



# THE WITNESS

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

## Blessing of the Animals Set Sunday, Oct. 6

Our annual Blessing of the Animals will be held from 4 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6, in the parking lot at Conway First United Methodist Church, weather permitting.

Activities will begin with a very short worship service led by our Children's Choirs. The service will include reciting the Blessing of St. Francis of Assisi, known as the Patron Saint of Animals.

In addition to options for pets and families to park and walk up for a blessing, we will also have a station away from the building for pets with "social anxiety." Pets must be leashed or crated.

Pets will be blessed as a special creation of God. Even if you don't have a pet, you are welcome to attend and enjoy. If your pet can't make it to the blessing, you are invited to bring a photo of them to be blessed. Children are also invited to bring their favorite stuffed animal for a blessing.

The event is free and open to the public, so please invite your friends, family and neighbors! Questions? Contact Linda Ball at [lball@conwayfumc.org](mailto:lball@conwayfumc.org).



**Digging Deeper**  
THIRD GRADE BIBLE  
CELEBRATION & EXPLORATION

**Calling all  
3rd Graders!**

**Join Us:** Sunday, October 27th  
to receive your Bible in any of our 3  
worship services



Register Here!

Also, celebrate with your parents or  
favorite adults at our brunch & learn  
10:00 am in the basement Courtyard

## Midweek Offerings for Adults

Launching on Wednesday, Oct. 2, we will offer a study called "Unleashing Our Discipleship," which will be related to our Capital Campaign for anyone not part of a Sunday School class. It will go for six weeks.

Also, our Caregivers group will offer gatherings during this six-week period as well for any who are primary caregivers for loved ones.

You can also join us for Podcast Discussions for Oct. 2 through Nov. 6. Are you already in one of our Unleashing Our Potential Capital Campaign studies, yet you're wanting to continue to explore your faith story and connect with others in this faith community at MidWeek? Join us in listening to various podcast episodes that will help us to reflect in different ways about our faith story to this point and beyond.

The first week on Oct. 2 we will discuss Episode 42 from The Bible for Normal People: David Dark - Doubt as a Holy Task.

If you have a podcast episode you would like to recommend for discussion, email Kisha Bumpers, [kbumpers@conwayfumc.org](mailto:kbumpers@conwayfumc.org).

2007



2024



# Let's Unleash Our Potential!

We all experience times when we realize something is holding us back, and it is time to take the next step. We experience this personally as well as communally. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we may find our faith held back by varied burdens, questions, or sin. Yet God wants us to experience the joy of discipleship. God calls us into a joy filled journey of discipleship and is ready to unleash our potential.

Even as a community, we can be held back. Currently, as a church family, we recognize that debt currently holds us back. We know the fruitfulness that happens within the walls of the church that shows God's goodness in our community. However, we pay \$12,000 each month towards our debt of \$1.1 million, most of which goes to the interest. After 18 years of paying on the loan, let's unleash our potential for ministry by getting rid of our debt! Can you imagine what we could do with \$144,000 each year?

This month we will be celebrating Conway FUMC as we launch our capital campaign, "Unleashing Our Potential," with a goal to shoot for the stars and raise \$1.8 million to further God's kingdom here at Conway FUMC. Mark your calendars and celebrate with us! You can see more about



this goal in the information provided in this magazine edition. Not only is this a moment for us to wipe out our debt, make necessary repairs, and set ourselves up for a successful future, it is also a time for us to dig deep into the life of discipleship. It's an opportunity to discover renewal and unleash ourselves in various areas of discipleship beyond generosity. Throughout these next six weeks, there will be events, bible study opportunities, time for prayer, personal prayer guides and more as we ask God to "Unleash our Potential." Be sure to take a look at those opportunities!

If you are interested in learning more about the capital campaign or would like to talk with a pastor to discern how you might answer God's call to unleash our potential, please email Pastor Nathan or Pastor Miranda.

## 'Unleashing Our Potential' Events:

Sept. 29 -- Church Photo at 10 a.m. on the front steps of the church on Clifton Street

Nov. 3 -- Potluck Celebration (more information coming soon)

Sept. 29 through Nov. 3 -- "Unleashing Our Discipleship" by Your Pastors (Sunday School & Wednesday Evening Opportunities)

Weekly Devotional Prayer Guide at Home -- you can find the guides at entrances to worship areas.



## Reaching for the Stars

Close to 20 years ago, Conway FUMC reached for the stars by building the Trinity Building to house a budding youth program, offer new facilities to our daycare, create a larger space for a growing contemporary worship service, and create spaces where mission teams serve in the community. The church stretched itself to make this almost \$8 million dollar project a reality.

Today, we see the reality of that vision coming to fruition. Our youth program is growing and flourishing. Our contemporary worship service is vital to our worshipping body bringing in many new people. Our childcare center continues to serve families in our community. The Great Hall has hosted many church wide events, conference and community events, as well as mission teams like Ozark Mission Project.

