



# THE WITNESS

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

## 'Am I Saved?' Worship Series Starts Jan. 11

Launching Sunday, Jan. 11, we are kicking off a new sermon series titled, "Am I Saved?" Salvation is a topic that can both be confusing and exciting. As United Methodists, we have a distinct understanding of salvation and what it means to be "saved." After all, salvation is core to our faith and God's work in the world. But what does it mean that God saves us? What does that salvation include? What are we being saved from? What are we being saved for? How do we know we are saved? Who is saved?

Other denominations have distinct understandings of salvation. Often, it is viewed through the lens of death and eternal life. Yet, salvation Scripturally is so much more. It's more than just a prayer said and more than just about life everlasting, according to us as United Methodists. (In fact, I'd say it is so much more for most Christian Denominations). Yet, we've often boiled God's grand work of redemption and



reconciliation down to a single moment in our lives.

So throughout the month of January and February, we are going to explore our understanding of Salvation as we read Scripture and consider what it means to be those whom God is rescuing and redeeming.



## Christmas

Day

**Worship at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

**Fun for all ages!**

**Bring the whole family!**

## Christmas Day at Conway FUMC

For many years, our custom here has been to invite those who play instruments to bring them to the Christmas Day service to help accompany the congregational hymns and carols. We will continue in our custom this year.

To save paper and the time to duplicate scores for every orchestral instrument (and a few others), we are asking you to RSVP your intention to bring your instrument. If you plan to attend the Christmas Day service (10 a.m. in the sanctuary) and to play along with the Christmas hymns, please email Jason Saugey, our director of music, as soon as possible ([jason@conwayfumc.org](mailto:jason@conwayfumc.org)). He will email you a PDF packet of scores for your instrument for the service for you to download to your electronic device or to print out. Paper scores will not be supplied Christmas Day.

Please note, the keys for the hymns may need to be transposed on your own according to your instrument.



## Christmas Eve

First United Methodist Church \* 1610 Prince St. \* Conway, AR. \* [conwayfumc.org](http://conwayfumc.org)

11 a.m., Sanctuary  
3 p.m., Great Hall  
5 p.m., Great Hall  
7 p.m., Sanctuary

**Carols, Candles  
& Communion**

## Dec. 28 Worship Schedule

Good News  
Celebration  
worship at  
9:05 a.m. in  
the Great Hall

Traditional  
worship at 11  
a.m. in the  
Sanctuary

Sunday School  
will be held at  
10 a.m. as usual

# WORSHIP

# BALD EAGLE

## Boat Tour

Save the Date

Lake Dardanelle State Park  
Sat, January 31 - 2pm  
Space Limited to 20 People

*MORE INFO AND SIGN-UP COMING SOON*

## MidWeek Programming Resumes Jan. 14

Midweek Wednesday activities are back on Jan. 14! 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. Every part of our building will be utilized and we are planning for you and your guests.

Here's a quick preview of the schedule:

### MIDWEEK FOOD, FELLOWSHIP AND FAITH

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

- C1Kids (ages 6 weeks to grade 4) in the basement.
- C1MidYouth (grades 5 through 7) in the Great Hall.
- C1Youth (grades 8 through 12) 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

## In Honor & Memory

**In memory of Melva Green by:** Pat & Beverly Bowles, Richard & Carol Clark, Sharon Thompson, Matthew & Heidi Crane

**In memory of Doug Poindexter by:** Jamie Bird, Beth Ruple, Jerry & Cherry White, Clint Johnson, Dimple Burks Royal, Rex & Martha Ross, Claudia Davis, Matthew & Heidi Crane, Martha Bumpers, Cliff & Maribeth Garrison, Pam Wren, Linda & Roger Mills

**In memory of Sue Kell by:** Jerry & Cherry White

**In memory of Gene Wilbourn by:** Beth Ruple, Clint Johnson, Rex & Martha Ross, Roger & Linda Mills, Pam Wren

**In memory of JoNell Plafcan by:** Jamie

Bird, Martha Bumpers, Linda Tyler, Cliff & Maribeth Garrison, Clint Johnson, Carol Schedler, Claire Wisman, Rebecca Mills, Beth Ruple, Koinonia Sunday School Class, Sherry Owen, Claudia Davis, Bill & Cecilia Patterson, Mount Eagle, John Thompson, Pam Wren, Jeremy & Moriah Bruner, Jim & Karen Foust, David & Pebble Sutherland

