



# THE WITNESS



Prayer Requests?

Email

jaysandconcerns@  
conwayfumc.org

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

## Cherry Tree Planted on Church Grounds

The church grounds recently gained a new resident – a young cherry tree planted on the southeast corner at Prince and Clifton streets.

This tree was planted to replace an ash tree that was removed in 2025. The ash tree, planted in 2000 by the Forum Sunday School Class in honor of John Wesley, was causing damage to the brick wall and preventing the church from making much-needed roof repairs to the Sanctuary.

Rev. Nathan Kilbourne and Benjamin Garner, who serves as head of the church's landscape team, chose a cherry tree because it will get a maximum of 15 to 25 feet tall and should not affect the retaining wall or the roof. "This tree will bloom 'white' just before Easter each year, and it has a pleasant shape that will give balance to the church landscaping in the front," said Benjamin.

The landscape team is busy during this growing season "working to fill in gaps" in the church's landscape plan. Pastor Nathan and Benjamin planted some additional crepe myrtles



on the islands where there were some missing.

"In the future, we are going to start spraying the islands to control the weeds, which should improve the look," said Benjamin. "There is also a Ginko tree in one of the islands that is dying, and it needs to be removed. If anyone knows who it was planted by, please let me know so we can talk about replacing it."

### United Women in Faith Sunday



May 3, 2026  
All 3 worship  
services

Guest Speaker:  
Lana Gartner of  
Centerville UMC

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.



## Painting and Repair Updates at Conway FUMC

From Rev. Nathan Kilbourne,  
Senior Pastor:

There are a lot of things happening around the church! As you likely have noticed, many of our buildings are being prepped for painting!

As part of the capital campaign and a gift from the estate of Elizabeth Rose Black, we are fixing dings and repairing drywall to prepare areas for painting. Those areas include the Sanctuary, Sanctuary hallway, Great Hall, Trinity hallways, upstairs hallways, some bathrooms, and more.

Now that the roofs have been replaced, we are fixing areas where there has been water damage as well as just sprucing up the church building.

We are sorry for all the mess but we can't wait to see the finished product. Also, keep an eye out because the inside of the dome will be repaired and painted this summer! We will need to adjust schedules at that time, but we will let you know when that is to happen!

# VOLUNTEER

SUMMER LUNCHES

## 2026 SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

FUMC & the Faulkner County Library are teaming up (with the help of Toad Suck Daze and Goode's Cash Saver) to serve over 4300 lunches to children and families in our community. Sign-up today to pack, deliver, or serve!



First United Methodist Church  
Conway, AR



## SAVE THE DATE

### United Women in Faith Sunday

May 3, 2026, during worship  
Guest speaker: Lana Olsen Gartner

### Agape Feast

For all 7th Graders  
May 3, 2026

### Outdoor Ministries Hike

2 p.m. Sunday, May 3,  
Woolly Hollow State Park

### Good News Celebration Praise Band at Toad Suck Daze

3 p.m. Sunday, May 3, Downtown  
Conway on the Main Stage

### Men's Retreat

May 8 and 9, at Mount Eagle  
Free and open to all men

### Arkansas Travelers Baseball Game

5:30 p.m. Wednesday,  
May 27, in North Little Rock

### Fifth Sunday Program

10 a.m. Sunday, May 31, Great Hall  
Featuring the Affirming Ministries Team

### Summer Music Camp

8 a.m. to noon  
Monday, June 1, through Thursday,  
June 4  
For grades 2 - 12

### Summer Movie Nights

June 3: K-Pop Demon Hunters  
June 10: Wicked for Good  
June 17: Inside Out 2  
June 24: Zootopia 2

### Vacation Bible Camp

July 13 through 15  
More information to come!

# LET'S GO ON A HIKE

SUNDAY, MAY 3 2:00PM  
WOOLLY HOLLOW STATE PARK





from **plan** to **PURPOSE**



**A Blueprint for Faith**

Chimes

Fun with Friends

Singing

Drama

**SUMMER MUSIC CAMP 2026**

**“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper, and to give you a future and a hope.”**

**Jeremiah 29:11**

**Monday, June 1 - Thursday, June 4**

**8:00 AM - 12:00 noon**

**Open to grades 2 - 12**



**Register by May 22 to [LBall@ConwayFUMC.org](mailto:LBall@ConwayFUMC.org)**

Presented by Conway FUMC Music Department

**GNC Praise Band to Perform at Toad Suck Daze**

Several members of the Conway FUMC Good News Celebration Praise Band will perform at Toad Suck Daze at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 3, on the Main Stage in downtown Conway. They will perform as part of the Communitywide Church Service that begins at 10:30 a.m.

