



THE WITNESS

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

UPDATE



Financial Update from Pastor Nathan

June Budget Information

Offerings Collected: \$605,953.45 (YTD)
Money Spent on Ministry: \$592,943.11 (YTD)
Net income/loss: \$13,010.34 (YTD)

Capital Campaign

Phase 1 - Pay off Debt

Amount left to pay on the loan: \$90,000

We have just over \$58,000 in the capital fund which is enough to make our payments through 2025. Any and all gifts above this amount go to principal! We only need approximately \$32,000 more to pay off our debt! And then we move on to phase 2 to make necessary repairs in our facility!

MOVIE NIGHT

6 PM SATURDAY, JULY 26

BASEMENT MOVIE ROOM
CONWAY FIRST UNITED METHODIST

GRAB YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR FAMILY,
AND YOUR FAVORITE SNACKS!

Come on Saturdays in July and August for family-friendly films, popcorn, and community. Then, on Sunday mornings, you'll be ready for our Faith and Film Sermon Series.



NEXT IN THE SERIES!

AUGUST 2
WICKED

AUGUST 9
MOANA 2



SAVE THE DATE BACK TO SCHOOL BREAKFAST

Sunday, August 17, 2025

10:00am

Fellowship Hall

All Ages



BEE

KIND

DO JUSTICE AND LOVE KINDNESS AND
WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD-MICAH 6:8

Back to School Sunday

August 17, 2025, at all three
worship services

Come celebrate the start of the 2025-2026 school year with a special blessing for students, faculty, staff and administrators at all levels – from preschool to college.

Worship opportunities: 8:30 and 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary and 9:05 a.m. in the Great Hall.

August 31, 2025 ONE SERVICE SUNDAY

Donations may be left in the collection boxes at worship entrances and hospitality areas or purchased through our Amazon Wish List (QR Code at right.) Cash donations are welcome.



**Collection dates
are from June 1
through July 31.**

UMCOR United Methodist Committee on Relief HYGIENE KIT DONATION GUIDELINES

UMCOR's Guidelines for Hygiene Kits are listed below and **MUST** be followed precisely, otherwise the items collected cannot be used in the kits. Our goal this year is to prepare 1,200 (or more) kits which will surpass the number of kits prepared in 2024, so we ask that you help reach this goal by carefully following the guidelines as indicated. All kits will be distributed in the U.S.

HYGIENE KIT MATERIALS

- **Washcloths**
 - No Kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- **Comb**
 - Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth
 - No pocket combs or picks
 - Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth
- **Toenail or fingernail clippers**
 - No emery boards or metal nail files
- **Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger)**
 - No Ivory or Jergen's soap
 - Do NOT remove from packaging
- **Adult toothbrush**
 - Only INDIVIDUALLY packaged toothbrushes can be used (NO multiple packages)
 - Do NOT remove from packaging
 - Personal advertising is not acceptable
- **Adhesive bandages (3/4 by 3 inches)**
 - Common household bandages acceptable
- **One-gallon size resealable bags**

Important Notes:

All items **MUST** be new. Do not wash any of the items as they will no longer be considered new. UMCOR requests that the kits should not contain items with cartoon characters or advertisements.



AUG. 31 SCHEDULE

**Coffee and Doughnuts in
the Trinity Lobby at 9 a.m.**

**One Worship Service at 10
a.m. In the Sanctuary
(No Sunday School)**

**Hygiene Kit Packaging
at 11a.m. in the Great Hall**

All Are Welcome

In Memory & Honor

In memory of Paul Taber by:

Robert Haskins, Frank & Debbie Bartrow, Mike & Shirlee Papesh, Martha Bumpers, Pat & Beverly Bowles, Carol & Richard Clark, Becky Hammett, David & Judith Beane, Richard & Carolyn Sheckler, Morris Pounds, Rita Jo Kafka

In memory of Bud & Sue Hines by:

Libba Tierney

In memory of Lana Chastain by:

Kathy & Chris Cooper

In memory of Marette Stiritz by:

Kathy & Chris Cooper, Claudia Davis, Bill & Denise Bethea

In memory of Donna Montgomery by: Cissy Adams

In honor of Kish Jones by: Charles Pittman

In honor of Chad & Miranda Hornsby: Martha Bumpers

In honor of Miranda Hornsby by: Becky Hammett

JOURNEY THROUGH THE LETTERS OF PAUL

AUG 17-SEPT 5

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Thessalonians	CHAPTER 1	CHAPTER 2	CHAPTER 3	CHAPTER 4	CHAPTER 5
2 Thessalonians	CHAPTER 1	CHAPTER 2	CHAPTER 3	RE-READ	COMPARE TO LAST WEEK
Acts	CHAPTER 16	CHAPTER 17:1-15	CHAPTER 17:16-34	CHAPTER 18	CHAPTER 19

Paul is attributed to have written 10 books of the New Testament. As Paul traveled around the Mediterranean Sea, we can see how Paul's theology developed as he encountered churches, people, and their experiences. Join us on the journey! Each week, our sermon will introduce one of Paul's letters and kick off our week of reading so we can grow as disciples.

QUESTIONS? EMAIL PASTOR MIRANDA AND TUNE INTO OUR WEEKLY DISCUSSION "LECTIO OVER LUNCH" ON THURSDAYS AT NOON.



Summer Shorts Lecture Set Aug. 6

Join us for our final Summer Shorts lecture at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 6, in the Youth Blue Room.

The final lecture will center around denominational differences/similarities. Have you ever wondered how a United Methodist and a Baptist differ or what makes them similar? Have you ever wondered the differences between a Presbyterian and an Episcopalian?

We'll join us at 6 p.m. on Aug. 6!





It'll Be Great
First Place
2025 Trivia Night



Thank you to all who participated, attended and organized the 10th annual Trivia Night! Through entry fees and snack purchases, more than \$1,500 was raised for Rise House, which advocates for and assists survivors of family violence and sexual assault in Conway and the central Arkansas area.



Just Us
Second Place
2025 Trivia Night



Smells Like Holy Spirit
Third Place
2025 Trivia Night



Mission and Ministry at FUMC

The "Let's Celebrate Pride" Fifth Sunday program on June 29 featured powerful personal testimonies from FUMC members Jayden McCormick-Drye, Jason Cameron, Jason Saugey, and Olivia Smittle. Each speaker shared their experiences navigating their identities as queer individuals within a church setting, offering insights into their personal journeys of faith and self-acceptance. We also heard encouraging stories of how our congregation has provided a safe place for the LGBTQIA+ community to worship, and what we can do to continue to grow our allyship.

The program was met with an excellent response from the congregation, and the Church and Society Committee is excited about our plans to provide a more affirming place to worship. We are also thrilled to announce there is a Pride shelf in the church library with several helpful resources. We've put together a resource guide if you're interested in learning more about the LGBTQIA+ community and how to be an ally. You can check that out [here](#). If you weren't able to attend the program you can watch on the church's YouTube channel at @conwayfumc.



Jayden McCormick-Drye (from left, photo above), Olivia Smittle and Jason Cameron. Jason Saugey (below).



Summer Feeding Ministry

There's time to help! Check LinkTree on Page 7



FUMC's 2025-26 Interns

When polled across Arkansas, clergy named that College Ministry was one of the most formative experiences in discerning and pursuing their call. Conway First has long been part of helping students on their journey (enjoy Chapter 5 of A History of the FUMC Conway, AR, if you want to learn what this looked like in the 1950s!)

As students begin another year of college, we are excited to support them in discerning who God calls them to be in the world. Many who are serving as

interns this year are not new faces. You have seen them serve in various forms of ministry over the years and fill up pews on Sunday mornings.

We are grateful to the Taylor Foundation, the 1610 Youth Fund, and the 1215 Club for making these internships possible.

Please pray for them in their journey, and join us in officially welcoming and celebrating them during our Intern Commissioning in worship on Sunday, Sept. 21.



Maggie Roberts is a sophomore at Hendrix College and is studying psychology and music. Maggie is from Dallas, Texas and grew up in Lake Highlands United Methodist Church, where she has served on mission trips, volunteered at Vacation Bible School, and much more. Maggie is so excited to be serving as the Children's Ministry Intern and feels so blessed to be able to serve and teach children about the love of Christ.

Sheridan Austin is the new Wesley Fellowship intern. She is a junior at Hendrix College, majoring in Biology with a minor in Religious Studies. With aspirations to pursue a career in genetic research, she is excited for the year ahead and the opportunity to help lead Wesley.