**In memory of Joy Williams by:** Elizabeth Farris & Bill Sorrels, Vickie Barnes, Jeffrey McKinley, Kathy & Chris Cooper

**In memory of Henry "Hank" Webb by:** Michael & Donna Harris

**In memory of Walter "Peanut" Harris by:** Michael & Donna Harris

**In memory of Melva Green by:** Martha Bumpers

**In memory of Richard Porter by:** Martha Bumpers, Pam Wren, Jamie Bird, Rebecca Mills

**In memory of Tom Higgs by:** Pam Wren

**In memory of Jack Jumper by:** Pam Wren

**In memory of Jean Hoyer by:** David & Pebble Sutherland

**In honor of David Adcock by:** David & Margaret Crouse

**In honor of Rev. Nathan Kilbourne by:** Pat & Beverly Bowles

**In honor of Rev. Miranda Hornsby by:** Pat & Beverly Bowles

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



## United Women in Faith Recognition Pins Presented

Four members of our church family received recognition pins on Sunday, Dec. 14, from the United Women in Faith. Receiving pins were (from left) Tim Tarpley, Oliver and Sandra Humphreys, and Amy Shores. Recognition pins are given to honor individuals for dedicated service to the church. Tim was recognized for his dedicated work as the church custodian. Oliver and Sandra were recognized for their work in feeding ministries and the church library. Amy, who is the Campus Director of the Wesley Foundation, was recognized for her work with college-age ministries. The pins were presented by Rebecca Mills and Debbie Bartrow, members of the UWF's Executive Committee.

## Scouts Collect Food for Feeding Ministries

Members of Cub Scout Pack 71 collected 2,165 pounds of non-perishable food items recently for the Conway FUMC Feeding Ministries food pantry. Thank you for spending your weekend helping to feed others in your community!



## Non-profits Receive Donations from Church & Society

The Church and Society Committee at Conway First United Methodist Church recently presented checks to three local non-profit organizations. The funds were made possible through the Elizabeth T. and John S. Workman Social Justice Fund.

Aimee Prince, executive director at Bethlehem House, accepted a check of \$1,857 from Church and Society co-chairman Sarah Coker. Bethlehem House helps fill the gap for individuals and families experiencing homelessness by providing temporary housing while they are motivated, encouraged, and empowered to become independent, productive, and self-sufficient.

McKinley Hess of Conway Cradle Care accepted a check of \$1,857 from church member Mariana Linck. Conway Cradle Care is a childcare and outreach program that empowers

expectant and parenting adolescents in their pursuit of an advanced education.

A check for \$1,857 was delivered to the Conway Ministry Center to be used for their new project, The Refuge. Receiving the check from church member Katherine Butt were Sarah Wilson, executive director; Spring Hunter, board chair; and Derrick Marshall, board member of the Conway Ministry Center.

The Refuge, an innovative solution to emergency shelter organized by the Ministry Center, is set to open soon. It was created through the purchase of a 22-unit motel on South Harkrider Street, which is being converted into studio shelter units that will house families with children and vulnerable individuals with medical needs.

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## Coffeehouse Proceeds Looking Great

The Christmas Coffeehouse in November had a great turnout in attendance, and the numbers are in for our Community Partners and the Conway FUMC Missions Committee.

The silent auction, snacks and coffee, and the sale of bookmarks to pay postage for books sent to Guatemala brought the Missions Committee a total of \$3,999.25.

Our Community Partners did great and a little higher than the past few years, said Lori Mulhearn, co-chairman of the event. The Community Partners earned \$1,882, which is more than in recent years. "I love that for our Community Partners," said Lori.

## End-of-Year Giving and Church Hours Heading into New Year

For gifts to be deductible for the 2025 tax year, they must be in the church office by Wednesday, Dec. 31, or postmarked by that date.

The church office will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24, through Monday, Dec. 29. Office hours will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, and Wednesday, Dec. 31. The office will also be closed Thursday, Jan. 1.

We made positive steps in November toward ending the year financially positive. Rather than \$68,000 behind expenses to income as in October, we were \$60,000 behind in November. Keep up the good work. Let's finish the year in the positive!



Check out our Link Tree list of sign up forms and volunteer opportunities by scanning the QR Code, or visit the Resources section on our church website.

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## 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  
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  
FACEBOOK.COM/CONWAYFIRSTUMC  
OR YOUTUBE: @CONWAYFUMC