



THE WITNESS

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



‘There IS Room in the Inn’

This year's Christmas Eve offering will be entirely given away! In light of God's gift to us in Jesus Christ, we will be blessing our community. This year's initiative will be called "There IS Room in the Inn" and will go to support the City of Hope Outreach (COHO) and their project to eliminate homelessness in Conway.

A couple years ago, we committed to sponsoring a house as part of their Hope Village project. This house will offer an opportunity for an individual or family to move from homelessness to a more sustainable life. We'd love to finish raising those funds so the house can be completed! We want to tell someone or a family this Christmas, "There is Room in the Inn!" So, any undesignated funds given on Christmas Eve will be dedicated to this project.

One of the two houses in Hope Village that is still unclaimed by an organization. Conway FUMC will either sponsor this two-bedroom home, or a two-bedroom, handicapped accessible home.

Service of the Longest Night

For many, the holidays are a mixed bag of emotions. Though we hear songs which encourage us to have a "holly, jolly Christmas," the season of Advent and Christmas can be difficult for many. Many have lost loved ones, and for others it may be a lonely time of year.

In light of this, we will have two opportunities to gather, name our grief, and be reminded of Christ's abiding presence with us on Thursday, Dec. 21. Services will be held at noon and 6:30 p.m. in the Trinity Building Chapel.

During the service, we will sing together, light the Advent Wreath with a special liturgy for this service, share scriptures of hope, offer a message, and have an opportunity to experience Christ's light. If you have lost a loved one, you are invited to bring a picture with you for the service and we will place it in the altar area.

See **LONGEST NIGHT** on Page 2

Advent

‘Hope for the Future’ Worship Series Planned for Advent

The Season of Advent is Here! The word Advent comes from the Latin "adventus" and means "coming."

As Christians, we celebrate the four weeks leading up to Christmas in which Jesus comes to be on Earth! We understand this liturgical season as being twofold. We both remember and celebrate Christ coming to Earth as a baby and we await with anticipation and preparation for Christ to come once again!

This year, we will be looking forward to what it means to prepare for the coming of Jesus in our series, "Hope For the Future!"

LONGEST NIGHT from Page 1

Why will we have it on Dec. 21, you ask? It is the longest night of the year when darkness seems to take over. And yet, though the darkness seems to take over, it does not last. Light still shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome. So, if the holiday season is a mixed bag of feelings, we encourage any and all to join us for one of these two services in the Chapel.

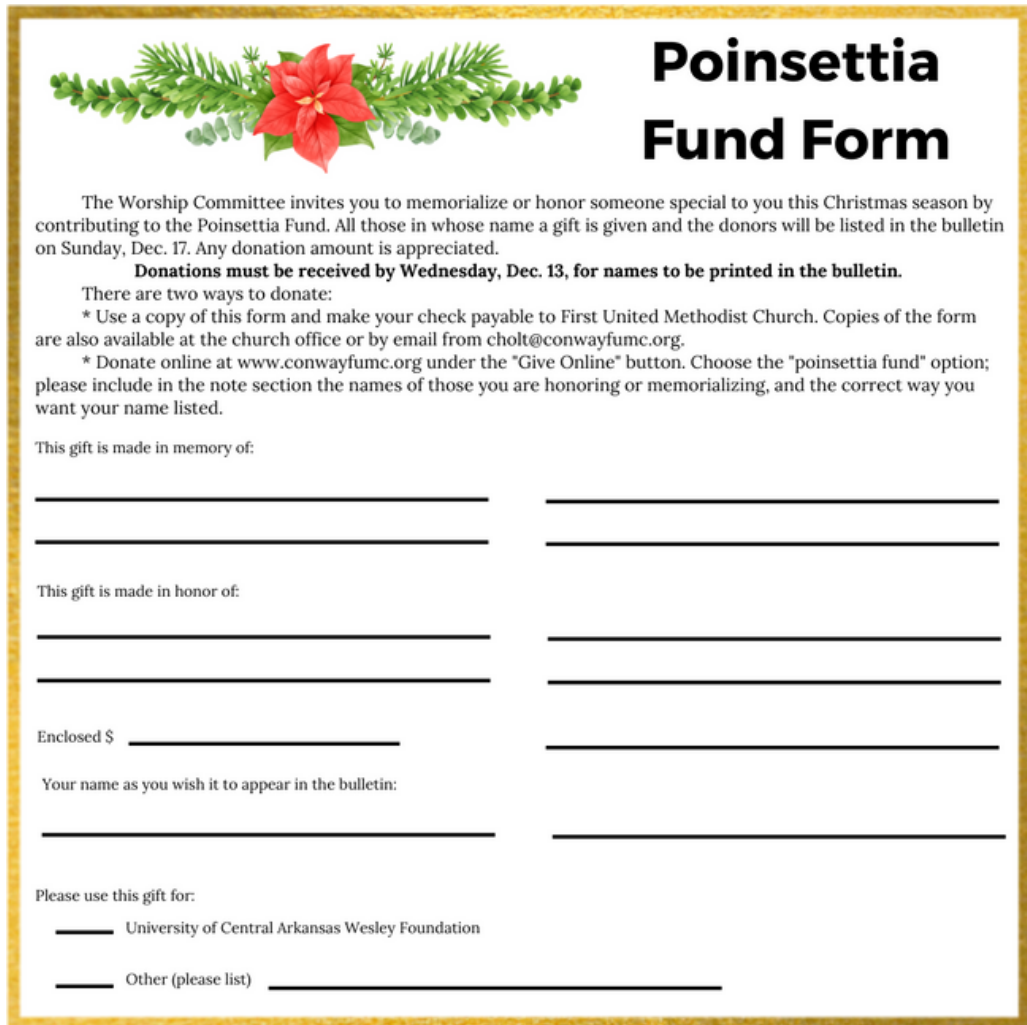
If you know of someone in your family or in your place of work who may benefit from being encouraged, please invite them to come. May the light of Christ fill our lives.

