



# THE WITNESS

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

## Ash Wednesday and the Start of Lent

Before we know it, the liturgical season of Lent will arrive, and with it a plethora of religious practices to help us prepare for the celebration of Easter. Among these practices are feasting, fasting, joy, worship, contemplation, prayer and hope.

Lent is a period of 40 days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "lencten," which means "spring." In 2025, Lent runs from Wednesday, March 5, through Saturday, April 19. Easter Day is Sunday, April 20.

Join us on March 5 at 5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall for a delicious pancake and sausage dinner as we prepare our hearts for this meaningful season. The pancake dinner is a fun and symbolic tradition, marking the start of Lent by using up rich ingredients before the season of fasting and reflection. This year, the Wesley Foundation will be hosting the dinner as a fundraiser for their missions! The cost of the meal is a suggested donation of \$7 per person or \$28 max per family.

After dinner (at about 6:30 p.m.), we will make our way to the Sanctuary, where ashes will be imposed, reminding us of our mortality and dependence on God's grace. Come for the pancakes, stay for the sacred moment, and begin your Lenten journey with us. All are welcome!

During Lent, we will focus on what God has done for us through Christ's death and prepare for the good news of life through Christ's resurrection. Through this season, we share in Christ's sacrifice and rejoice in the life that comes through Christ. Our pastors have planned a new worship series based on the theme, "What Does the Lord Require of You?"

Ash Wednesday is intended to be a time for us to confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The use of ashes has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. With the mark of the ashes, we are reminded that we are mortal and that our hope is found in the grace of God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Imposition of Ashes is a powerful nonverbal way of participating in the call to repent.

## Noonday Prayer During Lent

In order to set aside more time for prayer during the season of Lent, Conway First United Methodist Church will offer a service of Noonday Prayer at 12:10 p.m. each Friday from March 7 through April 11.

Each of these meditative services lasts approximately 30 to 40 minutes, and includes, besides the customary prayers, a brief lesson from Scripture, the recitation of Psalm 11, and one congregational hymn.

Central to our Lenten Noondays is an opportunity for private prayer and contemplation. Each week, an organist from Central Arkansas will play three works from the repertoire which are especially conducive to personal reflection, prayer, and introspection. Each service of this year's Lenten Noonday Prayer series, titled "Fruits of the Spirit," will express one of the appointed weekly themes which correspond to the Lenten sermon series, "What Does the Lord Require of You?" Confession, Faithfulness, Self-Control, Patience, Justice, and Compassion.

This is the fourth year to offer Noonday Prayer on the Fridays of Lent at FUMC. Adding this valuable spiritual practice to our observance of the fasting time has been a blessing, not only to our own parishioners, but also to many in the Conway and Central Arkansas communities who have incorporated these meaningful opportunities for prayer into their personal Lenten discipline, some traveling considerable distances to be with us on Fridays. All are welcome to attend as you are able.

## Lenten Bible Study

### TRANSFORMED BY THE TEXT

All that is necessary for salvation is found in the Bible and through the Holy Spirit the word of God is revealed to guide our faith and our practice. Gather on Wednesdays to practice Lectio Divina and be transformed by the text!



WEDNESDAYS | 10:00 AM & 6:30 PM

PASTOR MIRANDA



1105 Youth Big Room at 10am



Round Table at 6:30pm



## Confirmation Sunday is March 2

Confirmation Sunday is March 2. We invite you to join us at worship at 9:05 a.m. and 11 a.m. to celebrate this meaningful milestone in their faith. Please be in prayer for each confirmand as they prepare. Our Confirmands are: Jameson Finn Counts; Jackson Martin West; Kayla Linley Bumpers; Paxton Silas Howell; James Clayton Gordon; Cooper James Gates; Maddox Greear Cameron; Isaac Steven Abel; and Sam Charles Bonds. (Photo above) Rev. Miranda Hornsby teaches one of the sessions to the confirmands.

## Conference Young Adult Book Club Starts March 9

The next ARUMC young adult book club will begin on Sunday, March 9, at 7 pm. This Young Adult Book Club meets monthly and will discuss a few chapters of a book each month.

The book we'll be discussing beginning in March is Art and Faith: A Theology of Making by Makoto Fujimura. This book club group is open to anyone in the Arkansas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church who is between the ages of 18 to 35(ish). And, if you signup, a book will be provided to you for free - paperback, ebook or audiobook.

This monthly discussion will be led by Rev. Chad Hornsby. To sign up for the book club, scan the QR code. If you have any questions, contact Rev. Miranda Hornsby.



## Tanako, OMP Scholarships Available

The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas will offer young United Methodists from across the state an opportunity for scholarships to attend programs provided by Camp Tanako and Ozark Mission Project on a first-come, first-served basis for the 2025 year.

Increasing financial pressures combined with the rising costs of providing a quality camping experience can make it challenging or impossible for a family to cover fees for a child's multi-day camp or service opportunity, said the Rev. Mackey Yokem, director of leadership ministries for the Foundation.

Ozark Mission Project accepts registrations connected with group participation, so youth families should contact their United Methodist youth ministry leader to learn more about the OMP scholarships.