Our lead intern for Youth Ministries this school year will be **Amity Lemmer**. She has been with us for a year now serving along side all of our youth and youth leaders. Amity graduated from Morrilton High School in 2022 and is currently a senior at the University of Central Arkansas majoring in Health Promotion, in hopes to go to graduate school for a doctorate in Occupational Therapy.

Jake Muse is excited to be serving as the UCA outreach and freshmen intern for the 2025-26 school year! He is a student at UCA studying Elementary Education. He lives in Conway, but is originally from Little Rock and grew up going to Trinity United Methodist Church. Since coming to college, Wesley has made such an impact on his life as a welcoming faith-based community, and he looks forward to helping make it that for other students!



Nathan Fryar is a senior at the University of Central Arkansas pursuing a BA in History with a minor in Religious Studies. He works as the Associate Director of the Wesley Foundation, the Pastoral Intern for FUMC Conway, and as a Lifeguard and Facility Manager at the Thomas C. Courtway Student Recreation Center. He enjoys spending time with family and friends, educational TV, and golf.



Destiny Elms is entering her senior year at the University of Central Arkansas. She is in the candidacy process and pursuing a dual degree in Religious Studies and Psychology. This year, she is serving as the worship intern and is excited for another year in the internship program.



Grace Wilsford is a junior at Hendrix College earning her degree in child psychology. Grace is from Houston, Texas, and grew up attending a local United Methodist Church. Grace is excited to serve as the Wesley Discipleship Intern and is passionate about creating a positive and welcoming environment for college students as they learn about God and the Bible.



'Caring Connections': Respite Care and Support at FUMC

Big changes are coming for the Conway FUMC Care Giver Ministry respite care program!

Co-chaired by Barbara Satterfield and Leigh Walls, the group is now named "Caring Connections: memory care, respite and support."

A year of monthly caregiver social time will kick off on Tuesday, Aug. 19, with an ongoing dementia-based curricula of music, art, movement and games conducted by volunteers under the direction of program coordinator Leigh Walls (MS, CCC-SLP). Sessions are free: registration is required and can be found on our LinkTree app.

Volunteer training for the event is provided beginning at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall, prior to the 10 a.m. sessions. No prior experience is required: volunteers are friend-facilitators for attendees. Volunteers are welcome!

"I'm incredibly grateful and excited about the respite care group within our church," says volunteer Chris Andrews. "It offers caregivers a much-needed chance to step back and rest, knowing their loved ones are in good hands. Community plays a vital role in caregiving, and seeing that in action is amazing. The respite care group is all in on being part of that support."

A new addition to the caregiver services are quarterly caregiver educational speakers at the beginning of the usual social time. The first quarterly program is from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21.

"I became interested in the FUMC caregiving program because of my experience of caring for my dad at the end of his life. I recognized that I needed resources to understand how to best help the loved one needing care and the caregiver," says volunteer Sharon Reynolds. "I really connected with the Rosalyn Carter quote 'There are four kinds of people, there are those who have been caregivers, those who are currently caregiving, those who will be caregiving, and those who will need caregiving.'"

"I participated in the Care Giver Connect and Respite Care Session last spring at FUMC.

I was so impressed with how well planned the activities were for the family members needing care and how much they enjoyed participating. The atmosphere was warm and safe and provided caregivers a needed respite. I hope we can continue offering this ministry to our congregation and community."

"Caring Connections" is a template program that the FUMC Care Giver Ministry will make available to additional churches to review with an invitation to also provide a monthly respite program in their facilities. An orientation luncheon for area pastors and their contacts/ volunteers is scheduled for noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7 (details to be announced).

The overall goal of "Caring Connections" is to create an ecumenical volunteer-based community program that will provide places where caregivers of loved ones can connect to share their stories, support each other, gain information and/or have self-care time. It will also provide two to three hours of meaningful respite care of loved ones that focuses on what an individual can do when purposefully engaged.

Volunteer Cheryl Bennett says of this ministry: "As a Parkinson's patient myself, supporting this group gives me encouragement and a feeling of gratitude that I can help others as well. I want to encourage others with neurological diseases to join us. We have a wonderful leader and lots of fun. Small steps can make a great impact and lift our spirits."



Make Plans Now!