Ready for an Advent Study?

The Ladies Bible Study will be Nov. 29 through Dec. 20 on Wednesday mornings from 10 to 11:15 a.m. Join us in reading "Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation" by Will Willimon.

If you are interested in participating, please let Pastor Miranda know if you'd like her to order you a book.

We look forward to seeing you in the Youth Big Room! For more information, contact Pastor Miranda.



Poinsettia Fund Form

The Worship Committee invites you to memorialize or honor someone special to you this Christmas season by contributing to the Poinsettia Fund. All those in whose name a gift is given and the donors will be listed in the bulletin on Sunday, Dec. 17. Any donation amount is appreciated.

Donations must be received by Wednesday, Dec. 13, for names to be printed in the bulletin.

There are two ways to donate:

- * Use a copy of this form and make your check payable to First United Methodist Church. Copies of the form are also available at the church office or by email from cholt@conwayfumc.org.
- * Donate online at www.conwayfumc.org under the "Give Online" button. Choose the "poinsettia fund" option; please include in the note section the names of those you are honoring or memorializing, and the correct way you want your name listed.

This gift is made in memory of:

This gift is made in honor of:

Enclosed \$ _____

Your name as you wish it to appear in the bulletin:

Please use this gift for:

_____ University of Central Arkansas Wesley Foundation

_____ Other (please list) _____

Join us for a churchwide

Advent Extravaganza!!

29 | 5:30 - 7:30 PM
in the
NOV | Great Hall

Come and join the fun with our Children's Department as we host an Advent Extravaganza for all ages! We will have food, fun, fellowship and faith builders to get us ready for the wonderful waiting season of Advent and the coming birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ on Christmas!

You are invited to...

Wesley Advent Service

Wednesday, November 29th at 7:30pm
Join us in the Trinity Chapel

Christmas Coffeehouse



The annual Christmas Coffeehouse was held Sunday, Nov. 12. The silent auction and various donations brought in more than \$4,600. The community partners reported bringing in almost \$1,700. So, our total impact is more than \$6,300! Thank you to all who attended, contributed, and helped to organize. It was a great event.





Grief Care Resources Available in Our Church Library

“When the One You Love is Gone”, “When Grief Breaks Your Heart”, and “Life After Loss” are just a few of the books in our church library that can help you through a difficult, uncharted time in your life.

Also available is a 365-daily devotional titled “Healing After Loss”. We invite you to check out this section in our library on the first floor of the Sanctuary building.

Compiled by our Grief Care Ministry as a part of our Congregational Care Ministry, there are books for all ages, including children. The resources are free for your use and to share with your family and friends.

