



# THE WITNESS

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

## We Have New Visitors!

It is no secret that there are new people, faces, and stories entering the life of Conway FUMC! As you are in worship, look around and introduce yourself. It can be intimidating to talk to new people but learning who our neighbors are, more than just a name, is the first step to growing in love for our neighbors. Perhaps ask, "How are you connected at FUMC?" or "Would you like to have a cup of coffee with me at Middle Grounds?" These questions help us grow in our discipleship together.

When you meet a new visitor, we would love for you to give them a welcome gift! Our new welcome gifts can be found at the Welcome Center in the Great Hall and on the entry ramp table of the Sanctuary. Inside each brown bag, a visitor will get a "Come Grow With Us" flower pail, informational brochure, and a devotion as they are on their journey. As you give the gift, please invite them to fill out their information so our hospitality team can follow up. If you're interested in joining the team, contact Pastor Miranda.

If you are thinking, "the Lunch Bags are so cool! I need one of those!", you're in luck. If you would like to buy one to help fund our hospitality ministry, they are \$15. Each bag funds a donation to [water.org](http://water.org) so that more people have clean and safe drinking water. The insulated brown bag is inspired by our passion for food missions and is reusable, recyclable, and made with sustainable materials inspired by the work of our United Women in Faith!



Welcome bags for new visitors

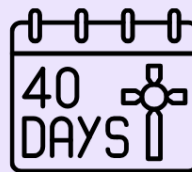
## Lent and Easter 2024 at First United Methodist Church

The season of Lent is under way, and we want to invite you to join us at Conway First United Methodist Church as we explore Jesus' final words.

### What is Lent?

From the earliest days of the church, Christians have set aside 40 days for spiritual preparation for Easter. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, self-examination and reflection.

Christians today focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.



## Lent, Holy Week and Easter opportunities

**Noonday Prayer**  
12:10 p.m. each Friday through March 22

**Children's Egg Hunt**  
10 a.m. March 30, Laurel Park

**Palm Sunday worship**  
March 24  
8:30 & 11 a.m., Sanctuary  
9:05 a.m., Great Hall

**Maundy Thursday worship**  
6:30 p.m. March 28

**Good Friday Tenebrae**  
7 p.m. March 29

**Easter worship**  
March 31  
8:30 & 11 a.m., Sanctuary  
9:05 a.m., Great Hall

## Trustees Work Day Set March 9

Pastor Nathan and the church Trustees would like to host a work day to get our campus spruced up before Holy Week.

Tasks would include outside landscaping, dusting the Sanctuary, changing light bulbs, etc. There will be jobs for all ages and abilities!

The Big Clean Up Day will be held on Saturday, March 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. We are also asking volunteers to come help throughout the following week with any additional items that didn't get completed on our main work day. We would appreciate your help as you are able!

Please sign up by calling the church office or by scanning the QR code.





# C1Youth and MidYouth News!



## Confirmation Class of 2024

On Sunday, Jan. 28, 14 of our 7th-grade MidYouth were confirmed in faith and were welcomed into our congregation as unique children of God. This does not mark the end of their journey; it is just the beginning. We can't wait to see how these young people share the gifts and graces that God has given them with their church family and their community in the years to come. Congratulations to all and thank you to those who supported our confirmands throughout the confirmation process. Confirmands are Annie Gates, Evan Gatlin, Natalie King, Amelia Smittle, Lyndsey Boone, Walker Gates, Olivia Bartholomew, Bowen Peoples, Grayson Koen, Weston Gaines, Hunter Boyett, Aubrey Hunt, Charles Barrett and Gabriel Lyon.



## Sending Some Love

Thank you to the MidYouth (above) and C1Youth for making Valentine's to send to our homebound friends in the church! The recipients so enjoy receiving the cards.





# Choral Evensong Set Sunday, March 3

On Sunday, March 3, at 4:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, we will offer Choral Evensong for the Third Sunday in Lent, sung jointly by the Chancel Choir and the Choir of St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

Music for evensong includes the Evening Service in C, C.V. Stanford; the St. Michael Preces and Responses, Robert Lehman. The anthem: Lead, kindly light, Howard Goodall. Joining the choirs are Arkansas Symphony Concert Master Drew Irvin and violinist Annalise Montgomery. Organ repertoire by César Franck and J.S. Bach.

The music department and Chancel Choir of Conway First are thrilled to welcome the Choir of St. Peter's and their Choirmaster JoAna Rusche in this combined service of music, prayer, and congregational hymn-singing.

