



# THE WITNESS

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

## Celebrate Good News from Toad Suck Daze!

We're thrilled to announce that this year's Summer Lunch Program will be fully funded, thanks to the generosity of Toad Suck Daze!

Jamie Gates of the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce announced this achievement made possible through donations and partnerships with local businesses so we can continue feeding children and families all summer long. The vision the church has for the community has once again gone beyond the walls and is a witness to God's glory across Faulkner County, and it would not be possible without the leaders of the Mission Committee here at Conway FUMC. We celebrate the partnership we have with the Faulkner County Library, which helps make this possible as they host movie lunches.

From May 27 through August 14, we'll pack and distribute 120 sack lunches every



Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, helping bridge the gap for those who rely on school meals and fighting food insecurity in our community.

You can be part of this ministry! Attend Toad Suck Daze, pack lunches, and help distribute meals at the library. Together, let's be the hands and feet of Christ this summer!

Scan the QR code to see the opportunities available to help this summer.



SCAN HERE

## MidWeek Block Party

6 to 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14      Parking lot

Join us for a fun evening as we wrap up our small group season with food, games, and fellowship for all ages! Come connect with others, enjoy great eats, and get a sneak peek at what's coming this summer.

Bring a friend—and your favorite tailgate game!

## EASTER LILY FUND

Thank you for supporting Methodist Family Health through the Easter Lily Fund!  
In 2025, we have raised:

**\$1,395**



Learn more about Methodist Family Health at:  
[mfhfoundation.org](http://mfhfoundation.org)



## Senior Sunday at Conway FUMC

Come celebrate our High School Seniors with us!!

KINDLY JOIN US  
TO CELEBRATE!

THE 24-25  
INTERNS

CONWAY FUMC

NATHAN FRYAR  
DESTINY ELMS  
OLIVIA SMITTLE  
JAKE MUSE

SARAH ROSS  
GRACE WILSFORD  
AMITY LEMMER  
AUBREY ROGAN  
NICK DICKINSON

CAROLINA SEGALES  
FATIMA GARDUNO  
CALEB ELLIS  
KYLA BLICKENSTAFF

MAY 11TH | AT 10 AM  
CONWAY FUMC  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Let us show our thanks  
and appreciation and send  
them off with love!

## United Women in Faith Sunday

May 18, 2025

All 3 worship services



The UWF Mission: To connect and nurture women through  
Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative  
fellowship, and education so they can inspire, influence and impact  
local and global communities.



### Men's Prayer Breakfast

7 a.m. Wednesdays,  
Fellowship Hall

### Healing Prayer Ministry

9 a.m. Wednesdays,  
Trinity Chapel

### Food Pantry Distribution

4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursdays

### Senior Sunday

May 4, 2025  
Celebrating our high school  
seniors

### Intern Reception

10 a.m. Sunday, May 11  
Join us to show thanks to our  
church interns

### MidWeek Block Party

6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday,  
May 14. Parking Lot.  
Wrap-up celebration for our  
MidWeek activities

### United Women in Faith Sunday

May 18, 2025

### Promotion Sunday

June 1, 2025  
Children and Youth will move to  
their new grade level class

Check out our website at  
[conwayfumc.org/events-  
calendar/](http://conwayfumc.org/events-calendar/)  
for a comprehensive list of  
church events!



**Who did we serve?****March 2025****CHURCH & SOCIETY**

The United Methodist Church

Living FAITH Seeking JUSTICE Pursuing PEACE

Households:

**172**

Seniors:

**88**

Kids:

**90**

People:

**384**

Pounds of Food:

**7,694**

Did You Know?  
Immigrants pay into but do not receive benefits from SNAP, TANF, Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, or ACA health insurance.

**Food Pantry Drive Thru:****May 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, & 29<sup>th</sup>****Indoor Food Pantry & Amazing Grace Cafe:****May 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>****Thursdays 4:30-5:30pm****Items Needed:**

- Tampons/Pads
- Laundry Detergent

**Volunteers Needed to Serve:****2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays at 2pm; 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 1:30- 3:00pm****FOOD PANTRY****FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONWAY, AR**Want More Information? Email: [FoodPantry@ConwayFUMC.org](mailto:FoodPantry@ConwayFUMC.org)**Food Pantry Volunteers Needed**

Interested in helping with the church's Feeding Ministries? Scan the QR code to find out more about our Food Pantry and ways you can help. There are still several opportunities to help during May!

**Middle Grounds Volunteers Needed**

Do you enjoy coffee, doughnuts and conversation? Then you'll love Middle Grounds, held on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall.



Volunteers are needed to help pick up the doughnuts, set up the coffee station and clean up afterwards. There are plenty of opportunities to help during May and beyond!

Please scan the QR code to see the available volunteer opportunities.

**SPECIAL SUNDAY****UMCOR**

So far we've raised

**\$2,286**

When we say your donations are life changing, we really mean it.

For more information, visit  
[umcmmission.org/umcor/](http://umcmmission.org/umcor/)

**WESLEY**  
CAMPUS MINISTRIES OF ARUMC

WE'RE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR

**INCOMING STUDENTS!**

TO JOIN US AT WESLEY!!!

Please visit [arumccampusministry.org](http://arumccampusministry.org) to submit info about incoming students, and our campus ministers will be in touch!





Joining this community of faith on Palm Sunday (April 13, 2025) was Elise Hampton (photo above, at left). Joining this community of faith on Easter Day (April 20, 2025) were Jayden McCormick-Drye (photo above, at right); and Chris and Teresa Garrett (photo below).



Birdie Rose Nagher (photo above), daughter of Sam and Emily Nagher, was baptized on Easter. Birdie has a big sister, Evelyn. Her great-grandmother is Claudia Davis and her grandmother is Connie Copley. Birdie has a plethora of aunts, uncles and cousins who attend First United Methodist Church.