Also available in this section are knitted prayer squares made by members of the church’s Prayer Shawl ministry. The squares are free to you and perfect to provide comfort during times of prayer and supplication.

For more information about Grief Care resources, please contact Nancy Mulhearn at nmulhearn@conwaycorp.net or Lynn McClure at lynn.mcclure@arumc.org.

Christmas Care Packages

Help us collect items to build Christmas Care Packages for our homebound congregants.

We will be packing the care packages at our

Advent Extravaganza

on November 29th, 5:30 pm
in the Great Hall.

Please have donations in by
Sunday, November 26th

Scan the QR code to donate.

Fun at the Fall Festival!



Feeding the Conway High Football Team

Conway First United Methodist Church fed the Conway High School Football Team on Friday, Oct. 27. Rev. Nathan Kilbourne gave the devotional to the team members (photo at left), and members of the Men's Prayer Breakfast helped with the food and delivery (below).



Latest from the UCA Wesley



Respite

Jan 19-21, 2024
Mount Eagle Retreat Center



Join college students/young adults from across the state for a dedicated time of rest and renewal before the semester starts!

- Free time for hikes, disc golf, board games, watching movies, and building relationships
- Scheduled times of worship
- Lodging and meals provided
- Hear from Ozark Mission Project, Camp Tanako, and Project Transformation about summer job opportunities

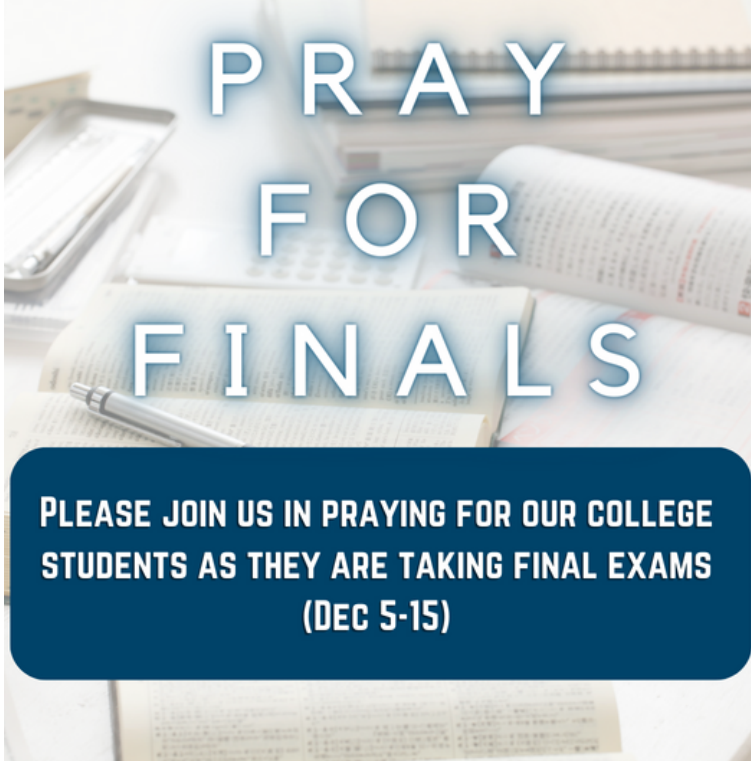


Register here
\$55



For more info, reach out to Amy Shores (amy.shores@arumc.org)

PRAY FOR FINALS



PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS AS THEY ARE TAKING FINAL EXAMS (DEC 5-15)

We are in the full swing of things, with Bible Study on Monday nights, Wesley Worship in the Trinity Chapel on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., and a variety of fellowship and mission events each week! If you are a young adult (or know a young adult) in the area, we would love to have them join us!

www.ucawesley.org ashores@conwayfumc.org

SAVE THE DATE !!