Prospective campers apply for the Camp Tanako scholarships by completing the Foundation's online form at [methodistfoundationar.org/camp-scholarship](http://methodistfoundationar.org/camp-scholarship). When an application is approved, the applicant will receive a discount code to use on Camp Tanako's website.

To learn more about the Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, visit [methodistfoundationAR.org](http://methodistfoundationAR.org).



# Being the Hands and Feet

## Highlights from 2024 for the Conway FUMC Mission Committee

From Lori Mulhearn,  
2025 Mission Committee Chair:

The Conway FUMC Mission Committee allocates funds to support ministry and missions locally, nationally, and internationally. Here are a few highlights from 2024 :

- Covenant Mission Partner in Africa
- United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)
- Conway Ministry Center
- Food Pantry Holiday Meal Boxes
- Conway Cradle Care
- Bethlehem House
- City of Hope Outreach
- Ozark Mission Project
- Supplies for Guatemala Mission Trip

### Summer Lunch Partnership with the Faulkner County Library

This project was funded by grants and donations from the community and the FUMC congregation. Our Trivia Night event raised approximately \$1,000 for this cause. During the summer program, we served almost 4,000 lunches to community members, helping to fill the gap left in the summer when children do not have access to free meals at school.

### Christmas Coffeehouse

- More than \$5,000 raised to support the missions of the church.
- More than \$1,500 raised by non-profits and other organizations to support their efforts in the community.

For more information about the work of the Mission Committee, please contact Lori Mulhearn at [lmulhearn@conwaycorp.net](mailto:lmulhearn@conwaycorp.net).



Christmas Coffeehouse 2024

## Helping Our Neighbors

Members of FUMC's Church and Society Committee recently attended a webinar titled "A UMC Conversation: The Journey with Migrant, Immigrant, and Refugee Communities." The stated mission of the webinar was to "prayerfully reflect on (immigration) developments and unite around our core Christian principles of welcoming the stranger, treating all people with dignity and respect, and showing compassion for those in vulnerable situations."

During the webinar, panelists from border-point ministries shared experiences welcoming and working with migrant, immigrant, and refugee communities. Many resources were made available to help

congregations support their members and neighbors in navigating developments in immigration policies.

To offer guidance and support within our own community, the Church and Society Committee prepared bilingual Know Your Rights cards, placing one in each food pantry box distributed on Thursday, Jan. 30. In addition, Know Your Rights flyers, printed in English and Spanish, are available at desks near each of our main entrances.

Let Pastor Miranda, Leslie Smittle, or Sarah Coker know if you have any questions or would like more information!





## Conway Youth Sponsor District Wide Event

About 150 Youth from across the state attended Unite!, a Central District Committee on Youth Ministry event sponsored on Jan. 26 at Conway FUMC. Three C1Youth members spoke about the changes of teenage years, how they balance that with their faith and how they cope with it all. Those speaking were 8th grader Walker Gates, 10th grader Carson Adams, and 12th grader Alyson Spears. Thank you to all the parents and other adults who helped to chaperone the event.







**Photos by  
Amity  
Lemmer,  
CIYouth Intern**





**Who did we serve?****January 2025****CHURCH & SOCIETY**  
The United Methodist Church

Living FAITH Seeking JUSTICE Pursuing PEACE

Individuals:

**196**

Seniors:

**71**

Kids:

**81**

Veterans:

**12**

Un-Homed:

**23**

Did You Know?  
It takes almost 100 volunteers  
to keep the food pantry and  
Amazing Grace Cafe running  
smoothly.

**Items Needed:**

- Diapers
- Tampons/Pads
- Coffee/Tea/Hot Cocoa/Cider

**Food Pantry Drive Thru:**  
**1st, 3rd, & 5th Thursdays**  
**Indoor Food Pantry**  
**& Amazing Grace Cafe:**  
**2nd & 4th Thursdays**  
**4:30-5:30pm**

**Volunteer to Serve:**

Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri., 12-2pm; Thursday 1:30 or 3-6:00pm

# FOOD PANTRY

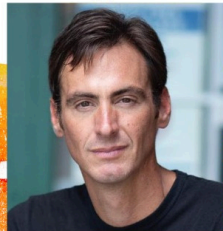
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONWAY, AR

Want More Information? Email: [FoodPantry@ConwayFUMC.org](mailto:FoodPantry@ConwayFUMC.org)

Arkansas UMC laity tuition **covered at 100%** by the  
Methodist Foundation for Arkansas! (use code **FREEAMF**)

Featured guest lecturer:

**PERKINS**  
*Summit*  
**FOR FAITH AND LEARNING**



**Rev. Dr. Michael Beck**  
Global leader in the  
Fresh Expressions movement

**March 21-22, 2025 | Little Rock**

St. James UMC, 321 Pleasant Valley Drive

Teaching by faculty from SMU's Perkins School of Theology:



**Dr. Fred Aquino**  
Professor of  
Systematic Theology



**Dr. Michael Greene**  
Director of the  
Black/Africana Church  
Studies Program



**Dr. Sze-kar Wan**  
Professor of  
New Testament



**Dr. Rebekah Miles**  
Susanna Wesley Centennial  
Professor of Practical  
Theology and Ethics; Altschuler  
Distinguished Teaching  
Professor

Are you a United Methodist layperson in Arkansas who enjoys delving into theology? MFA has an opportunity for you: your tuition \*covered in full\* for a special event in Little Rock. View course descriptions and register at this link:  
<http://www.smu.edu/.../publ.../summit-for-faith-and-learning>

## United Women in Faith



### 'Soul Care' to Be Topic of UWF Spring Meeting

Attention, Ladies of all ages! Are you in need of some "Soul Care"?