Alzheimer's Caregiver Workshop Planned Aug. 18

Registration is open and free for the SUPERHERO Caregiver Workshop sponsored by Alzheimer's Arkansas.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14, in the Conway FUMC Trinity Building Great Hall.

Respite funds are available to help cover costs of a paid caregiver while attending this event, that includes lunch and a variety of resources, support, and tips on topics

related to dementia and caregiving.

The workshop is made possible with grant support from The Methodist Foundation of Arkansas and hosted by the Conway First United Methodist Church "Caring Connections" Ministry.

For info and to register, email info@alzark.org or call 501-224-0021.



AUGUST 1 - 7, 2025

AUGUST 1 | BROOMBALL - \$10
ARKANSAS SKATIUM

AUGUST 2 | MOVIE NIGHT WITH
FUMC 6-9 PM - FREE

AUGUST 3 | YOUTH BAKE-OFF
AT FUMC 6-9 PM - BRING DINNER

AUGUST 4 | KARAOKE PAINT PARTY
AT FUMC 7-9 PM - BRING DINNER

AUGUST 5 | TOPGOLF LITTLE ROCK
- \$20
1-4 PM

AUGUST 6 | ROGERS TRIP
CRYSTAL BRIDGES/FOOD/ICE
CREAM - 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM
NEED \$ FOR DINNER

AUGUST 7 | MAIN EVENT - LITTLE
ROCK - \$20
4:30 - 10:00 PM - PIZZA/GAMES

Who did we serve?

June 2025

Individuals:
330

Disabled:
21

Children:
58

No SNAP:
90

Pounds of
Food:
5,144

Food Pantry Drive-Thru:
July 17th & 31st
Indoor Food Pantry
& Amazing Grace Cafe:
July 10th & 24th
Thursdays 4:30-5:30pm

Items Needed:

- Toilet Paper
- Bar Soap

"The Food Pantry Saved My Life" - stated by a mother in an airport who overheard CFUMC members talking about the food pantry. She said she needed the help for a little while after her husband left her and she was raising two kids.

Many immigrants can not get access to food assistance programs like SNAP and WIC because of legal restrictions and may also struggle to use food programs that are available due to fear of deportation.

FOOD PANTRY

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONWAY, AR

Want More Information? Email: FoodPantry@ConwayFUMC.org

Walk in the Footsteps of Paul IN GREECE AND TURKEY



Join Pastor Nathan on a journey through Greece and Turkey October 12th - Oct. 24th 2026! We will travel with two other United Methodist Churches in Arkansas, Central UMC Fayetteville and Springdale FUMC. It will be a wonderful time of spiritual growth, community, and learning.

INTERESTED IN GOING?

Come to the informational meeting on **August 10th at 2pm** in the Fellowship Hall!

Linktree*

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.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1610 PRINCE ST.
CONWAY, ARKANSAS 72034
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Breaking News!

LifeQuest of Arkansas launches satellite campus in Conway!



Beginning September 15, 2025,
classes for retired-aged adults will be
held on Mondays at First United
Methodist Church, 1610 Prince St.

To learn more and receive a class
brochure, visit the LifeQuest of
Arkansas website:

lifequestofarkansas.org

Registration for the fall term
opens **August 19 at 9:00 a.m.**



Get ready to launch into lifelong learning with LifeQuest at Conway this fall!

Fall Term Classes:

- Sit & Stitch, Becky Rasnick
- Spiritual Disciplines for Victorious Living, Rev. Lloyd Hervey
- The Mind in Exercise and Sports, Terri Bonebright
- Christians influenced by Buddhism, Jay McDaniel
- Folk Music with the LifeQuest Folkies (led by Ralph McKenna & Joe Lombardi)
- Why Would I Want to Fly Fish?!, Rick Rasnick
- Numbers in American Politics, David Sutherland
- Films of Gene Hackman, Wayne Stengel
- Survey of Jazz, John Krebs

New Resident Invitation

Thanks to the Hospitality & Outreach Committee, the Taylor Foundation, and the Conway City Chamber of Commerce, new residents in Faulkner County will be receiving an invitation to Conway First United Methodist Church!

Are you ready to see new visitors?
Remember to wear your name tag, introduce yourself, and share our hospitality gifts when you see someone you don't know.

Order your church
name tag using the Link
Tree under "Resources"
on the website at
www.conwayfumc.org
or scan the QR code here.



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 Saughey
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