THE BLUE ANGEL ORNAMENT

A CHRISTMAS PLAY BASED ON THE BOOK

by Ruthann Curry

Performance on Sunday December 3

6:00 PM - Desserts

7:00 PM - Performance

Great Hall-Trinity Building

Donations Accepted at the Door

CAST

Chase Mulhearn	Payton Evans	Melinda Adams
Henry Ross	Riley Mulhearn	Rhealea Booth
Isaac Abel	Norah Geier	Claudia Davis
Eliza Counts	Aryn de Freitas	Katie Cole
Jack Geier	Derek Hooker	Sophie Shaver
Eleanor Kilbourne	Cooper Boyd	Marlea Booth
Logan Geier	Cole Givens	Zoe Burton
Pierson Wekkin	Rosemary Garner	Lucy Shaver
Evan Gatlin	Olivia Fritz	Jacob McDaniel
Finn Counts	Maddie Phillips	Emma McDaniel
Kayla Bumpers	Alaina David	



Donations for Staff Christmas Gifts

Each year at this time, the congregation of First United Methodist Church expresses appreciation to the pastoral, administrative and program staff in this church by making a Christmas gift donation.

- There are several ways to contribute:**
- Put a check in the red gift box in the hospitality area of the Sanctuary building.
 - Mail your donation to the church at 1610 Prince St., Conway, AR 72034.
 - Donate online at www.conwayfumc.org. Find the online giving link on the homepage. Note the gift in the Other category under Special Funds.

The gift for the staff will be collected through Sunday, Dec. 17.

All donations will be used for staff gifts. Please join us in recognizing the hard work and dedication of the great staff at Conway FUMC.



Celebrating Methodism in Faulkner County

On All Saints Sunday, which was Nov. 5, we celebrated the Sesquicentennial (or 150th Anniversary) of the United Methodist Church starting/forming in Faulkner County.

Historic tours of the buildings were given, including detailed information from our boxcar beginnings to the completion of the Trinity Building in 2008. A church-wide theater/luncheon was held in the Great Hall, where we heard “first-hand witnesses” who were there throughout the past 150

years to help build our Church into what it is today. Those participating in the theater presentation were Ruthann Curry Browne and George Mayo, narrators; Van Lamar as Rev. John J. Roberts; Steve Cohen as Rev. Edward A. Tabor; Jack Frost as Frank E. Robins; J.D. Gingerich as Rev. F.S.H. Johnston; Mark Matthews as Rev. James Mims Workman; Nathan Fryar as Rev. James Warthen Workman; Melinda Adams as Ms. Effie Martin Lincoln; Christine Mayo as Mrs. Ellen Grisard Smith; Stuart Holt as Rev. Joel Cooper; and David Sutherland as Rev. Jim Beal.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1610 PRINCE ST.
CONWAY, ARKANSAS 72034
501-329-3801

(USPS 625-840)

The Witness is published monthly by
First United Methodist Church
1610 Prince St., Conway, AR 72034.
Periodicals postage paid at Conway, AR

POSTMASTER: Send address changes
to "The Witness,"
c/o Colleen Holt, editor;
First United Methodist Church,
1610 Prince St., Conway, AR 72034

In Memory and In Honor

In memory of Allan Bruner by: Jeremy Bruner

In memory of Melissa Williams John by: Skeet & Mary Jane Morse & Family, Nancy Graddy, Rex & Martha Ross, Kim & Ellis Arnold, David & Pebble Sutherland, Michael & Donna Harris, Jamie Bird

In memory of Norma Kelley by: Zettie Caudle, Nancy Graddy

In memory of David Teague by: Jamie Bird

In memory of Ken Stephens by: Catherine Wright

In memory of Aaron Purtee by: Jack & Melinda Adams

In memory of Joel Lane by: Jamie Bird, Jack & Melinda Adams

In memory of Carolyn Bruce by: Bill & Cecilia Patterson, David & Pebble Sutherland, Jamie Bird, Jack & Melinda Adams, Matthew & Heidi Crane, Sara Shinn, Larry & Hilda Malpica, Skeet & Mary Jane Morse, Tom & Cathy Goodwin, Claudia Davis

In memory of Chris Spatz by: Zettie Caudle, Nancy Graddy, Larry Graddy & Marolyn Lee

In honor of Ian & Katelyn Lachowsky by: Pam Wren

In honor of Kish Jones by: Charles Pittman

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

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
Campus Dir., Wesley Foundation -- Amy Shores

Assoc. Dir., Music (Praise Band) -- Stuart Holt
Assoc. Dir., Music (Children) -- Linda Ball
Church Administrator -- Jill Hankins
Business Assistant -- Todd Burris
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

Example: nkilbourne@
conwayfumc.org