



# THE WITNESS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
1610 PRINCE ST., CONWAY, ARKANSAS, 72034

## Ash Wednesday: Beginning the Season of Lent

Before we know it, the liturgical season of Lent will arrive, and with it a plethora of religious practices to help us prepare for the celebration of Easter. Among these practices are feasting, fasting, joy, worship, contemplation, prayer and hope.

Lent is a period of 40 days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "lencten," which means "spring." In 2024, Lent runs from Wednesday, Feb. 14, through Saturday, March 30. Easter Day is Sunday, March 31.

More information will come later concerning our Holy Week activities, which will include Palm Sunday worship on March 24, Holy or Maundy Thursday on March 28 and Good Friday on March 29. Ash Wednesday Pancakes and Worship

On Feb. 14, our MidYouth Department will sponsor an Ash Wednesday pancake supper at 5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall, followed by an Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All are invited!

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the 40-day period where we focus on what God has done for us through Christ's death and prepare for the good news of life through Christ's resurrection. Through this season, we share in Christ's sacrifice and rejoice in the life that comes through Christ.

Ash Wednesday is intended to be a time for us to confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The use of ashes has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. With the mark of the ashes, we are reminded that we are mortal and that our hope is found in the grace of God through Jesus Christ our Lord. The Imposition of Ashes is a powerful nonverbal way of participating in the call to repent.

### Pastors to Present Lenten Bible Study

Join Pastors Miranda and Nathan for Bible Study! During the season of Lent, we will be reading and discussing Rev. Adam Hamilton's "Final Words From the Cross."

Please contact Pastor Miranda to order a book (\$15 by Jan. 29), for additional information, or questions at [mhornsby@conwayfumc.org](mailto:mhornsby@conwayfumc.org).

Join us at one of these times:

- Wednesday mornings beginning Feb. 14 from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Youth Big Room
- Wednesday evenings beginning Feb. 21 from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. in Room 220 (upstairs in the Sanctuary building)
- Sunday mornings beginning Feb. 18 from 10 to 10:45 a.m. in Room 214 (upstairs in the Sanctuary building)

## Noonday Prayer During Lent

In order to set aside more time for prayer during the season of Lent, Conway First United Methodist Church will offer a service of Noonday Prayer at 12:10 p.m. each Friday from Feb. 16 through March 22.

Each of these meditative services lasts approximately 30 to 40 minutes, and includes, besides the customary prayers, a brief lesson from Scripture, the recitation of Psalm 63, and one hymn.

Central to our Lenten Noondays is an opportunity for private prayer and contemplation. Each week, an organist from

Central Arkansas will play three works from the repertoire which are especially conducive to personal reflection, prayer, and introspection. Each work will express one of the appointed weekly themes: Reconciliation, Righteousness, Covenant, Wisdom of God, Grace, and Ministry & Service.

Parishioners of FUMC and many in the Conway and Little Rock communities in the past years have incorporated this meaningful opportunity for prayer into their personal Lenten discipline. All are welcome to attend as you are able.



# Christmas Eve at Conway FUMC



## In Memory and In Honor

**In memory of Barbara Means by:** Stan & Marilyn Ott, Carolyn Sanders, Dorothy Robins Light Sunday School Class, Sara Shinn, FUMC Men's Prayer Breakfast Group, Fred & Valera Tate

**In memory of Carolyn Bruce by:** Cliff & Maribeth Garrison Judy Goss, Robert & Myung Courtway, Beth Ruple

**In memory of Molsie Osborne by:** Carol Oliver

**In memory of Ruth Moore Riddick by:** Carol Oliver

**In memory of Harriet Linaman by:** Carol Oliver

**In memory of Ramsey N. Daugherty by:** David & Jackie Daugherty

**In memory of Mary Louise Rogers by:** Kelly Howard, Nancy Tucker, Gene & Meredith Wilbourn, Jim & Linda Baker, Dan & Kaye Clanton & Family, Robert & Anita Morris, Carol Ann McAdams, Pam Wren, Martha Bumpers, Beth Ruple