## Lenten Quiet Days Planned

Those who proclaim the Scriptures at Worship (lay lectors) and those who administer Holy Communion to the people at First United Methodist Church will have the opportunity in early March to participate in sessions of prayer, guided spiritual formation, and training.

Lectors will meet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 2. Retreat Director: Rev. Ellen Alston.

Communion Ministers will meet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday March 16. Retreat Director: Rev. Nathan Kilbourne.

There is no charge to attend these Lenten Quiet Day Retreats. All are welcome, both current ministers and those who might be interested in serving as lectors and/or Communion Ministers.

For more information please contact Jason Saugey, Director of Music and Worship Ministries.

## Used Cookbooks Sought

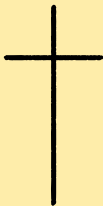
The Church and Society committee is looking for used cookbooks in good or fair condition that can be shared with people who participate in our food pantry. If you have cookbooks you would like to donate, please place them in the Church Hospitality Area with other Food Pantry Donations.

## 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



# In Memory and In Honor

**In honor of Thea Spatz by:** Carol Schedler

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

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

**In honor of Joe Heird by:** Stan & Marilyn Ott

**In memory of Mary Louise Rogers by:** Claudia Davis, Kathy & Chris Cooper

**In memory of Frank & Sue Jones by:** David & Pebble Sutherland

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

**In memory of Thomas Hudson by:** Koinonia Sunday School Class

**In memory of Virginia Lea Reed by:** Koinonia Sunday School Class, Pam Wren

**In memory of Helen Renner by:** Pam Wren

**In memory of Bud Hines by:** Pam Wren, Kevin Tierney, Rick & Becky Rasnick, Gene & Meredith Wilbourn, Rich & Dena Dunlap, Betty Crafton, Jamie Bird, Cliff & Maribeth Garrison

**In memory of Bud & Sue Hines by:** Susie & Tommy Walker

**In memory of Chris Spatz by:** John & Claudia Courtway

**In memory of Don Robbins by:** Richard Schultz, Jamie Bird, Jerry & Cherry White, Cliff & Maribeth Garrison

**In memory of Joy Cross by:** Kathy & Chris Cooper, Jamie Bird, Pam Wren, Kim & Ellis Arnold, Cliff & Maribeth Garrison, Rick & Becky Rasnick

**In memory of Shirley Alger by:** Jamie Bird

**In memory of Wiletta Schrick by:** Becky Hammett



## Senior Adventure Set in March

Our February Senior Adventure trip was to Petit Jean State Park and the Windgate Museum of Art at Hendrix College. All seniors, age 60 and up, are invited to join the fun on March 14 when we visit Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville. Contact Bonnie Laycock for more information, travel arrangements, and to sign up at 316-207-0883.

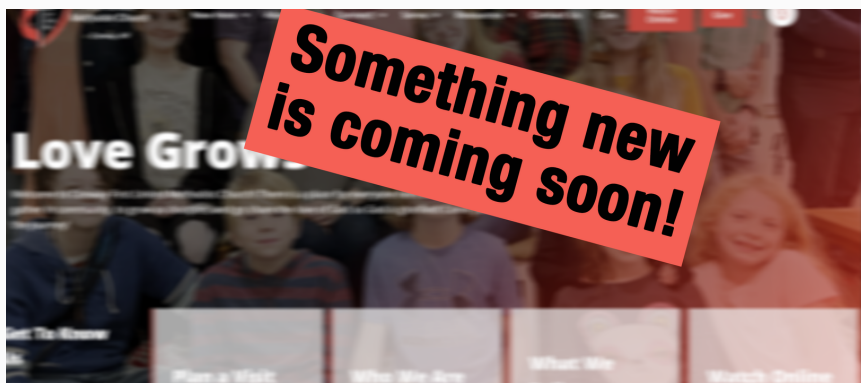


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## New Website Coming Soon

We are excited to be launching a new website soon! There will be many great features on the site, new content, the ability to watch our services directly on our site, and more!

Be on the lookout for our official launch date and be ready to share with friends, family, neighbors and strangers!

## Church Women United Study

The Faulkner County Unit of Church Women United invites anyone who is interested to join its members for a study series titled "Facing Palestine: Building a Christian Response to the Ongoing Crisis in Gaza."

The study is from 2 to 3:30 p.m. on Sundays through March 17 at various churches.  
March 3 - Facing the Nakba, First United Methodist Church  
March 10 - Facing Occupation, St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
March 17 - Facing the Future, First Presbyterian Church, 2400 Prince St.

The facilitator for the session is Professor Stephanie Gray, a Jewish Studies scholar.

## 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

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