# CAMPAIGN GOAL: \$1.8M

### PRIORITY 1 DEBT

Pay off debt as soon as possible to **"Unleash our Potential."**

Current debt is \$1.15 million with a monthly payment of \$12,000 with \$8,600 being paid in interest.

**\$1,150,000**

### PRIORITY 2 REPAIRS

Fix leaking roofs in Sanctuary & Trinity Buildings and repair where there is water damage.

Repair/Replace HVAC units.

Make needed updates like Sanctuary Sound system, internet infrastructure, and more.

**\$400,000**

### PRIORITY 3 ENDOWMENT

Build endowment to offset capital costs so funds can be released for ministries.

Our Permanent Endowment is currently just over \$300,000 which is relatively small for a congregation our size.

**\$300,000**

# A Look Back: The Trinity Building



Photo above: Aerial view of the church campus prior to construction of the Trinity Building.

Photo above, center: The Rev. Larry and Marilyn Williams were among the church members who signed beams during the construction of the building.

Photo above, right: Members of the youth ministry placed a cross at the spot of construction, marking Holy Ground.

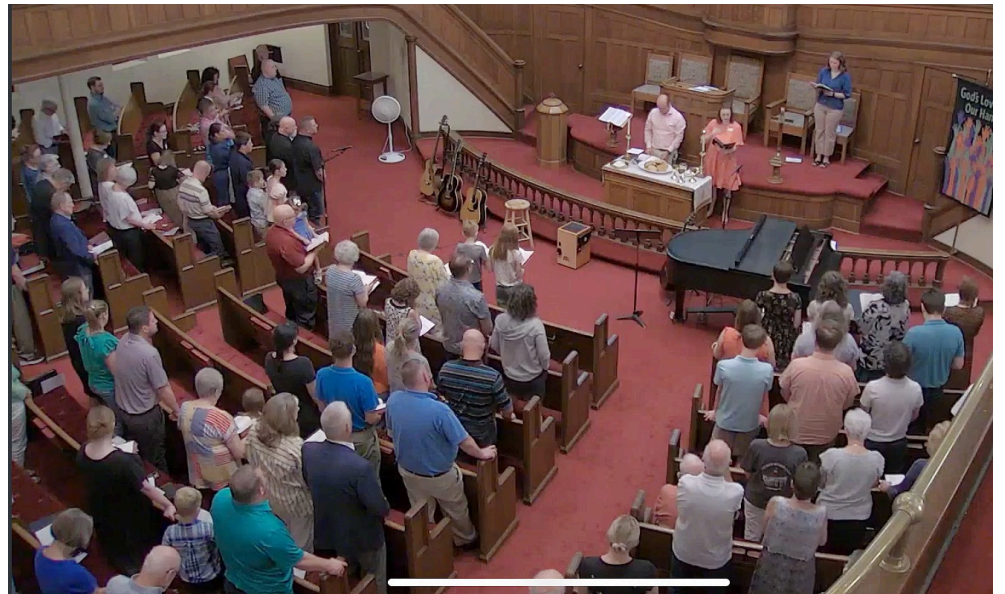
Photo at right: Some of our youngest church family members check out the cubbies on the first day of Sunday School in the new building. Pictured from left are Hayden Raycher, Davis Mulhearn, Sarah Mulhearn, Preston Prock, Ruby Jones, Elizabeth Gordon, Hugh Hill and J.D. Morgan.



# One Service Sunday



The One Service Sunday Task Force would like to thank all those who organized, donated, and assembled United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) health kits on Sept. 1. A total of 1,070 kits were assembled and have been loaded into a trailer and delivered to the UMCOR Depot. Thanks to Jeff Kelley for making the delivery.



# One Service Sunday





Join Hendrix College Students for  
**MEMORY CAFE**  
 SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR OLDER ADULTS

Activities Include:

- Cookie Decorating
- Watercolor Painting
- Singing and Dancing
- Holiday Activities

Village Park, Thursdays 3-4pm  
 Heritage Living Center, Fridays 3-4pm

Email Luke Simpson at  
 simpsonLL@hendrix.edu to participate!

# Mount Eagle



## Outdoor Challenge and Family Fall Fest Fundraiser

Saturday, November 2nd, 2024  
 8:00-4:00

Participate in the excitement! Register for Disc Golf, the 5K Trail Run/Walk, or our Baggo Tournament. Enjoy a full day of family-friendly fun with additional hiking and outdoor games for everyone. Your participation supports Mount Eagle's programs. Don't miss out on this wonderful day of fun and giving back.