## Financial and Trustees Update from Pastor Nathan

If you've been around the church during the past week, you may have noticed some work trucks. That's because some exciting updates are happening at the church. The last part of the Trinity building leaking roof and old HVAC units are being replaced. Due to generous estate gifts, memorial funds, and other undesignated gifts, the Trustees and Finance committee chose to go ahead and tackle these projects after news of enacted tariffs were going to raise the cost significantly. We felt it was in the best interest of the church to go ahead and tackle the project. Soon, we shouldn't have any more major leaks in the Trinity Building and all the HVAC systems will be brand new.

On a related note, we continue to do well on our capital campaign. To date, we have received more than \$800,000 of our pledged gifts and have been able to pay down the loan to below \$325,000! Thank you all so much for your continued commitment as we Unleash our Potential!

## In Memory & Honor

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

**In memory of Rosemary Soles by:** Michael & Donna Harris

**In memory of Greg Wren by:** Jeremy Bruner, Pam Wren

**In memory of Aleene Henson by:** Sara Shinn

**In honor of Jill Hankins by:** Pam Wren

**In honor of Pam Wren by:** Jeremy Bruner

**In honor of Richard & Carol Clark for the Children's Summer Feeding Program by:** Beth H. Abbott

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

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

**In honor of Sarah Ross by:** Bill & Cecilia Patterson









# Palm SUNDAY







## God Is Speaking ... New Listening Prayer Ministry

From Brenda Porter:

Have you ever wondered if God was really talking to you? Listening is not easy for many of us. I recently had a great experience with the Listening Prayer Ministry at FUMCC. Only one team member knew I was coming and the others were told to pray and listen to what God wanted them to share with the person attending. The messages received and shared with me were amazingly accurate and encouraging. The Lord indeed showed up and spoke through those praying. He clearly told them that I was to wait and be patient and that change was coming. He would use my gifts and help me bloom into who He wanted me to be.

If you know me, I like to be in charge, make plans, and execute them ASAP! But His plan is different from mine and I need to listen. So I received their words, the gift they gave me of His voice, from their prayers. I am more at peace knowing His plan is greater than mine. This was not a scary or strange experience, it was a blessing to receive!

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Announcing a new ministry at FUMCC for the encouragement of the body of Christ, Listening Prayer Ministry.

If you have questions or would like to schedule a 30-minute listening prayer session, please call Paula Finch at 501-428-3943.



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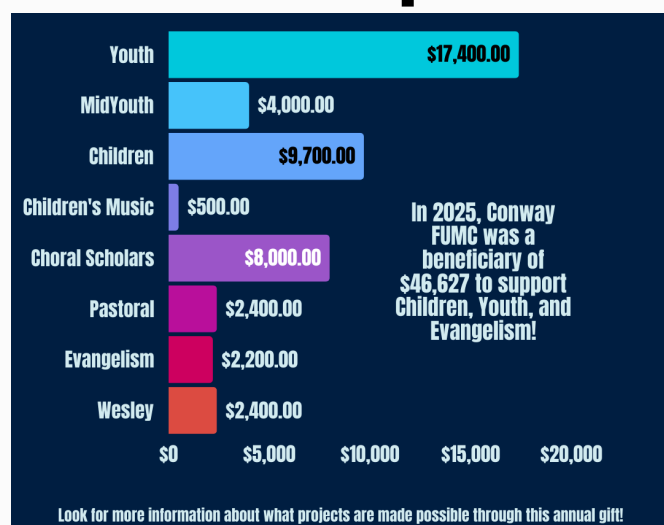
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## Taylor Foundation Endowment Update

Since the early 1980s, Conway FUMC has been honored to be named a beneficiary of the Taylor Foundation Endowment. Each year, this generous gift has strengthened our ministries in Children, Youth, and Evangelism, enabling us to grow and serve in new ways. You have seen these funds in action — through our ministry area interns, choral scholars, the website remodel, and numerous special projects that enrich our church and community.

With excitement, the Finance Committee is pleased to announce this year's Taylor Fund recipients. In the months ahead, the Taylor Fund will continue to support choral scholars and ministry area interns. Additionally, it will provide funding for outreach initiatives, offer mini-grants for small groups, and fund intergenerational projects that bring our congregation together in meaningful ways.

We are grateful for this incredible opportunity to expand our ministry and look forward to seeing how these projects will bless our church and beyond!



## First United Methodist Church Staff Directory

Senior Pastor -- Nathan Kilbourne  
Associate Pastor -- Miranda Hornsby  
Director, Children's Ministries -- Catherine Gatlin  
Director, Youth Ministries -- Zach Schrick  
Director, MidYouth Ministries -- Christy Lemmer  
Campus Dir., Wesley Foundation -- Amy Shores  
Dir., Music/Worship Ministries -- Jason Saugey  
Assoc. Dir., Music (Praise Band) -- Stuart Holt

Assoc. Dir., Music (Children) -- Linda Ball  
Church Administrator -- Jill Hankins  
Supervisor, Hospitality Ministries -- Ed Spears  
Custodian -- Tim Tarpley  
Financial Assistant -- Laura Bounds  
Bookkeeper -- Libby Conder  
Communications Assistant -- Colleen Holt

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES:  
8:30 & 11 A.M. -- SANCTUARY  
9:05 A.M. -- GREAT HALL  
LIVE-STREAMING AT 9:05 & 11 A.M.:  
[WWW.CONWAYFUMC.ORG](http://WWW.CONWAYFUMC.ORG)  
[FACEBOOK.COM/CONWAYFIRSTUMC](https://FACEBOOK.COM/CONWAYFIRSTUMC)  
OR YOUTUBE: @CONWAYFUMC