The festival is free and open to the public.

**In Honor & Memory**

**In memory of Joyce Heird by:** Carol Means, Barbara Jones, Matthew & Heidi Crane, Beth Ruple, Martha Bumpers, David & Pebble Sutherland

**In memory of Ella Mae Robinson by:** Kim & Ellis Arnold, Jamie Bird, Rex & Martha Ross, Richard & Carol Clark

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

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

**In memory of Wilma Saunders by:** Richard & Carol Clark

**In memory of Patricia Schlater by:** William & Susan Farris

**In memory of Kish Jones by:** Jerry & Cherry White, Charles Pittman, Skeet & Mary Jane Morse

**In memory of Martha Sparks by:** Larry & Peggy Sparks

**In memory of Linda Sparks Chism by:** Larry & Peggy Sparks

**In memory of Joy Williams by:** Larry & Peggy Sparks

**A Family Choir?? Why Not!**



On Sunday, May 3, the Anthem and the Response at the 11 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary will be sung by our Aldersgate Musicians -- and family members and friends may join them!

We would love to see parents, grandparents, aunts & uncles, caregivers, older siblings, neighbors, etc. You get the picture!



Want to participate? Contact Linda Ball at [lball@conwayfumc.org](mailto:lball@conwayfumc.org) for music, which is provided and is very easy.

Let's all sing together and make a beautiful memory!

# EASTER 2026

2026



# Christ is Risen!



# MID YOUTH

## SUMMER EVENTS



### C.A.M.P.

JUNE 5-6  
MORE INFORMATION  
SOON!

### Monthly Hangtimes

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST  
5PM - 7PM  
DATES TBA



## Men's Retreat Planned May 8 & 9 at Mount Eagle

Are you a man interested in finding fellowship with other men? Do you need a group of guys for support and encouragement in faith?

Join our new Men's Ministry starting at Conway First UMC. The ministry will begin with a retreat at Mount Eagle on May 8-9th. The retreat will begin Friday evening and conclude just after lunch Saturday.

There will be more information to come on specifics. But come enjoy some time for worship, fellowship, and community. We will discuss how we might expand this ministry to help men find ways to grow in faith together.

To sign up, follow the link at the QR Code or sign up online at [conwayfumc.org/link-tree-sign-up-forms/](http://conwayfumc.org/link-tree-sign-up-forms/).



We can't wait to see you. We have room for 32 men to attend the retreat. Ohh and the retreat is free!

## EASTER LILY FUND

Thank you for supporting Rise House through the Easter Lily Fund!

In 2026, we have raised:

# \$1,065



Learn more about Rise House at: [www.risehouseconway.org](http://www.risehouseconway.org)



# Welcome

## To Our Church Family!

Four families joined Conway First United Methodist Church on Sunday, April 19, in the Good News Celebration worship service. Our new members include (top left) Shane and Christine Atchakey and son, Elliot (Christine is also Pastor Miranda's sister!); Dylan and Whitney Thompson (top right); Amy and Kristen Davis and daughter, Ellenore (at left); and Lisa and Autumn Coles (below). Congratulations to Autumn, who was also baptized.



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# *Take me out to the* **BALLGAME**



Join Conway FUMC for an afternoon  
of fun and fellowship at the Arkansas  
Travelers baseball game at 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 27. Tickets are \$20  
and include dinner and a game ticket.



## **First United Methodist Church Staff Directory**

Senior Pastor -- Nathan Kilbourne  
Associate Pastor -- Miranda Hornsby  
Director, Youth Ministries -- Zach Schrick  
Director, MidYouth Ministries -- Christy Lemmer  
Director, Children's Ministries -- J.J. Whitney  
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  
Nursery Coordinator -- Cara Rucker  
Bookkeeper -- Libby Conder  
Supervisor, Hospitality Ministries -- Ed Spears  
Custodian -- Tim Tarpley  
Financial Assistant -- Laura Bounds  
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)  
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