**In memory of Frank Ross by:** Martha Bumpers

**In memory of Ros & Carolyn Smith by:** Cathy & Kenne Ketcheside

**In memory of Shirley Alger by:** Mike & Dixie O'Donnell, Jerry & Cherry White, Dolores Figura, Paul Miller, Pam Wren

**In memory of Chris Spatz by:** Granger & Jan Davis, Sharon Thompson

**In memory of Ben Bakker by:** Polly Bakker

**In memory of John T. Bumpers by:** Martha Bumpers

**In memory of Allan Bruner by:** Jeremy Bruner

**In memory of Melissa Williams John by:** Beth Ruple

**In honor of Pastor Nathan Kilbourne by:** Richard & Leigh Lassiter-Counts

**In honor of FUMC Pastors & Staff by:** Bill & Janie Craddock

**In honor of Claudia Davis by:** Granger, Jan, Carson, & Emma Davis

**In honor of Richard & Carol Clark by:** Beth H. Abbott

**In honor of Claudia Davis by:** Judy Preuitt

**In honor of The Campbell Family by:** Lewis & Janie Campbell

# Adult Volunteers Needed for C1Youth Summer Trips

For our two Ozark Mission Project (OMP) service trips this summer for C1Youth, we will need six adults for each. Our adults will work in pairs for the week and serve alongside other youth from our church and others to complete projects such as painting, yard work, and building projects for the week.

All adults and youth will be housed at a United Methodist church and will share space together for the week. All meals are included as well. We will have a training for any new folks and any that want a bit more before the trips.

We will need a full team of six to go for Week 1 to North Little Rock and five others to go with me to Maumelle Week 2. If you or anyone else might be interested, please reach out or sign up, and I will reach out to you with any questions we may have.

All those interested can use the QR code to sign up for these trips.



2023 OMP Trip Group

College students and young adults associated with the UCA Wesley and others from around the state gathered this past weekend at Mount Eagle Retreat Center for Respite -- a time of rest and renewal before the new semester starts.



## UCA Wesley News



## Wesley After Worship Desserts Needed!

Support The Wesley by providing desserts for 40 students for our after worship fellowship time

### Sign up using QR Code!

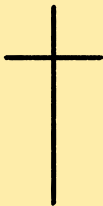


## Sunday Worship

**In-person:**

8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary  
9:05 a.m. in the Great Hall  
11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

9:05 and 11 a.m. services are livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube



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## Valentines for Our Homebound Friends

Let's send some love to our homebound folks this Valentines Day.

Contact Kisha Bumpers, [kbumpers@conwayfumc.org](mailto:kbumpers@conwayfumc.org) or 501-329-3801, for a list of those to receive cards. If you would like to mail your own cards, let Kisha know you would like a list with addresses.

We will also have a box available for you to drop off cards in the Sanctuary building Hospitality Area (Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) or you can drop them through the mail slot in the Sanctuary ramp door at your convenience.

If you are bringing yours to the church, please drop them off by Thursday, Feb. 8.

## Early Childhood Center Registration Dates Set

Registration begins soon for the FUMC Early Childhood Center.

The Early Childhood Center (ECC) is a weekday program for children ages 2 years to 5 years. Our goal is to provide a consistent, caring, and respectful environment for children. We encourage creativity, individuality, and self-expression for every child. We actively promote the values and skills needed for social, emotional, intellectual, physical, and spiritual development.

**\* In-house and church members registration:**

Monday, Feb. 5, starting at 7:30 a.m.

**\* Community registration:** Monday, Feb. 12, starting at 7:30 a.m.

For more information, you may email director Angie Hogue at [ahogue.ecc@conwayfumc.org](mailto:ahogue.ecc@conwayfumc.org).

## First United Methodist Church Staff Directory

Senior Pastor -- Nathan Kilbourne  
Associate Pastor -- Miranda Hornsby  
Dir., Music/Worship Ministries -- Jason Saugey  
Co-Dir., Children's Ministries -- Catherine Gatlin  
Co-Dir., Children's Ministries -- Jules Koen  
Director, Lay Ministries -- Kisha Bumpers  
Director, Youth Ministries -- Zach Schrick  
Director, MidYouth Ministries -- Christy Lemmer

Campus Dir., Wesley Foundation -- Amy Shores  
Assoc. Dir., Music (Praise Band) -- Stuart Holt  
Assoc. Dir., Music (Children) -- Linda Ball  
Church Administrator -- Jill Hankins  
Supervisor, Hospitality Ministries -- Ed Spears  
Financial Assistant -- Laura Bounds  
Communications Assistant -- Colleen Holt

Contact staff by email at:  
first initial of first name plus  
last name  
[@conwayfumc.org](mailto:@conwayfumc.org)

Example: [nkilbourne@conwayfumc.org](mailto:nkilbourne@conwayfumc.org)