



THE WITNESS

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

Final Worship of the Year

**10 a.m. in the
Great Hall
Sunday, Dec. 29**

One worship service on Dec. 29.
No Sunday school.
No Middle Grounds.

2024

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

**TRINITY BUILDING
BIG ROOM**

WEDNESDAYS | 10:00AM

Resuming January 15
Join Pastor Miranda to
continue celebrating
Jesus in the season of
Epiphany!



End-of-Year Giving and Church Hours

For gifts to be deductible for the 2024 tax year, they must be in the church office by Tuesday, Dec. 31, or postmarked by that date.

The church office will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 25, through Friday, Dec. 27.

Office hours will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 30, and Tuesday, Dec. 31. The office will also be closed Wednesday, Jan. 1.

WEDNESDAY!

JOIN US FOR

MIDWEEK

Midweek Wednesday activities are back on Jan. 15! There are activities for all ages, with opportunities for fellowship, learning, and a meal for all ages.

A catered meal and worship will anchor the wonder of gathering children, MidYouth, Youth, college students, and adults for music training, bible study, and community building for the whole congregation.

Here's a quick preview of the schedule:

MIDWEEK FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FAITH

Dinner starts at 6 p.m. Cost is \$7 per person/\$28 max per family.

- C1Kids (ages 6 weeks to grade 4) will be in the basement.
- C1MidYouth (grades 5 through 7) will be in the Great Hall.
- C1Youth (grades 8 through 12) will be in the Youth Lounge.
- Adults will be in the Fellowship Hall.
- College students for Wesley worship – 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

Music opportunities will be offered during the afternoon and evening.

- Joyful Sound Music (2nd through 4th grades) – 5 to 5:50 p.m., Room 216
- Aldersgate Music (5th grade through adults) – 5 to 5:50 p.m., Choir Room
- Chancel Choir (for adults) -- 7 p.m., Choir Room

ADULT STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

There are two Adult Classes being offered this semester:

Pastor's Book Study – Join Pastor Nathan starting Jan. 15 for a newly forming Pastor's Book Club. This new group will read books together on Pastor Nathan's favorites/want to read list!

See **MIDWEEK** on Page 2

New Sermon Series Starting January 19!

We all have questions! Questions of faith are not bad or wrong. Rather, they can be opportunities for growth. Moreover, our questions can leave us stuck in our faith as well.



On Jan. 19, we will launch our "Questions of Faith" series. Throughout the series, we will be answering and discussing questions you submitted earlier this year. Some of these questions include, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" "Are science and faith compatible?"

It will be a great opportunity for growth and conversation!

MIDWEEK from Page 1

The first book the book study will take on is Peter Gomes' book, "The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus: What's So Good About the Good News." Each week we will gather to discuss a chapter and enjoy conversation! Feel free to go ahead and pick up a book on your E-reader, or if you want a copy of the book itself, let Pastor Nathan know and he can place an order.

Podcast Discussion — Love listening to podcasts? Let's talk about it! Gather on Wednesday evenings for dinner and discussion around some of our favorite podcasts! Let us listen to the stories of our neighbors and the information we have learned, and discuss how, in light of this information, we can grow in our love for God and our love for neighbors. Didn't get a chance to listen? That's OK! Come and grow with us! Dinner will be in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 6 pm. The discussion will begin around 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Round Table classroom (Room 217) upstairs in the Sanctuary building.

C1Youth PJs Food Board Christmas!



The C1Youth group recently held its PJs Food Board Christmas party. They want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and thank you for your support of our Youth ministries in 2024.

Thank You From Kisha Bumpers

It has been a joy to work in a place that has empowered me to utilize my gifts and passions for so many years. To be able to dream and work alongside this congregation to create ministries like the Summer Lunch Program, Homebound Baking Ministry and Middle Grounds was invigorating. To be able to build on the foundation that had been laid for the food pantry, Amazing Grace Cafe, Congregational Care Ministry and others was a wonderful challenge. And to sit with you in hospital rooms, homes, Bible Studies, etc. over the years was truly a gift.



Thank you to all those that have helped me make ministry happen as well as those who have supported and encouraged me in my time on staff here at Conway FUMC! I look forward to continuing to be a part of a loving and faithful congregation!



Food Pantry Donation

Thank you to the members and leaders of Scout Troop 71 for their generous donation of food and money to the Conway FUMC Food Pantry. They collected 2,000 pounds of food and \$400 in donations!

Our Food Pantry distribution is held from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. each Thursday, with a nutritious meal also being served on the second and third Thursdays.



Christmas Eve Worship

11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Sanctuary
3 and 5 p.m., Great Hall
5 and 7 p.m. services will be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube

Christmas Day Worship

10 a.m. Dec. 25, Sanctuary

Final Worship Service of 2024

10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 29, Great Hall

Commissioning of the Guatemala Mission Team

11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025.
Chapel. All are invited!

Wednesday Evening Activities Resume

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025

In Memory and In Honor

In memory of Jackie Downs by:

Claudia Davis, Sara Shinn, Carol Means, Dotty Robins Light Sunday School Class, Jerry & Cherry White, Carolyn Sanders, Kathy Butt

In memory of Wendal Cummings

by: Pam Wren

In memory of Allan Bruner by:

Jeremy Bruner

In memory of Tiffany Cookus by:

Carol & Richard Clark, Maribeth & Cliff Garrison, Martha Bumpers

In memory of Joe Wilson by:

Maribeth & Cliff Garrison

In honor of Kisha Bumpers by:

Martha Bumpers

In honor of Amy Shores by: John & Lara Garmon

In honor of Nancy Williams by: Traci Williams

In honor of Kish Jones by: Charles Pittman

In honor of David Adcock by: David & Margaret Crouse

Eliza Counts Recognized by UWF



Eliza Counts was recently presented a Special Mission Recognition pin from Jamie Bird of the United Women in Faith.

In addition to being a faithful member of the Bells of Grace, Eliza also works every Thursday at the church's food pantry distribution and is active in our church's youth activities.

Eliza is the daughter of Richard Counts and Leigh Lassiter-Counts and is a sophomore at Conway High School, where she plays viola in the orchestra and is a member of the Wampus Cats Soccer team.

Eliza was not able to attend the UWF Fall meeting, so the presentation was made following a recent handbell rehearsal.

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**Mission
COMMISSIONING**

Join us to commission our
mission team to Guatemala!
11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025
Trinity Building Chapel

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
Custodian -- Tim Tarpley
Financial Assistant -- Laura Bounds
Communications Assistant -- Colleen Holt

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