### COMPETE

- Disc Golf Tourney
- Baggo Tournament
- 5K Trail Run/Walk

### EAT

- Lunch Food Truck

### PLAY

- Enjoy family games, crafts, and hiking

**Registration at [mouteagle.org/events](https://mouteagle.org/events)**



935 Beal Road Clinton, AR 72031  
 info@mouteagle.org 501-723-4580

# October Senior Adventure



**8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**  
**Friday, Oct. 25**

### We're going to:

**The Boston Mountains for a roundtrip train ride from Van Buren to Winslow!** This three-hour, 70-mile round trip on the Arkansas and Missouri Railroad goes through a ruggedly beautiful part of the Ozarks. The route will take us over three valley trestles and through the 1,700-foot-long Winslow tunnel for some of the most breathtaking fall scenery in the state. We will be riding in the 1920's vintage car with reversible seating and windows on all sides for the perfect view. Lunch is included in the cost.

**Cost: \$74.68**

**Seats are limited and tickets must be bought as soon as possible.** Please call Bonnie Laycock at 316-207-0883 to reserve your seat on the church van **AND** write a check to the church for the amount of the ticket.

WEDNESDAYS 10AM



The GOSPEL of MARK

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE to the GOOD NEWS



## Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Want a deeper dive into the Bible? Join Pastor Miranda on Wednesday Mornings 10-11am in the Youth Big Room! On October 16th, we will begin a six-week study diving into the book of Mark! Let us read the book of Mark together alongside Amy-Jill Levine in her book "The Gospel of Mark: A Beginners Guide to the Good News." Don't want to read? Join in the discussion and videos! Sign up and request a book with the form or QR Code.

Join Now



Questions?

Contact Pastor Miranda at [mhornsby@conwayfumc.org](mailto:mhornsby@conwayfumc.org)



C1Youth Ministries  
**1610 INVESTMENT PLAN**

There's still time to invest in the future and have a blast with C1Youth! Join us in fueling the amazing experiences of C1Youth ministry with just \$16.10 a month for one year, starting Oct. 15, for a total of \$193.20. Your investment will help send our youth to three incredible events; one spring retreat; and an exciting summer mission trip -- all for free.

To donate:

- Online payment at <https://conwayfumc.org/give/>
- Write a check to Conway FUMC with "1610 Plan" in the memo line.
- Draft authorization. Contact Laura Bounds at the church for more information.
- Pick up some pre-addressed envelopes if you prefer to send in your monthly payments. Contact Zach Schrick at [zschrack@conwayfumc.org](mailto:zschrack@conwayfumc.org).

## Names Requested for All Saints

It has become our tradition, on All Saints Sunday, to use a banner in Sanctuary worship that bears the names of loved ones who have passed away.

If you have a name you would like to submit for inclusion, please send it to Jill Hankins at [jhankins@conwayfumc.org](mailto:jhankins@conwayfumc.org) or call the church office. Names of church members will automatically be added.

All Saints Sunday this year is Sunday, Nov. 3; names must be received no later than Tuesday, Oct. 29.



## Food Pantry Collection



In October, we are collecting paper towels.

Sponsored by



United Women in Faith



Please leave items in bins at worship entrances

If you have prayer requests or joys to share, please email them to [joysandconcerns@conwayfumc.org](mailto:joysandconcerns@conwayfumc.org) or call the church at 501-329-3801.



**World Communion Sunday**  
Oct. 6, 2024

**Christmas Coffeehouse**  
4-6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 17  
Great Hall  
Open to the public!

**Brag on Jesus MidYouth Retreat**  
Oct. 18 & 19, 2024

**Fall Festival**  
4-6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27  
Open to the public!

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501-329-3801

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## In Memory and In Honor

**In memory of Carolyn Bruce by:** Pat & Beverly Bowles

**In memory of Jo Nell Lowry by:** Pat & Beverly Bowles, Dottie Patterson

**In memory of Jean Parrack by:** Matthew & Heidi Crane

**In memory of Bonnie McFalls by:** Rick & Becky Rasnick, Jamie Bird, Sam & Carole Teague, Chris & Kathy Cooper, Martha Bumpers

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

**In memory of Joyce Holder by:** Sam & Carole Teague, Chris & Kathy Cooper, Rick & Becky Rasnick

**In memory of Elizabeth Shock by:** Brandy Brown

Brandy Brown

**In memory of Ken Stephens by:** Karen Mortazavi

**In memory of Sue Jones by:** Sue & Bill Higgs

**In memory of Bud & Sue Hines by:** Libba Tierney

**In memory of Yvis Insua by:** Stan & Marilyn Ott, Stuart and Colleen Holt

**In honor of Sharon Reynolds by:** Carol Schedler

**In honor of Kish Jones by:** Charles Pittman

**In honor of FUMC Food Pantry Workers by:** Men's Prayer Breakfast

## 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  
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

Example: nkilbourne@  
conwayfumc.org