On Sunday, April 6, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, Eva Englert-Jenssen from Methodist Family Health will speak on "Soul Care" at the United Women in Faith Spring Unit Meeting.

We cordially invite all women to attend the presentation. You are also welcome to stay for our Unit Business Meeting if you are interested in learning more about UWFaith.

UWFaith is open to women of all ages and Christian affiliations.

Please RSVP by March 31 to Debbie Bartrow at [fddcbartrow@conwaycorp.net](mailto:fddcbartrow@conwaycorp.net).

If you have questions, she can be contacted at 501-514-0381 or the above email address.

## In Memory and In Honor

**In memory of Greg Copley by:** Peggy Weatherly, Rick & Becky Rasnick

**In memory of Mike Shock by:** Sherry Owen, Girls of Class of 1966, Judy & Pat Goss, Lynn & Lynn Caldwell, Rick & Becky Rasnick, Robert & Myung Courtway, Larry & Hilda Malpica, Fred & Nancy Thessing, Bill & Denise Bethea, Melissa & Tom Courtway, Beth Ruple

**In honor of Kisha Bumpers by:** Jeremy & Moriah Bruner

**In honor of Lorlie March by:** Jeremy & Moriah Bruner

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





*First United Methodist Church presents:*

# THE JOHN WESLEY RAMBLERS *in concert!*

*FREE Community Bluegrass Gospel Concert*  
*Sunday March 9th, 7:00pm*  
*First UMC Conway, 1610 Prince St.*

*- The John Wesley Ramblers -*  
*a ministry of the Wesley Foundation at Texas A&M University*



**For Ages 60 and Up**

## March Senior Adventure

**Ageless and Awesome!**

**Thursday, March 6**  
**1:00 to 4:00 p.m.**



Come and welcome Spring with a trip to the Wye Mountain Daffodil Festival. It is located on the grounds of the former Methodist Church on Wye Mountain, in the northeastern foothills of the Ouachita Mountains near Bigelow. Enjoy walking through hundreds of daffodils, take pictures, enjoy the craft barn and food trucks and if you'd like, buy daffodil bulbs to plant for next year!

We will be traveling by church van. Call Bonnie Laycock at 316-207-0883 to reserve your seat in the van.



**Confirmation Sunday**  
 March 2 during worship

**Men's Prayer Breakfast**  
 7 a.m. Wednesday, March 5,  
 Fellowship Hall

**Healing Prayer Ministry**  
 9 a.m. Wednesday, March 5,  
 Trinity Chapel

**Ash Wednesday Pancake Dinner**  
 Wednesday, March 5  
 5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

**Ash Wednesday Worship Service**  
 Wednesday, March 5  
 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

**Senior Adventures (for ages 60 and up)**  
 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday, March 6  
 Wye Mountain Daffodil Festival

**Food Pantry Distribution**  
 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 6  
 Drive-through distribution

**The John Wesley Ramblers Gospel Bluegrass Concert**  
 Sunday, March 9  
 7 p.m. at Conway FUMC. Free.

**Parents' Night Out at Conway FUMC**  
 Friday, March 14, 5:30 to 10 p.m.  
 Sponsored by the UCA Wesley  
 For kids ages 3 through 12

**Noonday Prayer**  
 Each Friday at 12:10 p.m. from  
 March 7 through April 11



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## 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, YouTube and  
our Website at  
[www.conwayfumc.org](http://www.conwayfumc.org)

## 5th Sundays

Invite a friend or your Sunday School class  
to join us on 5th Sundays this year to learn  
how you can make a difference by living  
out your faith!

### CONWAY FUMC GREAT HALL

Each program will begin at 10am and  
conclude before 11am worship.

### SUNDAYS IN 2025

- MARCH 30TH
- JUNE 29TH
- AUGUST 31ST
- NOVEMBER 30TH



## CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living FAITH Seeking JUSTICE Pursuing PEACE

# First United Methodist Church Staff Directory

Senior Pastor -- Nathan Kilbourne  
Associate Pastor -- Miranda Hornsby  
Co-Dir., Children's Ministries -- Catherine Gatlin  
Co-Dir., Children's Ministries -- Jules Koen  
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  
Communications Assistant -- Colleen Holt

Contact staff by email at:  
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last name  
[@conwayfumc.org](mailto:@conwayfumc.org)

Example: [nkilbourne@conwayfumc.org](mailto:nkilbourne@conwayfumc.org)