheet is by Jason's office door in the CFLC.

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

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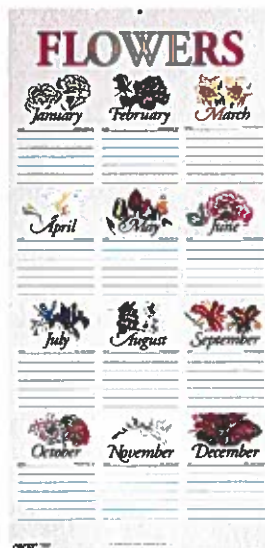
2025 FLOWER CHART

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.

Several silk arrangements are available for you to use if you wish to make a donation in lieu of flowers. A flower fund was set up by the Harold Thornburg family in memory of Ruthie. Please call the church office if you wish to do so.

Thank you.



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

Members in Nursing Facilities

Rev. Dixon Adams - TerraBella Newton (Room B7)
1088 Radio Station Road, Newton, NC 28658

Dottie Aycok-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

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.

PRAYER WALK & HARVEST FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

It is hard to believe it has been almost a year since our last get together, but it has.....
I would like to invite anyone that has helped in any manner (no matter how) with the Prayer Walk or the
Harvest Festival to come to my family's tent at Balls Creek Campmeeting. So all from both services can get
there, please plan to be there by 1:30. You can arrive earlier if you prefer. As always, there is plenty to do
with the crew.

What's Happening: 3rd Annual FMCC PWHFV Sunday Luncheon

Where: Balls Creek Campmeeting Tent #94 (back of tent is along road - will see blue balloons)

When: August 16th at 1:30

I need to Bring: Your favorite....picnic special.....reunion delicacy.....finger licking goodness.....or whatever
you think will tickle this group's taste buds.

Loading and unloading is behind tent, but the only parking is across road only.

Dress appropriately.....as it is always a little warm on a Sunny August Sunday Afternoon under the tin
roofs.

Come and join us for a wonderful and blessed afternoon of fun and fellowship and entertainment. (We know
who has the banjos, now who has a fiddle(s) and guitar(s)?)

I for one cannot wait to see all of you there.

Oh, how wonderful is our GOD.

Anthony Price
828-228-6467 (text with any questions)

EVEN MORE NEWS TO USE

SISTERS IN CHRIST BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8TH AT BOXCAR GRILLE

All women of the church are invited to a luncheon at Boxcar Grille in Claremont on Friday, August 8th at 11:30am. We will be honoring those who have birthdays in July and August. Lunch is on your own except the birthday girls will be treated.

There will be a sign up sheet next to Beth's office for everyone wanting to attend. Please sign up by August 1st. If your birthday is in July or August please put a star by your name.

For questions contact Cindy Clark at (828) 302-3217 or Jeanette Stewart at (828) 315-0821 or Jean Slate at (910) 624-9843.



Save the date for the NC GMC Laity Convocation!

September 6, 9:00am - 3:00pm

At First Methodist Church of Conover

The Laity Convocation is coming soon, and it is time to register now! The Lay Ministry Team of the NC Global Methodist Church has planned this event for all laity (that's everybody!) to come together for inspiration, connection, and practical help for being in ministry together. Our church is hosting this convocation, but it is open to all laity (members or not...), so invite a friend!

The theme for this year is "*Tender Hearts, Strong Faith: The Ephesians 4:32 Experience.*"

The NC GMC Lay Ministry Team will be leading breakout groups on these ministry topics:

- Children/Youth
- Women/Men
- Missions/ Certified Lay Ministry
- Young Adults/Prayer



PUERTO RICO MISSION TRIP

Pastor Jason is organizing a mission trip to Puerto Rico in May. The cost is \$680 plus airfare. There are only 8 openings left. If you are interested in going on this mission trip, please RSVP to Pastor Jason at (828) 381-1174 or via email at jsgodson@yahoo.com.

JOIN US FOR A TIME OF PRAYER



6:30 Every Tuesday
in the Parlor
(upstairs)